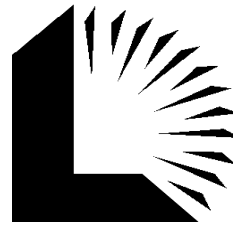


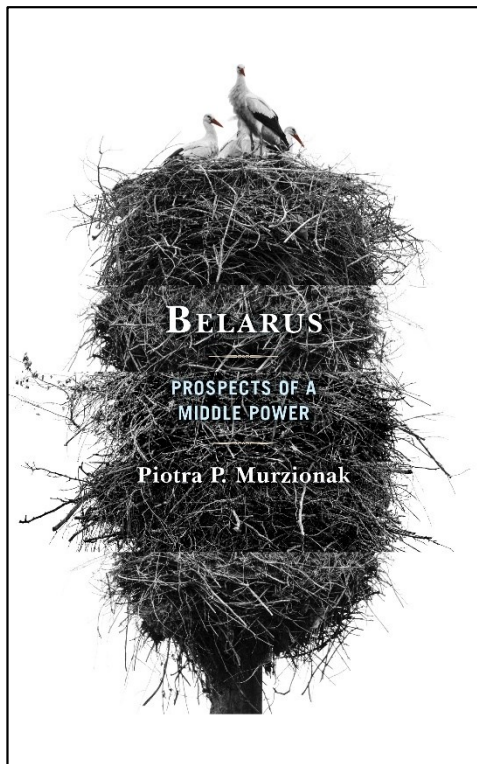
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BELARUS: PROSPECTS OF A MIDDLE POWER

By Piotra P. Murzionak



“Peter Murzionak has written a passionate history of his homeland, Belarus, a country of 9.5 million that has a long history, but only brief periods of cultural development and independence. In 2020, it made world headlines for the protests that followed a rigged election to extend the rule of a ruthless dictator. Dr. Murzionak believes in the future of his country and that all Belarusians, including those outside the country, must strive to attain this goal. His description of the election and its aftermath is grimly stark, but his belief in a democratic future persists. If non-Belarusians wonder what inspires the sacrifices made for this goal, one that thrives in spite of the arrests, tortures, detention, murder, and the hijacking of a plane simply to arrest an opposition leader, then this is the book for you. It is not a “traditional” narrative, it is one from the heart.”

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ABOUT THIS BOOK

Belarus, a middle-sized nation with more than a thousand years of history, is not well known beyond periodic media headlines. Modern scholarly and popular literature covers only fragments from Belarus’s long history and current geopolitical, social, and cultural issues. Belarusian history in this book differs in many aspects from history and myths created by Russian scholars and propagated worldwide. The author argues for the existence of a Western-Ruthenian (Belarusian-Ukrainian) civilization as a sub-civilization of Western civilization and thus different from Eurasian civilization. With original, detailed, and critical views on Belarusian history from the ninth century to the present, it explores the latest information about Belarusian society regarding mentality, identity, religion, current elites, the Revolution of Hope 2020. It then analyzes the future prospects of Belarus based on an assessment of modern trends in human societal and political development. It provides detailed analysis of current activities of Belarusian national and ruling elites and their ideologies vis-à-vis the building of a nation-state.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Piotra P. Murzionak is president of the Belarusian Institute of Arts and Sciences, Canada.

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