



A high-level international conference called *Eurasian Security: Reality and Prospects in a Transforming World* took place in Minsk

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In Belarus it is necessary to develop skill sets in all types of sciences in order to form a completely independent technology policy

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Employee of the Belarus Segodnya Publishing House Konstantin Shmidov during the competition

Chop wood and speak plainly

A spirit of media cohesion, healthy competition and an emphasis on precision. The second wood chopping challenge among journalists was held in Belarus.

Last year, a video appeared on the Internet in which the President of Belarus, Aleksandr Lukashenko, was chopping wood to prevent Europeans from freezing. The video became popular, and journalists suggested that the Head of State organise a challenge to test which of the media representatives was quick and dexterous with an ax and a saw. The President approved the idea, and on November 7th, 2022, the first wood chopping challenge among media workers was held. The event turned out to be bright and memorable. And last weekend, journalists, cameramen, photographers, editors, media executives, bloggers, and representatives of press services met again at the same picturesque place — on the shore of the Vyacha Water Reservoir not far from Minsk. 35 teams from all regions of Belarus expressed a desire to take part in the second challenge — this is almost twice as many as in 2022. In total — 240 participants and more than 100 judges. The scope is nationwide! → 10



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‘We should have and we actually do have our own ideology’



By Yevgeny Kononovich, Polina Konoga, Dmitry Kryat

On the national exhibition centre

The Head of State noted that he is often asked what the next construction project will be in the capital after the National Library, the Minsk Arena, Chizhovka Arena complexes, the Palace of Independence and other iconic objects. “For me personally, it is very important to complete the construction of VDNH of Belarus. The exhibition complex is being built near the ring road. It will represent a bird — a stork. The roof is already being put up there...

We need this exhibition centre so that people come and are proud of what we do. I’m sure even adults don’t know everything. It’s necessary to travel around Belarus, visit enterprises, but here it will be concentrated in one place.”

On the future of the automotive industry

When asked how you see the future development of the automotive industry in Belarus, Aleksandr Lukashenko noted,

“We are a country of vehicle makers. We make vehicles that are the envy of any country: low-, medium- and large-capacity vehicles.”

As for the creation of passenger car production, the BelGee plant was built with the assistance of China. So far, more than half of the enterprise uses components from China, so the goal is to increase the level of localisation, Aleksandr Lukashenko emphasised,

“We have everything necessary to do this. Some of our enterprises are underloaded. Indeed, it is not an easy task to produce your own engine and gearbox for a passenger car. But we have set ourselves a task, we have a motor plant — let it produce, let them move... Yes, this is a more delicate job, but we will do it.”

On the prospects of Belarusian exports

Regarding the prospects for Belarusian exports, the President once again drew attention to the fact that the departure of individual foreign companies from the markets of Belarus and Russia is an opportunity,

“We are in great demand. Very. Sometimes flexibility is not enough. Hence, my strict demands on the bureaucracy in certain areas. We need to move now, we need to capture the market. The main thing now is time. It’s working for us for now, but it won’t always be that way.”

Belarusian opportunities in the field of microelectronics, agriculture, mechanical engineering, processing, biotechnology, elevator production and much more remain very relevant for our foreign partners.

What can Belarus give to the world market, what is the future of the Belarusian automotive industry and can IT technologies replace humans?

What the President spoke about at the meeting with youth activists.

Meetings with young people are not uncommon in the Head of State’s work schedule. But the current event at the Palace of Independence was still special. On its tenth anniversary and in the run-up to the 105th anniversary of the All-Union Leninist Young Communist League (aka Komsomol), the main symbol of our independence opened its doors to activists of the Belarusian Republican Pioneer Organisation and the Belarusian Republican Youth Union BRSM, finalists of the Miss Belarus 2023 beauty contest, and veterans of the Komsomol movement. It became a meeting of generations. Next year marks the 30th anniversary of the presidency. And the meeting participants asked the President what was most difficult for him in the early years of the formation of a sovereign country. Aleksandr Lukashenko gave this answer, “Maintaining independence was especially difficult. No one needed independent Belarus. In economy, we were competitors. Everyone wanted to grab our manufacturing capabilities. In politics, we were competitors, too. Many had their eyes on us. But you need to be able to protect yourself. Now we have learned a little about this, and we already have something to protect our country with.”

On the development of the African market

Today, Belarusian products are in demand not only in the markets of the EAEU and CIS member states, but also in the far-flung countries, including the African continent. The Head of State emphasised,

“We are welcome there. Having freed themselves from the colonial yoke, they are now very afraid of being swallowed up again. That’s why they are looking to us.”

Promising areas of co-operation with African countries will include technologies in agriculture, healthcare, and training of specialists. That is, we are ready not only

They are penetrating everything. But it is impossible to replace a human being, particularly in close contact with nature. Information technologies are necessary. But I don’t think it is possible to replace people in this sphere. Whatever a machine may be, it cannot replicate human feelings and qualities.”

All innovations related to artificial intelligence and neural networks are greatly changing society, and difficult times await us in this regard, the Head of State predicts, drawing attention to the many fakes and the need to teach young people to correctly navigate the information field.

We had to fight them all the time. And they were funded by the West. This is why we had to fight all the time. It was always difficult. We always fought in these streets. We already knew that an election would always be followed by slaughter, especially in Minsk.”

But 2020 was the most difficult year for the state and for the people. It was the culmination of all these battles and fights, the Head of State said. “If we had wavered then, we would not have been here. There would have been a war here. Because NATO troops were already ready to enter Belarus. They [opponents of the government] were expect-



to sell goods and technologies, but also to share competencies, Aleksandr Lukashenko emphasises.

On whether IT technologies can replace humans

Aleksandr Lukashenko drew attention to examples of modern armed conflicts, when robots and unmanned vehicles enter into confrontation, sometimes without human participation, “And they are very dangerous.

We are trying to modernize, remodel our army once again. And we use the experience of special military operation among other things. It is impossible to do without IT industry.”

Aleksandr Lukashenko noted that the information technology industry develops along various avenues in Belarus. In addition to HTP, IT areas were also developed at traditional enterprises. The President pointed out, “Take the military-industrial complex, space, the Academy of Sciences — there are really space developments there... Today we have driverless BelAZ trucks. They work all over the world. Our IT sector is highly developed in companies that produce this or that product... We have already created dairy complexes where only robots work instead of milkmaids. We already have an unmanned tractor...

On the work of the media and ideology

Aleksandr Lukashenko called on ‘not to push away’ from propaganda and counter-propaganda,

“Yes, we are engaged in propaganda and agitation. It is natural. We promote the best of what we have. We encourage people to work harder and produce better results. Furthermore, we should have and we actually do have our own ideology. Ideological direction, ideological work.”

Aleksandr Lukashenko noted that now, in times of information confrontation, it is media workers who are at the forefront,

“I can’t go anywhere without them now. And they really help me convey my message, explain to you the policy that I’m trying to pursue.”

On the difficulties at the dawn of independence and the events of 2020

As for the first years of his presidency, Aleksandr Lukashenko does not hide the complexity of this period, “Those were the most difficult years. At a time of elections UNA-UNSO from Ukraine, thugs from Poland and from Russia would come here and create chaos in the streets.

ed to seize power if only for a day and invite NATO troops over here, which would mean a direct clash with Russia. A nuclear war.

Therefore, time will pass, you will appreciate what we did in 2020. We didn’t stop the bloodshed — we stopped the destruction of the planet. This is not Ukraine; there would immediately be a clash between NATO and the Russian Armed Forces. We would have been ground down.”

On the patriotic project

The BRSM leader Aleksandr Lukyanov during the meeting informed Aleksandr Lukashenko about how the project for the construction of the Republican Centre for Patriotic Education of Youth in the Kobrin Fortification of the Brest Fortress was progressing and asked the amount collected by student workers, volunteers, activists, about half a million Belarusian rubles, to be used for the construction of the Republican Centre for Patriotic Education youth education.

“We will be grateful if you send your money there. This means that less help will be needed from the budget,” reacted Aleksandr Lukashenko.

Belarusian youth activists together with Aleksandr Lukashenko planted the Allee of Generations outside the Palace of Independence.

Belarus is a supporter of the peaceful development of all countries

The President of Belarus, Aleksandr Lukashenko, met with Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov

At the beginning of the meeting, Sergei Lavrov conveyed greetings from Russian President Vladimir Putin to the Head of the Belarusian State.

“Thank you, don’t forget to tell him too,” said Aleksandr Lukashenko.

