



“TALKING HEADS” ON STATE TELEVISION CHANNELS: WHO THEY ARE AND WHAT THEY ARE BROADCASTING

MONITORING OF ANTI-BELARUSIAN PROPAGANDA

Summary

This monitoring covers the weekly news programs Glavniy efir (Main Broadcast – Belarus Channel 1), Kontury (Contours – ONT), and Nedelya (The Week – STV) from August 16 to November 22, 2020. It serves as an analysis of commentary on political and socio-economic events in Belarus as well as of political events in other countries if those stories reference the situation in Belarus.

The review does not include commentary on current Belarusian officials and deputies or heads of state enterprises. At the same time, commentary is given by employees of state educational and research institutions as well as foreign politicians and officials if they evaluated events in Belarus. The review includes over 250 recordings, of which 98 are taken from Glavniy efir, 71 from Kontury, and 88 from Nedelya.

In most cases, commentary was exclusive and given either live or online. In rare cases, television channels used excerpts from programs aired previously (including those from foreign television channels) or read or posted excerpts from earlier statements.

Essentially, there were no alternative opinions that were at variance with the official interpretation of events aired on these television programs. A very particular selection of external commentators (with Belarusian representatives in the minority) ensured regular promotion of anti-Western, anti-Ukrainian, and anti-Belarusian propaganda messages and disinformation.

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Editions of the program Glavniy efir: main conclusions

- **Dominance of Russian and Ukrainian propagandists and public figures (66 comments out of 98).**

During the period under review, less than a quarter of the comments were made by Belarusians. Most of the “expert” quotes and comments belonged to Russians and Ukrainians who interpreted the Belarusian events in their own way in full accordance with the main pro-Kremlin [propaganda narratives in Belarus](#).

Noted are the rather frequent use (10 recordings) of statements and quotes by Russian diplomats, state and military leaders (Dmitry Mezentsev, Sergey Lavrov, Sergey Naryshkin, Valentina Matvienko, Oleg Morozov), and former and current Ukrainian politicians (Petr Simonenko, Mikhail Dobkin, Mykola Azarov, Renat Kuzmin).

Well-known pro-Kremlin propagandists and radio and television presenters (Vladimir Solovyov, Vladimir Kornilov, Sergey Mikheev, Roman Babayan, Armen Gasparyan, Alexander Sosnovsky, Dmitry Kulikov, Andrey Kondrashov, etc.) are widely represented. Most of these individuals did not appear on Glavniy efir until August 2020.

The main categories of Ukrainian citizens who served as commentators on socio-political topics, aside from political figures, were employees of the Institute of Ukrainian Politics (Ruslan Bortnik, Ruslan Bizyaev) and Ukrainian media specialists and bloggers associated with pro-Russian media (Svetlana Kryukova, Olesya Medvedeva, Yuri Tkachev, Dmitry Vasilets).

- **Frequent use of cultural figures (music composers, writers, etc.) and pro-Russian politicians from other countries.**

Commentators from countries outside Belarus, Russia, and Ukraine on Belarus Channel 1 were marginal pro-Russian politicians in foreign countries (Ivo Hristov from Bulgaria, Mateusz Piskorski from Poland, Einārs Graudiņš and Roman Pankratov from Latvia), cultural figures (Ukrainian music composer Viktoriya Kohana, Serbian actress Ivana Žigon, writer Lev Vershinin), pro-Kremlin Western journalists and bloggers (Gábor Stir, Thomas Reper, Robert Stein). Most of these individuals did not appear on television programs until August 2020.

- **Belarusian commentators are employees of state institutions or pro-government organizations.**

Belarusian citizens introduced on air as commentators on political events were employees of state research institutions (Alexey Avdonin, Vitaly Demirov, Andrey Chernobay, Valery Prozorov), state functionaries in the media sphere (Dmitry Zhuk, Vladimir Pertsov, Marat Markov), representatives of pro-government organizations and associations (Yuri Voskresensky, Vadim Borovik, Gennady Davydko), political writers, and frequent guests of pro-Kremlin media (Andrei Ivanov, Alexey Dzermant, Dmitry Belyakov, etc.).

- **Recurring pro-Kremlin propaganda narratives because of a particular selection of speakers.**

All “expert” commentary supported official messages and promoted many of the most frequently encountered conspiracy theories and pro-Kremlin propaganda narratives. The most frequent of these concerned aggression of Western states against Belarus; the vassal status of Lithuania and Poland and their socio-economic degradation; the destructive and puppet status of Belarusian leaders of movements for fair elections; and Russia’s western attack through Belarus. As part of the conspiracy theories about “color revolutions,” commentators most often referred to a “Ukrainian scenario,” but comparisons with the Yugoslav, Venezuelan, and Polish scenarios of the 1980s were also employed.

Editions of the program Kontury: main conclusions

- **Most of the “talking heads” are foreigners (53 comments out of 71), largely Russians and Ukrainians. Less often they are well-known pro-Kremlin media specialists and pro-Russian politicians from the Baltic countries and Poland.**

As in the case with the program Glavniy efir on Belarus Channel 1, less than a quarter of the comments were made by Belarusians (18 out of 71). That is, it was mostly foreign citizens interpreting Belarusian events. In almost all television programs during the period under review (12 out of 15), most people introduced as external experts were foreigners. In many shows during this period, “expert” comments were provided exclusively by foreign citizens.

