

Today in History, July 9

By [The Moscow Times](#)

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Oil on canvas portrait of Empress Catherine the Great by painter Fyodor Rokotov

Catherine II assumed the throne in place of her husband Peter III following a bloodless coup 251 years ago today, on July 9, 1762. Catherine the Great, as she is otherwise known, led the country for the next 34 years and was Russia's longest-ruling female leader.

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