“Certainly. I’ll tell him in detail,” assured Sergei Lavrov.

The President of Belarus said that he plans to have a telephone conversation with the Russian leader in the near future.

At a meeting with Sergei Lavrov, Aleksandr Lukashenko confirmed that the Republic of Belarus is a reliable ally of the Russian Federation and there can be no games in this matter.

“Both Russia and Belarus are doing a lot to prevent Europe and the entire world from sliding towards the most dangerous line. You should know that we will continue pursuing this policy. We are reliable allies of the Russian Federation. Have no doubts about it, too. There can be no games here, since we understand that a lot

is at stake, including the survival of our states and our peoples,” the President said.

Speaking about Belarusian-Russian relations, Aleksandr Lukashenko noted: despite various kinds of external pressure, the parties are moving towards the implementation of plans in the Union State.

“As for trade, which is fundamental to our cooperation, you know that this year we will reach a record high level. Although Belarus is not a big country, it is among the top five trading partners of the huge, gigantic Russia. This speaks volumes,” the Head of State emphasised. “You can rest assured that we will maintain the sovereignty of Belarus and Russia when it comes to economy and other things. Even in the areas where we fell a little behind hoping for honest cooperation with ‘advanced’ Europe and the collective West. We will make up for this. It will not take much time. We have mapped out certain steps. Microelectronics and

other areas are a case in point. As for Belarus-Russia relations, there is nothing to talk about. We act as a single whole. You can rest assured that Belarus will be committed to this principle, no matter how hard they will try to obstruct us in the run-up to the parliamentary elections.”

Aleksandr Lukashenko recalled that an important election campaign will take place in Belarus in February 2024.

“We are already seeing what they [opponents] are up to. There will also be a presidential elec-

tion a year after the parliamentary elections. We will have such a difficult period. And the Westerners are preparing for it. We are fully aware of it and are ready for any scenarios,” Aleksandr Lukashenko added.

The head of the Russian Foreign Ministry thanked for the invitation to visit Belarus and for its initiative to hold a conference on the topic of Eurasian security.

“This is more relevant now than ever,” he is convinced.

Sergei Lavrov explained the timeliness of organising such a

forum by the difficult situation on the European continent — large and rich in natural resources, but under the dictation of the Americans, it decided to divide into two camps, just as it was during the Cold War era.

“But even then economic ties were not interrupted. And now, under pressure from Washington, Europe is facing direct losses,” the minister noted.

For example, at the conference, the Hungarian minister directly said that energy costs in Europe are 5 times more expensive than in the United States. The consequences will be disastrous — deindustrialisation, transfer of production to other regions, and so on.

“So, I think this was also one of the tasks of the Americans — to weaken Europe and not give it the opportunity to economically straighten its shoulders and become independent. Therefore, the topic [of the conference in Minsk] is extremely relevant,” the head of the Russian Foreign Ministry emphasised.



Russian Minister of Foreign Affairs Sergei Lavrov and Belarusian Minister of Foreign Affairs Sergei Aleinik

The President of Belarus, Aleksander Lukashenko, also met with the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade of Hungary Peter Szijarto, who arrived in Minsk to participate in a high-level international conference on Eurasian security

“You are probably the most media-rich Foreign Minister now, especially in our area. We see you often and hear you. Not only your statements, but also those by our good friend Mr. Orban [Prime Minister of Hungary Viktor Orban]. **For some reason the European Union believes that Belarus is its opponent. You know, we are not vindictive people. And this is despite the current turbulence in the EU and the sanctions that the European Union has imposed against us. You should know that the Belarusian President is an ardent supporter of preserving the European Union. Not because I love the European Union very much but because the EU along with the USA, China, Russia, and to some extent India are strong pillars of the current world system. If this pillar is torn out of this system, it will be very bad for everyone,” the Head of State noted.**

Aleksandr Lukashenko once again stressed that as a European state and the geographical centre of Europe Belarus wants the European Union to keep existing.

“Our positions may probably coincide in that we really want the European Union to be a powerful, strong, sovereign, and independent association.

This is what we wish to see. This is something you should know. Despite all the nuances in relations and even the policy that the union is pursuing towards Belarus today. We are supporters of the union,” the Head of State said.

During the meeting, Aleksandr Lukashenko commented on the supply of long-range ATACMS missiles to Ukraine and announced the threat of a full-scale war,



Peter Szijarto (left) during the meeting

“Americans have started supplying ATACMS missiles to Ukraine. They should understand that they are escalating the war. Russia will never put up with this. Neither will we. Therefore, we need to resist this in every possible way, if we do not want to find ourselves again in this hot cauldron of a terrible deadly war instead of a standoff.”

The Head of State emphasised, “Our position on Ukraine is similar to that of Hungary. Belarus does not need the war, and neither do you. We are neighbours. The European Union could have done a lot. Although I understand that the pressure on it from overseas is huge. But I am absolutely convinced that if Europeans wanted this, we could end the war and come to an agreement, make certain conclusions

so that this does not happen again.”

The President said that he expects a complete solution to the problems in the coming year amid Western sanctions, “I think that by and large we have overcome the effect of the sanctions. It is not the first time we have faced them. You know it well. Indeed, there are still some

problems due to the need to reroute logistics first and foremost and there are some financial issues, issues with the transfer of payments and so on. But I think we will settle these problems, too. As for our trade and economic relations, unfortunately, they have deteriorated. Not through our fault. You know the reasons. If Hungarians and the Hungarian leadership have any wishes to work in Belarus, we will be happy to host your enterprises and companies and will create the most favourable conditions for work.”

Aleksandr Lukashenko conveyed his best wishes to Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban. “It’s difficult, almost impossible, for us to travel there now. But he can come over any time. We will talk about serious matters. I think it will be useful,” the President added.

The Head of State also thanked the Hungarian side for cooperation in humanitarian matters. “Our football players, athletes have the opportunity to take part in competitions in Hungary, to play their home matches. As you can see, we find a way out. **Putting pressure on athletes, especially Paralympians and the**

disabled is very wrong. It’s good that Hungary understands this,” Aleksandr Lukashenko said. “If we can be useful to Hungary, we are ready to act in this direction. We are very grateful to you. We are grateful people. I think the time will come when we will be able to respond in kind to you for your good policy towards Belarus.”

Peter Szijarto thanked Aleksandr Lukashenko for the opportunity to meet with the Head of State. He stressed the need to maintain contacts and communication between both sides in order to settle the existing conflicts in the region as soon as possible.

“I believe in dialogue. We want to have peace in our neighbourhood. There is a war going on in the neighbourhood. We are not responsible for it, but we are paying the price for it. Hungarians are also dying in this war. We don’t want people to die,” the minister said. “We would like this war to end as soon as possible. That is why we are rushing the truce and ceasefire. I sincerely hope that there will be an opportunity to do so sooner rather than later. We know very well that without dialogue, without communication, this will never become possible.”

Based on materials of sb.by and belta.by

About 300 people from almost 30 countries of the world took part in the conference. The geography of the participants extended from the United States of America to the People's Republic of China. A frank and inclusive discussion about the prospects for Eurasian security in the context of the crisis of the existing world order, chronic military-political contradictions between key players and the almost complete lack of communications between them included a discussion of several specific topics, including global and regional geopolitical prerequisites for Eurasian security, economic integration and conjugation in favour of its unified architecture, interaction of international and regional organisations in the Eurasian space, strategic stability and nuclear weapons, threats and opportunities for Eurasia in new conditions. As a result, the conference made it possible to outline the promising contours of Eurasian security.



Dialogue between East and West

A high-level international conference called Eurasian Security: Reality and Prospects in a Transforming World took place in Minsk

By Svetlana Isaenok, Anastasia Tselyuk

What is the root of the problem

Once upon a time in Minsk they tried to find a formula for safety for everyone. Then they discussed how to move away from the edge of the abyss. Alas, on the European continent, which has survived two world wars, we are again faced with a bloody conflict.

“The prospects for other outbreaks to flare up in various regions of the world are growing. And this, no matter how cynical it sounds, becomes commonplace. Now, in fact, the whole world is faced with the task of holding on and not stepping into the abyss of mutually assured destruction. In the meantime, we are confidently moving in this direction, along the so-called ‘escalation ladder’,” **Belarusian Minister of Foreign Affairs Sergei Aleinik** noted during his speech.



“In our opinion, the reason for the current situation is the NATO-centric model of security for the elite, which the West has promoted and continues to promote...”

