



RadioFreeEurope
RadioLiberty

Free Media In Unfree Societies



www.rferl.org



“We were driving from Kabul to Kandahar, and the only station we could hear at that hour, at that time, was Radio Free Afghanistan, and we stopped at an oasis just outside of Moqor, where I noticed two elderly gentlemen and one young person were listening to a radio. I noticed that the cover was of an ornate design that they had lovingly built for this radio, and I asked them what they were doing. They said: ‘Well, sir, we are listening to the news.’ And I said: ‘Is this battery operated or electrical?’ And they said: ‘Well, we don’t have electricity here. We have to buy batteries for it. And we will forgo three or four or five days of wages, but we would rather buy those batteries and not eat for a day or two, but we have to have the flow of free information coming in about our country.’ So, I’m convinced.”

— **Mostapha Zahir**, Afghanistan's Ambassador to Italy and former Crown Prince, on the importance of RFE/RL's Radio Free Afghanistan



Free Media In Unfree Societies

RFE/RL's mission is to provide uncensored news and information to countries where a free press is either banned by the government or not fully established.

News For People Who Need It

RFE/RL journalists provide what many people cannot get locally: responsible discussion and open debate of local and international news, politics, history, culture, religion, arts, and literature.

On The Front Lines In The Battle For Free Speech

RFE/RL reporters are on the front lines of the fight for media freedom in their countries, many of which have experienced a significant erosion of democracy and journalistic freedom in recent years. This means many of our journalists put themselves at great risk to do their jobs.

20 Countries, 28 Languages

RFE/RL broadcasts in 28 languages to 20 countries, including Iran, Iraq, Afghanistan, Russia, and the Central Asian republics. It is one of the most comprehensive news operations in the world. Headquartered in Prague, RFE/RL maintains 19 local bureaus and more than 750 freelancers.

Regional Expertise

Thanks to a network of 19 local bureaus and hundreds of freelancers, RFE/RL is a unique source of information about many of the world's political hotspots. Our journalists and experts are regularly featured in the international media and our Washington, DC and Prague offices host many briefings and special events. And our website provides unique news and analysis from the areas we cover.

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“Twenty-eight years
after the revolution in Iran,
there's finally an outlet
that brings the voices of young Iranians
to those who need to hear them.”

— Radio Farda listener **Ahmad**, text messaging from Iran

During the growth of Solidarity and your political rise, did the Radios have any effect upon your domestic activity?”
 “Ladies and gentlemen, the degree cannot even be described.
 Would there be an **earth without the sun?**”

— **Lech Walesa**, founder of Solidarity movement and former President of Poland

Our Mission

From Central Europe to the Pacific, from the Baltic to the Black Sea, from Russia to Central Asia to the Persian Gulf, people are struggling to overcome autocratic institutions, violations of human rights, centralized economies, ethnic and religious hostilities, regional conflicts, and controlled media. Stability—based on democracy and free-market economies—throughout this region is essential to global peace. Based on the conviction that the first requirement of democracy is a well-informed citizenry, and building on nearly a half-century of surrogate broadcasting to this region:

- RFE/RL provides objective news, analysis, and discussion of domestic and regional issues crucial to successful democratic and free-market transformations.
- RFE/RL strengthens civil societies by projecting democratic values.
- RFE/RL combats ethnic and religious intolerance and promotes mutual understanding among peoples.
- RFE/RL provides a model for local media, assists in training to enhance media professionalism and independence, and develops partnerships with local media outlets.
- RFE/RL fosters closer ties between the countries of the region and the world's established democracies.