At times this took on particularly absurd forms. In a story about the protests by Belarusian doctors on August 23, 2020, all three comments were provided by

Russian medical workers and Russian MPs who indicated what should and cannot be done by Belarusian medical specialists.

Commentators from Belarus's neighboring countries outside Russia and Ukraine included the marginal pro-Russian Polish politician Mateusz Piskorski, editor-in-chief of Sputnik Lithuania Marat Kasem, and pro-Russian Latvian politician and MEP Tatiana Zhdanok.

- **Dominance of Russian and Ukrainian propagandists and public figures (44 comments out of 71).**

Most of the Russians and Ukrainians commenting on political events in Belarus either were not featured on the channel's news programs at all or appeared on air rarely until August 2020.

Many of them are well-known pro-Kremlin propagandists who have commented on events in Russia, Ukraine, and other post-Soviet countries (and not only) for many years. Following the elections on August 9, 2020 in Belarus, they immediately requalified as "experts" on Belarus without any expertise.

These included Armen Gasparyan, Alexander Sosnovsky, Vladimir Solovyov, Alexander Malkevich, Vladimir Kornilov, and other frequent participants on or hosts of their own Russian political shows.

- **Regular involvement of commentators who are associated with systematic anti-Belarusian propaganda activities.**

Among these are the Russian politician Sergey Baburin, the Russian public figure Stanislav Byshok, and the Belarusian public figure Sergey Lushch. These individuals are associated with the Belarusian [regional network of propaganda and disinformation sites](#). During this period, editors of other pro-Kremlin resources that regularly post disinformation and propaganda on Belarus – Marat Kasem (Sputnik Lithuania), Semyon Uralov (Sonar-2050) – also acted as specialists on the program Kontury.

- **Almost all people of Belarusian origin who acted as commentators on events are political writers or regular guests of pro-Kremlin propaganda resources that systematically disseminate anti-Belarusian, anti-Ukrainian, and anti-Western propaganda.**

Among these are Dmitry Belyakov, Alexey Avdonin, Alexey Dzermant, and Yuri Voskresensky. In the period under review only one brief commentary on Kontury was not complimentary towards the Belarusian authorities and its author is not grouped with those speaking on pro-Kremlin resources (comment by Grigory

Kostusev on violations of the Belarusian constitution). At times, the television shows did not air the names and positions of Belarusian functionaries, likely to create the appearance of a comment coming from a “common citizen.”¹

- **As a result of the particular selection of commentators, their reporting contained recurring pro-Kremlin propaganda and conspiracy.**

They broadcast classic propaganda messages about hostile Western countries (and the West in general) who want to destabilize Belarus and launch a “color revolution,” about the puppet status of all participants and leaders of the Belarusian movement for fair elections, the non-sovereign status of European states, socio-economic degradation in the Baltic countries and Poland, among others.

Editions of the program Nedelya: main conclusions

- **Frequent use of Russian propagandists and political and public figures (over 20 comments).**

Belarusian commentators provided almost a half of comments which is approximately twice that of Glavniy efir and Kontury for the period under review. Most of the remaining comments were given by Russian and Ukrainian speakers. At the same time Nedelya turned to Ukrainian speakers far less often than Glavniy Efir – pro-Kremlin Ukrainian journalists and bloggers (Olesya Medvedeva, Anton Savichev), political writers (Ruslan Bortnik, Alexey Yakubin, Sergey Shabovta), and politicians (Petr Simonenko, Natalia Korolevskaya).

As in the case of Belarus Channel 1 and ONT programs, many speakers were either not present until August 2020, or rarely appeared. Several well-known Russian propagandists (Vladimir Solovyov, Margarita Simonyan, Sergey Mikheev), politicians (Gennady Zyuganov, Leonid Kalashnikov), and frequent commentators for pro-Kremlin media (Elena Ponomareva, Nikolai Mezhevich) served as experts and commentators on the Belarusian events.

- **Episodic western countries’ citizens (around 10 recordings) disseminating messages of the Belarusian authorities.**

They were either marginal foreign pro-Russian politicians (Artūrs Rubiks from Latvia, Mateusz Piskorski from Poland, Albert Santin from Spain), foreign businessmen with connections to Belarus (Andreas Miller), or well-known pro-

¹ For example, the Kontury program from August 16, 2020 featured commentary from Yegor Makarevich, chairman of the Youth Parliament at the National Assembly of Belarus, as if he were an ordinary participant at a pro-government rally..

Kremlin propagandists (Yakov Kedmi). In rare cases they were private individuals whose surnames and affiliations were not announced.

A statement by a representative of the Social Democratic Party of Austria, David Stockinger, regarding the manipulative nature of Telegram channels drew sharp [public criticism](#) from the party.

- **Two basic categories of Belarusian commentators.**

Belarusian commentators were mainly representatives of pro-government organizations (head of the Belarusian Republican Youth Union Mikhail Degtyarenko, first secretary of the Belarusian Republican Youth Union Dmitry Voronyuk, deputy head of the Federation of Trade Unions of Belarus Elena Mankevich, head of EcooM Sergey Musienko, etc.) and employees of state educational and research institutions (Alexander Mushta, Nikolai Shchekin, Alexey Dzermant, Alexander Ivanovsky, Vasily Gursky, Vadim Gigin, etc.).

