

Biographical notes

Volha Abramava, born in 1953, politician. 1975: graduate of Belarusian State University; a Ph. D. from Belarusian State University in 1988. Her dissertation was entitled 'Humanism of the Violent Goal of the Socialist Revolution'. Abramava lectured at Belarusian Technological Institute and Minsk Radio-Technical Institute. She has been engaged in politics since the late 1980s, first as opponent of plans to declare Belarusian as the country's only official language. She was a member of the 13th Supreme Soviet and was twice elected to the House of Representatives of the Belarusian National Assembly.

Svyatlana Aleksiyeovich, born in 1948, a writer, earned a degree in journalism from the Belarusian State University. She is the author of five books written in Russian: 'The War's Unwomanly Face' (1985), 'Last Witnesses' (1985), 'Zinky Boys: Soviet Voices From The Afghanistan War' (1989), 'Enchanted By Death' (1993), 'Chernobyl Prayer: Chronicle Of The Future' (1997). Personal website: <http://alexievich.info>.

Yauhen Babosau, born in 1931, a Ph.D (1972) and a member of the Academy of Sciences. He graduated from Belarusian State University in 1955 and later, from 1959, taught philosophy at Belarusian State University and Minsk Medical University. He has served as deputy head

of the Department of Science and Education Establishments of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Belarus (1962–1977); director of the Philosophy and Law Institute of the BSRR Academy of Sciences (1977–1989); and from 1990, director of the Sociology Institute of the Belarusian Academy of Sciences. He has headed a department at the Sociology Institute since 1998 and heads a chair at Belarusian State University (from 1994). Babosau was one of the founders of the National Party of Labor and Justice (1993) and the Socialist Party of Belarus (1994). He is the author of a monograph on state ideology of Belarus, edited twice.

Anzhalika Borys, born in 1973, is a leader of the Polish national minority in Belarus. Graduate of Padlipki (Hrodna district) secondary school, of pedagogic secondary school at Zamość (Lublin district in Poland), she received a degree in education and psychology from the Białystok subsidiary of Warsaw University and taught Polish in schools in the Hrodna district (village of Adelsk) and Hrodna. A member of the Union of Poles in Belarus since 1995, director of its education department from 1998, she was elected as chairwoman of the association in 2005. However, the Belarusian Ministry of Justice invalidated her election. In 2005, Special Services summoned her for interrogation on 56 occasions, according to the *Salidarnasts* weekly.

Iryna Buhrava, a political scientist, worked with the International Institute of Political Studies in Minsk before its closure by the authorities. She is an assistant professor in political science with Vilnius-based European Humanities University. Her subjects of interest include political psychology, political culture, conflictology, transitology and election campaign technologies.

Henadz Buraukin, born in 1936, a poet and prominent public figure, received a degree from Journalism Department of Belarusian State

University in 1959. Buraukin worked with newspapers and magazines and was appointed as head of the BSSR State Television and Radio Broadcasting Committee in 1978. He was named Belarus' permanent representative to the UN in 1990. Buraukin worked with the trade union newspaper *Belaruski Chas*, but resigned after it was taken over by the authorities. He is a member of Belarusian PEN.

Pavel Daneika, born in 1961, is an economist and politician. He earned a degree in economics from Belarusian State University in 1986 and later served with Economics Institute of the Academy of Sciences. Daneika managed FIKO, a finance and investment company, and a company called System Business Consulting. He was a member of the 13th Supreme Soviet. He has been a member of the United Civic Party since 1991. He is also the chairman of the supervisory board of Minsk-based Privatization and Management Institute. He is particularly interested in macro-, micro-economic and institutional aspects of transformation, political economy of transformation and stock exchange markets.

Andrey Dynko, born in 1974, is the editor-in-chief of the *Nasha Niva* weekly, translator and writer. He graduated from Minsk State Linguistic University in 1996 and worked at the university as lecturer between 1997 and 2000. Dynko was a vice president of Belarusian PEN from 2002 to 2004. In 2003, Václav Havel received the Hanno R. Ellenbogen award for his contribution to democracy in Central Europe and passed on the financial part of the award to Andrey Dynko (who became the first foreigner who received this Czech prize).

