



However hard the West would like, there is no surplus of hydrocarbons on the world market

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The exhibition dedicated to the genocide of the Belarusian people during the Great Patriotic War opened at the National Art Museum

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A holiday was held at the Buinichi Field in honour of the the Great Patriotic War and the fire service veteran Andrei Moiseev on the eve of Victory Day

The whole Belarus celebrated Victory Day

The 77th anniversary of the Great Victory was widely celebrated in every corner of our country. Nature itself favoured the festive mood. From early morning, under the warm sun of a fine day, people gathered at the places where the celebrations began to remember those who gave us a victorious May and a peaceful sky. → 3



We are proud of our symbols!

The Belarusians are proud of their symbols and history, they look into the future, remembering their origins. This is our way, and this is our strength! This was stated by the President Aleksandr Lukashenko at the ceremony to honour the Belarusian national symbols, which took place on Sunday at the State Flag Square in Minsk.

This year, Belarus celebrated National Flag and Emblem Day on the eve of the most important holiday — the Day of the Great Victory. State symbols demonstrate the self-identity and independence of our country in choosing the path of development. They concentrated all the best that the people had in their history. And it was this symbolism that the people accepted at the referendum by an overwhelming majority of votes, the President emphasised,

“Most recently, we adopted a new constitution in a referendum. The emblem and the flag are an integral part of this Constitution... The symbols that represent our sovereignty and national unity are in front of us. These symbols were born in the depths of people’s culture in an era of global upheaval and the breakdown of the world order. Generations of people were born and raised with these symbols, bound by historical memory, which even today, at the most critical times, helps the nation to continue the chosen path, overcome challenges and obstacles.”

Aleksandr Lukashenko recalled that in the 1990s when the Belarusians rejected the attempts to adjust their way of life to the Western European standards, kept true to traditions, preserved the national wealth: domestic enterprises, land, as well as the right to social justice.

The same was in 2020 when we did not let history repeat itself by defending our choice, our values, our flag and anthem, the President emphasised,

“Keep in memory the fact that the state symbols were created by people inspired by lofty ideals, tried and tested in the struggle for freedom, well aware of the value of independence and a clear, peaceful sky. We are reminded of their heroic deeds during the Great Patriotic War by the national flag, the successor to the Victory Banner. The national ornament preserves our ancient cultural traditions... We also remember how our fathers and grandfathers died for their flag, saving it from the Nazis, rose and fearlessly went into battle under it, protecting their families and their native land. In the name of those who paid for the future of sovereign Belarus and its people with their lives, the modern Belarusians, the heirs of the winners, do everything to prevent the crazy heads, struck by the ideas of Nazism, from reviving them on the holy Belarusian land.”



The President added that the current generation of Belarusians, like the previous generations, strive for peace and creation, “We are proud of our symbols and our national history, we look into the future, remembering our origins. This is our way, and this is our strength!”

Aleksandr Lukashenko moved away from the official format of the ceremony and addressed important words to his compatriots, “I know that there are still people (although they are in the minority) who do not understand why Belarus has such national symbols, but not those that we were forced to ban in Belarus by law? For what purpose? Why not the white-red-white flag, as people call it? First, the national symbols should distinguish the state from the other states. They should distinguish us from others. What emblem was suggested? Pagonya (Pursuit). Doesn’t it resemble the emblem of another country? In my opinion, it does! We were recommended a flag. Add one more stripe, and we would borrow the flag of a neighboring country. Didn’t we have our own history? Did we really want to adjust our history and our country to Lithuania or Poland? How relevant it sounds today!”

Today they are sharpening knives, swords and sabers in the neighbouring state, dreaming of taking away half of the country as they did before 1939. Maybe they were proposing these symbols for their dreams — the dreams of 2020? But I have already said: in 2020 we once and for all put an aspen cross on the grave of those who wanted to ruin and destroy our country. Thus, our emblem and flag are special and differ from the symbols of other states, including the neighbouring ones.

Symbols are the memory of generations. They should absorb all the best that the people have had in their history. Listen, we kept the red and white colours in our symbols. How many there were: tens, perhaps hundreds of them?

White symbolises the purity of the Belarusian people, which corresponds to our people.

Red is the colour of the people’s struggle for independence, the colour of victory, including that in the Great Patriotic War.

We have added green, which has been a distinctive feature of our symbols in recent years. It is the colour of life, of peacefulness. All our victories are based

on our desire to be independent and to work honestly on our land.

Look at the ornament. These are dreams and aspirations of the people. These are Belarusian traditions. In the past, mothers, relatives and loved ones, giving their daughter in marriage, the most precious person they had, embroidered this ornament on the



bride’s clothes. The mother, embroidering the ornament, thought of a better life for her daughter. A better life could not be without a country. Therefore, we have embodied it in our symbols.

So what are we doing here? What are we missing here? This is in favour of the current symbolism.”

The most important thing, according to the President, is that this symbolism was accepted by our people at the referendum,

“The people made their choice and no bunch of offspring of collaborators and traitors can change this decision today.”

Aleksandr Lukashenko is convinced that all of us should worship flag and the emblem, “They are, if you like, the secular icons of the country. Tell me, how could we worship the white-red-white flags and so on? How could we do it, if these flags have the blood of every third Belarusian on them! Those who know it, understand it, have lived through it, are not dead yet. They are alive. How could we go so far as to give our people the right, call upon them to worship those symbols! Those symbols bear the blood of our people, the weeping and moaning of our children, the children of Khatyn, the women and the elderly! The cries of the people of the Minsk Ghetto, the weeping and moaning of the people tortured in the concentration camps. The shame of betrayal and collaborationism. No flag and emblem are to blame for this (we know who is

to blame). It was. If someone has forgotten this, outside the format of the current event, I remind you all of this.”

Addressing the younger generation, Aleksandr Lukashenko asked them to never forget this fact, “Forget it — it will be just like in the south of our country, in our brotherly Ukraine. God forbid that we once again, less than a century, less than a hundred years after the terrible war, not our war, which swept back and forth (and how many wars were there!), so that we repeat it in our time!”

During the ceremony, the servicemen of the combined silent drill team brought the State flag to the square. Youth representatives from each region of Belarus and the city of Minsk, on behalf of thousands of their peers, took an oath of allegiance to the State Flag.

Based on materials of sb.by and belta.by

On May 14th, 1995, Belarus hosted the first referendum in its history, initiated by the Head of State. Among the questions submitted for the approval of the citizens were the following: ‘Do you support the proposal to establish a new State Flag and State Emblem of the Republic of Belarus?’. 75.1 percent of the citizens who took part in the referendum were in favour of this proposal. The President signed two decrees as a result of the referendum on June 7th, 1995: No. 213 ‘On Approval of the Standard of the State Emblem of the Republic of Belarus and the Regulations on the State Emblem of the Republic of Belarus’ and No. 214 ‘On Approval of the Regulations on the State Flag of the Republic of Belarus’. National Flag and Emblem Day is celebrated on the second Sunday of May.

In 2013, on the eve of the main holiday of the country, the State Flag Square was officially opened. When creating the State Flag Square, architects proposed 26 projects, but it was necessary to choose one. There were many selection criteria, but perhaps the most important was the wind rose. It turned out that there are strong winds at the intersection of two major transport routes of the city — Pobediteley Prospekt and Orlovskaya Street. This allows the flag to fly all year round. Today, the State Flag Square is the venue for major holidays and exciting celebrations. In 2014, a welcoming ceremony was held there for the countries participating in the Ice Hockey World Championship, and in 2019, the fire of the 2nd European Games was lit there. On the square, they swear allegiance to the Motherland and join the ranks of the pioneers, start the working semesters. This is a landmark place in tourist routes.

Great Victory is an integral part of our national idea

Speaking during the solemn ceremony, the Head of State stressed that Belarus remembers everyone who held back the enemy on the border and at the Brest Fortress, near Minsk and Mogilev, who was tortured in the Gestapo dungeons, who was burned down in Khatyn, Dalva and Trostenets.

“Knowing and understanding the place of Belarus and my place in today’s world, I nevertheless, as a representative of the victorious people, appeal to the peoples of western countries. I emphasise that my address today is to you, people like us. Your politicians have worked hard to make you forget to whom the world owes liberation from fascism. Today, not many people living outside Belarus and Russia know that the Second World War was won by Soviet soldiers, by the Soviet Union, that the Second Front, which is much talked about in the West today, was opened only in the summer of 1944 when the victory of the USSR was assured. It may seem so strange, but the victorious advance of the Red Army, which led to the defeat of Nazi Germany, was seen as a threat by the mighty of the world, no matter how strange it may seem today. Therefore, they immediately set a course to denigrate and demonise the Soviet Union and the Slavic world,” noted the President.