Often, STV did not specify the affiliation of commentators. For example, the head of the Belarusian Republican Youth Union (BRYU), Mikhail Degtyarenko, was frequently introduced as “a student in the philological department at Belarusian State University,” and the head of EcooM Sergey Musienko, head of the sociology department of the National Academy of Sciences Nikolai Shchekin, employee of the Academy of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Belarus Alexander Ivanovsky were identified as “political scientists.”

- **A collection of recurring propaganda messages regarding Western countries, Ukraine, and Belarus.**

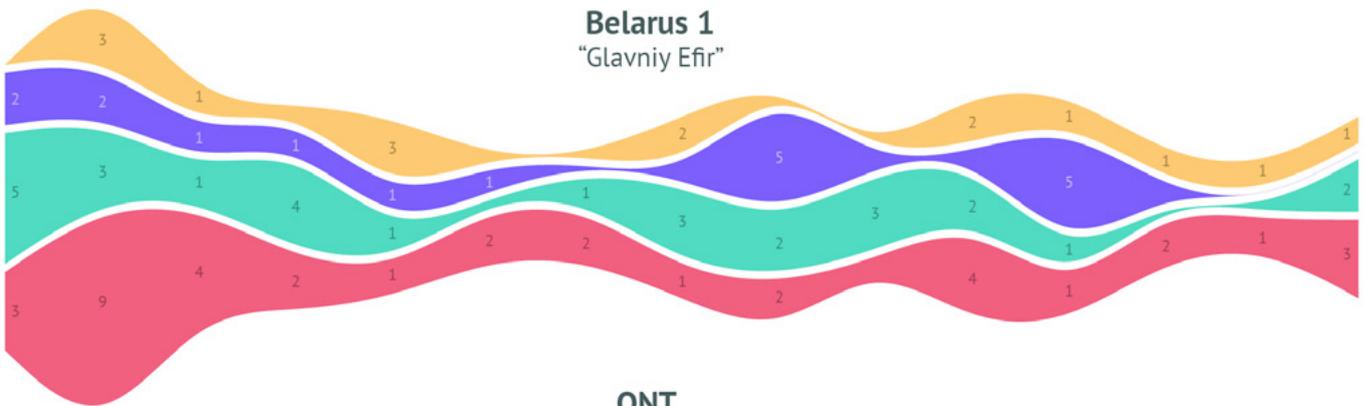
The specific set of commentators predetermines the propagandistic and manipulative nature of their statements. The most frequent propaganda messages were statements about the mass protests being Western provocations and techniques of “color revolutions”; the puppet status of leaders and participants in the movement for fair elections; the absence of Ukraine’s sovereignty and its total socio-economic degradation, authoritarianism, and the absence of fair elections; the aloofness of ruling elites from Western countries; and an alliance with Russia as the only possible option for Belarus’s successful development.

Nationality of commentators

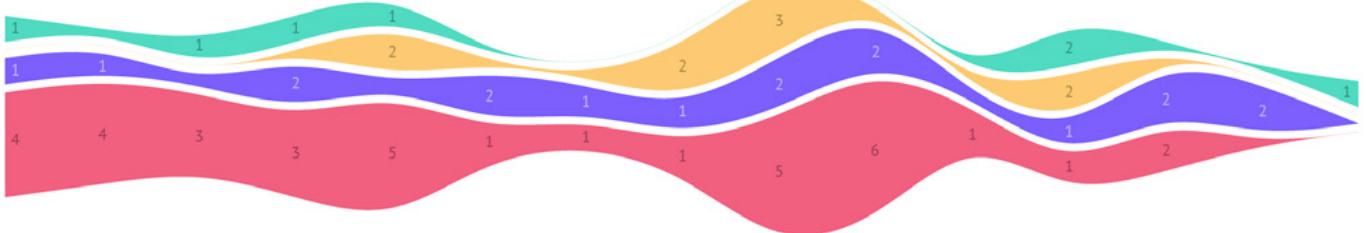
Nationality of commentators



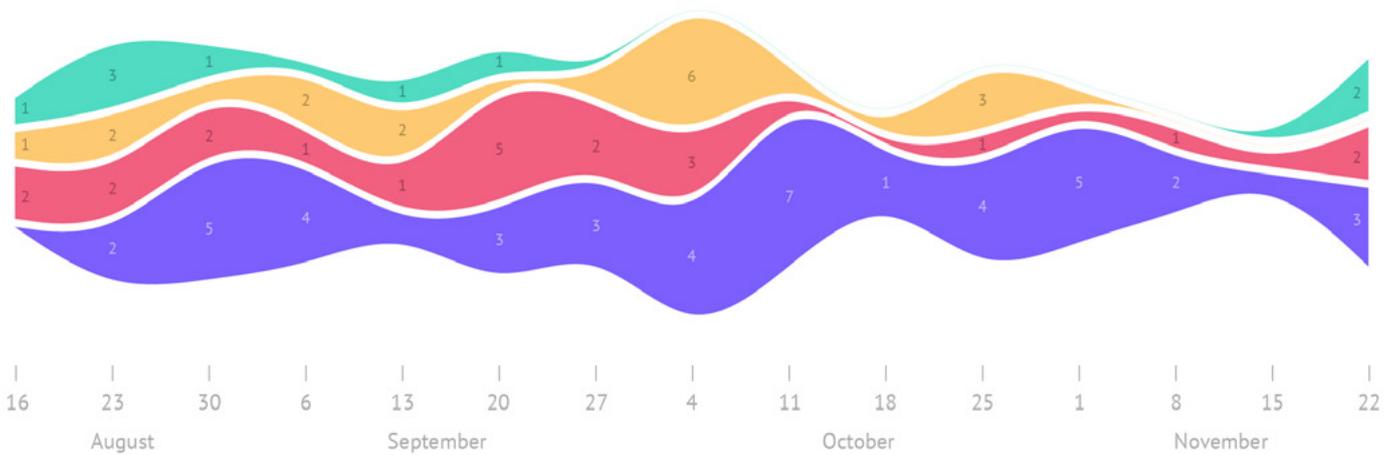
Belarus 1
"Glavniy Efir"