The West never allowed NATO to become a full-fledged international organisation. And now, instead of a platform for serious discussion of issues of war and peace, it is simply being turned into a model of a ‘rules-based order’,” Sergei Aleinik went on saying.

Polycentricity is trending

Western-centricity is becoming a thing of the past. It is being replaced by multipolarity and polycentricity. Most countries support a variety of development paths and want their choices to be respected and not imposed by alien principles. And Eurasia occupies a key place in this process, Sergei Aleinik is sure,



“What should the rest of the European countries and, in general, the countries of Greater Eurasia, which have serious and justified fears for their security, do? Probably, to strengthen existing and form new international organisations. Such as the EAEU, SCO, BRICS, CSTO, CICA.”

Here we see examples of a new galaxy, a new generation of organisations that operate on fair principles.”

What does Belarus offer

If the West is now not ready to talk about common security, but only talks about its own, then Belarus proceeds from the fact that the time for dialogue will come sooner or later. And we have specific ideas in this regard. Sergei Aleinik voiced three proposals from Belarus to form a model of Eurasian security.

Documenting the diversity of civilisations

– We have already formulated the idea of preparing a Diversity Charter for the 21st Century. Eurasian countries and even wider (countries of the global East and South, and in fact, the global majority) could openly and transparently develop a document that would set out the principles for building a fair world order and reflect the fact of the diversity of civilisations. Western countries could also become participants in the process.

Development of dialogue between the countries of the Eurasian space

– We need to seriously think about how to stop the movement along the es-

calation ladder, which has almost completely destroyed mutual trust. Dialogue is needed. As a stage of the future global process, dialogue between the countries of the Eurasian space should be developed, using all formats of interstate communication, including the platforms of international organisations and integration associations.

Holding a summit of Heads of State of the Eurasian space

– We all need to strive to attend a serious summit of Heads of State of the Eurasian space to discuss the future architecture of Eurasian security. An architecture that would ensure lasting peace on our common large continent, the peace necessary for progress, creation and sustainable development of countries and peoples.

Western view

Despite the risk of being subject to serious criticism in some parts of Europe, **Hungarian Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade Peter Szijjártó** attended the conference. As he admitted during his speech, he decided to come to Minsk partly because global security is now in its worst state since the end of the Cold War.



The head of the Hungarian Foreign Ministry drew attention to the fact that today security issues for Europe as an integral part of Eurasia are only one of the challenges.

The European Union is faced with another serious problem — a significant drop in the level of competitiveness of the European economy. Peter Szijjártó recalled that last year, for the first time, China took second place from the EU in terms of its share of global GDP.

The Hungarian minister asked how the European economy should develop in this situation, “An expression that has been

The President of Belarus sent a greeting to the participants and guests of a high-level international conference **Eurasian Security: Reality and Prospects in a Transforming World** in which he expressed his conviction that impartial assessments of the current events will be given at the expert platform in Minsk and, most importantly, the political leadership of the Eurasian countries will be offered effective measures to counter modern challenges and threats.

mentioned many times by Western European politicians: a trade zone from Lisbon to Vladivostok. For many years this was the ideal that should become the basis for the economic development of Europe. But today this is difficult, since ties between Russia and Europe have been reduced to nothing in recent years. For Europe to be strong again, two things are needed: peace and dialogue.”

One-sided game

The geopolitical balance of power continues to change not in favour of the collective West. These main trends also influence the international processes unfolding in Eurasia,



Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said, “International relations are experiencing new, truly epochal tectonic shifts. Before our eyes, a more equitable multipolar world order is expanding, based on the cultural and civilisational diversity of the modern world, the natural right of peoples to determine the paths and models of their own development, implementing the most important principle of the UN, written in its charter — the sovereign equality of states.”

Sergei Lavrov noted that a sign of the times is the desire of an increasing number of states of the global South and East to strengthen their sovereignty in all areas, to implement a pragmatic, independent nationally oriented course in world affairs, which was most clearly reflected in the recently begun process of rapid expansion of BRICS. By opting for zero-sum geopolitical games, the states of the North Atlantic Alliance, led by Washington, have provoked a serious security crisis in the European part of our continent.

High quality guaranteed



The excellent quality of Belarusian food has long become one of the country's brands. Gourmets from different countries are happy to buy Belarusian cheeses, butter, meat products, and milk. Our reporters visited the Scientific and Practical Centre of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus for Food and clearly saw how they maintain the high reputation of the food industry and introduce new products into the family of healthy and safe food.

By Aleksandr Nesterov

Get to the bottom of it

It's not for nothing that they say that stability is a sign of mastery. The food research centre adds: and the result of careful control. One of the elements of a clearly structured system for achieving quality at the centre is the activities of the Republican Control and Testing Complex For the Quality and Safety of Food Products. The scale is impressive: last year alone, about 15 thousand product samples were examined here — both raw materials and finished products.

The research is more than meticulous. For example, here is the chromatographic research laboratory, where we were invited by the SPC staff. One of four in the complex. Here they can recognise, in particular, the addition of vegetable oils to animal products and thereby eliminate falsification, determine the presence of preservatives, dyes, flavours, pesticides and much more.

We found chemical engineer Zakhar Tikhonovich in the process of determining benzaperene in specially prepared laboratory samples. Smoked fish and meat products are sometimes guilty of the presence of this carcinogen, a laboratory employee noted, "We detect benzaperene using high-performance liquid chromatography using special equipment — a chromatograph. One sample, taking into account all stages of work, takes more than a day. It helps that you can work with several samples at once in parallel. It turns out to be a kind of conveyor belt."

In addition to laboratories, the control and testing complex includes a testing organisation group that works directly with customers.

"These can be both manufacturers and suppliers. All groups of food products are tested. The product will be released into stores only if the final conclusion indicates that it meets all the requirements for it," head of the complex Kristina Ryabova notes.

By the way, there are few complaints about Belarusian products. Imports can be more difficult. For example, microbiologists carefully monitor bulk products: spices, herbs, seasonings, teas. Specialists from the chromatographic research laboratory identify violations in the use of preservatives. And the centre calls cadmium in sunflower seeds and cinnamon 'classics of the genre'; claims here must be made to agricultural producers.



New items in assortment

These days, they say, it is impossible to reinvent the wheel. This rule does not apply to food products. Every year, employees of the Scientific and Production Centre for Food develop dozens of new recipes and technologies for the food industry.

"It is necessary to achieve a stable supply of the population with a wide range of safe and high-quality food products. A personalised approach has also become a current trend in recent times: it is necessary to take into account the needs of different groups of the population — depending on lifestyle, age, health status and level of physical activity," the scientific secretary of the Scientific and Practical Centre for Food Kristina Zhakova emphasises.

What is the result? It would seem that well-known food products began to sparkle with unusual (and not only) flavours. For example, new types of sauce products have appeared, including those using non-traditional raw materials — bruined and pickled cucumbers, watermelons, sour berries, sweet sauces, pastes. And they cost 3-4 times lower (!) than the price of similar imported products. And what about juices? What's new in them? However, the innovative technology

introduced at one of the enterprises made it possible to preserve up to 75-80 percent of heat-unstable vitamin C. Drink for your health.

Recent developments also include advanced baby food products. The Kommunarka factory, famous throughout the post-Soviet space, pleased with chocolate products with biologically active substances — calcium, vitamin D, dietary fibre. By the way, they just recently presented dried milk pellets — an analogue of the popular Chinese delicacy. Cereal chocolate balls coated in white chocolate and milk powder have a banana flavour. The milk powder content reaches almost 40 percent of the weight of the candy. The Gomel factory Spartak has recently been pampering children with fruit bars with dried fruits, cereals, and apple dietary fibre. The line of juices for children has been replenished with new products, which include zucchini, sweet peppers, and beets.

There are many other delicious premieres for the younger generation, and not only. Cookies and chocolate for diabetic nutrition, long-lasting marshmallows, vegetable oils corresponding to the world's best safety analogues, low-protein gluten-free potato snacks, confectionery products for nutrition during intense physical activity, fortified breakfast cereals...

The developments of Belarusian scientists, as a rule, are quickly implemented into production. New items are some-

times easy to spot on the shelves. For example, confectionery products labelled 'for school meals'.

Be proud of your own

Many new product items in the assortment of grocery stores in Belarus are a successful and high-quality replacement for imports.

