

# COMMANDING HEIGHTS

Anatoly Chubais

(b. 1955)

*One of Russia's original market reformers, Anatoly Chubais oversaw the mass privatizations of state property in the 1990s. He served in the government in various capacities throughout the 1990s and currently heads RAO UES, Russia's largest power company.*

From "Chubais, Anatoly Borisovich." Microsoft Encarta Encyclopedia 2001.

Russian economist and privatization reformist Anatoly Chubais was the first deputy prime minister of Russia from March 1997 to March 1998. Chubais was born in Borisov, Russia, and graduated in 1977 from the Leningrad (renamed St. Petersburg in 1991) Institute of Economics and Engineering with a Ph.D. in economics. He was an assistant lecturer from 1977 to 1982 and an assistant professor from 1982 to 1990 at his alma mater.

Chubais served in 1990 as deputy chairman of the Leningrad City Executive Committee, and in 1991 he became chief economic adviser to the mayor of St. Petersburg, Anatoly Sobchak. Chubais was part of a group of young economists who pushed for rapid economic reform toward a market-based system. A strong advocate of privatization of state property, Chubais was appointed deputy prime minister for the Ministry of Privatization in 1992, becoming a first deputy prime minister in 1994. As a member of the State Duma (lower house of the legislature) from 1994 to 1996, he served on the Duma Committee for Property, Privatization, and Economics, a post in which he pioneered privatization reforms in Russia.

Chubais was dismissed from Russian president Boris Yeltsin's government in late 1995, largely because the reforms proved unpopular, but he returned to run Yeltsin's campaign for reelection to the Russian presidency in June and July of 1996. After Yeltsin's victory in the election, he appointed Chubais presidential chief of staff. In March 1997 Yeltsin reappointed Chubais, making him first deputy prime minister under Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin. In his new post, Chubais was responsible for reforming the pension system and improving Russia's poor record on tax collection, among other duties. In March 1998 Chubais lost his post as first deputy prime minister for the second time when President Yeltsin abruptly dismissed Chernomyrdin and his Cabinet.