The Current Situation in Belarus:
Historical Perspectives and Recent Developments
Part of IERES’ Eurasian Leadership Series

with

Stanislav Shushkevich
Former President, Belarus

Belarus is frequently described as the last dictatorship in Europe thanks to the policies of its current leader, Alyaksandr Lukashenka. Belarus is also facing increasing pressure from the West and Russia and its future prospects are uncertain. Former President Stanislav Shushkevich will discuss the historical trajectory of the country since the collapse of the USSR. He will also provide insights into the current challenges it faces from his unique perspective as the former leader.

Stanislav Shushkevich began his career as a physicist in academics. He was deeply frustrated by the cover-up of Chernobyl in 1986 and won election to the USSR parliament in 1989, where he joined Boris Yeltsin and Andrei Sakharov in attempts to reform the Soviet Union. In 1990, Shushkevich won election to the Supreme Soviet of the BSSR. He condemned the coup in August 1991 and the Belrusan parliament elected him to the highest office in the country. In December 1991, he joined with the leaders of Russia and Ukraine in the Belovezha Forest to abolish the USSR and create the Commonwealth of Independent States. He lost a vote of confidence in January 1994. Today he is the chairman of the Central Rada of the Belarusian Social Democratic Party. His accomplishments include ridding Belarus of all strategic and tactical nuclear weapons.

Thursday, March 29, 2012
4:00-5:30 pm
Voesar Conference Room
1957 E Street NW, Suite 412
Please RSVP at http://tinyurl.com/ShushkevichGWU

This event is on the record

This event is co-sponsored by Professionals in European, Eurasian and Russian Studies (PEERS)