Valery Fralou, born in 1947, is a retired general and former presidential candidate. He was trained at the Kharkiv Higher Tank Command School (graduated in 1970), the Armored Forces Academy (1977), the General Staff Academy of the USSR Armed Forces (1991), and the Management Academy of the President (2000). Chief of staff in an army corps in the Belarusian Armed

Forces (1993–1994), and commander of the 28. Army Corps (1994–2000). When Fralou was a member of the House of Representatives of the Belarusian National Assembly (2000–2004), he and other MPs formed an opposition group called Respublika. Fralou is currently a member of the Central Committee of the opposition Belarusian Social Democratic Party 'Hramada'. He ran for the presidency in 2006 but stepped aside in favor of Alyaksandr Kazulin, whom he supported.

Svyatlana Kalinkina, born in 1970, journalist. She served as deputy editor of *Belorusskaya Delovaya Gazeta* (1996–2002) and took over as editor-in-chief of *Belorusskaya Delovaya Gazeta* in 2002, editor-in-chief of *Belorusskaya Delovaya Gazeta. For professional use*. Editor of Belarus' largest opposition newspaper *Narodnaya Volya*. Together with Pavel Sharamet, she wrote and published a book entitled *Sluchainyi Prezident* [Accidental President] about Lukashenka. She received the Gerd Bucerius Encouragement Award – the Young Press of Eastern Europe.

Syarhey Kalyakin, born in 1952, is a politician and leader of the opposition Belarusian Party of Communists. He graduated from Minsk Radio-Technical Institute in 1977 and earned a degree in political science from Belarusian State University in 1992. He was a member of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union since 1977. He served as second and first secretary of Sovetsky District Committee of the Communist Party of Belarus (CPB) (from 1983 to 1991), secretary (1993) and first secretary (1994) of the CPB Central Committee. He led a Communist faction in the 13th Supreme Soviet and managed Alyaksandr Milinkevich campaign during the 2006 presidential election.

Kasya Kamotskaya, born in 1963, a rock singer and leader of the band *Novaye Neba*, is one of the symbols of Belarusian rock music. She was one of the major musicians in the emerging Belarusian alternative rock movement of the early 1990s.

Syarhey Kastsysan, born in 1941, is a historian and politician. He graduated from Minsk State Teachers' Training Institute. Kastsysan served as first secretary of the Mazyr District Committee of the Leninist Young Communist League of Belarus, deputy department head at the CPB Mazyr District Committee and head of a chair at Mazyr State Teachers' Training Institute. He holds a Ph.D. in political science. Kastsysan was a member of the 13th Supreme Soviet. He joined the House of Representatives of the National Assembly after President Lukashenka disbanded the Supreme Soviet in 1997. He was a member of the association 'For Union of Belarus, Ukraine and Russia', parliamentary groups Unity, Friends of Bulgaria and People's Deputy. Kastsysan is a secretary of the CPB Central Committee and head of the Belarusian Slavic Committee.

Vyachaslau Kebich, born in 1936, is a statesman and former prime minister of Belarus. He completed Belarusian Polytechnics Institute and Minsk Higher Communist Party School. He holds Ph.D. in economics. He has worked as deputy chief engineer at the Minsk Assembly Line Factory, director of the Minsk Machine-Tool Factory, and director general of the Kirov Broaching and Slitting Machine Factory. Kebich held leading positions in the Communist Party of Belarus and headed the BSSR State Planning Committee and the Belarusian Commerce and Finance Union. He was elected a member of the Central Committee of the Soviet Union Communist Party and a member of the USSR Supreme Soviet. He was four times elected to the BSSR Supreme Soviet. He was appointed as deputy chairman of Belarus' Council of Ministers in 1985 and served as chairman of the Council of Ministers from 1990 to 1994. He gained 17.33 percent of the vote in the first round of presidential elections in 1994 and with 14.1 percent in the runoff lost the poll to Alyaksandr Lukashenka. He was a member of the 1st House of Representatives of the Belarusian National Assembly and a member of parliamentary group 'Association for economic development', constant committee for industry, fuel and energy, transport, communication and economic initiative.

Anatol Lyabedzka, born in 1961, is a politician, leader of the United Civic Party. He received degrees from the History and French Language Faculty of Minsk Teachers' Training Institute in 1985 and the Law Faculty of Belarusian State University in 1996. Lyabedzka was elected to the 12th and 13th Supreme Soviet. He headed the Belarusian Association of Young Politicians from 1992 to 1999. Lyabedzka took over as chairman of the United Civic Party in April 2000.