"Import substitution is an integral part of ensuring food security. A lot of work has been done. For example, technologies for processing green peas and sweet corn into canned products have been created and successfully implemented. The production of rapeseed oil is actively developing (based on the content and ratio of fatty acids, it is also called northern olive oil), including for baby food. The issues of providing the population with baby food of all types have been fully resolved. The assortment of quick-frozen mixtures made from local raw materials has been expanded (previously, retail had mainly imported analogues). For the first time, specialised food products have been developed for children with phenylketonuria, a disorder of amino acid metabolism: porridge, mashed potatoes, baking mixes, pasta. A domestic production of canned fish has been created, focused mainly on the use of fresh pond fish from local catches that have not been frozen. The production of science-intensive products has been launched - bacterial concentrates for the dairy industry, as well as biopreservatives," Kristina Zhakova recalls.



THE 9TH EDITION OF THE INTERNATIONAL FORUM BELARUS' DAIRY WAS HELD IN MINSK LAST WEEK.

More than 500 delegates from 11 countries gathered at the forum. Belarusian food products are valued and readily purchased in more than 100 countries. Our country's successes in the dairy sector are especially phenomenal: producing 1 percent of the world's milk, Belarus occupies 6 percent of global trade in this product. During the year, about 5 million tonnes of products in terms of milk are sold outside the country. This is the fourth position on the planet after the EU, New Zealand and the USA. In terms of exports of cheese, butter, and milk powder per capita, we are practically ahead of the rest.



ECONOMY

The Minsk Times
Thursday
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Border genocide

For two years now, day after day, Poland, Lithuania and Latvia have been maiming and killing unfortunate refugees with impunity. There is no mercy for either women or children...

Since August 2021, Belarusian border patrols have found 38 dead refugees. Their death is the result of inhuman and criminal actions by the authorities of neighbouring EU states. On the border with Latvia, at least 10 people became victims of European violence, with Lithuania — 9, with Poland — 19... And how many more unknown graves are hidden from human eyes in the Polish, Lithuanian and Latvian borderlands? Someday we will learn this terrible secret, which today Warsaw, Vilnius, and Riga fascist politicians and intelligence services are vigorously protecting from their citizens...

By Alena Krasovskaya

Who is guilty

The European migration crisis has been around for decades — wars and conflicts around the world are only exacerbating the situation. This happened in 2015, when a fire broke out in the Middle East and millions of people joined the general flow of refugees and illegal migrants moving to Europe.

At first, Europe even welcomed migrants — the decaying democracies needed fresh blood and labour. But in the same 2015, German Chancellor Angela Merkel already called the flow of migrants staggering, but assured that the EU and Europe would cope with it. As time has shown, they failed, and the situation is only getting worse.

It could not but affect Belarus — our country is geographically located on the route of movement from the East and from Asia to Europe. Therefore, in search of a solution to migration problems, Belarus at one time concluded a readmission agreement with the European Union, which made it possible to jointly control the flow of migrants moving to Lithuania, Latvia and Poland through the territory of our country.

First blood

In 2020, relations between Belarus and the European Union deteriorated so much that the EU suspended funding for many projects, including those under the readmission agreement. In such a situation, Belarus logically decided that it was not worth spending its own money on developing border infrastructure to protect Europe from migrants, especially in the context of unprecedented sanctions pressure from the European Union.

And already at the beginning of 2021, Poland, Lithuania and Latvia felt what it was like when Belarus did not stand as a shield on the path of illegal migration. As usual, the blame for what happened was placed on Belarus.

At the same time, millions of refugees and illegal migrants enter Europe every year only through the Mediterranean Sea. But it was precisely the situation on the borders of Belarus with Poland, Lithuania and Latvia that had to be inflated to pan-European and even global hysteria.

And 'hospitable Europe' greeted refugees with barbed wire, tear gas, beatings, hunger, cold and the grinning of service dogs...

On August 3rd, 2021, Belarusian border guards discovered an Iraqi man beaten half to death. The victim managed to crawl across the control strip from the Lithuanian side and lost consciousness.



The man's body showed signs of severe beatings. Belarusian border guards provided first aid to the victim on the spot, but despite this, the man died.

Lithuanian Defence Minister Arvydas Anusauskas immediately responded to information about the death of a man beaten by Lithuanian security forces. He categorically denied Lithuania's involvement in the incident and even stated that everything was a hoax...

Beatings and bullying

Cases of torture inflicted on refugees by Lithuanian, Latvian and Polish security forces were recorded by the Belarusian side almost daily.

On August 4th of the same 2021, servicemen of the Lida border detachment at the border discovered a group of five Iraqi citizens expelled to Belarus from Lithuania. Gunshot wounds and signs of dog bites were recorded on the bodies of the foreigners.

On September 19th, Belarusian border guards discovered the body of a 39-year-old Iraqi citizen in the area of the Augustow Canal. Not far from the place of discovery, clear signs of the body being dragged from Poland to Belarus were recorded on the control strip.

Next to the deceased woman were three children of different ages, a man and an elderly woman. All of them were expelled from Polish territory using threats and violence.

There are hundreds of such messages. They impartially record the crimes of security forces from neighbouring countries against defenceless and unarmed migrants.

But despite the huge amount of evidence, a real information war was launched against Belarus with unsubstantiated accusations, fakes and outright lies about what is happening on the Belarusian borders with Europe. To avoid further falsification of information, the so-called White Book was released in Belarus in December 2021. It records in chronological order all the crimes of Poland and Lithuania against refugees.

Due to the fact that the situation with migrants continues to aggravate, the (<http://whitebook.by>) website was also launched, which in real time is replenished with information about the crimes committed by foreign security forces on the border with Belarus.

Water cannons and tear gas

By mid-November 2021, several thousand migrants had already accumulated on the border of Belarus with the countries of the European Union, who did not give up trying to enter the territory of Poland, Lithuania and Latvia in order to move to other European countries. Gradually, the spontaneous camp moved to the Bruzgi checkpoint.

On November 16th, 2021, people who spent several days sleeping outside in sub-zero temperatures attempted to break into Polish territory. To do this, they tried to dismantle Polish border barriers.

In response, the Polish side used stun grenades and several water cannons. Ice water and tear gas hit everyone who was on the approaches to the border — children, women, representatives of the Belarusian and foreign media.

By the evening of November 16th, some of the refugees who were most affected by the actions of the Polish security forces were placed in a transport and logistics centre near the border. The rest remained in the area of the border checkpoint. The Belarusian side provided everyone with hot meals both in the logistics centre and in the camp near the border in heated tents. Water, warm clothes, hygiene products and other humanitarian aid were regularly delivered. Within a few days, all refugees were

The President of Belarus, Aleksandr Lukashenko,

"The migration crisis has exposed the reluctance of our Western neighbours to reach agreements and listen to sound arguments. And in their cruelty they surpassed the barbarism of the Middle Ages. Their notorious priority of human rights turned out to be just high-flown rhetoric... The example of Belarus demonstrates the need to build a legal and humanitarian framework for resolving this kind of crisis. This is a tragedy for the peoples of the East, a test for Western society and its values, at least declared, a test of humanity."

In the Address to the Belarusian People and the National Assembly on January 28th, 2022

moved to live in a transport and logistics centre.

Migrants housed in the transport and logistics centre in 2021 left Belarus long ago. But in 2022 and 2023, attempts by refugees to get to Europe through Belarus continue. In response, European security forces are becoming more and more brutal — Belarus records dozens of victims, injured and killed.

At least 23 dead since the beginning of the year...

Belarus has repeatedly drawn the attention of the world community to the crimes of security forces from neighbouring states on the border. Everyone was provided with access to the evidence collected by the Belarusian side of what was happening. As a result, the UN Secretary General even admitted that Belarus is not to blame for the migration crisis, and called on Poland, Lithuania and Latvia to stop the cruel treatment of migrants. But, as always, no one heard the calls of the UN.

Despite all the measures taken by Belarus, Polish, Lithuanian and Latvian security forces still continue to abuse refugees and kill them, clearly going wild with their own impunity.

In total, since the beginning of 2023, Belarusian border guards have discovered the bodies of 23 dead refugees. In 2021 — six, in 2022 — nine.

The security forces of Poland, Lithuania and Latvia continue to kill refugees. And they continue to shift responsibility for their own crimes onto Belarus. So far they can get away with it. But there is evidence of crimes committed. The time when the whole world will know about them will definitely come. And the time to answer for their crimes will also definitely come. For everyone.