Aleksandr Lukashenko stressed that unfortunately today the medieval fight for territories and resources continues. It is just that crusades have been replaced with the expansions of foreign funds. We are now witnessing the same old aggression, now under the slogans of human rights and some kind of sustainable development. In fact, Western politicians do not want to admit that billions of people on Earth have been living according to their own laws for centuries. To create the world in its own image, the West is trying to weaken those who live and think differently.

“Addressing the peoples of the West, I want to say: you are not so blind as not to understand all the monstrous ramifications of the failed attempts to reorganise Libya, Iraq, Syria, Afghanistan and other countries by force. This all has happened recently. Did you succeed? Democracy on the wings of NATO fighter jets has brought these countries only pain and suffering, casualties and destruction, economic chaos, and any lack of prospects. No puppet government that you brought to power there managed to turn their countries into a blooming oasis. I want you, the peoples of the West, ordinary people in Paris and Berlin, Warsaw, New York, Brussels, Amsterdam, dreaming of a green Sahara, of saving the Amazon forests and feeding children of Africa, to know that your money, a lot of your money is spent on the most garden-variety genocide. You are not saving any Sahara, you are not saving any forests, and you have not fed the children. You were used without your knowledge — in Yugoslavia, Libya, Iraq, Afghanistan, and now in our Ukraine,” the President said.

He also added that followers of the Nazis are obsessed with the idea of revanchism. Nevertheless, they are not willing to fight openly with the heirs of the Soviet



The President of Belarus traditionally took part in the celebrations in honour of the Victory Day on May 9th. The Head of State laid a wreath at the Victory Monument in Minsk. Together with Aleksandr Lukashenko were his three sons.

people, “Well, apparently they’ve learned their lesson. Therefore, they pump Ukraine with weapons, fight with memorials, symbols, veterans, prisoners of concentration camps and even their families.

“In the darkest dream, we could ever imagine that Nazism would rear its head again there, in the fraternal country, which miraculously survived under the boot of the fascist occupiers. It is the Western elites, who have nurtured ‘this monster’ in Ukraine, overthrew the legitimate government, made Nazism the state ideology, and pitted the kin peoples of Ukraine and Russia against each other. What mad European politicians do not understand is that, using fascism and Nazism in Ukraine today, they will have to fight against it tomorrow. Because it cannot be contained within the borders of one country. It will sweep across Europe tomorrow.”

Aleksandr Lukashenko noted that no one abroad cares that the Belarusian army is not taking part in the military operation, “We are peaceful people, but do not even try to speak with us from a position of force. Your dreams of driving the Slavs into a new slavery, which you call globalism, are unrealistic. All attempts to strangle us only make us stronger, and our fight inspires others. Because billions of people are looking at Belarusians, Russians, who are again fighting the world evil. China, India, Latin America, Africa, Arab states... Everyone is tired of the American diktat!”

The President of Belarus stressed that the leadership of Western countries will never tell the Europeans the real truth. British, French, American media continue to paint Russia and Belarus black, forming a false image of the aggressor in the minds of their audiences, “Their interpretation may be imprecise to the point of absurdity, when it is forbidden to think that the first human in space was a Soviet citizen, the works of world-famous Russian classics are forbidden. Isn’t it time to hear each other and stop? After all, none of you wants a war. Yet

European capitals have done everything to make it happen. It is no secret that the entire Western world is at war against Russia in Ukraine. We are reproached for supporting Russia. Come to your senses! Belarusians have neither the legal nor the moral right to abandon Russia. We’ve always been together, we’ve always been one.”

The President of Belarus, addressing ordinary Europeans, asked them to think about one important fact: a world where everyone’s interests are respected is more reliable than momentary decisions about joining NATO or building a fence in the middle of Europe through the thousand-year-old forest of Belovezhskaya Pushcha.

“So where are you, environmentalists? Why are you keeping silence? Why don’t you go there to save animals that have lived for centuries and have seen no boundaries? Where are you? You are hypocrites and scoundrels. Think and re-analyse: Belarus proposes to create the world together, like a neighbour, but for this, you must stop at least teaching us how to live. Think hard about this. Think about ways to bring to the attention of your leaders the things that really matter to the future of the planet,” said the Head of State.

The President had a warm conversation with the veterans after the solemn event. Despite their advanced years, representatives of the generation of winners met the President who approached them standing up.

Words of gratitude were repeated many times, as well as wishes for many more years of life during the conversation of the Belarusian leader with veterans. “I have to repeat the order again: please live as long as possible! Thank you for everything! We owe you! Please live! You have already done your job. Therefore, only live,” wished the Belarusian leader.

Then the President answered the journalists’ questions. The Head of State paid special attention to the significant number of participants in the event on Victory

Square, calling it ‘a huge ocean of people.’

The Head of State was asked about the economic genocide that Western countries have actually unleashed against Belarus, and whether it is possible to somehow overcome this pressure.

“We are doing well. What can hurt us are incompetence, mismanagement, and negligence,” answered the President. As a positive factor, Aleksandr Lukashenko noted that the country has preserved the production of key goods, including staples and food.

“Mr Guterres has already urged to lift sanctions on Belarus and Russia immediately, because without mineral fertilisers there will be no food, people will die of hunger. Fuel? We see people from Western countries pouring into Belarus with canisters, kegs, pots to fill up cars and take something with them. This is just the beginning,” reminded Aleksandr Lukashenko.

The representative of Lithuania thanked Aleksandr Lukashenko for the fact that the Belarusian side opened the borders, “Ordinary people come, we get something from you. For example, fertilisers. There are people who have low wages. They buy fuel...”

“Get organised and tell us at what point on the border we have to bring fertilisers, cereals, salt and so on. We will do it. Because Lithuanian are peace-loving, kind, decent people. Such as Belarusians. All these Landsbergis, Linkevicius and others are just a fluff. All that will go away. These are the madmen,” the President responded.

The Head of State was asked a question about the recent reports on the internet that Poland is planning to attack Belarus, and is holding large-scale military exercises.

“Let them try. We defeated enemies here much stronger than Poland... Although I am concerned about this as well. I have always told the military: we should not miss anything. We must not repeat 1941. Therefore, we will respond,” said the President.

Based on materials of sb.by and belta.by

'We do not threaten anyone and are not going to. The West can sleep peacefully'

The Western journalist started the conversation with a snap inspection of the Armed Forces of Belarus by the Belarusian side. Ian Phillips asked about its goals and whether this can be considered a signal of Belarus' readiness to take part in a special military operation in Ukraine.

"The answer to the second part of the question is no. We are not going to take part in a special operation in Ukraine, because there is no need for it. Everything that we can offer and could offer the Russian Federation — it already has it all. Therefore, there is no need to take part in this special operation... We do not threaten anyone and are not going to... The West can sleep peacefully," Aleksandr Lukashenko said.

As for the actions of our Armed Forces, the President noted that recently they (including the Allied Resolve 2022 joint Belarusian-Russian exercise in February) were closely related to actions of the NATO bloc (particularly in Poland and the Baltic states) and rising tensions around Belarus, "I'd say tensions around Belarus are being whipped up even more fiercely recently. Naturally the Armed Forces forced to respond to it. We knew about it even before the NATO bloc began exercises in Poland and the Baltic states. We saw that countries of the NATO bloc, including the United States of America, the UK, are redeploying troops towards our border. Their number totalled 3,000 several years ago. Now it is 32,000."

'The use of nuclear weapons is unacceptable'

The nuclear weapons that Russia has in service are of great concern to the collective West. The journalist asked Aleksandr Lukashenko: 'Is it possible that Russia will use it? Do you think this is acceptable? Isn't this a 'red line'?' The President stated,

"I am absolutely sure that the use of nuclear weapons is unacceptable, also because of the proximity. We are not so far away like the United States. This may deorbit our planet and send us spiralling into space... I will tell you one thing I have been thinking about all the time recently. You know, it seems to me, kind of wild thought that if, for instance, Poland and other countries continue behaving the way they do now, then we, Belarus, Russia, and Ukraine will fight together against you.

