

ATHENA

FOREIGN POLICY SPEECH

MSc Course

"The EU and the Post-Soviet Space"

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AS

Vasil Vasiliev

Fictional Belarusian "pro-
democracy" politician and
TV host



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Course: The EU and the Post-Soviet Space

Lecturer: Dr. Olga Burlyuk

Assignment: Foreign Policy Speech

Character: A Belarusian “pro-democracy” politician who is secretly a huge fan of Donald Trump

Date: 13/12/2024

Scenario & Context

Belarus is set to hold a Presidential election on January 26, 2025, where Alexander Lukashenko is expected to “win” his seventh term in office. It is widely accepted that the election will not be free and fair, as he only allowed six other candidates, known for being loyal to Lukashenko, to run. The country's Electoral Commission blocked any candidate that posed a realistic threat to Lukashenko or was affiliated with Svetlana Tsikhanouskaya's United Transitional Cabinet.

However, due to a bureaucratic error, an obscure local TV gameshow host - Vasil Vasiliev - was allowed to run, despite his pro-democracy, reformist and anti-Lukashenko views. Vasil Vasiliev was not regarded as a serious contender for the Presidency, and most media paid little attention to his campaign, hence he was able to avoid being arrested like other dissidents. Nonetheless, he has now gained significant traction with the election fast approaching.

What no one has yet realised about Vasil Vasiliev - especially due to his staying out of the limelight - is that he is a huge admirer of US President-elect Donald Trump, attempting to imitate his populist rhetoric, rambling speeches, public image and even his style and mannerisms. As election day nears, more and more people are starting to suspect that his “pro-democracy” promises conceal isolationist and ultraconservative aspirations, justified with exaggerated or non-factual information. On the eve of the election, he addresses his supporters in his hometown, however with riot police on the way to disperse the gathering, he must keep his remarks brief.

The views expressed in this speech, and characterisations of real-life people like Svetlana Tsikhanouskaya do not reflect the views of the author and merely attempt to mirror a Trumpian rhetoric in the context of Belarussian politics.

Original background illustration available [here](#).

My brothers and sisters, thank you for joining me tonight on the eve of what is bound to be a stolen, rigged election. The people of Belarus will once again be deprived of the chance to decide on our own destiny. They already tried to block us out of the vote, and now that this didn't work they will do anything in their power to steal this election, because they know that without voter fraud we would win by a landslide - and the numbers never lie. And our numbers are truly unprecedented, folks, so you know if we lose they will have cheated.

Lukashenko will be remembered as the worst president our country has ever had - and not just because he is the only one we have ever had. No one likes him, no one respects him, I think he is a very low IQ person. First, he destroyed our economy, and then he sold Belarus to the Russians and is not even ashamed to admit it. When someone questioned him "Why did you allow the invasion of Ukraine through Belarussian territory" he did not have an answer, he just said, "Putin can move his troops as he likes". He has clearly sold our beautiful, beautiful Belarus to Putin.

An invasion was happening through Belarus and he was not even aware of it - I call him "sleepy Alexander", truly folks, I don't know what he was doing during that time. He turned us into a Russian puppet, and the truth folks is that the world is laughing at us - it's sad but they're laughing - and when we win this election they won't be laughing anymore.

Then there is Lukashenko's master, Vladimir Putin, who uses the Belarussian people as a puppet - and he's a smart man for that, he's a savvy man but it has to stop. And when we come to power that's exactly what I'll tell him, "Vladimir I'm sorry we can't go on like this". When we come to power, on day one I pledge to stop this tragedy - because that's exactly what this is, a tragedy for the ordinary Belarussian. People often ask me Vasil do you have a plan for all this and I tell them "Don't worry folks, I have concepts of a plan".

On the other side though, you have Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya - terrible woman, no plan - truly an agent of the West, spending her days in Lithuania but claiming to be the true voice of Belarussian resistance. Let me tell you folks, she's more Lithuanian than Belarussian, she does not know what life is like for the ordinary Belarussian. She does not live in this economy that Lukashenko has destroyed, she does not know what it's like to wait months before you can see a doctor, she does not know what it's like to have to work endless hours to barely make a living for your children. Her attempts to "lead a free Belarus" have been a miserable, miserable failure, and only distract us from the path to true liberation.

Her people do not care about Belarus, in fact they didn't even try to run this time. When she lost the previous election, when our people's uprising was suppressed and our brothers and sisters - good people, wonderful people - were brutally massacred, she chose to leave Belarus

because it was easier for her to sell us to the West instead. She wants us to become a puppet of the West and the European Union, and before you know it the EU will be bringing all sorts of immigrants to Belarus, taking our jobs, meddling with our elections, changing our way of life (bing-bing-bing) - and all this at the expense of your tax money, folks.

Truly, you can say goodbye to our way of life with people like this woman, they want to turn us into Europe and next thing you know they're eating the dogs, and your children go to school to be taught radical propaganda, and we are spending billions of Belarussian money - your precious, precious money - to avert a supposed "climate crisis" that the West created for themselves. Those people do not care about democracy - we do.

Lukashenko's system is rotten and we have become a laughing stock, but Belarus is our country and we will not sell it to Putin, or Europe, or Tsikhanouskaya. Belarus is no longer up for sale to the highest bidder. We will rebuild this economy, that Lukashenko and those like him - the enemy from within - have burned to the ground by turning Belarus into a puppet only serving the economic interests of others. We will prioritise the Belarussian people, build the greatest economy in history - it's gonna be amazing -, and they won't be laughing anymore when we show them that we are not a puppet, by putting Belarus first.

Don't let them steal this election, fight for your right to have your own country, even if it means marching to the National Assembly in Minsk yourselves to make your voices heard. Only when the people of Belarus become the writers of our own destiny, will Belarus be truly democratic. They can try to steal our votes, but they can never steal our hope, our Belarussian blood, and they can never steal our voices. Thank you folks.