SHOCK

The Minsk Times
Thursday
November 2
2023

6

Intellectual independence

In Belarus it is necessary to develop skill sets in all types of sciences in order to form a completely independent technology policy

Is technological independence possible? It is perhaps impossible to completely free ourselves from external intellectual products. However, even the Soviet Union did not strive for this and, to one degree or another, interacted with the whole world. Even in the most dramatic moments of the Cold War. Undoubtedly, it is advisable to purchase certain technologies, materials, and components abroad. Another question is that this must be done consciously, understanding all the advantages and disadvantages of foreign products, their impact on the efficiency of our economy, and the various risks that imports carry. It seems to be a completely logical and simple thesis. However, to implement it, you need to have a wide range of competencies. And today, along with technological sovereignty, it is necessary to talk about a broader concept — intellectual independence. Perhaps, it is precisely this that is the basis of Belarusian statehood and the foundation for the formation of both the national idea and self-identification.

By Vladimir Volchkov

Focus on practice

Opening the scientific and practical conference The Science – Technology – Innovation System, organised by the Centre for System Analysis and Strategic Research of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus, the Chief Scientific Secretary of the National Academy of Sciences Vasily Gursky recalled the words of Aleksandr Lukashenko that the losing country in the scientific race risks losing everything. Moreover, that this is a matter not only of scientific ambitions, but the foundation for the preservation of statehood and the Belarusian nation.

Science is undoubtedly international. But in each country it develops on its own, sometimes very original principles.

In Belarus, a special organisational form was found when the National Academy of Sciences was created as a research and production corporation. “This is a unique example of the integration of research and production components within a single scientific complex. There is no other NAS like this in the world,” Vasily Gursky says.

Our organisational originality has a strong root of competitiveness. We must clearly understand: our National Academy of Sciences ‘covers’ almost all scientific areas. In addition, for each there is success. Often world class. Belarus occupies a leading position in some narrow vectors of knowledge. Another question is that if we take broader areas (biotechnology, microelectronics, and so on), our country objectively cannot be a leader. After all, our state is relatively small and, even if we provide high quality researchers, in terms of their quantity we cannot even theoretically become impeccable leaders.

A completely legitimate question arises: does the country need such wide scientific diversity? Isn’t it logical not to spread thin, but to focus on some two or three narrow areas (say, carbon nanomaterials), become inaccessible to the world’s gurus in them, sell these technologies or exchange them with leaders for others. Nevertheless, concentrating efforts on strategic areas should not exclude other scientific areas. We need synergy, which we have managed to achieve. And such a strategy is one of the pillars of intellectual sustainability and national security in general.

Innovation superstitions

Science, as they say, is beyond politics. By and large, this thesis was not always flawless. However, even if real researchers were not involved in politics, politics and business have always penetrated science in order to pursue some profitable ideas not for knowledge, but for political purposes and ambitions.

Let’s at least remember the climate agenda, and the environmental agenda in general. The goal itself was declared to be good: reducing the impact on the environment. Nevertheless, the means chosen are often very dubious. The same energy transition raises many questions in terms of the overall reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. At least when it comes to renewable and green energy. The production of wind turbines and solar stations also requires energy. And you need quite a lot of it. There is no doubt that in some cases green technologies are acceptable, feasible and effective. But in their widespread implementation in Germany, ecology was a secondary factor.

Alternatively, the no less famous technological revolution 4.0. They talked a lot about digitalisation, automation, chipisation as something breakthrough. Again, there is some truth in these statements. However, the famous transformation does not bring anything revolutionary from a technological point of view. It only creates a certain inferiority complex among the population of countries that believe in this miracle.

In fact, robotic complexes and production lines with the sixth class of automation were produced in Belarus back in the 1980s. And they were supplied to Finnish Nokia. Most of the fundamental 4.0 technologies were known back in the last century.

Such myths and superstitions from the technological sphere can be listed endlessly. Unfortunately, the international supermarket of technological solutions was not customer-oriented; consumer rights were not always respected on this trading platform. Moreover, they could have shortchanged you and slipped in a low-quality product. Its own science allows the country to be intellectually independent, to form its own technological policy and external relationships in this area.

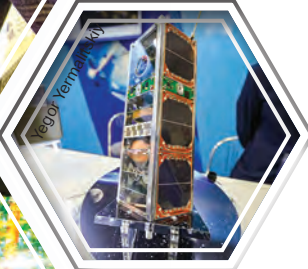
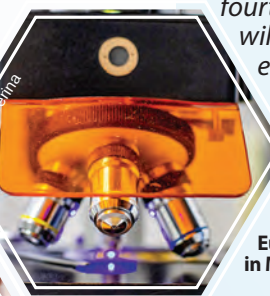
Intelligence to the masses

It is a mistake to assume that intellectual independence concerns only a select

The President of Belarus, Aleksandr Lukashenko,

“Technological sovereignty and the substitution of critical imports will remain the foundation for future development of our union [EAEU] regardless of how our relations with so-called Western partners change down the road... More than a quarter of the industrial goods the union imports to the tune of about \$70 billion per year can be substituted with products made by national manufacturers. A huge chunk. I hope to god we can take it. The fourth industrial revolution will give a chance for effective realisation of import-substituting initiatives in the real sector of the economy at the regional level.”

During the speech at the 2nd Eurasian Economic Forum in Moscow on May 24th, 2023



few: scientists, researchers, experts, engineers, managers. Modern society, if it wants to develop dynamically, is doomed to be intellectual and independent. As well as to form your worldview based on your own observations, experience, and national scientific achievements.

And one of the most effective tools is the introduction of scientific knowledge, achievements, and the scientific way of thinking to the broad masses (sorry for the cliché). This work has intensified.

Last year, the Intellectual Belarus exhibition, organised on behalf of the President, was a great success. Undoubtedly, this direction needs to be expanded and deepened.

The exhibition demonstrated to scientists that their research is of genuine interest to society. At the exhibition, Belarusians saw scientific achievements ‘live’. Moreover, this is one of the most compelling arguments in favour of Belarus’s ability to be sovereign and develop dynamically.

SCIENCE

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Time to debunk the myths

Modern society, which considers itself scientifically rational, nevertheless continues to perceive the world through the prism of mythological consciousness. True, in modern myths you will not see Zeus, Prometheus and the centaur Chiron from the familiar ancient Greek legends, but their place has been successfully taken by brands and ideologemes, which in terms of the degree of influence and mythologisation of the image are certainly not inferior to their distant ancient ancestors.

By Anton Popov

PR glitch

Let's define what a modern myth is: it is a purposeful distortion of reality to accomplish a specific task — advertising or propaganda.

Two important features of a modern myth are its artificial origin and a clear advertising goal: the creator of the myth 'market' goods and ideas to the audience, deliberately distorting their real characteristics and value.

It is no coincidence that research in this area began in the West. By the middle of the twentieth century, it became clear that previous colonial methods were increasingly failing in the new post-war world. Western PR technologists needed to solve the problem with an asterisk: how to make sure that in the future they would have to fight as few classic colonial wars as possible and, if possible, not enter into world conflicts, while continuing to rob half the world.

However, any myth is subject to deconstruction over time, and the totality of modern myths is no exception. For some Belarusians who were subjected to the pernicious treatment of Western NGOs, such a milestone was the unsuccessful attempt at a 'colour revolution', which the crowd, properly processed by Western curators, tried to carry out in our country.

In a sense, Belarus and its leader became the harbingers of a new era, one of the symbols of which was the deconstruction of Western myths. In this regard, the current year has been very successful, since right now two main paradigms of the Western world are crumbling to dust — the belief in the invulnerability and crushing power of one's weapons and the belief in the infallibility of economic genius.

Broken swords

Let's start with the military aspect, which, in conditions of global instability, the thawing of old conflicts and the emergence of new hot spots, becomes a priority. It is not for nothing that Aleksandr Lukashenko has recently devoted so much time to the development of the domestic military-industrial complex and monitoring the implementation of modern combat tactics.

Creating an image of the best weapons in the world is a long-standing pastime of Western propagandists. Even during World War II, Goebbels' department worked hard on the myth of the Tiger I and Panther tanks, heavy Ferdinand self-propelled guns.

Then reality quickly put everything in its place: Hitler's technology turned out to be a serious adversary, but by no means an omnipotent one. Only on the Kursk Bulge in July–August 1943, 73 Tigers were irretrievably lost, and the losses of the Ferdinands in the same battle amounted to more than a third of the 91 vehicles produced.

