

# Brezhnev, Soviet Politician

## Paul J Murphy

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Leonid Brezhnev, who headed the Soviet Union for 18 years, is remembered not only as a politician but also as a target for jokes. RBTH presents a few of these in honor of the 110th anniversary of Brezhnev's birth on Dec. 19. Brezhnev may be one of the enduring faces of the Cold War: Western, democratically elected leaders came and went but Brezhnev ruled for two decades. Rise to power. Brezhnev was born in Kamenskoye (now Dniprodzerzhynsk) in Ukraine, the son of a steel worker. As a result, he retained specific Ukrainian pronunciation and mannerisms his whole life, and listed his ethnicity as Ukrainian until 1952 (afterwards, evidently, considering himself a Russian).