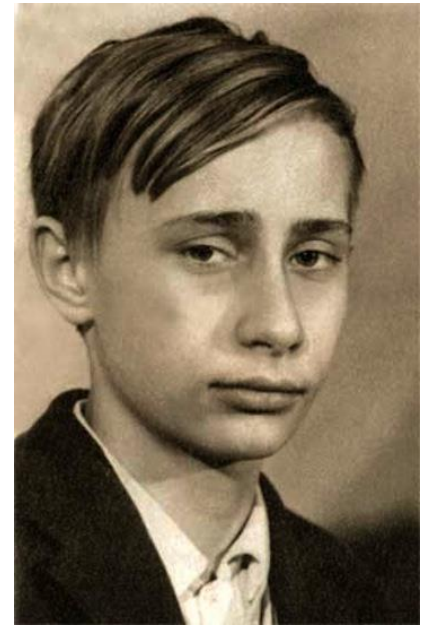


Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin

Born: October 7th, 1952 (age 63)

Birthplace: Leningrad, Russian SFSR, Soviet Union



Putin as a boy

- His mother was a factory worker, and his father was a conscript in the Soviet Navy, where he served in the submarine fleet in the early 1930s. Early in World War II he served in the destruction battalion of the NKVD (a law enforcement agency of the Soviet Union that directly executed the will of the All Union Communist Party). Later he was transferred to the regular army and was severely wounded in 1942.
- The youngest of three boys, Vladimir Putin's two elder brothers, Viktor and Albert, were born in the mid-1930s; Albert died within a few months of birth, while Viktor succumbed to diphtheria during **the siege of Leningrad** in the Great Patriotic War.
- Learned German in high school, and speaks it fluently.
- Entered the Law Department of the Leningrad State University in 1970, graduating in 1975.
- Joined the Communist Party while in university.
- Joined the KGB in 1975 upon graduation, and underwent a year's training at the 401st KGB school in Okhta, Leningrad.
 - Stationed in Dresden, Germany, from 1985 to 1990.



Seal of the Soviet Union (USSR)



Putin in KGB uniform