A Long, Distinguished History

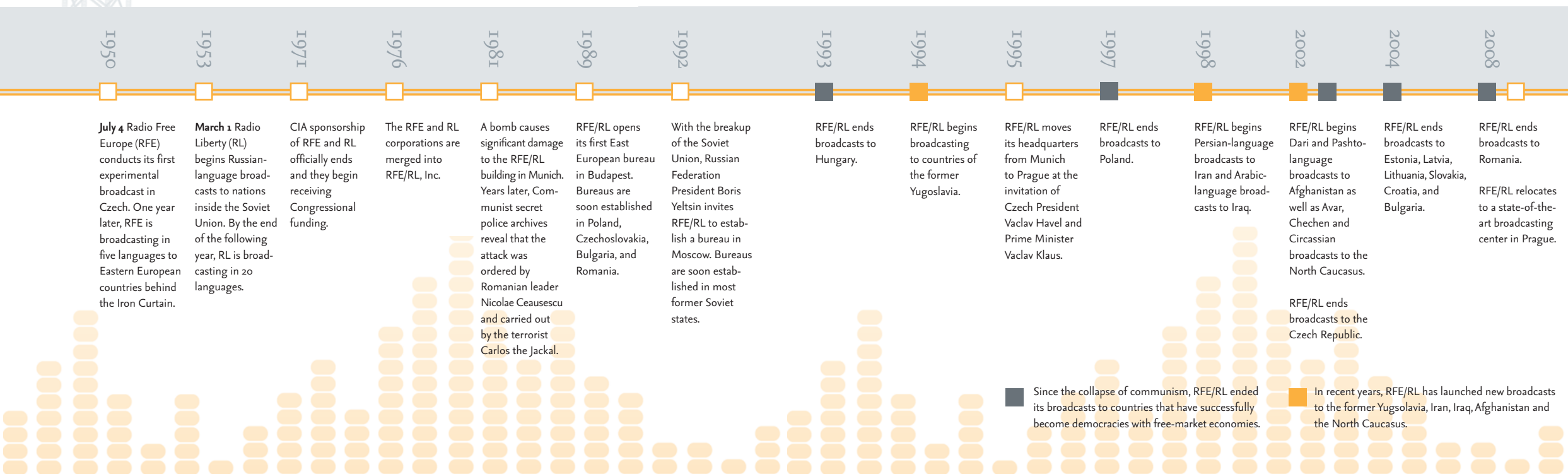
Free Europe, Inc. was established in 1949 as a non-profit, private corporation to broadcast news and current affairs programs to Eastern European countries behind the Iron Curtain. The Radio Liberty Committee, Inc. was created two years later to broadcast to the nations inside the Soviet Union.

Both were funded principally by the U.S. Congress, through the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), but received supplemental private donations as well. The two corporations were merged into a single RFE/RL, Inc. in 1975.

In 1971, CIA involvement ended and all funding and oversight responsibilities were transferred to a presidentially appointed Board for International Broadcasting (BIB). In 1994, the BIB's duties were transferred to the Broadcasting Board of Governors (BBG), which today oversees all non-military U.S. international broadcasting, including the Voice of America, Radio Marti, Radio Free Asia, Al Hurra, and Radio Sawa.

RFE/RL's contributions to the collapse of communism in Eastern Europe are well known. Former Estonian President Lennart Meri nominated RFE/RL for the Nobel Peace Prize and former Russian President Boris Yeltsin personally helped to create an RFE/RL bureau in Moscow after the failed August 1991 Russian coup.

When communism collapsed, many thought the radios had fulfilled their mission and could be disbanded. But the end of the Soviet Union did not end authoritarianism. Today, RFE/RL continues to bring news and information to places where a free press is either banned by the government or not fully established.





Washington, DC
Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty

C-SPAN



1. (Washington, DC – August 2008) C-SPAN provides live coverage of an RFE/RL video briefing between Washington, Tbilisi, and Prague to discuss the Russia-Georgia conflict.
2. (Gori, Georgia – August 2008) A man sits near the wreckage of his car that was hit by a Russian bomb, killing his pregnant wife and cousin.
3. (Lashkar Gah, Afghanistan – December 2007) Displaced people in Helmand province talk to Radio Free Afghanistan.
4. (Kyev, Ukraine – April 2007) Supporters of a Ukrainian opposition leader march with Orange Revolution flags through downtown Kyev.
5. (Tehran, Iran – June 2005) Iranian women wait to enter a polling station in front of an election banner at the Hosseyniyeh Ershad Mosque in Tehran.



6. (Alatau Mountains, Kazakhstan – February 2001) A participant in a falconry competition is interviewed by RFE/RL's Kazakh Service.
7. (Prague, Czech Republic – July 2008) U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice is interviewed by RFE/RL's Persian-language Service, Radio Farda.
8. (Badakhshan, Tajikistan – March 2008) Satellite and Internet broadcasts are one way RFE/RL's Tajik Service overcomes political hurdles to obtaining local frequencies.
9. (Minsk, Belarus – March 2006) RFE/RL's Belarus Service covers street protests and opposition rallies in the aftermath of a disputed presidential election.
10. (Boom Gorge, Kyrgyzstan – July 2006) Village elders speak with RFE/RL's Kyrgyz Service on the 90th anniversary of the Kyrgyz uprising against Russia.

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RFE/RL BROADCASTS IN 28 LANGUAGES

- Albanian
- Arabic
- Armenian
- Avar
- Azerbaijani
- Bashkir
- Belarusian
- Bosnian
- Chechen
- Circassian
- Crimean Tatar
- Croatian
- Dari
- Georgian
- Kazakh
- Kyrgyz
- Macedonian
- Montenegrin
- Pashto
- Persian
- Romanian
- Russian
- Serbian
- Tajik
- Tatar
- Turkmen
- Ukrainian
- Uzbek



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