Because individual people and politicians in Poland are sharpening their swords already and see Western Ukraine as part of Poland. In other words, they are thinking about Ukraine's dismemberment. Even the current leadership of Ukraine cannot condone it. Ukrainians themselves will not be able to

We will hold out

The President gave an interview to one of the largest international news agencies — Associated Press. The frank conversation lasted almost an hour and a half. Vice President of Associated Press Ian Phillips was the interviewer. Various questions were raised — from hot international topics to the internal situation in our country. However, most of the conversation concerned the special military operation of Russia in Ukraine and the position of Belarus on the Ukrainian issue. Aleksandr Lukashenko stressed the main thing, *"We are resolutely against wars. We have been doing everything to prevent this war."*



resist so-called current allies. This is why I don't rule out the possibility that we, the three Slavonic nations, including Ukrainians, will have to defend Ukraine's integrity."

It's time to stop!

As for Volodymyr Zelenskyy, the Belarusian leader is convinced that he is not independent in action,

"I would like him to be an independent person who understands that the war is going on in Ukraine, not in America, not in Poland, not in Belarus, not in Russia. In his country."

The President added that Zelenskyy is not stupid, but he cannot act independently due to pressure from outside, and also because there are enough forces within Ukraine itself, "which will not allow him to establish peace diplomatically today", "This is how I see it, I may be mistaken. But I see more and more clearly that I tend to be right. His behaviour? Well, I do not know, he should act as a president. It is time to shave, dress properly and show the Ukrainian people and the global community that he is doing better every day. This is the image he should build. This game is going on for too long. Nevertheless, he is a filmmaker, he is an actor, an artist, he knows better, and he is living in a certain situation. I am not as immersed in this situation as he is. So I won't judge him."

The Head of State is extremely negative about the fact that practically two neighbour-

ing countries are at war. Countries, which are very close for us. Aleksandr Lukashenko once again reminded that Ukraine is not a stranger to him and his roots remain there. But Russia is also a fraternal, the closest state to us.

The President noted that it was thanks to Belarus that the negotiations between Ukraine and Russia were launched,

"I know Russia's position. I know what Russia offers to Ukraine. But why Ukraine, on the territory of which there is actually a war, combat operations, people are dying, is not interested in these negotiations, is another question. You need to look to Washington for the answer to this question..."

The United States of America and the West are racking up tensions by supplying weapons and the rest instead of ending the war in Ukraine, instead of ending it decently now. I dare assure you that Russia is taking it easy on Ukraine. It is only the beginning. And it has to be finished first. There is no need to whip up tensions. There is no need to reproach us for siding with Russia. Frankly speaking, there is only one country on the side of Russia now — Belarus.

On the other hand, as many as 50 states have united and not only with weapons, but also with soldiers, they help Ukraine fight with mercenaries. What for? What I am saying, we have not learned from the media. We see well what is happening in Ukraine. We categorically do not accept any war. Furthermore, we did and are doing everything now to ensure that this war does not happen."

Answering a question about the consequences of economic sanctions, Aleksandr Lukashenko noted,

"We will survive. Everything that we produce is in demand on international markets today, which means that it will be sold one way or another, mostly in Russia. Therefore, I am absolutely convinced, I do not hope, but I am convinced that we will hold out."

The Head of State also recalled the incident with the Ryanair aircraft, "What aren't you asking me about this? Why don't you list it as a claim against me? Because it was all made up on your part. ICAO specialists figured it out — there was no reason to blame us for it. It was followed by silence. Everything

will clear up soon. Your sanctions are illegal, especially the ones against Belarus. You criticise me for being an aggressor, Putin is number one, I am 'Putin number two', 'co-aggressor' and so on. I have just told you: you are bigger aggressors than I am, because you are involved directly through private military companies, mercenaries, and you supply weapons to Ukraine.

"Our people do not accept war. I do not accept it. I do not want this war. Now is the time when this conflict is moving to a qualitatively new level, and then it will be difficult to stop it. And God forbid, things escalate into a nuclear conflict. It will be it! So let's stop it."

'We have much more freedom of speech than the stronghold of this democracy does'

Aleksandr Lukashenko added that if the West doesn't like something, they just immediately silence their opponents, "Neither us, nor the Russians can express a different point of view in your YouTube, Twitter and so on. No one can. You have banned it and that's it. In addition, you keep stirring up only one topic. Fake news, actually. This is your freedom of speech. Here journalists express their points of view on Russia, the West and so on. The only thing, which is forbidden, is to destroy the country. We have learned it from you. You do not allow anyone to destroy the United States... Am I doing something unusual? We are good at learning from you. I'm quite good at this either, sorry for being indiscreet, I'm learning from you.

"We have much more freedom of speech and democracy, which you constantly talk about, than the stronghold of this democracy does, I mean the United States, England and the European Union."

Ian Phillips shared his impressions with journalists after an interview with the President,

"We had a fairly lengthy and open interview. We have been able to discuss a broad range of topics — from the situation in Belarus to hot international issues. Of course, our opinions did not always coincide. Yet, it is important for us to be able to hear the positions of all sides. Therefore, one of the goals of our agency is interviews with leaders of states. This allows us to present objective information and reflect the situation in full scale."

Based on materials of sb.by and belta.by

FACT

The Associated Press (AP) news agency unites about 7,000 newspaper publishers, radio and television stations and operates 248 news bureaus in 99 countries. Its paid content subscribers include more than 10,000 different media outlets in 120 countries, including France 24 (France), Al Jazeera (Qatar), Channel One (Russia), NHK (Japan), the All-Russia State Television and Radio Broadcasting Company (Russia), Belarusian National State Television and Radio Company (Belarus), RBK (Russia), The Washington Post (USA), etc. Every day Associated Press produces about 2,000 news items in English, Spanish and Arabic. The agency distributes more than 1 million copyrighted photos a year.

Real genocide

Victims blame their executioners

By Maksim Osipov

The Minsk Ghetto — one of the largest in Europe — has become a symbol of both the genocide perpetrated by the Nazis on Belarusian land and the rotten essence of white-red-white nationalists

The National Archives of Belarus has a receipt telling about the apologists for Belarusian nationalism and its white-red-white symbols in the Belarusian lands occupied by the Nazis. According to this document, Franz Kuschel and his wife Natallia Arsienniva, the author of the *Mahutny Bozha* (Almighty God) hymn, so idolised by the current opposition, received two Jewish featherbeds for use, which ended up in the warehouse of the Minsk police after the first pogrom of the Minsk Ghetto in the fall of 1941. It is a fact that speaks volumes... However, the history of the Minsk Ghetto is by no means exhausted by this fact...

'Final Solution to the Jewish Question'

The Minsk Ghetto existed for just over two years — from July 20th, 1941, to October 21st, 1943. It was one of the largest in Europe, and the second largest after Lviv in terms of the number of prisoners in the occupied territory of the USSR. There were about 120,000 Jews living in the Minsk Ghetto, of which at least 105,000 died.

The history of the ghetto is a complex and multifaceted layer. Three days after the capture of Minsk, on July 1st, 1941, the occupying authorities imposed an 'indemnity' on the Minsk Jews, forcing them to hand over a certain amount of money and jewellery. Right after that, it was ordered to create a Judenrat (Jewish Council) to carry out German orders regarding the Jews of Minsk and to elect its head.

The Germans appointed Ilya Mushkin (before the war — the head of one of the Minsk trusts) as the head of the Judenrat because of his knowledge of the German language. After that, the field commandant's centre issued an order on the mandatory registration of Jews and their involvement in forced labour (men — from 14 to 60 years old, women — from 16 to 50 years old). Jews were forbidden to change their place of residence, travel and receive payment in money, they were paid only in food.

On July 19th, 1941, three weeks after the capture of Minsk, the Germans decided to create a ghetto implementing Hitler's programme for the extermination of Jews.

On this day, a meeting of the commander of the Army

Group Centre Rear Area, General Schenckendorff, and the Higher SS and Police Chief of the Generalbezirk Weißruthenien, SS Brigadeführer Zenner was held in the Belarusian capital at which issues of interaction in the extermination of Jews were considered. The decision was made public: it was pasted on poles the next day — July 20th, 1941.

By August 1st, 1941, the resettlement of Jews in the ghetto was completed, 80,000 people were driven there. In September — October 1941 there were already about 100,000 prisoners in the ghetto.

Ghetto: large and small

There were three ghettos in Minsk during the war years according to archival data and testimonies of witnesses: the 'Large' ghetto existed from July 19th, 1941, to October 21st, 1943. Its territory covered 39 streets and lanes around Jubilee Square (Yubileynaya) — in the area of the Jewish Cemetery and the Lower Market. The Nazis rounded up over 80,000 Jews into this ghetto. The 'Small' ghetto was located in the area of the Molotov Radio Plant (later the Lenin Plant) from October 1943 until June 30th, 1944. Finally, there was the Sonderghetto (part of the ghetto along Sukhaya and Obuvnaya streets) — a ghetto for 20,000 Jews deported by the Nazis from seven countries of Western, Central and Eastern Europe. It existed from November 1941 to September 1943.

