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May 30, 2024 · 20 tweets · [P_Kallioniemi/status/1796156897214513573](https://twitter.com/P_Kallioniemi/status/1796156897214513573)

In today's #vatniksoup, I'll introduce a Belarusian politician and dictator, Alexander Lukashenko. He's best-known for giving up his country to Russia, and for cracking up political opposition and dissidents in Belarus, ruling the country with an iron fist.

1/19



Alexander was born in the Byelorussian SSR, living an unhappy childhood with his mother, taunted by his schoolmates due to being fatherless. His father's identity is not known, but there's a rumour that his father was a Roma traveler passing through the region.

2/19

February 08, 2007 15:42
GMT
By Jan Maksymuk

Belarus: Father Of The Nation, Or Fatherless Son?

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No Fairytale Childhood

Young Sasha -- the boy destined to become Belarus's first president -- was reported to have had a difficult childhood. He was deeply disliked by his peers in the village, who tormented and mocked him as an extramarital scion and a bastard. Sasha repeatedly pledged to take revenge on all of them as soon as the opportunity presented itself.

Lukashenko joined the Soviet Communist Party in 1979, and a few years later he became the deputy chairman of a collective farm. By 1990, he had risen to the rank of Deputy to the Supreme Soviet of the Byelorussian SSR. He claimed to be an opponent of corruption...



...and in 1993 he accused 70 senior government officials of corruption, including stealing state funds for personal purposes. Apparently these accusations had no merit, but some high-ranking officials resigned nevertheless due to the embarrassment.

4/19

The Government in Minsk remains largely packed with apparatchiks installed during the days of Kremlin power. Mr. Lukashenko's political star rose during the last year when he was made the head of the anti-gangster commission of the Belarussian Parliament. The polls have shown that most citizens feel Mr. Lukashenko, a former factory manager, is the first man to take resolute steps to rid the nation of corruption at the highest levels.

He submitted a list of 70 ranking officials, including two vice-premiers and the Defense Minister, who he said were corrupt and should be removed from office. The embarrassed Government ended the work of his commission prematurely, securing his fame and popularity.

As chairman of the Belarus Supreme Soviet, Shushkevich, along with Russian leader Boris Yeltsin and Ukrainian leader Leonid Kravchuk, signed the 1991 declaration that dissolved the [Soviet Union](#).

Shushkevich led Belarus from independence until he was defeated in a 1994 election by Lukashenko, becoming a prominent member of the opposition.

After the fall of the USSR, Belarus held its first democratic presidential election in 1994. Naturally, Lukashenko ran in the most populist way, claiming to be “neither leftist nor rightist” but “with the people against those who rob and deceive them”.

5/19

Yet Mr. Lukashenko, who survived an assassination attempt during the presidential campaign, has little to offer in the way of an economic program -- other than to endorse monetary union with Russia. His main disagreement with Mr. Kebich has not been on the vital issue of sovereignty for the country or economic independence, but who could negotiate better terms with Russia.

"I am neither with the leftists nor the rightists," he said during the campaign. "But with the people against those who rob and deceive them."

Soon after this, Lukashenko started the Russification process of Belarus. He held a referendum that enabled economic integration with Russia and gave him the power to dissolve the parliament. OSCE stated that the referendum didn't meet the conditions of being free or fair.

6/19

Questions [\[edit \]](#)

Voters were asked four questions:

1. Do you agree with assigning the Russian language the status equal to that of the Belarusian language?
2. Do you support the actions of the President aimed at economic integration with Russia?
3. Do you support the suggestion about the introduction of the new State flag and State Coat of Arms of the Republic of Belarus?
4. Do you agree with the necessity of the introduction of changes into the acting Constitution of the Republic of Belarus, which provide for early termination of the plenary powers of the Supreme Soviet by President of the Republic of Belarus in the case of systematical or gross violations of the Constitution?

Results [\[edit \]](#)

Question	For		Against		Invalid/ blank	Total votes	Registered voters	Turnout	Result
	Votes	%	Votes	%					
Giving Russian language equal status	4,017,273	86.8	613,516	13.2	192,693	4,823,482	7,445,820	64.8	Approved
Economic integration with Russia	4,020,001	87.0	602,144	13.0	201,337				Approved
New flag and coat of arms	3,622,851	78.6	988,839	21.4	211,792				Approved
President can dismiss parliament	3,749,266	81.4	857,485	18.6	216,731				Approved

Source: Nohlen & Stöver

Lukashenko was re-elected in 2001 in the first round in an election that was widely considered yet again not free or fair. Putin supported the Belarusian dictator, but for that Lukashenko had to give up control over their section of the Yamal–Europe gas pipeline.



