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## CENTRAL ASIAN LEADERS TO JOIN PUTIN AT MOSCOW'S WWII PARADE

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The Times of Central Asia (21 April 2025)

*Leaders of the Commonwealth of Independent States, or CIS, will attend the 80th anniversary of the victory over Nazi Germany in Moscow on May 9, Russian state media have reported.*

The CIS, a regional group that was set up as the Soviet Union collapsed in 1991, includes the Central Asian countries that were Soviet republics: Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. Those leaders have traditionally attended the Moscow parade. But the event drew more international scrutiny in the last few years as Russian President Vladimir Putin tried to showcase diplomatic contacts in the face of Western efforts to isolate him, and display Russian military might as the war in Ukraine dragged on.

I am happy and pleased, just like you, to announce that all heads of state of the CIS will be at the celebrations in Moscow on May 9, CIS Secretary General Sergey Lebedev told the council of the groups inter-parliamentary assembly. He was quoted by Russias RIA Novosti news agency. The Russian news outlet TASS issued a similar report.

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