Best Friends Forever?

The Complicated Relationship between President Clinton & President Yeltsin

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Friend or Foe?

★ Review the telcons given to your table.
★ Decide as a table if the records indicates an amicable or contentious relationship between Clinton and Yeltsin.
★ Select a short passage (5-10 words) that supports your decision and the representative from your table who will share it with the full group.
★ When you have finished, the table representative(s) to the corresponding side of the room - Friend (for amicable) or Foe (for contentious)
★ If your table can’t reach a consensus, you may split and have two representatives

NATIONAL ARCHIVES and RECORDS ADMINISTRATION
Meetings from 1993-1996

- **Jan 1993**: President Clinton's first inauguration
- **April 1993**: Boris Yeltsin sworn in as the first democratically elected leader of Russia
- **July 1993**: Meeting in Tokyo after the G-7 economic summit. Reviewed implementation of U.S. economic assistance.
- **Jan 1994**: Meeting with the G-7 leaders in Naples. After meeting with Clinton, Yeltsin said Russia would not seek full G-7 membership until its economic system had matured.
- **July 1994**: Both presidents attend the CSCE Summit in Budapest. They announce the START I treaty going into effect.
- **Sept 1994**: At another G-7 economic summit, world leaders express concern at Russia's military efforts in Chechnya
- **Dec 1994**: The two meet privately after attending the Summit of the Peacemakers in Sharm al-Sheikh, to condemn terrorist attacks in Israel and declare support for a peace process in the Middle East.
- **May 1995**: The infamous meeting between Clinton and Yeltsin at the home of FDR at Hyde Park, NY.
- **June 1995**: Summit meeting held after Clinton attended the P-8 Summit on Nuclear Safety & Security. Yeltsin raises objections to NATO expansion.
- **Oct 1995**: Clinton visits Moscow to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the end of WWII in Europe.
- **March 1996**: Yeltsin makes a state visit to Washington after addressing the UN General Assembly.
- **April 1996**: Clinton's first official visit to Moscow. Primarily discussed liquidating Cold War military weapons.
- **Dec 1994**: Boris Yeltsin sworn in as the first democratically elected leader of Russia

**First meeting in Vancouver, 24th Summit of US and Russian Presidents**

Clinton's first official visit to Moscow. Primarily discussed liquidating Cold War military weapons.
U.S. Post–Cold War Goals

★ To help Yeltsin liberalize the economy and enact more democratic reforms in Russia
★ To control the nuclear weapons remaining in the Post-Soviet sphere of influence
★ To address new challenges of European security – particularly the war in Bosnia-Herzegovina (launched in 1992)
Clinton visits Russia, January 1994
Yeltsin visits U. S., September 1994
Clinton’s second visit to Russia, May 1995
Yeltsin’s second visit to the U.S., October 1995
1996 Re-election Campaigns
Yeltsin faced considerable opposition and was recovering from a mild heart attack.

Right: TIME Magazine cover from July 15, 1996
Meetings from 1997–2001

Yeltsin wins run-off with 54.4% of the vote

Meeting in Helsinki to discuss further reducing nuclear weapons, and U.S. promoting of investment in Russia. Disagreements about NATO persist.

Yeltsin meets with Clinton in Denver. Clinton announces that Russia will be admitted to the Paris Club.

Clinton visits Moscow for another summit meeting. Joint statements on arms reduction, promotion of commerce, and called for peace in Kosovo.

At the OSCE Summit Meeting in Istanbul, Clinton meets with Yeltsin to discuss arms control, Chechnya, and events in Europe.

Clinton visits Moscow for his first summit meeting with newly elected Russian president Vladimir Putin

No clear winner in Russian presidential election

Clinton elected to second term

Meeting at Elysee Palace in Paris to sign the NATO-Russia Founding Act.

Both attend the G-8 conference in Birmingham, England. Clinton again urges Yeltsin to seek ratification of START II.

G-8 Economic Summit in Cologne, Germany.

Yeltsin abruptly resigns at midnight on New Years Eve. Putin is appointed acting president.