Vasil Lyavonau, born in 1938, is a manager and a statesman. He graduated from Belarusian Agricultural Machinery Institute and held key positions in the Communist Party of Belarus. He was first secretary of the Mahilyou Regional Committee of the CPB he approved Lukashenka's appointment as director of the Haradzets state farm. Lyavonau backed Lukashenka during elections for the USSR Supreme Soviet in 1988. After the CPB was outlawed in 1991, he was appointed as Belarus' trade representative to Germany. He took over as agriculture minister in 1994, but in 1997 he was arrested in his office on corruption charges, what was transmitted by TV. On November 11, 1997, Alyaksandr Lukashenka, during his visit to the Rassvet state farm in the Kirausk district, Mahilyou region, publicly accused Vasil Lyavonau of complicity in the murder of Yauhen Mikalutski, head of the Mahilyou Regional Department of the State Control Committee. After completing his jail term, he established the Belarusian-Russian foundation 'For New Belarus'.

Zhanna Litsvina, born in 1954, is a journalist and public figure, head of the Belarusian Association of Journalists since 1995. She held editorial positions with the Belarusian State Radio Company and managed the *Belaruskaya Maladzyozhnaya* radio station. In 1994, she set up the *Radyo 101.2* radio station, which was closed down by the authorities in 1996. She headed the Minsk bureau of Radio Liberty from 1994 to 1995.

Aleh Manayeu, born in 1952, a sociologist, earned a degree from Belarusian State University in 1974. Manayeu holds a Ph. D in philosophy and in sociology. He served as professor with the Sociology Chair of Belarusian

State University from 1992 to 1999. Manayeu headed the Independent Institute of Social Economic and Political Studies (IISEPS) closed down by the authorities in spring 2005. He registered the IISEPS in Vilnius. He co-founded the United Democratic Party of Belarus in 1990 (currently the United Civic Party) and headed the Belarusian Soros Foundation. He focuses on research into media and democracy issues, media efficiency and its influence on the public opinion.

Alyaksandr Milinkevich, born in 1947, graduated from Physics and Mathematics Faculty of Hrodna State Teachers' Training University in 1969 and earned a Ph. D. from the Physics Institute of the Academy of Sciences. Milinkevich participated in exchange programs with University of Montpellier, France (1980), and University of California, United States (1998). He also received training at the George C. Marshall European Center for Security Studies in Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Germany, in 2000. He headed the Physics Department at the University of Sétif, Algeria (1980 to 1984) and served as assistance professor at the General and Theoretical Physics Department of Yanka Kupala Hrodna State University (1984–2000). Milinkevich was deputy chairman of the Hrodna City Executive Committee (1990–1996). Milinkevich coordinated programs of the Local Development Promotion Foundation. In 2001, elected chief of presidential election campaign of Syamyon Domash. He was elected as common opposition presidential candidate at the Congress of Pro-Democratic Forces of Belarus held in Minsk on October 1 and 2, 2005. Milinkevich gained six percent of the vote in the election held on March 19, 2006, according to officials results.

Anatol Mikhailau, born in 1939, philosopher, education specialist, a Ph. D. (1986), completed Belarusian State University in 1961. He worked at Belarusian State University (1966–1974 and from 1980). He was appointed as head of a chair in the university in 1987. Mikhailau served with the Center for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs in Vienna (1974–1980). He has been rector of European Humanities University (EHU) since 1992.

After the Belarusian authorities shut down EHU in 2004 it moved to Vilnius, Lithuania. He is a member of the Belarusian National Academy of Sciences. Mikhailau specializes in history of philosophy, modern Western philosophy and methodology of humanities.

Ales Mikhalevich, born in 1975, is a deputy chairman of the Belarusian Popular Front, head of the party's Minsk regional chapter. He received a degree from the Law Faculty of Belarusian State University and headed the Association of Belarusian Students and the Youth Information Center, both closed down by the authorities. He is director general of TAA Arkadziya, a Belarusian-Polish company. Mikhalevich got elected to the Pukhavichy District Soviet in 2003.

