

Today in History, Aug. 19

By [The Moscow Times](#)

August 19, 2013



President of the RSFSR Boris Yeltsin speaking near the building of the Council of Ministers of the RSFSR.

A group of communist hardliners staged a coup against Mikhail Gorbachev's reforms 22 years ago today on Aug. 19, 1991. The coup collapsed when troops defected, though not before Boris Yeltsin — who had recently been elected the President — made a memorable speech in defense of the parliament, standing atop a tank in front of the parliament building.

Original url: <https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2013/08/19/today-in-history-aug-19-a26865>