End of Clinton's second term, George W. Bush Inauguration

Yeltsin dies at age 76, Clinton and George H. W. Bush 41 attend the state funeral

END OF CLINTON'S SECOND TERM
Meeting in Helsinki, March 1997
“Summit of the Invalids”

Clinton (50) had knee surgery on March 15, six days before the meeting in Helsinki. Yeltsin (66) was recovering from a quintuple heart bypass (November 1996) and pneumonia (January 1997).
G8 Summit, June 1999

Russia added in 1997
Moscow Visit, June 2000

First summit with Putin, last official visit with Yeltsin

11:20 am  THE PRESIDENT arrives The Kremlin

11:25 am - 11:55 am  COURTESY CALL WITH RUSSIAN PRESIDENT VLADIMIR PUTIN
   CEREMONIAL OFFICE
   The Kremlin
   Staff Contact: Samuel Berger

12:25 pm  THE PRESIDENT arrives Gorky 9
   Greeter: Director of Protocol

12:30 pm - 1:00 pm  COURTESY CALL WITH FORMER-RUSSIAN PRESIDENT BORIS
   YELTSIN
   SITTING ROOM
   Gorky 9
   Staff Contact: Samuel Berger
   Event Coordinator: Heather Davis
   Interpretation: Whisper
   OFFICIAL PHOTO ONLY

1:05 pm  THE PRESIDENT departs Gorky 9 via motorcade en route Vnukovo 2
   Airport
   [drive time: 25 minutes]
Yeltsin funeral April 2007
Statement: Death of Boris Yeltsin

Boris Yeltsin was a Russian patriot who believed that democracy was the only way to restore Russia’s position of greatness in the 21st Century. Throughout his presidency he worked tirelessly toward that goal, to the detriment of his health, but to the great benefit of his nation. He risked his life to prevent a coup, then pushed Russia forward through economic hardship and political turmoil to partnerships with Cold War adversaries and membership in the G-8.

As Presidents, Boris and I met more than 15 times, talked often, and worked closely on a wide range of issues, including terrorism, nuclear proliferation, and preserving peace around the world. We didn’t always agree, but I tried to support him in his work and each time we spoke, I was struck by two things: his devotion to his country and its people, and his willingness to look at the facts and make a tough decision he thought was in Russia’s long term interest. Fate gave him a tough time in which to govern, but history will be kind to him because he was courageous and steadfast on the big issues – peace, freedom, and progress.
Hillary and I are deeply saddened to have lost our friend, who gave us unforgettable memories both funny and profound. Our thoughts and prayers are with his wife Naina, the entire Yeltsin family, and the Russian people on this sad day.
Clintion Presidential Library

- Little Rock, Arkansas
- 80+ million pages written materials
- 100,000+ museum objects/artifacts
- 2.6 million photographs
- 18,300 audio and video recordings

Left: Exhibits on second and third floor of the Clinton Presidential Library.
Education Resources

clintonlibrary.gov/education

★ Online Educational Programs
Pre-K - 2nd grade: clintonlibrary.gov/education/teachers/pre-k-second-grades
3rd - 5th grade: www.clintonlibrary.gov/education/teachers/third-fifth-grades
6th - 8th grade: www.clintonlibrary.gov/education/teachers/sixth-eighth-grades
9th - 12th grade: www.clintonlibrary.gov/education/teachers/ninth-twelfth-grades

★ Civics for All of US: www.clintonlibrary.gov/education/

★ The Powers of the Presidency: www.clintonlibrary.gov/education/powers-presidency

★ Lesson Plans and Activities: www.clintonlibrary.gov/education/teachers/lesson-plans-and-activities

★ Teacher Workshops: www.clintonlibrary.gov/education/teacher-workshops
Clinton Digital Library

clinton.presidentiallibraries.us

★ Daily Schedules
  ○ President - clinton.presidentiallibraries.us/collections/show/39
  ○ First Lady - clinton.presidentiallibraries.us/collections/show/33

★ Topical Research Guides - clinton.presidentiallibraries.us/topics-guides

★ Digital Library Exhibits - clinton.presidentiallibraries.us/exhibits

★ Presidential Travel Schedule - clinton.presidentiallibraries.us/travel-schedule

★ Meetings and Calls with Foreign Leaders - clinton.presidentiallibraries.us/foreign-leaders-meetings-calls

★ Memcons and Telcons - clinton.presidentiallibraries.us/memcons-telcons
The Clinton Digital Library is a virtual research room and digital repository that provides free and open access to the digitized collections of the William J. Clinton Presidential Library & Museum to everyone, anywhere in the world. Whether you are a lover of history, a student working on a school project, or a scholar, the Clinton Digital Library allows you to keyword search for archival documents, videos, audio recordings, and photographs and to search, browse, and view whole files, just as you could if you came to the Library's research room in-person.

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Left: Clinton Digital Library homepage