Tatsyana Protska, born in 1951, is a human rights defender. She worked with the History Institute of the National Academy of Sciences, earned a doctoral candidate's degree in philosophy in 1983. Protska worked as senior editor at the Belarusian State Television and Radio Company (1992–1994) and edited the Nasha Minushchyna radio program. She heads the Belarusian Helsinki Committee since 1985.

Andrey Sannikau, born in 1954, is a politician. He received a degree from the Minsk Teachers' Training Institute of Foreign Languages in 1977 and completed a course at the Diplomatic Academy of the USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He is the ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the Republic of Belarus. He served as deputy foreign minister of Belarus in 1995 and 1996, but resigned shortly before the 1996 referendum. Sannikau is an international coordinator with the Khartiya-97 human rights group. He was presented with a Bruno Kreisky Human Rights Award in 2005.

Stanislau Shushkevich, born in 1934, is a scientist and politician. He completed the Physics and Mathematics Faculty of Belarusian State University (BGU) in 1956 and a post-graduate course at the Physics Institute

of the BSSR Academy of Sciences. Shushkevich headed the BGU's Nuclear Physics and Electronic Chair and served as BGU deputy rector for research. He was a people's deputy of the USSR and a member of an inter-regional parliamentary group (1989–1991), a member of the 12th BSSR Supreme Soviet (1990–1995), and the first deputy chairman of the Supreme Soviet (1990–1991). Shushkevich was elected chairman of the Supreme Soviet on September 9, 1991. On December 7 and 8, 1991, in Belavezhskaya Pushcha together with the leaders of Russia and Ukraine he signed a declaration that the Soviet Union was dissolved and replaced by the CIS. He was dismissed as chairman of the Supreme Soviet on January 26, 1994. Shushkevich gained less than 10 percent in the first round of Belarus' first presidential election (1994). He has been the chairman of the Belarusian Social Democratic Hramada since 1998.

Uladzimir Ulakhovich is the director of the International Studies Center of Belarusian State University (BSU). He holds a degree from the BSU, and completed a post-graduate course at the Moscow-based Social Sciences Academy. His scientific interests include the EU's relations with the neighbors, international organizations and Belarus' foreign policies.

Alyaksandr Vaitovich, born 1938, is a politician and scientist, holder of a Ph.D. in physics and mathematics, a corresponding member of the Academy of Sciences. Vaitovich graduated from the Physics Faculty of Belarusian State University in 1960. He headed the National Academy of Sciences (1997–2000) and was elected chairman of the Council of the Republic of the Belarusian National Assembly in 2000. Alyaksandr Lukashenka dismissed him from the post in 2003. His web site is <http://voitovich.com/>.

Andrey Vardamatski, born in 1956, holds a Ph.D. in philosophy and sociology. Vardamatski graduated from Belarusian State University in 1978. He is the head of the private axiometric research laboratory Novak (stands

for Novaya Aksiometria [New Axiometry]), which specializes in conducting opinion polls and has a nationwide network of interviewers. The laboratory was denied state accreditation in the run-up to the 2006 presidential election and was banned from conducting independent surveys.

Vintsuk Vyachorka, born in 1961, is an academic and politician, leader of the Belarusian Popular Front (BPF). He graduated from the Philology Faculty of Belarusian State University in 1983. He was one of the BPF founders in 1998. Vyachorka worked as lecturer at Minsk State Teachers' Training Institute and Belarusian Humanities Lyceum. He is one of the authors of a textbook on modern Belarusian orthography. Authorities opened a criminal case against him in connection with his role in spring 1996 anti-government protests. The case file was closed in 1998. In 1999 he was elected chairman of the BPF. He acted as deputy campaign manager for presidential candidate Alyaksandr Milinkevich during the 2006 election in charge of international relations and a network of the candidate's authorized representatives.

Usevalad Yancheuski, born in 1976, is a politician and journalist. He was a member of Lukashenka's campaign team during the 1994 presidential election and a member of Shushkevich's team during the 1995 parliamentary elections. He was also a member of the Slavic Assembly Belaya Rus party. Yancheuski earned degrees from the Law Faculty (1998) and the International Relations Faculty (2000) of Belarusian State University. He headed the pro-government Belarusian Patriotic Youth Union for several years. In 2005 he was appointed as editor-in-chief of the *Planeta* magazine established by the Presidential Administration.