

Belarus and the Russian Invasion in Ukraine

Wednesday, 20th of April, CEFRES (Webinar) / noon-2pm

In the early hours of the invasion of Ukraine, Russian troops advancing on Kyiv left Belarus. Russian aircraft used Belarusian military airfields and Russian missiles aimed at Ukraine were fired from Belarus. The constitutional referendum of February 27 allows Russian nuclear missiles to be deployed in Belarus. Belarus is thus a real rear base for Russian military forces in the north of Ukraine. What precise role does Belarus play in the war in Ukraine? How does the Lukashenko regime justify its role in the conflict that is ravaging its southern neighbor? How does Belarusian society perceive the conflict? How does this war affect Belarusians living outside the country, and in particular the exiles who fled the repression after the exceptional mobilization of 2020, finding refuge in Poland, Lithuania, but also in Ukraine? This webinar brings together Belarusian specialists who will bring various insights (sociology, political science, geopolitics) on these issues.

Belarus in the Ukrainian War: the end of a sovereign state?

In 2014, following the annexation of Crimea, Belarus sought to bolster its sovereignty by leaning toward Western states and distancing itself from Russia. The 2020 protests in Belarus and the repression that ensued led to Minsk's isolation and for Belarus to come ever closer to Moscow. In the current phase of the war in Ukraine, Belarus has turned into a launching pad for Russian forces with little sovereignty over military decisions. What does this loss of Belarusian sovereignty mean for the conflict and how can it affect European security going forward?

Milàn Czerny, Oxford Belarus Observatory

See no evil? Belarusian society's perception of the war in Ukraine

In the context marked at the same time by military aggression in which Belarusian authorities are implicated and climate of intense political repressions, fact-based analysis of Belarusian society's perception of the war is particularly difficult. The presentation will attempt to provide several suggestions for such an analysis based on three types of sources: opinion poll, protest activities and media coverage.

Yauheni Kryzhanouski, Sciences Po Strasbourg

How the lives of Belarusian exiles changed after the invasion

This presentation is an attempt to summarize existing measures taken against Belarusians and the negative implications they had on Belarusians in exile since the military aggression in Ukraine. We will also make an attempt to propose mitigation measures for balancing the interests of Belarusians with the existing peremptory position of some European Union countries.

Anna Taliaronak, Charles University