The ghetto was surrounded by a barbed wire fence around the perimeter. And it was guarded by the Waffen-SS together with the Belarusian and Lithuanian policemen around the clock.



The Germans and the policemen — those same carriers of white-red-white symbols — robbed and killed the inhabitants of the ghetto with impunity, raped girls and then killed them. The pathological sadist Gorodetsky, half-German, a former resident of Leningrad, was appointed representative of the German command in the ghetto with unlimited power. Gorodetsky's assistant and the direct organisers of the massacres were the German officers Gotenbach, and his successor — Rider. They both were sadists who loved to personally kill and torture prisoners, creating unbearable living conditions for them.

Life on the verge of death

The life of the Jews was related to many prohibitions, for any violation of which there was only one punishment — execution.

The occupation authorities imposed several 'indemnities' on the ghetto. The first time — 2 million rubles, 200 kilograms of silver and 10 kilograms of gold. The second time they demanded 50 kilograms of gold and silver from the Jews, and the third time even more. The robbery in the form of an indemnity was personally carried out by Gorodetsky with the forced participation of the Jewish Council and the Jewish police under a death threat.

Since the spring of 1942, many children in the ghetto were killed in gas vans, be-

ing grabbed and stuffed into cars right on the streets. On some days, such vans made several runs.

There were many day and night pogroms in the history of the Minsk ghetto. The mass murder (the Germans used the euphemism 'action') of the inhabitants of the ghetto who remained in their homes at a time when the able-bodied were taken to work was a common practice.

From August 1943 and almost until the liberation of Minsk in July 1944, camp prisoners in four gas vans were constantly taken to the Maly Trostenets extermination camp.

On the way to the camp, people died from exhaust gases, and their bodies were burned in Trostenets. About 20,000 people were killed in this way alone, almost all of them were Jews from the Minsk ghetto.

...Today, at least 127 people from Minsk have been awarded the title of Righteous Among the Nations by the Israeli Yad Vashem memorial institute 'as a token of deepest appreciation for the assistance provided to the Jewish people during the Second World War.'

We must remember these names, as well as the names of the victims of the Minsk Ghetto and their executioners. Only in this way will we learn the right lessons from the history of the genocide that the Nazis perpetrated on Belarusian land.



Caught the right wave

How large companies make money on wars, cataclysms and instability



The modern world of finance is a world of speculation based on an uneven distribution of information. Whoever 'knows' the future makes money on those who do not know it and do not make timely investment decisions. Exchange speculators earn not during the period of 'calm', but during the period of strong volatility. Large waves of such fluctuations can only be created by all sorts of instabilities, such as wars, natural disasters and other phenomena 'atypical' for everyday life.

By **Aleksei Avdonin**, an analyst with the **Belarusian Institute of Strategic Research (BISR)**

Benefits of collusion

War provides possibilities to make decent money not only for the main suppliers of weapons, military machinery and ammunition, but also for the hedge funds and investment corporations. They act as a kind of money 'lake' for the defence corporations of the West, issuing them extremely cheap loans (at a cost close to 0 percent) for new developments and the production of prototype weapons and military equipment.

Large investment funds have taken a step further: if the news about the war affects the market, then they can create such opportunities for themselves and directly control the fluctuations in stock prices. Western investment funds have been implementing this tactic since the late 90s, as soon as large media corporations (for example, CNN, BBC, Fox, Bloomberg) switched to a 24/7 work format.

Investment funds and media corporations entered into an agreement when instead of delivering a true news feed to the audience, they began to create an illusory world through fakes, staged events, distortions, etc.

This situation was also observed in 2020-2021, when the West imposed sanctions on Belarusian enterprises, and at that time the shares of competitors grew at an incredible pace. This applies to the engineering, petrochemical, potash and nitrogen fertiliser industries, as well as air transportation and port infrastructure.

In fact, the market capitalisation of Belarusian competitors increased by 30-45 percent, which is unrealistic to achieve in the conditions of normal economic and financial activities.

The same situation has developed with Russian companies since February 2022.

The price of words

The information tension, pumped up by the Western media since October 2021 on the topic of the escalation of the Russian-Ukrainian conflict, has led to an increase in quotations of companies from the oil and energy industries.

Senior US officials also purposefully heated the media agenda with political statements. A striking example: in mid-February, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said that the United States regards the concentration of Russian Armed Forces on the Ukrainian border as 'very worrying signs' of an escalation of the situation. As a result, the Russian market fell dramatically: the Moscow Exchange index lost 5.35 percent, the RTS dollar index — 4.96 percent.

The instantaneous jump in the price of Brent oil to a seven-year record — above the psychologically significant level of \$100 per barrel — automatically pulled up the shares of American and Canadian shale oil companies, since even the price of \$90 per barrel makes shale oil production super profitable.

According to a JPMorgan Chase study, the obvious beneficiaries of tensions in Eastern Europe are companies such as Exxon Mobil, EOG Resources, Pioneer Natural Resources and a number of other energy market players. At the same time, shares of military-industrial complex companies (Lockheed, Raytheon, Martin Northrop Grumman, Huntington Ingalls and Palantir) grew on the wave of informational psychosis.

For example, the Javelin ATGM maker Lockheed Martin has surged by more than 25 percent to \$394 a share in just a few months. Raytheon, the Tomahawk cruise missile maker Tomahawk, rose by 20 percent to \$95 a share.

Interestingly, the growth of the quotes of defence companies is not explained just by the information wave, but is tied directly to the news about the allocation



It must be understood that the money allocated by the United States, Great Britain and other NATO countries for the purchase of weapons by Ukraine did not go to Kyiv, but was distributed within the territory of the issuing countries. In other words, the West is helping its companies out of the economic and financial crisis through the war in Ukraine.

of funding from the US state budget or the granting of interstate loans.

In particular, the start of the information campaign in 2021 coincided with the statement of Democratic Senator Jeanne Shaheen on the development of the Defending Ukraine Sovereignty Act (it was submitted to the Senate on January 12th, 2022). The document provided for the allocation of an additional \$500 million to arm the Ukrainian army, as well as the opening of new credit facilities for the purchase of weapons and military equipment by Kyiv from American defence companies. This act, in terms of its amounts, moved Ukraine to third place after Israel and Egypt in terms of external military tranches of the United States.

The way to overcome the crisis

It must be understood that the money allocated by the United States, Great Britain and other NATO countries for the purchase of weapons by Ukraine did not go to Kyiv, but was distributed within the territory of the issuing countries. In other words, the West is helping its companies out of the economic and financial crisis through the war in Ukraine.

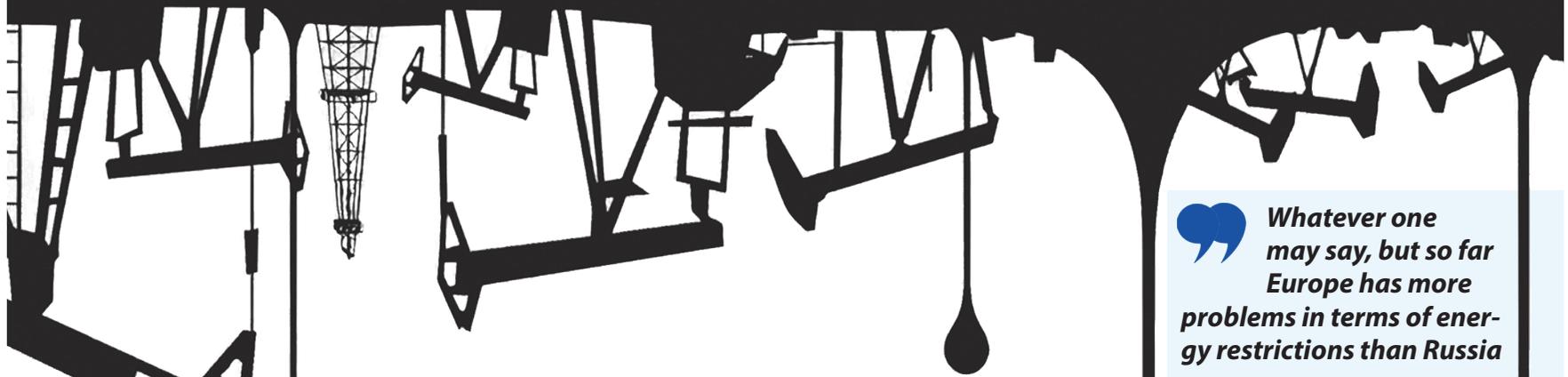
Positive dynamics based on the news from Ukraine is shown by companies in the field of development and processing of minerals — Nutrien, Alcoa, U.S. Steel and others.