World

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09/10/2001 - Updated 10:37 AM ET

Lukashenko claims victory in Belarus election

MINSK, Belarus (AP) — Belarus' authoritarian president swept to another five-year term on promises to merge with Russia and stand up to the West. On Monday, international monitors denounced the election as unfair.

President Alexander Lukashenko won 75.6% of the vote in a preliminary count Monday, the state-run Central Election Commission said. The final results were to be announced Thursday.

Opposition leader Vladimir Goncharik had 15.4% of the vote and centrist politician Sergei Gaidukevich took 2.5%, election commission chairwoman Lidia Yermoshina told a news conference.

Monitors from the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe said they recorded no violations on voting day Sunday — but said the election "failed to meet international standards."



MAY 2005

Friction or Fiction? The Gas Factor in Russian–Belarusian Relations

Chloë Bruce, University of Vienna



Summary

- Throughout the post-Soviet period natural gas relations between Belarus and Russia have been chronically interwoven with political issues – in particular the proposed union of the two countries. Russia has supplied Belarus with heavily subsidized gas in exchange for military concessions and political loyalty.
- Despite a number of conveniently timed accords signed during the Yeltsin era, the Russian–Belarusian Union has remained largely academic.
- Putin, however, has proved more pragmatic than his predecessor, presenting his Belarusian counterpart with a stark choice: integration on Russian terms or higher gas prices.
- Given Belarus's transit role for Russian gas exports to Europe, these political issues have important implications for supply security.
- They also shed light on the way in which Russian foreign policy is made and the relationship between the government and the state-owned gas monopoly Gazprom – an issue of strategic concern given the government's current clampdown on the energy industry.

In 2004, Lukashenko eliminated presidential term limits, making himself eligible for a lifetime of presidency & he was re-elected again in 2006. This resulted in massive protests, after which he stated that the opposition is “funded by foreign countries,” and is “not needed”. 8/19

Incumbent declared winner of Belarus vote

Posted: Monday, March 20, 2006

MINSK, Belarus - Thousands of protesters thronged the main square of the Belarusian capital on Sunday in defiance of a government ban, refusing to recognize a presidential vote that gave a landslide - and largely expected - victory to the iron-fisted incumbent.

At the opposition demonstration in the capital's main square - the largest in years - protesters chanted "Long Live Belarus!" and the name of the main opposition candidate. Some waved a historic flag that President Alexander Lukashenko had replaced with a Soviet-style design, while others waved European Union flags.

Lukashenko won a third term with 82.6 percent of the vote, compared with 6 percent for Alexander Milinkevich, the main opposition candidate, the Central Election Commission chief said early Monday, citing a nearly complete preliminary count from Sunday's balloting. Turnout was 92.6 percent, the commission said.

Parliamentary elections

Opposition does not gain a single seat - protests in Belarus

The opposition speaks of an election farce: in the parliamentary elections in Belarus, it could not gain a single seat, according to official statements.

29.09.2008, 07:44 hrs



Moscow/Minsk - Election leader Lidija Ermoschina has an explanation for the poor cut-off of the government's opponents in Belarus in the parliamentary elections: "The word opposition sounds still deterrent to many."

According to the electoral commission, opposition candidates were by far behind the directly elected Members of Parliament. The leap to parliament was mainly made by representatives of regional administrations and large companies. "The fear of mass demonstrations and the inconvenience of radical changes that could have been made by the election of opposition members have led to this result," Ermoschina said.

During early 2000s, Lukashenko allied with other authoritarian regimes, including Syria's Bashar al-Assad and Iranian supreme leader Ali Khamenei and president Ahmadinejad. He also suggested to Yugoslav President Milošević that Yugoslavia join the Union of Russia & Belarus.



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The Statement of the Belarus President Alexander Lukashenko

April 15, 1999

Belgrade, April 14 (Tanjug) - Today in Belgrade Yugoslav president Slobodan Milosevic had talks with Belarus president Alexander Lukashenko. After the talks both presidents gave statements for the press.



Belarus President Alexander Lukashenko

The statement of the Belarus president:

"Talks were long and serious, we analyzed all the problems of bilateral relations and the problems connected to the war on this wholesome land.