80 years later, the situation repeated itself, only the levers of pride of the German tank industry Leopard 2 were not SS men of the Totenkopf and Leibstandarte Adolf Hitler, but Ukrainians recruited from mobilisation. According to the Russian Defence Ministry, during the entire unsuccessful counteroffensive, several dozen armoured vehicles of this type were hit.

It's already October, and there are still no American Abrams at the front. Considering the large-scale PR during the delivery of the British Challenger 2, there is an assumption that the Ukrainians were simply prohibited from using American tanks in the suicidal offensive.

Weapon idols

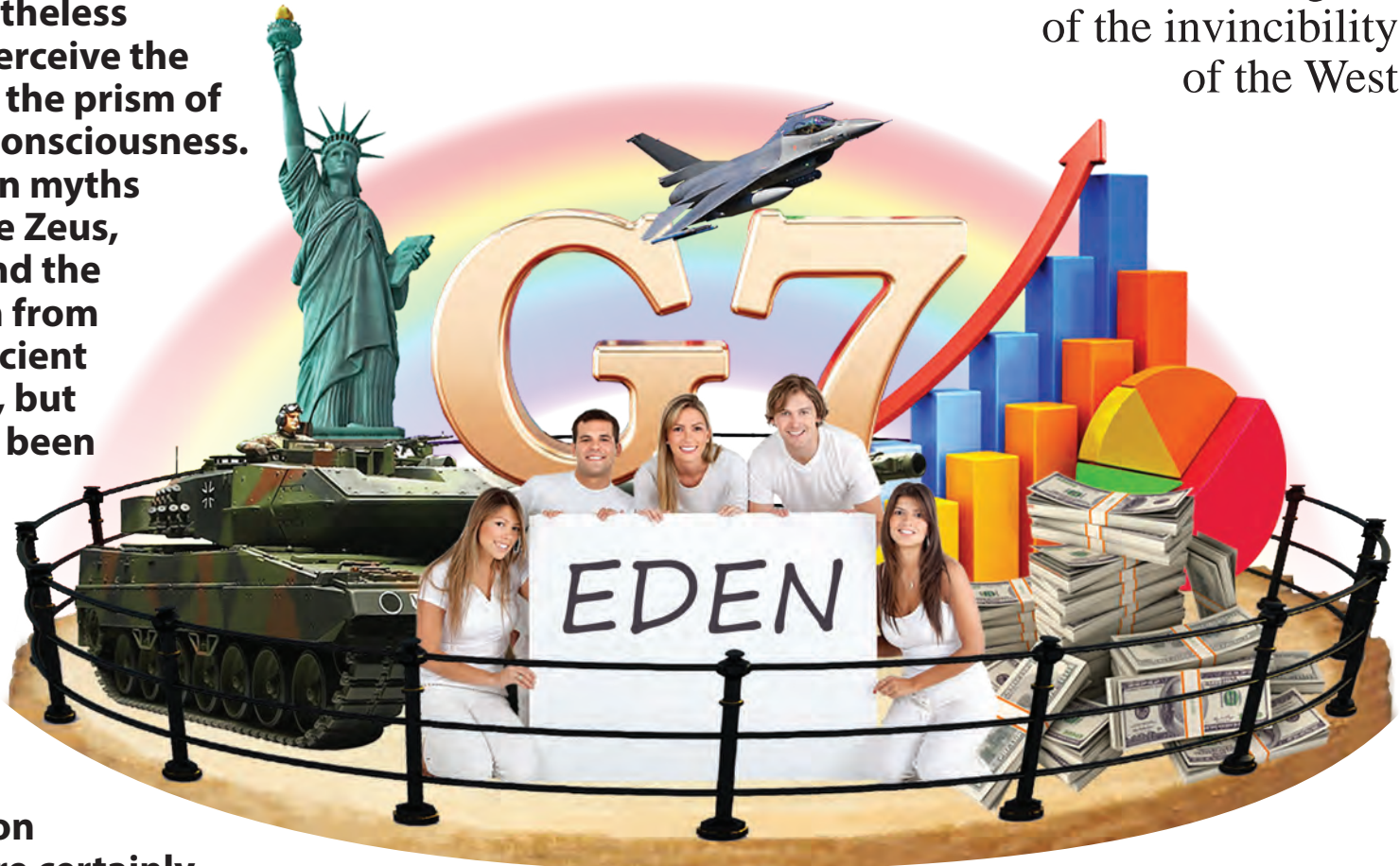
One of the main features of the mythologised consciousness is the creation of idols, that is, endowing specific objects of the physical world with supernatural characteristics. During the special military operation, Ukraine went through several cycles of 'creation — disappointment'.

First there was the Javelin ATGM and blasphemous icons with the Holy Javelina, then it was time for the HIMARS MLRS and the Patriot air defence system. Now the Zelensky regime truly believes that the supply of F-16 fighters will save it. True, the head of the Pentagon, Lloyd Austin, has already stunned his Ukrainian vassals that these vehicles will enter into battle no earlier than spring, and Belgium has even stated that it will begin deliveries no earlier than 2025.

However, it is not the Ukrainian front alone that is debunking the myth of invulnerable weapons. The new Arab-Israeli war, which began on October 7th, has already given military experts plenty of food for thought. In particular, the Merkava tank, nicknamed by the Israelis themselves 'the most protected in the world', in fact turned out to be completely unsuitable for waging a modern war with the widespread use by the enemy of drones with drop devices, FPV drones and ATGMs.

There were also plenty of gaps in the air defence system. For example, the Israeli army does not have an effective means of detecting and destroying motorised paragliders in its arsenal, and the Iron Dome was breached by a simultaneous attack by hackers on the communication line and a massive missile launch from Gaza.

Why 2023 became the year of the fall of the legend of the invincibility of the West



Economics of the new world

The second revelation of this year was the vulnerability of Western economic systems, which were previously extolled almost as an ideal complex for ensuring the well-being of Europeans and Americans.

Since 2021, the BRICS countries have been steadily increasing their share of global GDP. In April, data was published according to which the 'five' began to provide 31.5 percent of the planet's GDP, while the G7 – 30.7 percent.

A sign of the destruction of the Western economic miracle, which functioned at the expense of cheap energy resources from Russia and the exploitation of the labour resources of Asia and Africa, was the defragmentation of markets. The unipolar system was a hierarchy in which the United States and the EU promoted scientific progress and served as consumers of goods produced in China, India and other countries, and the Russian Federation provided raw materials and energy for this process. However, the emergence of a multipolar world has deconstructed this myth, showing that China is no longer an assembly shop, and Russia is not a gas station.

Debunking the economic myth has two consequences. On the one hand, the economies of countries that previously depended on the West are liberated, states get the opportunity to independently choose those associations in which they consider it profitable to be a member.

On the other hand, the ruling circles of the West see how the grandiose castle in the air they created is rapidly crumbling into dust, which causes their reaction. It consists of inciting conflicts around the world in order to distract progressive forces from the common goal of destroying the unipolar system. Over the past 30 years, America has unleashed a record number of conflicts around the globe: in Iraq, Yugoslavia, Afghanistan, the Maghreb and the Middle East. The apogee of the process in our days has become the Ukrainian crisis and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Debunking myths is often a painful but necessary process.

The discriminating reader will remember how the grip of hostile propaganda tightened around Belarus and how it became easy in the soul when they fell. It may have been difficult for us at the moment, both as a society and as a state, but what prospects have opened up for Belarus!

Agree, being at the forefront of the free world, standing shoulder to shoulder with Russia and China — this is worth stepping out of the world of myths into reality.

It is hard to contain surprise watching the behaviour of Elon Musk. Everyone has already gotten used to his eccentric business practices. Now the American billionaire is increasingly asserting himself in politics. However, his assessments and actions often meet resistance from the Western establishment.

By Ph.D. in History Vadim Gigin

Troublemaker

Tesla and SpaceX have become recognisable brands. And their founder, Elon Musk, has become one of the symbols of a modern successful entrepreneur. In 2021, he topped the list of the world's richest people. Moreover, from January to October his fortune grew from \$185 billion to \$300 billion. True, now it has decreased somewhat, but still remains at a sky-high level. A businessman, as they say, can sell not only his own products, but also himself. In this regard, he is very similar to the late Steve Jobs, founder of Apple.

It is not surprising that with media exposure came social influence. But here Musk differs sharply from many of his business colleagues. He does not seek to integrate into the Western ideological mainstream. His statements and assessments often run counter to the position of politicians in the collective West.