At the same time, according to Bloomberg, the fall of the markets in Russia on February 24th was the third largest in the history of the stock markets. It is outstripped only by the fall of the Argentine market in 1990 and Kazakhstan in 2002.

As you can see, war is not only a supply business, war is also an opportunity to make money on information, on creating illusions and managing stock quotes. In modern information wars (in addition to the struggle for control over the minds of the enemy population), the activities of funds focused on speculation and making money on uncertainty also play an important role.

When building a national security system and responding to modern challenges and threats, it is critical to include elements of 'checks and balances' in the work of such speculative funds in order to level the negative consequences of their activities.

Resources of another nationality



By Vladimir Volchkov

Can Europe refuse Russian energy carriers? Perhaps, if they stop using cars, return to carts and switch to stove heating. Discussions about the need for a hydrocarbon embargo against Russia are nothing more than a political bluff by Western politicians. The reality today is that there are no serious surpluses of hydrocarbons on the global market. In fact, after the pandemic and 'green' crises, they have nowhere to come from. Well, the stubbornness of the same countries of the Persian Gulf, which are not rushing to increase production, is due not so much to their political or even economic position, but to the logic of the development of the global hydrocarbon industry in recent years.



The fight for the 'depths of Earth'

The global energy confrontation is of long-standing. The 'reboot' and warming of Moscow's relations with the West in general (and Washington in particular) took place amid the collapse of the Russian mining industry in the 1990s and its openness to foreign companies in the first half of the 2000s.

The oligarchic structures, having seized natural resources in various ways, actively intertwined themselves in the structure of foreign capitalism.

In Russia, state control over mining assets was restored in the 2000s. True, there has been a chill in relations with the West, which has lost the opportunity to enter Russian companies on its own terms.

Despite the fact that the sanctions have already become undisguised and all-out today, Western strategy to throw a monkey wrench in the works was implemented long ago.

Climatic redistribution

Renewable energy is the other side of the competition for resources.

In the midst of active discussions on the world platforms of the climate agenda, experts in the hydrocarbon sector suggested that it is possible that the production of the same oil will increase sharply.

It is possible that this was one of the basic European scenarios, which, to be fair, deserved consideration. At the very least, not at the rate that was originally expected, but renewable energy sources occupied an increasing share in the global energy balance. First, of course, in developed countries. This trend naturally affected the demand for fossil energy sources.

It is interesting, that last year's climate concept assumed reaching a zero carbon path by 2040-2050.

The idea was that the oil-rich countries would get scared of the current situation and start fighting for the opportunity to actively monetise their natural wealth.

Production will increase, prices will decrease. In addition, not only for oil and gas, but also for other minerals that are somehow revolved around the hydrocarbon sector.

Viral surprise

The pandemic has upended many areas of life, including energy.

Last year, demand for oil fell by more than 10 percent. About 11 million barrels

turned out to be superfluous on the market. Such a collapse did not even occur during the biggest energy crises — during the Arab-Israeli conflicts in 1967 and 1973 and the Iranian revolution in 1979. Demand fell by 6-9 percent in those days.



The pandemic turned out to be more devastating than military and political conflicts for the extractive industries. There were moments when the cost of a barrel reached negative values.

The perfect storm dramatically changed the strategy of oil exporters. First, the dialogue within OPEC+ has strengthened, in which Russia has begun to play a very significant leading role. Apparently, that is why the West also hold grudges against Moscow.

It was possible to return prices to a more or less comfortable level for both producing and consuming states through agreements on production control. The consensus unequivocally dashed the European hopes for cheap resources.

Second, instead of a sharp monetisation of their deposits, resource-rich states as one began to diversify risks and no less actively invest in climate infrastructure. Meanwhile, OilPrice consultancy estimates that the energy shift will cost \$40 trillion for Europe and the US until 2050. Even in much more favourable times, one could hardly count on funding for such global ideas. Such a sum of money today is practically unattainable and cannot appear out of nowhere.

However, not everything is clear with traditional energy. The promotion of a 'green lifestyle' had a peculiar effect: a sharp decline in investment in the extractive sector. And the pandemic lowered the investment level even more. As a result, the oil and gas industries have been systematically underinvested in recent years.

Explored reserves are at historically low levels. The states rich in hydrocarbons have adopted a strategy to make the most efficient use of available resources without developing the resource base.

Even last year, experts did not rule out a shortage of hydrocarbons, especially if the global economy recovers from the pandemic. According to the International Energy Agency, it is necessary to invest \$17 trillion in the industry in order to maintain global production at last year's level until 2040. It should be noted that the source of these investments is still unknown.

Arrangements and risks

It is unlikely that even high prices for raw materials will contribute to the investment

Whatever one may say, but so far Europe has more problems in terms of energy restrictions than Russia

boom. Of course, mining companies are making super profits with the price of a barrel of oil above \$100 and fantastic spot prices for gas and even coal. Indeed, this is just another reason to allocate money on exploration and development of new deposits.

The investment cycle is very long process. It can take 3, 5 or even 10 years. Moreover, there are too many risks right now.

Firstly, they stopped talking about the energy transition and decarbonisation with great inspiration, but no one officially abandoned this vector. Accordingly, the pressure on fossil hydrocarbons from alternative energy may revive and continue.

Secondly, high commodity prices, coupled with political confrontation, create a real danger of a recession. Although European countries are boasting, their enterprises are slowly either reducing their activity or stopping altogether. Therefore, there is a high probability of a drop in demand for energy resources. And their stock prices can collapse, by and large, at any moment. Therefore, no one is in a hurry to invest in increasing production.

There will be no consensus

Thus, the rejection of Russian energy carriers without destroying the economies of developed countries, in fact, is not feasible. Yes, Europe can abandon its traditional resource providers, but only in 10-20 years. This is exactly how much time is needed to increase production in other regions in order to modernise the infrastructure in the EU for new logistics. This will require serious efforts and investments, but now there is no extra investment in Europe.



That is why the story with sanctions against the identified cases of oil and gas is due to the category of violations, but not economic requirements. Obviously, there will be no consensus on this issue in the EU.

Consider Poland, which loudly announced that it had stopped buying Russian gas. From Warsaw, this is pure hypocrisy: the country actually buys gas, but only pumps it in reverse from Germany.

European politicians can endlessly discuss energy embargoes. However, this is nothing more than a bluff and political posturing. Even if restrictions are introduced, then, as always, with exceptions and time lags.

Whatever one may say, but so far, Europe has more problems in terms of energy restrictions than Russia.



No prosperity:

Lithuania's achievements in 18 years of EU membership

This year marks the 18th anniversary of Lithuania's membership in the EU, but it has not managed to catch up with the countries of Western and Northern Europe in terms of development, continuing to lose population and remaining one of the poorest in the EU, Baltnews reports

First of all, it's important to note the presence of subsidies from the EU which certainly help support the Lithuanian economy, but also have a downside. European integration has resulted in the curtailment of entire sectors of the country's economy, and the money allocated from EU funds can only partially compensate for losses. It was Lithuania's accession to the EU that completed the process of de-industrialisation of the Baltic States. Brussels forced the

closure of the Ignalina nuclear power plant, which at the time of construction was considered the largest in the region. After that, Lithuania, and at the same time the neighbouring states, became energy deficient.

The situation with transit is no better, although this industry once brought impressive contributions to Lithuania's budget. An advantageous geographical position could make Lithuania a 'transit giant'. Alas, the miracle did not happen.

As a result, there are mainly dwarf enterprises operating in Lithuania while large factories and ports continue to fall into decay. Though the level of gross domestic product has increased, Lithuania's public debt as a percentage of GDP has increased from 18.7 percent in 2004 to 43 percent in 2021. The European integration project failed from the economic point of view, with Lithuania becoming a dependent country that lives on subsidies from EU funds.

Pope says NATO barked at Russia's door

Pope Francis does not rule out that NATO played a negative role in the escalation of the Ukrainian crisis

"[Possibly], NATO barking at Russia's gate led to the Kremlin's reaction. I have no way of telling whether the rage has been provoked but I suspect it was maybe facilitated by the West's attitude," he said in an interview with the leading Italian daily *Corriere della Sera*.

"It's unthinkable that a free state can unleash a war against another free state," the Pope said reiterating his thesis on 'piecemeal' Third World War. "It is a mere observation of what is really happening. Syria, Yemen, Iraq. In Africa, a string of conflicts one after the other. And in each and every one of them, there are international interests at stake," he explained. "In Ukraine, the



conflict was triggered by other actors," the Pope added.