ONT
"Kontury"



STV
"Nedelya"



Belarus Channel 1, editions of the news program *Glavniy efir*

Glavniy efir, August 16, 2020

Name, affiliation (as represented by the channel)	Summary of commentator's argument	Category
Viktoriya Kokhana , composer (Ukraine)	Everyone is jealous of Belarusians. Peace and tranquility flourish in the country. Belarusians should appreciate and cherish this. There is nothing better than Belarus.	Ukrainian music composer
Vladimir Solovyov , journalist, television presenter (Russia)	Belarusians should not allow their country to be stolen, should not follow a path towards civil war, and should not listen to Western propagandists and the media who live on American money. They should not fall into Russophobia.	Russian propagandist, talk-show host for <i>Evening with Vladimir Solovyov</i>
Oleg Morozov , member of the Federation Council Committee on International Affairs of Russia, professor at the Russian Economic University	Outside forces, according to Sharp's method, work to demolish power. The elections have nothing to do with it. They want to destroy the economy, implement a Ukrainian scenario, and deprive Belarus of its sovereignty.	Russian MP
Vladimir Kornilov , political scientist	Poland is looking forward to the moment when it will be possible to wrest Belarus from Russian influence. This is analogous to Maidan with the events in Georgia (2003) and Ukraine (2004). One must learn from the mistakes of others.	Russian propagandist of Ukrainian heritage, independent guest of pro-Kremlin media. Columnist for the International Information Agency <i>Russia Today</i> .
Svetlana Kryukova , journalist (Ukraine)	An entire flight from Kyiv to Minsk was packed with Ukrainians who were traveling to work at the rally. I understood this from the passengers' conversations among themselves.	Ukrainian journalist, deputy chief editor of the pro-Russian media outlet Strana.ua
Yuri Voskresenskiy , Member of the civic initiative of Viktor Babariko (in the program introduced as an organizer of protests in the Uruche region of Minsk)	The Moscow political scientists Dmitriy Bolkunets and Andrey Suzdaltsev worked through Facebook to destabilize the political situation in Belarus on the eve of elections. They gave a bribe of 30K rubles for the support of democracy.	Pro-government activist, frequent guest of propaganda programs of Belarusian government media

Vadim Borovik , political scientist	The most important thing is peace in the country. Actions that can lead to material damage and damage to the lives of citizens are unacceptable.	Belarusian propagandist, chairman of the Supervisory Board of the Belarusian Committee of Youth Organizations
Yuri Tkachev , Chief editor of the publication <i>Timer</i> (Ukraine)	In politics, it is possible to come to an agreement on the street, but this will not lead to a resolution of the crisis. A Maidan is possible in Belarus – it is a matter of technology and how people are led by it. After the Maidan, Ukraine was worse off. After the change of power, a crisis in Belarus is inevitable.	Ukrainian propagandist, regular commentator for pro-Kremlin media, including Ukraina.ru
Lev Vershinin , writer, political writer, political consultant (Spain)	There is discontent in Belarus, but a minority voted against Lukashenko (young people and those who wanted to be wealthier). Human values are empty, and the opposition candidates' platforms were about nothing. Babariko was "spinning complete nonsense." Tikhonovskaya wanted to destroy the health care system. Tsepikalo had no program at all. They were counting on the overthrow of the government, as in Ukraine.	Pro-Kremlin writer who lived earlier in Israel and Ukraine

Glavniy efir, August 23, 2020

Name, affiliation (as represented by the channel)	Summary of commentator's argument	Category
Alexei Avdonin , analyst, Belarusian Institute for Strategic Research	NATO is building up its strength to capture part of Belarus. This is a violation of international law and the sovereignty of Belarus. Now all the main players will try to balance this situation and transfer it to a diplomatic channel.	Belarusian propagandist, independent guest for pro-Kremlin media
Sergey Mikheev , political scientist (Russia)	In Belarus, we have a classic scenario of a "color revolution" with external support. The goal is to involve Belarus in the NATO zone of influence. What will happen to the economy and so on does not concern those orchestrating this. Strikes are suicide.	Well-known pro-Kremlin propagandist, television and radio presenter

