

ARTICLE

The Belarus Election and its Aftermath | An Expert Analysis

By [Oksana Antonenko](#), [Volha Charnysh](#), [Nigel Gould-Davies](#) & 6 more on **August 12, 2020**

 KENNAN INSTITUTE

RULE OF LAW

ELECTIONS

BELARUS

In this past Sunday's presidential election in Belarus, Aleksandr Lukashenko claimed 80% of the vote in what has been widely regarded as a sham election. Since then, Belarusians have taken to the streets every day across the country to protest the results, state police have used increasingly brutal countermeasures against protesters, and his opponent, Svetlana Tikhanovskaya, has fled Belarus for Lithuania. The Kennan Institute recently asked several of our experts to weigh in on this developing story and consider the following questions:

1. *President Alexander Lukashenko has claimed victory once again amid a vote widely decried as manipulated and with no international observers. Protests have also followed the voting, as expected. What does this level of opposition to Lukashenko's continued rule mean for the country? How is Lukashenko likely to respond going forward?*
2. *Ukraine has asked for Belarus to extradite 28 of the 33 alleged Wagner operatives recently arrested in the country. What are the implications of this situation for relations between Minsk and Moscow? What about the claimed detentions of US nationals in Belarus on August 6?*
3. *What should US policymakers keep an eye on in the coming weeks? How are US relations with Belarus likely to evolve?*

This compilation is one in an occasional series highlighting the expertise of Kennan Institute scholars and staff.

EXPLORE THE ANALYSIS FROM OUR EXPERTS

Oksana Antonenko, Director, Global Risks Analysis, Control Risks Group; Global Fellow, Wilson Center



Volha Charnysh, Assistant Professor of Political Science, Massachusetts Institute of Technology



Nigel Gould-Davies, Editor, Strategic Survey and Senior Fellow, Russia and Eurasia, International Institute for Strategic Studies



Oleg Manaev, Founder, Independent Institute of Socio-Economic and Political Studies (IISEPS); Research Associate, University of Tennessee



Mykhailo Minakov, Senior Advisor; Editor-in-Chief, Focus Ukraine Blog, Kennan Institute



Katsiaryna Shmatsina, Fellow, Belarusian Institute for Strategic Studies (BISS); Rethink.CEE Fellow, German Marshall Fund



Regina Smyth, Professor of Political Science, Indiana University



Ambassador Kenneth Yalowitz, Global Fellow, Wilson Center



Igor Zevelev, Global Fellow, Kennan Institute



ABOUT THE AUTHORS

Oksana Antonenko

*Global Fellow;
Director, Global Risk
Analysis, Control Risks Group*

Volha Charnysh

*Former Kennan Research
Scholar;
Ph.D. Candidate, Department of
Government, Harvard University*

Nigel Gould-Davies

*Editor, Strategic Survey and
Senior Fellow, Russia and
Eurasia, International Institute
for Strategic Studies*

Oleg Manaev

*Founder, Independent Institute
of Socioeconomic and Political
Studies (Minsk-Vilnius); Visiting
Professor, Department of
Political Science, University of
Tennessee, Knoxville*

Mykhailo Minakov

*Senior Advisor; Editor-in-Chief,
Focus Ukraine Blog*

Katsiaryna Shmatsina

*Rethink.CEE fellow at the
German Marshall Fund of the
U.S.*

Regina Smyth

*Fellow;
Professor of Political Science,
Indiana University*

Hon. Kenneth S. Yalowitz

*Global Fellow, Kennan Institute
& Global Fellow, Polar Institute;
Former U.S. Ambassador to the
Republic of Belarus from 1994-
1997 and to Georgia from 1998-
2001; former Career Diplomat
and Member of the Senior
Foreign Service, U.S.
Department of State; former
Director of the Dickey Center
for International Understanding,
Dartmouth College*

Igor Zevelev

*Global Fellow;
Former Professor at George
Marshall European Center for
Security Studies; Former
Director, MacArthur
Foundation, Moscow Office*



KENNAN INSTITUTE

The Kennan Institute is the premier U.S. center for advanced research on Russia and Eurasia and the oldest and largest regional program at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars. The Kennan Institute is committed to improving American understanding of Russia, Ukraine, and the region through research and exchange. ***Read more***