The Pope noted that he did not know how to relate to the supply of weapons to Ukraine by Western countries, indicating that he 'lives too far away'. "What seems indisputable is that in that country both sides are trying out new weapons. Wars are fought for this reason too: to test arsenals."



From Belarus to world markets

During the UN Security Council meeting on Ukraine, UN Secretary General António Guterres called for the presence of food and fertilisers from Belarus on world markets

"A meaningful solution to global food insecurity requires reintegrating Ukraine's agricultural production and the food and fertiliser production of Russia and Belarus into world markets," noted the UN Secretary General.

"Despite the hostilities, I will do my best to maintain dialogue so that this becomes a reality," added Mr. Guterres.

The topic of sanctions, including those affecting the supply of potash fertilisers to world markets, was touched upon by the President of Belarus, Aleksandr Lukashenko, in an interview to The Associated Press. "In Europe, America, for example, we are blocked on the supply of Belarusian mineral fertilisers. Listen, in America they are in great demand today. Prices have gone up not only for oil, gas and mineral fertilisers, but also for food. In Europe, even more so. Why do we, like fools, rest our

heads against each other and start bludgeoning each other with sanctions?" said the Head of State.

At the same time, the President of Belarus assured that in the current circumstances, it is possible to find solutions, build logistics and supply products. "Lithuania and Latvia have closed their ports for our cargo. Let it be, we are redirecting our cargo to Russia. We have already started delivering potassium. We have sorted out issues related to the supply of petroleum products," he said.

Aleksandr Lukashenko drew attention to the fact that sanctions have a negative impact on ordinary people in European countries, "Well, I don't understand why it is necessary for Lithuanians and Latvians to come to us with barrels and canisters for diesel and gasoline [which are cheaper here]? It's not normal. Who benefits from this? Politicians."

World's highest weather station on Mount Everest

China has successfully established the world's highest weather station on Mount Everest after its scientific expedition scaled the summit

A Chinese expedition team led by scientists has established the world's highest weather station on Mount Everest at an altitude of 8,830 metres above sea level. The team successfully tested the automatic station and conducted a transmission to show that the system is working on the frigid summit.

Powered by solar panels, the station is designed to last for two years under harsh weather conditions and is equipped with a satellite communications system for data transmission. According to Xinhua News Agency, the radio station has been coded to transmit every 12 minutes.

The new station overtakes the previous world record made by the British and US

scientists, when they established a weather station on the south side of Everest at an altitude of 8,430 metres. China has already established three meteorological stations on the north side of the mountain at 7,028, 7,790 and 8,300 metres.

Beijing now has seven such stations that are operating between 5,200 and 8,300 metres. According to reports, the equipment required to set up the station weighs around 50 kilograms and was dismantled to be carried to the peak. The station will obtain data from the surrounding area, filling the gap in the meteorological record of the world's 'third pole'.

The expedition was conducted under Earth Summit Mission 2022.



Materials prepared with aid of information agencies



Yuri Mozolevsky

By Irina Ovsepyan

Mikhail Savitsky, Georgy Poplavsky, Vasily Sharangovich, Lazar Ran — these names need no introductions and explanations. Outstanding masters of their time, each of whom devoted many years of his life to the tragic theme. It should be noted that this was their personal theme.

The front-line soldier Savitsky, who was a prisoner of the Dachau concentration camp, the children of the war Poplavsky and Sharangovich, Ran, who lost his family destroyed by the Nazis in the Minsk Ghetto... Their paintings today speak for their authors, blaming the executioners and mourning the common grief of millions of Soviet people.

The daughter of Vasily Sharangovich, art critic, First Deputy Chairperson of the Belarusian Union of Artists Natalya Sharangovich, says that, having survived the occupation as a child, he was tormented by memories all subsequent years, “Their small village Kochany in the Myadel Region survived, it was not burned down. It was a partisan zone. But when he and his mother (his father was a partisan blacksmith) drove outside his native village, he saw burned houses and dead people on the streets. It is not for nothing that his series, the works of which are presented at this exhibition, is called *Pamiaci Vohniennykh Viosak* [In memory of the burned villages]. All his life he remembered a terrible sweetish smell — the smell of burned huts and dead bodies. This scent haunted him for decades.”

The central work, around which the entire exhibition is built, is Mikhail Savitsky's Execution, its other name is Punishment by death. Like many works of the artist, it is dedicated to the Belarusian partisans. The painting-tragedy, as art historians say about it, most fully reflects the theme of the Belarusian genocide: an old man, a man in his prime, a teenager, and a pregnant woman — all of them were captured a few minutes before death. Of the rather small number of paintings painted by the master (about 200), about 40 works were dedicated to partisan themes.

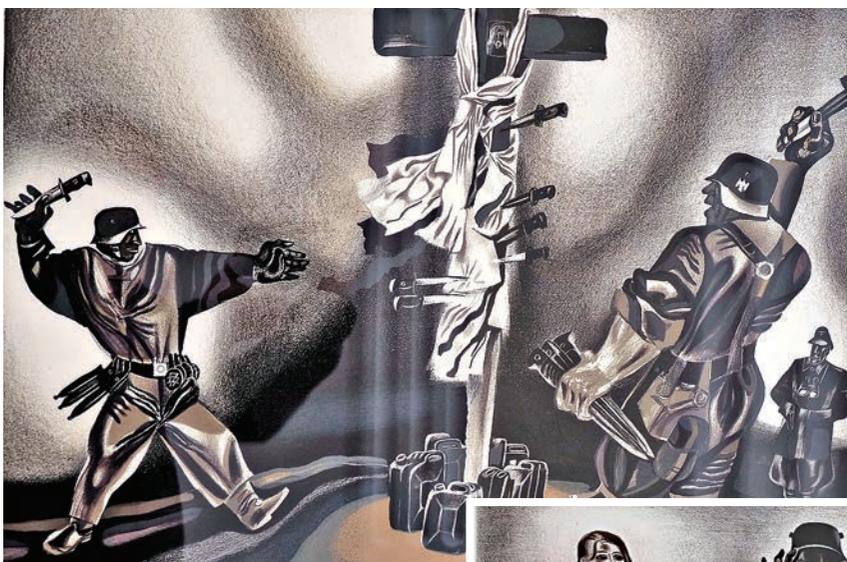
Director of the National Art Museum of Belarus Vladimir Prokoptsov is convinced that the *Never Again!* exhibition along with other expositions of the National Art Museum dedicated to the theme of the Great Patriotic War is of great importance, “It is important both in terms of the patriotic education of young people and in terms of preserving historical memory. All of us, especially young people, should also know the tragic pages of our history. We have



Execution by Mikhail Savitsky

Let it never happen again

The exhibition with the self-explanatory title *Never Again!* opened at the National Art Museum. It is dedicated to the genocide of the Belarusian people during the Great Patriotic War. A compact exposition and a significant event at the same time. Classical artists who had a rough time during the war and their works act as witnesses and accusers of the Nazis.

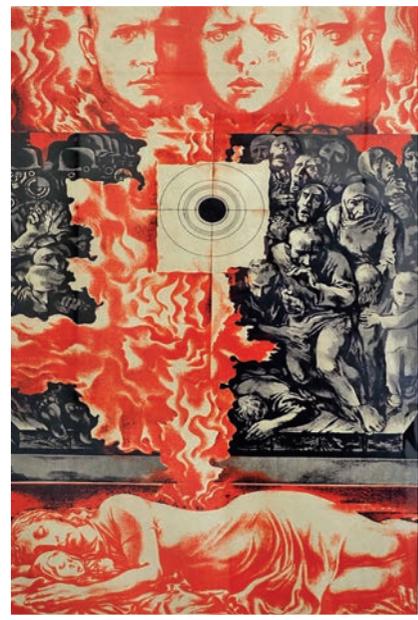


Yuri Mozolevsky



a whole museum programme associated with this exhibition. In addition, we will definitely send it around the country. We already received applications from museums. And we will certainly show it during the celebration of the Belarusian Written Language Day in Dobrush.”

With the help of the Prosecutor General's Office of the Republic of Belarus, specialists from the National Art Museum prepared a multimedia presentation on the topic of the genocide of the Belarusian people, as well as the robbery of cultural values by the invaders. Even Heinrich



Himmler is captured on unique archival footage from the former art gallery of the BSSR: one of the main figures of Nazi Germany personally supervised the removal of art objects from Belarus.