It is very revealing how Musk behaved after acquiring the famous social network Twitter. He didn't just rename it X. In November 2022, a survey was conducted among users whether to return Donald Trump's account. Following the dramatic events surrounding American voters' protests against the results of the January 2021 presidential election, Twitter suspended Trump's account 'permanently'. The initiative for network rehabilitation of the politician was supported by 52 percent of the 15 million voters. But Musk himself has made a huge number of enemies in the liberal camp of Trump haters.

Musk did not stand aside from the Ukrainian armed conflict. And here he showed himself to be original and ambiguous. After the start of a special military operation, Musk provided the Kiev regime with Starlink terminals, a global satellite system that provides broadband Internet access even in areas with unstable coverage.

Elon Musk takes off his masks

Why the words and actions of an American billionaire do not fit into the ideological mainstream of the West

This decision played an important role in combat operations, significantly increasing the quality of communications and navigation of the Ukrainian Armed Forces. However, it then became known that Musk decided not to provide the Ukrainian military with access to Starlink off the coast of Crimea. This happened after an attack on ships of the Russian Black Sea Fleet. Commenting on his action, the businessman said, "Neither I nor anyone at SpaceX ever promised coverage in Crimea. Moreover, our rules clearly prohibit the use of Starlink for offensive military operations, since we are a civilian system, so [the Ukrainians] asked for something that was expressly prohibited." Then he also added that he wants to help people, not kill them.

The entrepreneur was immediately attacked by Zelensky's supporters, including very influential figures from the American government offices. There were even accusations of treason. But the troublemaker did not lose his head, although he slightly adjusted his position.

He still refuses to turn on Starlink off the coast of the peninsula, citing Western sanctions, saying that the system never worked in this region, so no one turned anything off. In addition, the US Congress did not officially declare war on Russia, so there can be no talk of any treason.

On the status of Crimea itself, Musk's position is quite straightforward. He believes that the peninsula has a long and strong connection with Russia. The overwhelming majority of the population considers themselves Russian,

so you should listen to people's opinions, but not force them to be citizens of a state in which they do not want to live. Back in October last year, he proposed a peace plan that involved cancelling the annexation and new referendums in the temporarily occupied territories, leaving Crimea to Russia (ignoring Khrushchev's 'mistake'), ensuring the flow of water to the peninsula and the neutrality of Ukraine. It was subsequently reported that Musk spoke personally with Russian President Vladimir Putin before his tweet about the 'peace plan' for Ukraine.

It's time to come to your senses

In October 2023, the entrepreneur continued his line of searching for peace. He said that armed conflicts in Ukraine and the Middle East are pushing humanity towards a World War III. Musk calls the confrontation between the West and Russia a hopeless situation that leads to a rapprochement between Moscow and Beijing. And this, in turn, will turn into a disaster for the United States. He sees a way out in speedy reconciliation and delimitation of the parties along the line of current armed contact. He justifies his position by the fact that no combinations are observed in the territories controlled by Russia.

Attitudes towards Musk's views and proposals are very contradictory. Some experts see them as a reflection of the position of a significant portion of the business community, tired of a whole series of sanctions.

Of course, military operations contribute to the development of the military-industrial complex. Just remember the \$100 billion recently announced by Biden for wars in different regions of the world. But this is something of a drug, since war and sanctions in general have a negative impact on the economy. And big business, through the mouth of Musk, makes it clear to politicians that it's time to come to their senses.

Nevertheless, politicians are in no hurry to follow Musk's advice. Quite the opposite. They put pressure on the entrepreneur. Still would! Just look at his conclusion, "Russia and Ukraine are literally cousins. Residents of Ukraine have relatives in Russia, residents of Russia have relatives in Ukraine. They have been part of the same country for many years." Simply unprecedented courage for a resident of Western countries with their official Anti-Russian sentiment.

Hence, the problems that the authorities create for the restless entrepreneur. Deputy Head of the European Commission for European Values and Transparency Vera Jourova told Elon Musk that the social network X (formerly Twitter) is obliged to comply with EU standards for censoring materials on the Internet or leave the EU. This was reported by the European publication Politico. In addition, there is information that the American authorities are assisting Mark Zuckerberg in creating an analogue of the social network X. By the way, Zuckerberg himself, the owner of Facebook, also showed obstinacy at one time. But in October 2019, he was summoned to Congress and interrogated with partiality. Obviously, there was some kind of pressure behind the scenes. As a result, Zuckerberg has become as obedient as a bunny and fluctuates along with the course of American politics.

It's hard to say whether Musk will be able to withstand the pressure. So far he's holding up well. Some even suspected he had political ambitions. But for him, the only object of desire would be the White House, and that is inaccessible to Musk, since he was born in South Africa, which does not allow him to run for the highest office in the United States.

And yet, a lot depends on the will of Musk, his loyalty to his principles. At the very least, it can give hope to new generations of Americans and Europeans that not everything in their social order is rotten.



Chop wood and speak plainly

A spirit of media cohesion, healthy competition and an emphasis on precision. The second wood chopping challenge among journalists was held in Belarus.

Last year, a video appeared on the Internet in which the President of Belarus, Aleksandr Lukashenko, was chopping wood to prevent Europeans from freezing. The video became popular, and journalists suggested that the Head of State organise a challenge to test which of the media representatives was quick and dexterous with an ax and a saw. The President approved the idea, and on November 7th, 2022, the first wood chopping challenge among media workers was held. The event turned out to be bright and memorable. And last weekend, journalists, cameramen, photographers, editors, media executives, bloggers, and representatives of press services met again at the same picturesque place — on the shore of the Vyacha Water Reservoir not far from Minsk. 35 teams from all regions of Belarus expressed a desire to take part in the second challenge — this is almost twice as many as in 2022. In total — 240 participants and more than 100 judges. The scope is nationwide!

By Svetlana Isaenok

'This is really cool!'

During the opening of the event, Presidential Press Secretary Natalya Eismont conveyed greetings from the Head of State Aleksandr Lukashenko to the challenge participants,



The Belteleradiocompany team won the Relay Race category

"I think we shouldn't get tired of being grateful for the fact that everything around us is becoming more and more difficult, more and more difficult, but we get together again and spend half a day hacking away, competing, having fun, and so on. This is really cool!"

She also expressed gratitude to the governor of the Minsk Region, Aleksandr Turchin, the regional executive committee, and the forestry department for the 'amazing organisation' of the event.

After the team began to carry out tasks: men's and women's splitting, cutting logs, presidential splitting, relay race. It was more difficult for the participants this year. The conditions required accuracy. Chopping with a backhand is not an option. Every blow had to be carefully thought out.

Get out of your comfort zone

The *Arshanskaya Gazeta* team prepared for the competition more than thoroughly and responsibly. The editor-in-chief of the publication, Anastasia Turok, shows a wound on her finger as proof. But experience!

"Today the entire Vitebsk Region is behind us — we can't let them down! Our team is its only representative. This is our first time taking part. Frameworks are not for us. We are used to living a creative, fun, interesting life. And this is a new challenge for us," says Anastasia Turok.

For the benefit of everyone

The firewood chopping challenge among journalists is not only a competition for the sake of competition, but also a specific benefit. After all, firewood is an extremely necessary thing in the household.

Information Minister Vladimir Pertsov shares his opinion, "This

sport, which thanks to the President is already becoming national, is useful both for physical culture and for life. Last year we exported chopped firewood to the border with the Baltic states. You know that they have problems with energy resources. They say they were dismantled quite willingly. We are not greedy people, we don't feel sorry. We are always ready to help."

'We learned from a video, where your President was chopping wood'

The team of the Chinese news agency Xinhua gave the challenge international status this year. By the end of the competition, foreign journalists admit that they are very tired, but incredibly happy, "This is a very interesting event. We work in Belarus and want to experience it. Therefore, we decided to enter our team. We are glad to have



In the overall team competition, the Vayar Agency won



In the individual competition among women, our special correspondent Anastasia Tselyuk took an honourable third place

a new experience. Today we are doing this for the first time. We learned in theory: from a video from last year, where your President was chopping wood at the challenge."

Made beautifully

Another newcomer this year is the team from the National Beauty School. School principal Bozena Jeremic also took part in the relay. Then she said that they were here today, because last year

the employees attended the challenge and were completely delighted, "This year, talking with fellow journalists, we decided that we also wanted to take part. We were encouraged to try to apply. It was important to feel the spirit and atmosphere. In my opinion, our team performed very well. And next year we will try to perform even better."