Petr Symonenko , First Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Ukraine	The driving force behind the Belarusian protests is hidden capital and nationalists who write in underground street passages that the communists should be hanged and are trying to seize administrative buildings. In Belarus, like in Ukraine, there is paid patriotism. They sell their homeland, the graves of their fathers and grandfathers, their history, culture, and faith.	Ukrainian politician, head of the Ukrainian Communist Party
Roman Babayan , Chief editor of the radio station <i>Moscow Speaking</i> (Russia)	The Belarusian actions are a copy of the Yugoslav events during the Milosevic era. There will be no Milosevic, but Yugoslavia itself is disappearing.	Well-known pro-Kremlin propagandist and television presenter, host of the political talk show <i>My Own Truth</i> on the TV Center channel
Andrey Ivanov , politi- cian, civic activist	The protests are following the Venezuelan scenario with all kinds of provocations possible.	Pro-Kremlin Belaru- sian activist, head of the initiative group of the <i>Fatherland</i> political party
Igor Korotchenko , journalist, Chief editor of the magazine <i>National Defense</i> (Russia)	Everything is happening according to the Polish scenario of the '80s with an attempt to involve labor collectives. Warsaw's interest is in undermining the internal political situation in Belarus by initiating mass protests at factories. It is not Tikhanovskaya who is speaking to Belarus, but the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Lithuania. "Tikhanovskaya is just putty in skillful Lithuanian hands."	Well-known Russian propagandist, appear- ing often in pro-Kremlin media as a military expert
Mikhail Dobkin , for- mer MP for the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine	At the flick of a switch once prosperous states turn into hotbeds of revolution and lawlessness and a life of safety becomes impossible.	Ukrainian politician
David Kainrath , political scientist (Aus- tria)	In the German-language media, all events are presented as one-sided. They do not sympathize with the Belarusian authorities. Either nothing or it is all bad. The problem of Belarus is in its location in a geopolitical hot spot. NATO and Russia have their own interests in Belarus.	Austrian citizen, mem- ber of an alternative observation group on the Russian vote on amendments to the 2020 Constitution
Ivo Hristov , Bulgarian MP	The events that took place in Belarus are not a campaign against Lukashenko but attempts to split Belarus from Russia and create a <i>cordon sanitaire</i> from the Baltic to the Black Sea. In modern Belarus, the standard of living and social guarantees is higher than in Russia or the Baltic countries. If the social welfare program is abandoned, the country will face either a dying out of its population (Baltic states) or its outflow to other states (Ukraine).	Pro-Russian Bulgarian politician

<p>Konstantin Bondarenko, political scientist, head of the foundation <i>Ukrainian Politics</i></p>	<p>When there is discord in a society, “well-wishers” appear who turn people against one another, supporting one side for the principle of “divide and rule.” Belarus is the only remaining social state in Europe. If it moves away from this policy, it will face shocking consequences.</p>	<p>Ukrainian political writer, independent commentator for pro-Kremlin media, including Sputnik Belarus</p>
<p>Vladimir Mamontov, Soviet and Russian journalist, general director of the radio station <i>Moscow Speaking</i></p>	<p>Tikhanovskaya is either an actress or knows nothing. She has an anti-Russian platform.</p>	<p>Russian propagandist, independent commentator for pro-Kremlin media, including Sputnik Belarus. Co-chairman of the <i>Druz'ya-Syabry</i> (trans. note – <i>Friends</i> in RUS and BEL) society</p>
<p>Sergey Lavrov, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Russia</p>	<p>With the assistance of Belarus, external forces want to master the geopolitical space. One must not follow their lead.</p>	<p>High-ranking Russian bureaucrat</p>
<p>Alexey Gromyko, Director of the Institute of Europe of the Russian Academy of Sciences, PhD in political science</p>	<p>It is staggering how external forces interfere in the internal affairs of Belarus. Lithuania and Poland are playing a hypocritical game. The radicals could take over, and this will lead to collapse. There is no command in the EAEU. If Belarus joins the EU, nothing will be left of industry and their role in the international arena will diminish.</p>	<p>Russian political scientist, frequent commentator for pro-Kremlin media</p>
<p>Vladimir Kornilov, Ukrainian and Russian political scientist, journalist</p>	<p>Bernard-Henri Levy is a well-known proponent of all Maidans and riots where a pro-Western coup takes place. He is a harbinger of blood and war. European leaders urge people not to interfere in the affairs of Belarus, but they themselves allocate millions to support the Belarusian opposition. Instructions on how to break paddy wagons and resist the police. The brutality of the riot police is justified and in the EU the police are more brutal. All Donbas residents would have drowned the Maidan in blood if they knew what would happen next.</p>	<p>Russian propagandist of Ukrainian heritage, independent guest for pro-Kremlin media. Columnist for MIA <i>Russia Today</i>.</p>
<p>Pyotr Svoik, economist (Kazakhstan)</p>	<p>Businesses with foreign investors are not going on strike. They understand that nothing will come of it. The prospects of Belarus lie in a new Constitution, as Lukashenko discussed.</p>	<p>Pro-Russian Kazakh political figure</p>
<p>Nikolay Mezhevich, Head of the Center for Belarusian Studies of the Institute of Europe at the Russian Academy of Sciences</p>	<p>Any strikes would result in a drop in the country's GDP. By harming the state, the strikers harm themselves.</p>	<p>Russian propagandist, frequent commentator for pro-Kremlin media</p>

<p>Alexander Perendzhiev, military political scientist, associate professor of the department of political science and sociology, Plekhanov Russian University of Economics</p>	<p>Minsk is a reliable negotiating platform for other countries (Ukraine, Nagorno-Karabakh, etc.). Its disappearance will be a blow to stability for the entire post-Soviet space and even for the whole of Eurasia.</p>	<p>Russian military analyst</p>
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Glavniy efir, August 30, 2020