We have also discussed issues of the alliance with Russia and Belarus. I am the president of the High Council of Russia and Belarus Alliance, the body that reaches final decision about the Yugoslav initiative to join that alliance.

President Milosevic has already been in contact with the president of Russia and me talking about many issues, including the alliance with Belarus and Russia, about the wish of Yugoslavia to be in that alliance.

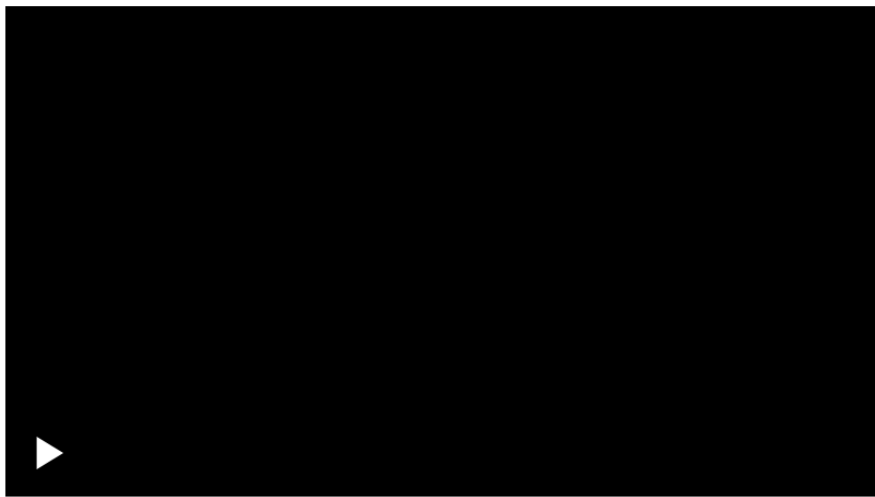
During the 2010 election, Lukashenko started cracking down on his opposition, as two other presidential candidates were beaten up and at least seven other candidates were arrested. In Dec 2010, several European foreign ministers published an op-ed criticizing Lukashenko.

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'Hundreds of protesters arrested' in Belarus

🕒 20 December 2010



BBC's Steve Rosenberg describes the clashes in Minsk

Security forces in Belarus have arrested hundreds of people who protested against the result of Sunday's presidential election.

At least seven presidential candidates were among those detained. Some of them were reportedly also beaten by police.

The OSCE called the poll "flawed" while the US and EU condemned the crackdown.

But President Alexander Lukashenko, who was re-elected for a fourth term with almost 80% of the vote, accused opposition supporters of "banditry".

"The vandals and hooligans lost their human face. They simply turned into beasts," he told a news conference in Minsk.

"You saw how our law-enforcers behaved. They stood firm and acted exclusively within the bounds of the law. They defended the country and people from barbarism and ruin."

"There will be no revolution or criminality in Belarus."

Several hundred people were detained when police dispersed at least 10,000 anti-Lukashenko demonstrators in the centre of the capital on Sunday night, officials said.

Opinion

I.H.T. OP-ED CONTRIBUTOR

Lukashenko the Loser

By Carl Bildt, Karel Schwarzenberg, Radek Sikorski and Guido Westerwelle

Dec. 23, 2010



Share full article



There can be no business-as-usual between the European Union and Belarus' president, Aleksandr Lukashenko, after what has happened since the presidential election in Belarus last Sunday.

In recent months, hope had grown that his words could be taken seriously. He promised to invite international observers to the election, and he delivered on the promise. He talked about giving the opposition some space during the election campaign, and there were some improvements.

The E.U. responded by suspending sanctions and with a generous offer of conditional political dialogue, economic cooperation and the possibility of financial assistance. It would have been in the interests of both Europe and the people of Belarus to continue.

Then everything changed.

While the voting proceeded in an orderly fashion, the counting of the votes turned into a charade. The report of the independent observers assessed the counting as "bad" or "very bad" in nearly half the polling stations they could observe, and it is not unreasonable to assume that it was even worse in the others. It became obvious that there were orders not to count votes, but to deliver a predetermined result.

In 2020, after being re-elected for his sixth term, massive protests erupted across Belarus. The protesters accused Lukashenko of widespread electoral fraud, and opposition candidate Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya claimed she had received 60-70% of the total vote.



