

Belarus: Why Is Lukashenko Being Color Revolutioned Just Now?

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The globalist Powers That Be have clearly decided to topple the long-standing sole-ruler of Belarus, President Aleksander Lukashenko. The question is why at just this time? There is a case to be made that one reason is he is being destroyed for his unforgivable coronavirus defiance. In any case Belarus is being hit with a full force West-led Color Revolution. The protests over the August 9 election show every sign of the usual Color Revolution destabilization protests, manufactured by the usual Western NGOs, as well as private contractors using social media to steer the protests.

Under Lukashenko's regime, the country defied WHO and the global coronavirus lockdown demands. He refused to order lockdown of his citizens or the economy. As of August 13 the country had recorded a total of 617 covid19 related deaths. Belarus stood together with Sweden and the US State of South Dakota as one of the very few places in the world to successfully disprove the bizarre and dangerous WHO demands for a global lockdown to control the pandemic. Belarus ordered no lockdown so most industry continued. Schools remained open other than a 3 week closing during Easter. There were no mask requirements, though volunteer groups distributed masks to some and in June the EU sent a shipment of PPE including masks to Health officials for distribution. Football and the May 9 Victory parade went as normal. And now the country stands as an example the WHO and friends do not want.

One very important point is that the Health Ministry ignored the very flawed WHO recommendations on loosely classifying deaths as Covid19 when only a "suspicion" is there. The basis for the Belarus pathologists to state the cause of death from coronavirus is the presence of a patho-morphological picture with [laboratory confirmation of Covid-19](#).ⁱ

This all did not sit well with the globalist Powers That Be. The manifestly corrupt WHO, whose main private donor is the Gates Foundation, criticized Lukashenko's government for lack of quarantine and in June, when announcing it would grant Belarus a \$940 million loan, the IMF said it was conditional on the country imposing quarantine, isolation and closed borders, demands Lukashenko rejected as "nonsense." He noted in a widely-quoted statement, "the IMF continues to demand from us quarantine measures, isolation, a curfew. This is nonsense. We will not dance to anyone's tune."

Color Revolution Begins

Clearly NATO and the Western globalist circles have been working on toppling Lukashenko well before the covid19 events. That coronavirus defiance may only have helped galvanize events. The West and its "democracy" NGOs have long had Lukashenko in their targets. During the Bush Administration in 2008 US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice denounced

Lukashenko as Europe's "last dictator." After that, Russia created the Eurasian Economic Union along with Kazakhstan and Belarus as members. Until now Lukashenko has refused Putin's proposal to merge with Russia in one large Union State. That may soon change.

The protests broke out in Belarus after elections on August 9 gave Lukashenko some 80% of the vote against his last-minute opposition candidate, the 'western' candidate Svetlana Tikhanovskaya. Those protests are being run using the same model that the CIA and its various "democracy" NGOs, led by the National Endowment for Democracy (NED) developed in Serbia, Ukraine, Russia and numerous other states whose leaders refused to bow to the globalist dictates. A co-founder of the NED, Allen Weinstein, declared in the Washington Post in 1991, "A lot of what we do today was done covertly 25 years ago by the CIA." The NED gets its financing from the US government, but poses around the world as a "private" democracy-promoting NGO, where it was instrumental in most every Washington-backed regime change destabilizations since the collapse of the Soviet Union in the early 1990s.

In 2019, the NED listed on its website some 34 NED project grants in Belarus. All of them were directed to nurture and train an anti-Lukashenko series of opposition groups and domestic NGOs. The grants went for such projects as, "NGO Strengthening: To increase local and regional civic engagement... to identify local problems and develop advocacy strategies." Another was to "expand an online depository of publications not readily accessible in the country, including works on politics, civil society, history, human rights, and independent culture." Then another NED grant went, "To defend and support independent journalists and media." And another, "NGO Strengthening: To foster youth civic engagement." Another large NED grant went to, ["training democratic parties and movements in effective advocacy campaigns."](#)ⁱⁱ Behind the innocent-sounding NED projects is a pattern of creating a specially-trained opposition on the lines of the CIA's NED model.

The Murky Nexta

A key role in coordinating the "spontaneous" protests was played by a Warsaw-based texting and video channel called "Nexta," based on the Telegram messaging app. Nexta, which is Belarusian for "somebody," is nominally headed by a 22-year old Belarus exile based in Poland named Stepan Putila. With the Belarus Internet shut by the government since days, Nexta, operating from Poland, has posted numerous citizen videos of protest and police crackdown and claims now to have 2 million followers. It quickly became the heart of the Color Revolution once Belarus shut its Internet access.

