

ATHENA

FOREIGN POLICY SPEECH

MSc Course

"The EU and the Post-Soviet Space"

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AS

Nikolai Lukashenko

Son of Alexander Lukashenko
and (fictional) Successor as
President of Belarus



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Speech by Nikolai Lukashenko

Nikolai Lukashenko is the youngest of three sons of Alexander Lukashenko, long-time ruler of Belarus. In an alternative reality, Alexander Lukashenko had been ill for a while, leading him to appear in public less and less. Behind the scenes, he was arranging his succession, gathering support for his youngest son Nikolai to be supported by his followers after his death. On September 27th, Alexander breathes his last breaths. Belarusian law states that new elections take place between 30 and 70 days later, while Belarus and the elections are managed by Speaker of the Council of the Republic of Belarus Natalya Kochanova, a long-time ally of Alexander. Nikolai wins the elections easily, in spite of protests.

Setting: It is Friday, November 29th. Nikolai Lukashenko takes his place in front of the cameras broadcasting his inaugural speech to the nation:

Dear countrymen, my fellow Belarusians,

I want to start off by thanking you all for the support that you have shown me since my dear father passed. These months have been a time of sorrow, not only as a son of my father, but even more so as a son of Belarus, for what is the grief of one man compared to the grief of nine million who have lost the father of their nation. I want to thank you for the trust you all have shown in me by choosing me to take on the monumental task of guiding our nation, like my father has done for thirty years. Thirty years. In the history of the world, it is just a moment. But for many in Belarus, for me, it is a whole life. Now that his time guiding our nation has come to an end, it is up to us to honour his legacy and life's work by taking responsibility for the future.

And take responsibility we must, for our future is under threat. Under threat from foreign agents, propagating alien values, traditions, and historical concepts. Its purpose is to tear us away from our roots, to make us forget our history. However, we take pride in our history, pride in our land. We will not allow anyone to dictate how we have to live. We know that as long as we do not accept these traditions, principles, and opinions imposed on us from the outside, we will be independent. We know that as long as we are proud of our history, our people, and our country, we will be free!

And hear me when I say this: I am ready. Ready to lead our strong nation in these dangerous times. My father once said: Presidents are not made, presidents are born. The inclinations to become a president should be innate. I believe that his innate motivation to help the people of our country for thirty years was passed down to me. It is why I have been insisting to accompany my father on government business since I was 10 years old, and it is why I will do everything in my power to maintain the sovereignty and democracy of Belarus.

It is vital to protect our great democratic system, especially now, as misguided countrymen influenced by foreign agents seek to overturn the results of our democratic process. I have information from our security services that these unrests were carefully planned and coordinated from abroad, using social networks to coordinate and command people into interfering in domestic affairs. Well, I promise you: we will never allow anyone to dictate how our country should be run and how our lives should be lived! This is why one of my first priorities as President will be to restrict access to these evil platforms used by foreign powers to influence the good people of Belarus.

The fate of the Motherland, both its present and its future, depends on our loyalty to the ideas of freedom and independence and the willingness to preserve peace in our native lands. It is why our brotherly relation with Russia is so important. No one has a relationship as close as the President of Belarus and the President of Russia, as my father always used to say. As I speak to you now, our Russian brothers are fighting against the Nazi regime in Ukraine, who are aided by the so-called collective West, who failed to perform its functions of the global regulator after the collapse of the USSR. The whole world is paying for it now. The memory of the many victims of Nazism is sacred to our people. It is for this reason that I guarantee that Belarus will be strengthening the Union State with our Russian brothers, so that we maintain peace in our time. For freedom, for sovereignty, for Belarus! Thank you.