Name, affiliation (as represented by the channel)	Summary of commentator's argument	Category
<p>Semyon Bagdasarov and Sergey Karnaukhov (neither one introduced)</p>	<p>The center of destabilization of the political situation in Belarus is in many European defense ministries, where information war units have been working for a long time. They are working on information and psychological influence on Belarusians, which under current conditions is more effective than the use of weapons.</p>	<p>Russian propagandists, frequent participants in political shows on Russian television channels</p>
<p>Maksim Borodenko, researcher, Institute of Economics at the Russian Academy of Sciences</p>	<p>Warsaw and Vilnius are the conductors of American interests in Europe. The U.S. opposes the restoration of dialogue between Russia and the countries of old Europe. Poland seeks to include Belarus in its sphere of influence, to use the country as a source of natural and labor resources.</p>	<p>Russian specialist, columnist for <i>Eurasia. Expert</i></p>
<p>Petr Petrovskiy, political analyst</p>	<p>The social group of protest is narrow. Class interest is visible and aimed at rejection of social solidarity.</p>	<p>Belarusian propagandist, frequent commentator for Belarusian government and pro-Kremlin media</p>
<p>Mykola Azarov, Former Prime Minister of Ukraine</p>	<p>We must appreciate what we have, not listen to Polish and Lithuanian fairy tales. Poland and Lithuania want to see Belarus weakened and collapsed like Ukraine.</p>	<p>Former Ukrainian bureaucrat, currently residing in Russia</p>
<p>Alexander Malkevich (not introduced)</p>	<p>The work of foreign agents (Nexta, Radio Liberty, Voice of America, Present Tense) is aimed at distorting real information. Nexta's editorial staff consists of dozens of people.</p>	<p>Russian propagandist, editor of the "USA Really" website</p>

<p>Ivana Žigon, Head of the ensemble <i>Kosovskie Peonies</i>, People's Actress of Serbia</p>	<p>In Belarus there is order and everyday life. You yourself are breaking your dam. Yugoslavia stood under Western bombs and pursued a "color revolution." We lost land, factories – everything was sold, and our glorious army was destroyed. The forces followed the spread of their armies and bases.</p>	<p>Serbian actress</p>
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Glavniy efir, September 6, 2020

Name, affiliation (as represented by the channel)	Summary of commentator's argument	Category
<p>Armen Gasparyan, journalist, historian, writer (Russia)</p>	<p>Russia and Belarus have brotherly relations. Lukashenko needs to regain the confidence of young people. Outside forces planned a means of "perfect assault," a Ukrainian scenario. They want to turn Belarus into a hotbed of instability and make it a pawn in someone else's game.</p>	<p>Well-known Russian propagandist, frequent guest of pro-Kremlin media</p>
<p>Olesiya Medvedeva, journalist (Ukraine)</p>	<p>The strike has come to naught as has the blocking of roads. Arkady Babchenko expected more active and radical actions from the Belarusians so that later they could come "on tanks from Belarus to Moscow."</p>	<p>Ukrainian journalist, host of the video blog <i>Clearly Understandable</i> on the pro-Russian media Strana.ua</p>
<p>Alexander Sosnovskiy, political scientist, chief editor of the web edition of World Economy (Germany)</p>	<p>The call of the opposition to sabotage the country from within should be regarded as violence against the state and society. Behind it, aggressive actions begin. This cannot be tolerated. This is sabotage and a vile initiative.</p> <p>Slogans about refusing to buy state goods in Belarus come from National Socialist Germany in the 1930s, when the National Socialists urged Germans not to buy Jewish goods.</p>	<p>Well-known pro-Kremlin propagandist, frequent guest of pro-Kremlin media</p>
<p>Yuri Podolyaka, blogger</p>	<p>Nexta is trying to destroy the education system and the economy in the interests of the Poles, who need Belarusians as "disenfranchised stupid cattle who will work on their plantations."</p>	<p>Pro-Kremlin columnist of Ukrainian heritage</p>
<p>Elena Dyachenko, political expert (Ukraine)</p>	<p>It is unprofitable for large countries to have strong states here. More convenient is the scorched earth and the gray zone, which can be used as a place of confrontation between the West and Russia.</p>	<p>Pro-Kremlin Ukrainian political commentator</p>

Yuri Atamanyuk , Major General of the tax police of Ukraine, economic expert	Other countries need only raw materials from Belarus, but not Belarusian goods. They can build only harmful industries in country, but not an auto industry.	Ukrainian public figure, frequent guest of pro-Russian television channels
Valery Prozorov , military expert, PhD in military science	The confrontation between Russia and the West today surpasses even the period of the Cold War. Internal and external forces are interested in the Syrian-Ukrainian scenario in Belarus. "We are at the stage of the formation of destructive forces, the stage of a hybrid war. The next stage is the preparation and implementation of a coup d'état." In the world, a center of influence has been created in the figure of the U.S. and the developed countries of Western Europe with the leadership of the center controlling the periphery. This is opposed by the SCO and BRIC countries.	Employee of the Research Institute of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Belarus

Glavniy efir, September 13, 2020

Name, affiliation (as represented by the channel)	Summary of commentator's argument	Category
Dmitriy Kulikov , political scientist, political writer, political consultant (Russia)	Polish and Baltic detachments of fighters trained in Donbas and the scenario of the "color revolution" in Belarus was supposed to be the same as in Ukraine. However, the blitzkrieg strategy failed. There are no Polish, Lithuanian, German, and British special services. There are national branches of the U.S. intelligence services. They cannot do anything on their own initiative. The Belarusian events did not affect processes in Russia, but they were reflected in the minds of Russians. This is the front of the attack on Russia.	Well-known Russian propagandist, television and radio presenter
Mykola Azarov , Former Prime Minister of Ukraine	Over the past 6.5 years, all large businesses in Ukraine have closed.	Former Ukrainian bureaucrat, residing now in Russia
Andis Kudors , political scientist	Until 1991, 70% of Latvian production worked for the military-industrial complex. After the collapse of the Soviet Union, these businesses were no longer needed.	Latvian political scientist