Stepan Putila is also known under the moniker Stepan Svetlov. Putila previously worked for the Warsaw-based Belsat channel which broadcasts propaganda into Belarus and is funded by the Polish Foreign Ministry and USAID. The co-founder and Editor in Chief at Nexta since March, 2020 is a Belarus exile named Roman Protasevich who used to work for the US Government's propaganda media, Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty. Protasevich also worked for the Polish-based Euroradio which is partly funded by USAID. He was active in the CIA's 2013-14 Maidan Square demonstrations in Kiev and according to his Facebook likes is close to Ukrainian neo-nazi Pahonia Detachment. In April 2018, Protasevich ends up at the US State Department in Washington, a notable contact. On his Facebook then he noted, "The most important week in my life begins." The same day he posted a picture of himself inside the US State Department, stating ["Never had so many important and interesting encounters in my life."](#)ⁱⁱⁱ After he left Washington he went to work for the USAID-funded radio in Belarus

Euroradio.fm on August 31, 2018. Two years later Protasevich is coordinating the anti-Lukashenko events from Warsaw via Nexta. Coincidence?

Nexta which uses the London-registered Telegram, and is in NATO-member Poland, outside the country, so far has eluded shutdown. Nexta has been sending out, via social media, such information as plans for protests, at what time and where to gather for a rally, when to start a strike, where police are assembled and so on. Nexta has also circulated texts of protesters' demands, updates about arrests, locations of arrests by riot police, and contacts for lawyers and human rights defenders as well as maps showing where police are located and addresses for protesters to hide in.

It has also advised subscribers how to bypass internet blocking by using proxies and other means. As Maxim Edwards, a pro-opposition British journalist at Global Voices, describes Nexta, ["It is clear that the channel does not merely report on the protests, but has played a substantial role in organising them."](#)^{iv}

No doubt such coordination from abroad would not be possible unless Nexta had some very sophisticated assistance from certain intelligence services. Nexta claims it depends on "donations" and ads for funding, but claims to get no "grants" from governments or foundations. Whether true or not, it is an answer that gives little clarity. Is USAID one of their "donors" or the Open Society Foundations? The relevant point is that Nexta uses cyber technology that Belarus is not able to shut down. In 2018 the Russian governments unsuccessfully tried to ban Telegram for refusing to reveal their source codes.

Global Stakes

The opposition political candidates to Lukashenko is also surprisingly clever in tactics, suggesting they are being guided by professionals. Svetlana Tikhanovskaya the alleged "political novice" who stepped in when her husband was arrested and forbidden to run, claims she won the election based on exit pollers. On August 14 Tikhanovskaya announced that she was forming a "coordination council" to secure a peaceful transfer of power. It echoed the earlier call by another opposition candidate, Valery Tsepkalo, a former Belarus Ambassador to Washington who, like Tikhanovskaya's husband Sergei Tikhanovsky, was barred from running for president. Tsepkalo called it a "national salvation front."

Though Belarus is a small country of less than 10 million, the stakes of this destabilization effort of the West are enormous. In 2014 the Obama CIA head John Brennan led a US-backed coup d'état in Ukraine to prevent Ukraine joining Russia's economic union. That coup has not given Ukraine anything positive. Instead it has resulted in rule but by other corrupt oligarchs, but friendly with Washington, especially under Obama.

The NED tried in 2018 to destabilize Armenia, another part of the Russian Eurasian Economic Union. Were they now to break off Belarus, the military and political consequences for Russia could be severe. Whether or not the Lukashenko defiance of the WHO coronavirus dictates had a role in the timing of the ongoing Minsk Color Revolution attempt, clearly some powers that be in the West, including the EU and Washington would love to collapse Belarus as they did in Ukraine six years ago. If they succeed we can be sure they will be emboldened to try Russia after.

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This article was originally published on the author's blog site, williamengdahl.com.

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Notes

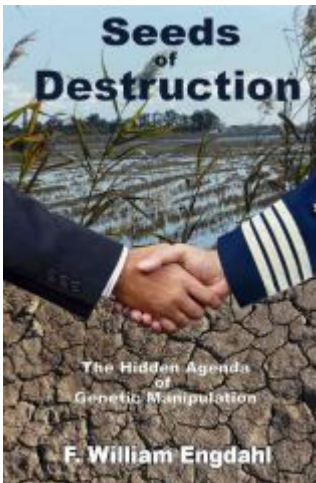
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2 [NED, Belarus 2019, https://www.ned.org/region/central-and-eastern-europe/belarus-2019/](https://www.ned.org/region/central-and-eastern-europe/belarus-2019/)

3 [Anonymous, Roman Protasevich, August 17, 2020, https://www.foiaresearch.net/person/roman-protasevich](https://www.foiaresearch.net/person/roman-protasevich)

4 [Maxim Edwards, How one Telegram channel became central to Belarus protests, August 19, 2020, https://radioonline.com/2020/08/19/how-one-telegram-channel-became-central-to-belarus-protests/](https://radioonline.com/2020/08/19/how-one-telegram-channel-became-central-to-belarus-protests/)

Featured image: Protest rally against Lukashenko, 16 August. Minsk, Belarus License: The Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 3.0 Unported license Under Some Conditions <https://bit.ly/325WwSw>



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