Like Yanukovich, Lukashenko was also planning on escaping to Russia if he'd become a "former president". In Aug 2020, the European Parliament declared Lukashenko "persona non grata" in the EU and claimed that he's not the president anymore. Lukashenko later took revenge ...

Politics

Russia Worries If Awkward Ally's Time Is Up as Protests Grow

- Some in Kremlin said to fear Lukashenko could lose control
- Belarus is key ally for Russia, buffer against NATO in West



Demonstrators in Independence Square during a protest rally in Minsk on Aug. 14. Photographer: Sergei Gapon/AFP via Getty Images



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By [Henry Meyer](#) and [Irina Reznik](#)

August 15, 2020 at 10:07 AM GMT+3

Updated on August 15, 2020 at 5:02 PM GMT+3

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Council of the EU | Press release | 24 September 2020 07:00

Belarus: Declaration by the High Representative on behalf of the European Union on the so-called 'inauguration' of Aleksandr Lukashenko

This document is available in non-EU language(s):

[Russian](#)

Recalling the Declaration by the High Representative on behalf of the European Union of 11 September, the EU once again reiterates that the 9 August Belarus Presidential elections were neither free nor fair. The European Union does not recognise their falsified results. On this basis, the so-called 'inauguration' of 23 September 2020 and the new mandate claimed by Aleksandr Lukashenko lack any democratic legitimacy.

This 'inauguration' directly contradicts the will of large parts of the Belarusian population, as expressed in numerous, unprecedented and peaceful protests since the elections, and serves to only further deepen the political crisis in Belarus.

The European Union's position is clear: Belarusian citizens deserve the right to be represented by those they freely choose through new inclusive, transparent and credible elections.

... vowing to "flood" Europe with "drugs and migrants". Soon after this, Belarusian tourist agencies started advertising in the Middle East, promoting a hassle-free entry to the EU and its countries with good social welfare system, doubling flights from Baghdad to Minsk.


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Digest


Belarus dictator threatens to ‘flood EU with drugs and migrants’


European foreign ministers mulling economic action after Ryanair plane ‘hijacking’




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Who is behind the flow of migrants from Belarus to Lithuania? Reform.by investigation

MAIN


Belarusian-Lithuanian border. Photo: @LRKAM

AUTHOR  **REFORM.by**

PUBLISHED  **02:12 07/23/2021**

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The topic of illegal or, as human rights activists advise to say, irregular migration on the border of the EU and Belarus has gradually become the main topic on the information agenda. Who is behind the flow of migrants, how is it organized and who makes money from people's misfortune? Reform.by conducted its own investigation and came to

After the election, Alexander became extremely paranoid, walking everywhere wearing a bulletproof vest and carrying a gun. In 2021, FSB claimed that there was a plot by the “Ukrainian nationalists” to launch a military coup and assassination attempt against Lukashenko.

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BELARUS

The Ministry of Defense of Belarus first told about the camp where "Wagners" are waiting

Lukashenko demands apology from those who call him dictator

Lithuania warned about the danger of travel to Belarus: intelligence aggressively recruits all consecutive

One of the defendants in the case of "the assassination of Lukashenko" asks for refugee status in Ukraine

THURSDAY, 6 MAY 2021, 23:25

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КОЛОНИКА Bohuslavets column: Kharkiv OVA "closed eyes" to the lack of taxes in contracts on fortifications

13:05
Office of the Prosecutor General: 775 convicts joined the ranks of the Armed Forces



One of the 10 accused in the case of the "injuring of Oleksandr Lukashenko" the head of the Mogilev regional organization of the BNF party Vitaly Makarenko appealed to the State Migration Service of Ukraine with a request for refugee status or additional protection of the Ukrainian state.

Source: " Joy of Swaboda "

Details: According to the publication, Makarenko has a residence permit in Ukraine, where his family lives.

At the same time, he and his lawyer plan to appeal to the Office of the Prosecutor General of Ukraine to, on the one hand, to report the political motives of the criminal case against him in Belarus and to ask for failure, and on the other hand, to obtain information about extradition.

Makarenko stressed that the case against him is clearly political and falsified. He assured that he had not taken any actions that could be qualified as a conspiracy or assassination.

Belarus does not exclude that it was included in the list of defendants in the case in order to promote the emphasis on the "Ukrainian trace".

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Russia alleges assassination plot against Belarus leader Lukashenko

The opposition denounced news of the plot as a ‘provocation.’

