

# BORIS NEMTSOV

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### **Boris Nemtsov**

Boris Nemtsov is a former Deputy Prime Minister of Russia and one of co-founders of the liberal Russian political party Union of Right Forces. Today he is an outspoken critic of Vladimir Putin and is often characterized as a “new liberal.”

In 1986 he entered politics but was prevented from running in the USSR Congress of People’s Deputies that year and though he was able to run for parliament as a reformist in 1989, he was not elected until 1990 when he defeated many members of the Communist party with his pro-market and pro-democracy politics. He rose to the upper house as a member of the Reform Coalition and Centre-left in parliament.



Later he was elected Governor of his home region Nizhny Novgorod for two terms where he implemented free market reforms that led to significant growth in the region. In 1997 he was appointed First Deputy Prime Minister and was thought to be a strong contender for President until Russia suffered an economic crisis in 1998. Following the crash of the Russian stock-market, the pro-market reformist, Nemtsov, resigned. The next year he returned to politics, cofounding the Union of Right Forces (URF), a new liberal-democratic coalition which received nearly 6 million votes, and returned to the State Duma where he became Deputy Speaker in February 2000.

In a contested election in 2003, his party, the URF, lost its seats in the lower parliament, State Duma, and Nemtsov formally resigned from the party leadership.

During the 2004 Ukrainian presidential elections, Nemtsov came out as a strong supporter of candidate and the ultimate winner, while the Russian government backed his opponent. Shortly after the Orange Revolution, he was appointed as a “free lance” presidential and economic advisor to the Ukraine until 2006.

In 2008 he co-founded an umbrella group of the Russian opposition known as the Committee 2008 and Solidarnost, Solidarity, a political opposition movement. He ran for mayor in 2009 but came in second, though he has contested the fairness of the election.

Nemtsov remains an important leader of the opposition to Vladimir Putin and the Russian government and a member of the federal political council of the Union of Right Forces.