Yakub Koreyba , political scientist (Poland)	The division of Belarus is absurd from the point of view of the interests of Poland. Belarus is needed whole.	Polish citizen, frequent commentator for pro-Kremlin media and participant in political shows on Russian television channels
Alena Dziodzina , Master in Psychological Counseling	Repeated phrases (by Maria Kolesnikova) are highly psychologically charged. She can involve listeners in a state of light trance and uses manipulation to influence consciousness.	Latvian psychology commentator
Vitaly Demirov , analyst at the Belarusian Institute for Strategic Studies	Methods of manipulating consciousness are in demand today. For “color revolutions” they have been preparing a “conspiracy net of cells” for years, where people are trained to know how to work with a crowd, or they take ready-made templates.	Employee of a pro-government analytical center

Glavniy efir, September 20, 2020

Name, affiliation (as represented by the channel)	Summary of commentator’s argument	Category
Grigoriy Rapota , Secretary of State of the Union State of Belarus and Russia	The union state is useful to people. Everyone is already used to it and no longer greatly appreciates it. Now we are working on optimizing roadmaps. The issue of the tax scheme has not yet been resolved, but mutual understanding on how to move on has been achieved.	Former senior Union State official
Andrey Chernobay , analyst at the Belarusian Institute for Strategic Studies	There is no direct military threat to Belarus yet, but there are challenges that need to be addressed, since the situation could change at any moment.	Employee of a pro-government analytical center
Vladislav Shurygin , Izborsk club member, military political writer (Russia)	We see attempts by the West to interfere in the affairs of our country at various levels. Therefore, the principle of “keep your gunpowder dry” must be maintained.	Russian military political writer

Glavniy efir, September 27, 2020

Name, affiliation (as represented by the channel)	Summary of commentator's argument	Category
Dmitry Mezentsev , Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Russia to Belarus	The 6th Forum of the Regions of Belarus and Russia will work on rapprochement of the two countries in terms of legislation and at the regional level. It is important to feel a single fatherland from Brest to Sakhalin.	Russian diplomat, former Russian ambassador in Belarus
Ruslan Bizyaev , analyst at the Ukrainian Institute of Politics	The West sees Belarus as an object, not a subject. The current position of the EU is improper. Apart from visa-free travel, the West has nothing to offer Belarus. The economic miracle of Poland is only thanks to EU assistance; in its absence it would fall to the level of Belarus, Ukraine, and the Baltic countries.	Ukrainian political writer, commentator for pro-Kremlin media
Armen Gasparyan , journalist, historian, writer (Russia)	Western sanctions do not affect anything. Russia will never leave Belarus, and vice versa.	Well-known Russian propagandist, frequent guest of pro-Kremlin media

Glavniy efir, October 4, 2020

Name, affiliation (as represented by the channel)	Summary of commentator's argument	Category
Valentina Matvienko , Chairperson of the Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of Russia	Russian-Belarusian relations have such a solid foundation that no one will be able to destroy it.	Russian government figure
Arthur Krizhanovsky , Member of the <i>Russian Speaking Klaipeda</i> committee, Lithuania	The Lithuanian authorities did not ask the people when they gave Tikhanovskaya asylum. All expenses, most likely, came from the state budget. Who will cover the losses from the ruined relations with Belarus and reimburse Klaipeda and its port for lost profits?	Writer living in Lithuania
Einārs Graudiņš , political scientist, Latvia	Everything will subside soon in Belarus. The events on the streets were paid for by the West. Having destroyed the statehood of Belarus, the West hoped to strike a blow at the geopolitical interests of Russia. In economic terms, Belarus is a prosperous state and is limitless in terms of the potential for theft.	Latvian pro-Russian public figure

Dmitry Vasilets , journalist, community activist (Ukraine)	Sanctions against Belarus are counterproductive. Sanctions against Russia, however, have improved its economy, which is the same as it will be with Belarus. Judging by Ukraine, the EU's economic aid has become more destructive than the sanctions applied to Russia. There will be no technology crisis in Belarus. Everything is compensated by China and Russia.	Ukrainian journalist who was previously accused of assisting in the technical setup of the YouTube channel <i>Novorossiia TV</i>
Dmitry Dzhangirov , Political consultant and political analyst (Ukraine)	By closing military transit, most likely under the influence of the West, Georgia deprives Armenia and Azerbaijan of receiving military supplies from their main allies – Russia and Turkey.	Ukrainian political commentator
Ilya Kusa , Expert, Institute for the Future (Ukraine)	Turkey will not enter the war. It will not apply to NATO and none of the participating countries will want to intervene in this conflict.	Ukrainian political writer