Chop perfectly

The *Stolichnoye Televideniye* team this year has an experienced lineup. Journalist Evgeny Pustovoy already knows what it's like. Last year, he says, his participation also went well. However, today everything was more complicated, "We journalists, if necessary, are able to chop it. But now a question is about filigree work. Even the logs had to be made 10 centimetres each, but I had 11."

Columnist Grigory Azarenok also pricked. Presidential style. He says it's a very difficult task, "But very invigorating. And it's true, while firewood is something that we should be able to chop perfectly."

The key to victory

Based on the results of all competitions, the team of the *Military Information Agency of the Armed Forces Vayar* became the winner. The participants were presented with an ax on behalf of the President with the symbolic inscription 'Don't chop from the shoulder' as well as other gifts from the organisers.

The team of the *Belarus Segodnya Publishing House* became 13th in the overall team competition. But in the individual among women, our special correspondent Anastasia Tselyuk took an honourable third place! Anastasia says that her experience of participating in the first challenge played an important role in this, where the Head of State personally gave her advice on how exactly to chop.



Still, it's a pity that the Belarusian national hockey team was removed from the international calendar by arrogant political mugs who call themselves sports officials and still continue to puff out their cheeks with pretentiousness, declaring that the time for a return has not yet come. Otherwise, our brave ice guys, whose level of play over the last couple of years has become significantly higher, would have kicked them in these very faces and cheeks.



sportpanorama.by

Belarusian hockey is progressing and developing, despite the international ban

Warm greetings

SPORT



By Sergei Kanashits

An amazingly talented generation of players has grown up in Belarusian hockey, and an equally promising generation is still growing. If only we could gather them all together, put together a squad and send them to the World Cup under the flag of their native country! There is a complete feeling that this amazing team could easily fight for a place in the top five. The fact that our hockey does not stand still, but continues to develop even in the conditions of harsh sanctions, was reminded yesterday by another significant event: another compatriot made his debut in the National Hockey League, which is rightfully considered the strongest in the world: defender Ilya Solovyov played for Calgary Flames and, despite the defeat of his team, was one of the best on the ice.

Before the international ban, which was imposed on our country by the scoundrels from the IIHF, the country's youth team, let us remind you, gave fire at the World Championships. In 2019, in Sweden, in the group stage, they defeated the Czech Republic and Finland with the same score of 4:3 and took second place in their pool, also ahead of the Swiss, and behind only Canada. Vitaly Pinchuk, Alexei Kolosov, Ilya Usov are those who shone on the ice then and now, despite their youth, have grown into real masters. In 2018, in Chelyabinsk, Belarusian youths also made a loud statement, defeating the Swiss team and giving a real fight to the Swedes and Finns. It was from that galaxy that Ilya Solovyov grew up, who has now reached the NHL. The leaders of that team were also other personalities who today forge the glory of Belarusian hockey: Vladislav Kolyachonok, Vladimir Alistrov and Aliaksei Protas. There is no doubt that the current composition of the youthful Belarusian squad would create a decent stir at the world forum. This can be asserted based at least on the simple fact that at the last NHL draft a record number of talents from Belarus were selected — six

young hockey talents of the country were eyed by overseas giants: Yegor Sidorov, Vadim Moroz, Andrei Loshko, Daniil Karpovich, Stepan Zvyagin and Egor Rimashevsky have a real chance in the near future to increase the number of our permanent representatives in the NHL. Just like many other guys playing in the junior leagues of America, in the AHL championship, as well as in our parts — in the KHL and IHL championships, where there are also very, very rich in extraordinary virtuosos of the game.

Let's return, however, to Ilya Solovyov, who became the 15th Belarusian to play in the NHL. The 23-year-old defenseman made his debut in a Cal-

gary uniform in a home match with St. Louis, wearing number 98. A native of Mogilev spent 16:34 minutes on the ice (including 0:08 in the power play and 0:56 in the minority), made 1 shot and blocked the same number, received a 2-minute penalty and earned a utility rating of '0'. Another noteworthy point is that Yegor Sharangovich also played for Calgary (213th match in the league) — this is the first time since May 7th, 2012, when two Belarusian players took to the same ice for the same team (then brothers Andrei and Sergei Kostitsyn as part of the Nashville Predators fought against the Phoenix Coyotes). Before Solovyov, we recall that the following players played in the NHL: Ruslan Salei (978 matches), Mikhail Grabovski (544), Andrei Kostitsyn (447), Sergei Kostitsyn (393), Vladimir Tsyplakov (349), Yegor Sharangovich (213), Konstantin Koltsov (144), Aliaksei Protas, (96), Oleg Mikulchik (37), Vladislav Kolyachonok (34), Dmitry Korobov (3), Maxim Sushko (2), Alexander Andrievsky (1) and Roman Graborenko (1).

Interestingly, Yegor Sharangovich made his NHL debut in early January 2021. Before him, there had been no Belarusians on the ice of the World Premier League for almost five years (since March 15th, 2016, when Mikhail Grabovski played the last match overseas). Progress, as they say, is obvious: since then, among the strongest hockey players on the planet, in addition to Yegor, Aliaksei Protas, Vladislav Kolyachonok, Maxim Sushko and now Ilya Solovyov have played. Who is next?



Aaron Dostier

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Photo of the week

Cranes gather in large flocks in the fields before flying to warm countries.

DATES. EVENTS. PEOPLE.



On November 2nd, 1938, Valentina Grizodubova, Polina Osipenko and Marina Raskova became the first

women awarded the Hero of the Soviet Union title. They made a non-stop flight on the Rodina ANT-37 plane from Moscow to the Far East.

On November 2nd, 1721, Tsar Peter I took the title of Peter the Great, Emperor of All Russia. From now on, Russia became an empire, which was evidence of its new role in international affairs. The new title of the Russian Tsar was immediately recognised by Prussia and Holland, two years later by Sweden, and in subsequent years by other countries.



On November 4th, 1879, a cash register appeared — the first model was patented. American James Ritty, the owner of a small cafe, designed a simple cash register that recorded every transaction on a disk and on a paper roll.



On November 4th, 1890, the first electric underground line opened in London. London is the birthplace of the metro as a form of transport. Since 1890, instead of shallow tunnels, electric lines began to be built, which run in deep tunnels (Tube) in the centre of the city, and come to the surface on the outskirts.

On November 4th, 1922, the largest archaeological discovery of the century was made. Egyptologist Howard Carter and amateur archaeologist Lord Carnarvon discovered the tomb of Pharaoh Tutankhamun in Egypt. This is the only almost unlooted tomb that has reached scientists in its original form. Numerous decorations have been preserved in it, as well as a sarcophagus made of pure gold with the mummified body of the pharaoh.



November 5th is Military Intelligence Day in the Republic of Belarus. Established in 1918, military intelligence has

gone through a truly legendary path. It has always made a worthy contribution to ensuring the vital interests of the Fatherland and strengthening the country's defence capability. Today, much attention is paid to improving various types of reconnaissance, modernising existing ones and purchasing the most modern technical equipment.

November 5th is Civil Aviation Workers' Day in the Republic of Belarus. It is celebrated every year on the first Sunday of November. November 7th, 1933, is considered the birthday of civil aviation in Belarus, when the Minsk Airport was solemnly opened and the first flight on the Minsk-Moscow route was carried out.



On November 5th, 1957, in Bulgaria a monument was opened in honour of the Soviet warrior-liberator, popularly nicknamed Alyosha Monument. Despite the fact that the monument in the city of Plovdiv on Bunardzhik Hill (Hill of Liberators) was erected in honour of an unknown soldier, it received a name. The monument is 17 metres high and can be seen from almost anywhere in the city.



On November 7th, 1933, the construction of the Government House, the largest

building of pre-war civil architecture in Belarus, was completed in Minsk. Architect — Iosif Langbard. The building is located on Independence Square. This one of the best monuments of constructivism marked the beginning of the formation of a new city centre. The House of Representatives of the National Assembly of the Republic of Belarus and the Council of Ministers operate in the building.

November 7th is the Day of the October Revolution in the Republic of Belarus. Thanks to the revolution, the Belarusian people gained statehood, and the celebration of the Day is conditioned by respect for history. Often, significant projects in the socio-cultural, sports spheres, as well as infrastructure projects in Belarus, are commissioned or solemnly opened for the holiday.



November 8th is World Pianist Day. It is celebrated by pianists, fans of piano music, students of music schools, teachers and even masters who create pianos.