“We can talk not only about the genocide of our people, but also about the genocide of our culture. We see this vivid metaphor in one of Poplavsky's works, where the Nazis throw knives at a roadside cross: this is a symbol of the trampled, humiliated culture of Belarus. Moreover, if you go to the next hall, you will see Mercury without a leg — a wounded sculpture that was in the State Art Gallery of the BSSR. They wanted to take it out, but it was too heavy. There is a very valuable document compiled by Alena Aladava on the basis of various acts and documents — a list of art objects exported to Germany,” considers the curator of the exhibition, the leading researcher of the National Art Museum Nadezhda Usova.

There were 3,000 works in the art gallery of the BSSR. They took out 2500, of which only 500 returned to Belarus after the war! Imagine what wealth we have lost, including the national treasure: 48 Slutsk belts and the Radziwill collection from Nesvizh.

A search is underway, fortunately, there are photos of our heritage. It is still possible to prove that the works belong to us after so many years, but it is very difficult process. I think we should add labels to some paintings in our permanent exhibition saying ‘Found and returned by the Red Army.’ This will give them a new meaning in the Year of Historical Memory.

The exhibition will last until July 5th. However, the museum staff also prepared thematic lectures on the removal of cultural property during the war years within the framework of the project. As well as partisan drawings, Savitsky's pictures, including those dedicated to the genocide, and on Belarusian graphics and the *Minsk on July 3rd, 1944* painting by Valentin Volkov dedicated to the liberation of Belarus from invaders within the framework of the project.

Valery Tolkachev, Head of the Department for Supervision of the Investigation of Particularly Important Cases of the Prosecutor General's Office of the Republic of Belarus:

“The Prosecutor General's Office, together with our citizens, is investigating those terrible events of 1941-1945. We have discovered new facts of atrocities, extermination and genocide of our people. During the investigation, it was established that every third Belarusian was killed — three million people. In addition, a huge number of cultural values and works of art were destroyed during the years of occupation of Belarus. Including together with the Ministry of Culture, we are actively working on this issue and will try to return our stolen cultural property to our homeland.”



Belarus — the iconic places of Partisan Republic

Almost immediately after the beginning of the Great Patriotic War, the country has committed itself to fight against the enemy. More than 370,000 people were enrolled in the forest army by mid-1944 — they were fighting back invaders day and night.

By Sofia Arsenyeva

To honour the memory of Ded Talash and Batka Minay

‘Partisans, partisans, Belarusian sons!’ — this lines of Yanka Kupala were well-known among every Soviet school-boy. Like the fact that these ‘sons’ had their own legendary Ded (old man) and Batka (father).

The legendary bearded partisan with a menacing eyes looks forward in the centre of the Polesie town of Petrikov. He became famous even before the Great Patriotic War — Vasily Talash took revenge on the invaders from the forest during the Soviet-Polish war. In 1941, he had to start fighting the Nazis. However, by that time he was 97! The proud Ded was eager for battle — he worked with recruits, shared his experience and wisdom. One can find out about the deeds of the most age partisan in the museum in the village of Novoselki, Petrikov District. There one can learn the story of his family, see his personal belongings, military awards and a famous hat with a red ribbon.

The exposition of another partisan legend was opened in Vitebsk — Minay



Shmyryov. In 1942, his brigade ‘opened’ the Surazh gate, which connected the mainland with the partisan detachments of Belarus, the Baltic states, and Ukraine. Minay paid a very high price for this victory over the Nazis: his children Lisa, Sergei, Zina and Misha were shot, the eldest was fourteen, the youngest was only three. Nonetheless, he became a true Batka for all partisans.



Encounter the plane from the mainland

The partisans, although they lived in the forest, fought competently and with good weapons. Where did they get machine guns and explosives from? Most often they were brought from the mainland. It was possible to establish flight connection since October 1942. Saboteurs were delivered to the occupied territories with special night squadrons on Lisunov Li-2, and then wounded and patients, children and women, trophy documents and intelligence were taken to the rear.

They landed planes in the very heart of ‘a blue-eyed country’, on the Zyslov island. Local residents built a real partisan airfield there. Large winged planes flew in pitch darkness. Bonfires that flashed for a few minutes at the command of the listeners, which determined our aircraft by sound became aerial lighthouses for the pilots. Now here is a unique memorial complex with restored dugouts and fraternal burials.

Walk along the streets of the capital

On July 16th, 1944, a unique parade in terms of world history took place: about thirty thousand people’s avengers marched in Minsk. “Hairy and skinny partisans were victoriously moving between the destroyed and burned houses. In their hands there was an incredible



collection of weapons, which was made by blacksmiths in the forests. They were greeted with enthusiasm, they walked proudly with awards on their chests! They were winners!” recalled the participant of the parade Vasily Morokhovich.

In the columns were those fighters of the partisan brigades who continued to attack the enemy in the east of Minsk right up to July 11th. It is interesting that

there was a goat named Malysh (baby). Not ordinary goat, but combat: he served as a field medic in the forest, so he earned the right to march with his comrades in the capital.

Rare photographs, memories and facts about the Partisan Parade can today be seen in the Belarusian State Museum of the History of the Great Patriotic War on the Pobediteley Prospekt.

Visit the Proryv Memorial

The invaders showed particular cruelty and cynicism when their terrible plans were violated by bold and dexterous partisans. In April-May 1944, they planned to arrange a punitive operation called Operation Frühlingfest (Spring Holiday) in the Vitebsk Region in retaliation for the fact that the forest army took control of a large territory behind enemy lines. During the mopping-up operation, they were going to kill several tens of thousands of people, including civilians. Without any trial, investigation and witnesses.

But the ‘show’ was interrupted by the partisan brigades of the Polotsk-Lepel formation on the night of May 5th. They not only managed to escape from

the roundup, but also took out fifteen thousand civilians from there.

Today, the Proryv Memorial is located at the site of the bloody battle in the Ushachy District. From the entrance, the road leads in the very direction by which the people’s avengers shoot their way out of there and pushed the Germans. ‘There were 17,185 against 60,000. The courage of the people finally won. Death has become immortality’, reminds the inscription on the marble slab.



Take the oath of the people’s avenger

“For the burned cities and villages, for the death of our children, for torture, violence and mockery of my people, I swear to take revenge on the enemy cruelly, mercilessly and tirelessly”, promised those who joined the ranks of the forest army. It happened that whole families often joined the resistance.

One of the largest forest camps was located in the Brest Region — in the Khovanshchina tract. A large island, hidden from prying eyes by a defence forest, was surrounded on all sides by swamps. Only confident people could get on land — along a narrow masonry hidden under water. If one goes astray, one

will be dragged into quagmire. Now there is a large memorial complex of partisan glory, where one can immerse oneself in the life of the people’s avengers: enrol in students of the forest school, learn the basis of medicine in

the field, or try nettle cakes. Here the communication agent, woman called Raya leads the guests of Khovanshchina along secret paths and sings songs of the war years to the sound of an old accordion.



Run towards a healthy lifestyle

The summer athletics season is gaining momentum! The final of the All-Belarusian cross-country run for the prizes of the Belarus Segodnya Publishing House took place last week. It was a fun and festive beginning of this season. Last Sunday, on the eve of Victory Day, Mogilev again became the centre of attraction for lovers of running — an international marathon was held here, for which a record number of participants — 5021 people registered.

By Lyubov Solovieva

“Our marathon raised more and more interest. In the first year of its holding, it gathered about 3,000 people, the second time — about 5,000 participants. That is a record! That is great, it means that a healthy lifestyle is gaining popularity,” noted the head of the sports and tourism department of the Mogilev City Executive Committee Dmitry Latenkov. Each participant was able to choose a distance according to his strength: 42 kilometres 195 metres — for those who are confident in themselves and their health; 10 kilometres — for the middle level; 4 kilometres — for everyone. The peculiarity of the current competition was that the Open Championship of Belarus was also held within the framework of these competitions. Let us



remember that it, in turn, is included in the series of the Belarusian Athletics League created this season. Its final will be held with great pomp and splendour in Minsk in August. All the strongest Belarusian marathon runners ran in Mogilev. Guests from Russia and China also arrived. Vladislav Pryamov from Minsk not only took the gold medal of the marathon, but also set his own personal record. Preliminary time

— 2 hours 12 minutes 38 seconds.

“I am running a marathon in Mogilev for the first time. The track is quite difficult. It seemed to test our endurance. There was a severe headwind, and a downpour fell 5-6 kilometres before the finish line. I tried to just run, not paying attention to all these difficulties,” sportsman shares his impressions.

Vladislav prepared hard for the competition. Firstly, this is the Belarusian marathon championship, and secondly, he wanted to contribute to the team result.