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Belarus' President Alexander Lukashenko with his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin | Mikhail Metzel/AFP via Getty Images

APRIL 18, 2021 4:37 PM CET
BY SERGEI KUZNETSOV

To protect his friends, Lukashenko formed a Security Council consisting of his close allies. He then signed a presidential decree, saying that in the event that the president is unable to perform his duties, martial law will be imposed and the Council will take over.

President of the Republic of Belarus

Main / Documents / On protecting the sovereignty and the constitutional order

On protecting the sovereignty and the constitutional order

Ordinance No. 2 of 9 May 2021

May 9, 2021 [Share](#)

Belarus President Aleksandr Lukashenko has signed Ordinance No. 2 "On protecting the sovereignty and the constitutional order" of 9 May 2021.

In line with the document if the head of state dies as a result of an assassination, an act of terrorism, external aggression, or other violent acts all the government agencies and their civil servants will have to abide by decisions of the Security Council, which sessions are presided over by the prime minister.

A state of emergency or martial law will be declared in Belarus immediately then and the Security Council will have to define a list of measures to enforce these states.

The Security Council's decisions will be binding for everyone and will be subject to unconditional execution.

The organization of elections will be the key matter. Assisted by oblast governors, the Security Council will decide on the organization of the elections.

The ordinance is designed to preserve the country's independence and sovereignty.

The ordinance comes into force as of the moment it was signed.

Ordinances

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Throughout his career, thousands of people in Belarus have become victims of torture, sexual abuse, and other forms of repression. Several opposition figures have also simply disappeared, and the Belarusian secret service have even plotted on assassinating dissidents abroad.

16/19

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PRESS RELEASES | SPECIAL PROCEDURES

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01 September 2020

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Our findings include the rape of detainees, and other forms of sexual and gender-based violence against both men and women. Medical records reviewed by OHCHR indicate lesions and other injuries to male genitalia consistent with forceful twisting and rape. Psychological violence, including threats of rape, was also employed against detainees.

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POLITICS

Belarus: How death squads targeted opposition politicians

Christian F. Trippe | Ekaterina Sotnik
12/16/2019


Twenty years ago, some leading Belarusian opposition politicians disappeared without a trace. In an exclusive interview with DW, a key witness tells how he assisted a special unit in committing abduction and murder.

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image: Imagor/StockTrek Images

May 30, 2024 euobserver Search... Sections Lo



Investigation

Exclusive: Lukashenko plotted murders in Germany

0 Comments

EU & the World **Investigation**

Author Bio
Andrew Rettman is EUobserver's Foreign Affairs Editor. He has been writing about foreign and security affairs for EUobserver since 2005. He is Polish but grew up in the UK. He has also written for The Guardian, The Telegraph, and The Times of London.

Belarus president Alexander Lukashenko has held power since 1994 (Photo: kremlin.ru)

BY ANDREW RETTMAN, BRUSSELS, JANUARY 4, 2021, 8:02:31 AM
0 co-observers

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Lukashenko managed to turn Belarus into a pro-Kremlin dictatorship by completely destroying the opposition, replacing officials and politicians with his friends, and changing the constitution so that he can stay in power indefinitely.

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Who is “Europe’s last dictator”?

Alexander Lukashenko has doubled down on political repression, but is dependent on Russia

Feb 29th 2024 Share



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The story of Lukashenko’s rise to power is an important one, as it is something that could happen in many other countries that are now considered democratic.

”

No, democracy is not a fragile flower; still, it needs cultivating. If the rest of this century is to witness the gradual growth of freedom and democratic ideals, we must take actions to assist the campaign for democracy.

Ronald Reagan

ADDRESS TO BRITISH PARLIAMENT, 1982
#REAGANSLASTINGLEGACY



We’ve already seen how Viktor Orban has taken over Hungary using similar strategies as Lukashenko previously did, and a similar faith was planned for Ukraine, too:

https://x.com/P_Kallioniemi/status/1650427973709824001



Home / Short News / Politics / The Capitals / Orbán to change the constitution, again

Orbán to change the constitution, again

By Vlad Makszimov | Telex Apr 22, 2022



The amendment of Hungary's constitution, known as the "fundamental law," would be the 10th change since Fidesz first changed the country's highest law in 2012. [EPA-EFE/JOHANNA GERON]

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Languages: Deutsch



Fidesz is set to start its fourth term in power with a constitutional change that would expand the state of emergency to be declared by the executive in case of war in a neighbouring country.

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