“It is symbolic that we ran on the eve of Victory Day. I congratulate everyone on this great holiday and dedicate my triumph to the generation that won a peaceful sky over our heads. I can't even imagine what they went through and at what cost they were able to survive!” he emphasises.

Mogilev resident Nina Savina had no

equal in the women's marathon distance.

The competition ambassador says she couldn't let her fans down, “I always feel the heavy burden of responsibility before going to the start, and today even more so. It's nice to perform in front of the native audience, this is a huge advantage. Both the track and the weather demanded maximum endurance and skill from us. When it started to rain, it was something out of the ordinary! Nevertheless, the rivalry became even more interesting.”



Nina Savina

The cup will stay in Mogilev

The final of the All-Belarusian cross-country run for the prizes of the Belarus Segodnya Publishing House was traditionally festively held on the Dubrovenka River embankment

By Tatiana Pastushenko

Nina Savina and Sergei Platonov can already be considered the faces of traditional competitions, which have been held for more than two decades with the support of our publishing house. These athletes chalked up many victories in cross-country, but this time they once again decided to take part in it.

For Nina Savina, who missed last year's competition due to preparations for the Olympic Games in Tokyo, it was an opportunity to test her own readiness before the first marathon in a long time, which was hosted by Mogilev on May 8th. For Sergei Platonov, who lost the race to Vyacheslav Skudny at the finish line in 2021, this is a chance to regain the championship title, and in an interesting fight not only with well-known opponents, but also with young competitors who impose a serious fight.

The 5000 metres races among men and women, in which Nina and Sergei took part, turned out to be somewhat similar. Both Savina and Platonov immediately ran away from their rivals and, lap after lap, increasing their advantage, did not allow any of the competitors to even get close to them.

“I like this track. I constantly train on it, so I feel confident. Despite the results (Ed. note — Sergei Platonov outstripped Ilya Karnaukhov, who took second place, by almost 15 seconds, and Sergei Kravchenya, who took third place, by 22 seconds), the intensity of the rivalry was high! We now have greatly increased the results of

those athletes who run medium and long distances, so we have to train even more hard,” Sergei Platonov said after the finish.

Nina Savina was also satisfied with her result. Although the runner did not conduct special preparation for the cross-country, she managed to win with a solid advantage.

“The track is working and very worthy — it is on such that crosses should take place. Plots with mud, of course, added certain difficulties. There were small climbs, but I did not



see any particular difficulty in them... In general, everything is fine!” explained Nina Savina.

The fight in the junior races turned out to be interesting as well. In the women's, for example, pentathlete Maria Gnedchik did not have enough to get ahead of Yulia Nedashkovskaya, who won the three-kilometre distance. In the men's competition of this age group, Darek Dudo did not

leave any chances for his rivals. Exciting struggle among boys and girls, mixed relay races, in which athletes of all ages took part... Medals, cups, diplomas and, of course, prizes from the Belarus Segodnya Publishing House have already found their owners. However, the main intrigue, perhaps, lay not even in individual competitions, but in team ones. In recent years, athletes from the Mogilev Region did not allow their rivals to take away the main trophy — the challenge cup — from the regional centre hosting

the competition. They did not let that happen this time either. Since this victory was the third for Mogilev residents since the establishment of the new cup by our publishing house, the shining cup remained with the hosts of the cross for eternal storage — now it will take its place next to the very first cup, which has been awarded to the winners of the competition for many years.



“In principle, the cross-country results were not a surprise. The leaders confirmed their positions, ambitious athletes showed character and good results. Since

the weather has pleased and those sections of the track that should have been very difficult turned out to be a little less difficult, the results, when compared with those that the athletes showed last year and the year before, have increased significantly,” summed up the head coach of the national athletics team (endurance sport) Andrei Gordeev.

The Cup of Belarus and the

All-Belarusian cross-country run for the prizes of the Belarus Segodnya Publishing House traditionally open the summer season and become an opportunity for athletes to test their readiness for it. The tournament ended in Mogilev was no exception. Despite the fact that Russian and Belarusian athletes are still suspended from international competitions, our runners will have a busy calendar. Andrei Gordeev says, “The statute of the Belarusian athletics league has been approved. Athletes will have many competitions, which will ‘close’ the lack of international competitions and, I think, will help our guys to realise themselves. To be honest, not so many athletes applied for participation in international competitions in the endurance sport. The rest performed at the republican competitions. For them, the created league is a great opportunity.”

There will be many competitions, they will be intense and, importantly, showy — all main leaders will take part in them.

Starts at the stadium will begin on May 30th-31st — competitions in memory of Romuald Klim will be held in Minsk. According to Andrei Gordeev, after that, the league stages will be held almost every week.



Photo of the week

An exhibition of unique archival photographs opened on Victory Day in the ruins of the White Palace in the Brest Fortress. The exposition presents photographs taken in May 1945. It demonstrates the history of the last days of the war, as well as the celebration of the long-awaited victory of the Soviet people over fascism.

DATES. EVENTS. PEOPLE.



On May 13th, 1836, the construction of the first railway in Russia along the St. Petersburg — Tsarskoye Selo — Pavlovsk route began. It was the country's first public railway. The construction was led by the Austrian engineer F. Gerstner. The road was open all the way from St. Petersburg to Pavlovsk by June 1838. The trip took 42 minutes, and the average speed was 32 kilometres per hour.

May 14th is World Migratory Bird Day. It is celebrated annually since 2006 as part of a global campaign to protect migratory birds and their habitats. Almost every tenth species of migratory birds is under threat of extinction.



On May 14th, 1905, a panorama created for the 50th anniversary of the Siege of Sevastopol during the Crimean War (1853–1856)

was unveiled. *The Siege of Sevastopol* panorama is a wonderful work of the master of Russian battle painting Franz Roubaud. This huge canvas, 115 metres long and 14 metres high, depicts the British and French

troops, which were repulsed by Russians during the Allied assault on the Malakoff-Kurgan ridge and the fortifications of the Karabelnaya suburb on June 6th, 1855.

On May 15th, 1882, Vladislav Golubok was born (1882-1937), a Belarusian theatrical figure, playwright, director, actor, artist, People's Artist of Belarus. He is the author of about 40 plays on themes from the life of the ordinary Belarusian people:



The Last Encounter, Innocent Blood, Ray of Sunshine melodramas, *The Clerk's Name Day, The Trial, Grooms*, comedies etc. In stage work he developed the traditions of folklore theatre, the First Belarusian theatre troupe of Ignat Buynitsky.

On May 15th, 2018, the opening of the Crimean bridge with a total length of 19 kilometres took place. It became the longest bridge built by Russia and is the longest in Europe. The bridge starts on the Taman Peninsula, passes over the Kerch Strait, Tuzla Island, goes around Cape Ak-Burun and ends on the Kerch Peninsula. The opening of the



Crimean Bridge with a capacity of at least 40,000 vehicles and 47 pairs of trains per day has not only become an

important step in resolving socio-economic issues in the region, but has also become a real symbol of the unity of Russia and Crimea.

May 15th is Family Day in the Republic of Belarus. The family is a source of love, respect, solidarity and affection, the foundation on which any civilised society is built, without which a person cannot exist. The well-being of the family is a criterion of the development and progress of the country.



On May 15th, 1930, Ellen Church, an American nurse from Iowa, became the world's first flight attendant. She was interested in aviation and entered flight courses. However, Ellen was offered to become not a pilot, but a female steward, following the example of a profession of conductor on the railway. The airfield in Ellen's hometown of Cresco is named in honour of the world's first flight attendant.

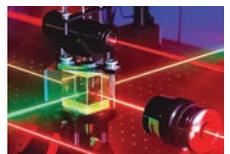


On May 15th, 1935, the opening of the first line of the Moscow Metro took place. The line with 13 stations and a total length of 11.2 kilometres ran from the Sokolniki station to



the Park Kultury station. Today, the Moscow Metro consists of 14 lines, more than 414 kilometres long and with 241 stations. More than 9 million passengers use the Moscow metro every day, which is the highest figure in the world.

May 16th is International Day of Light. It is celebrated annually on May 16th, in honour of the first successful application of the laser in 1960, developed by physicist and engineer Theodor Maiman.



May 17th is World Telecommunication and Information Society Day. This day is a professional holiday for all programmers, system administrators, Internet providers, web designers, editors of online publications and all other people involved in the field of information technology.



May 18th is International Museum Day. It was established by decision of the 11th General Conference of the International Council of Museums. On this holiday, museums around the world open their doors to everyone for free.