Glavniy efir, October 11, 2020

Name, affiliation (as represented by the channel)	Summary of commentator's argument	Category
Petr Petrovskiy , political scientist	Everywhere, including in Bishkek, the same scheme for a coup d'état is being worked out under the veiled pretext of electoral fraud.	Belarusian propagandist, frequent commentator for Belarusian government and pro-Kremlin media
Alexey Dzermant , political scientist	You cannot succumb to the dictates of the street. The laws of the crowd operate there. As soon as you go over to their side, you lose the respect of your supporters.	Belarusian propagandist, frequent commentator for Belarusian government and pro-Kremlin media. Editor of Imhoclub.by
Kurmanbek Bakiev , President of Kyrgyzstan (2005-2010)	For 10 years I have felt free and safe in Belarus. Today's unrest in Kyrgyzstan will set the country back decades. External factors have had a strong influence on Belarus. In Kyrgyzstan there is unstable leadership and the economy has been crippled by the pandemic. For a parliamentary form of government, it is necessary to mature. It takes decades. The Belarusian special services knew everything in advance and were prepared for everything.	Former president of Kyrgyzstan who was granted asylum in Belarus

Vadim Gigin , Dean of the Faculty of Philosophy and Social Sciences, BSU	Lukashenko's visit is an extraordinary step. But it is not a weakness – it is the logic of the future. He thus took the initiative to open dialogue.	Belarusian political writer, regular participant in Belarusian propaganda television programs
Gennady Davydko , Chairman of the RPO <i>Belaya Rus</i>	The protest part of the population does not expect reforms. It lives in emotions and does not want to talk about it meaningfully.	Belarusian propagandist
Yuri Voskresensky , political scientist, joint staff coordinator	The authorities are ready for dialogue. The conversation with Lukashenko was very constructive. I have been instructed to prepare proposals for amending the constitution and ideas for the release of several people who are not as socially dangerous for the country as they seemed at the first stage. Lukashenko is a strong man, ready to take a blow. He does not need PR. This meeting is needed by the prisoners themselves.	Pro-government activist, frequent guest of propagandist programs in Belarusian government media
Alexey Mukhin , General Director of the Center for Political Information (Russia)	The conflicts in Belarus, Kyrgyzstan, and Nagorno-Karabakh did not arise by chance. America needs to divert the world's attention from its problems. It ignites where it can ignite. But neither the U.S., nor the UK, nor the EU have complete dominance in world politics.	Russian propagandist, frequent guest of pro-Kremlin media
Igor Korotchenko , Editor-in-chief of the magazine <i>National Defense</i> , military expert (Russia)	The name of the current president of Belarus could have been any. All the same, an active game of the West would still have arisen. "Tikhanovskaya is a doll in a bargaining game." The opposition would not have been able to take power by legal means, which is why it tried to overthrow power through a color revolution.	Well-known Russian propagandist, frequently appearing in pro-Kremlin media as a military expert
Yuri Podolyaka , political columnist (Ukraine)	Today Kyrgyzstan is the leader in Maidans. It has had 3 victorious Maidans, Ukraine has had two, and Belarus and Russia have none. Life in the countries where the Maidans have won has become much worse.	Pro-Kremlin columnist of Ukrainian heritage
Mikhail Dobkin , former deputy of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine	Maidan is technology, evil, and sorrow. For Ukraine, it has been a terrible disaster.	Ukrainian politician

Glavniy efir, October 18, 2020

Name, affiliation (as represented by the channel)	Summary of commentator's argument	Category
<p>Renat Kuzmin, Deputy of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine</p>	<p>Ukraine's national security strategy foresees that the country's territory could be a battlefield, serving as a training ground for military clashes between Russia and NATO countries.</p>	<p>Ukrainian MP from the pro-Russian party <i>Opposition platform – For Life</i></p>
<p>Ruslan Bizyaev, political scientist (Ukraine)</p>	<p>The West, especially the Baltic countries, now need to think not about geopolitical prospects, but about how to survive. After Lukashenko stops transit, problems will begin there. And the EU is increasingly using the principle of "there is no money, but you stick it out there." Poland is geopolitically an un-sinkable U.S. aircraft carrier in Europe. That is, for the concept of a united Europe, Poland becomes not a solution, but a problem.</p>	<p>Ukrainian political writer, commentator for pro-Kremlin media</p>
<p>Maksim Ravreba, television journalist, blogger (Ukraine)</p>	<p>In Ukraine, after the collapse of the USSR, no other heroes were found, except for the 17th c. Cossacks and the 20th c. Banderites. For 20 years the state cultivated this myth, and it was based on a religious calendar. October 14 is the Pokrov Day – the patron saint of the Cossacks. Therefore, "in Bandera Ukraine" this day was declared the Day of the Armed Forces. Banditry flourishes in the country, as there is no strong police force, and the Minister of Internal Affairs is a "mysterious rogue."</p>	<p>Ukrainian political writer, commentator for pro-Kremlin media, including Ukraina.ru</p>

Glavniy efir, October 25, 2020

Name, affiliation (as represented by the channel)	Summary of commentator's argument	Category
<p>Ruslan Bizyaev, analyst, Ukrainian Institute for Politics</p>	<p>The EU will not help anyone now. It cannot solve its own problems. 30% of Klaipeda's budget depends on Belarusian transit. Belarus has no profitable economic alternative in the West. Belarusian society understood this, and the protests began to subside. In a crisis, an island of stability is better than a sea of incomprehensible opportunities.</p>	<p>Ukrainian political writer, commentator for pro-Kremlin media</p>

Robert Stein , journalist (Germany)	Life is not bad in Belarus. No poverty, no oligarchs, good roads and infrastructure, education, and social support. Belarus is in first place out of 167 countries in various categories. It is unclear what the street demonstrators are opposing.	Co-author of the YouTube channel <i>Anti-Spiegel</i> , independent commentator for pro-Kremlin media
Thomas Röper , journalist (Germany)	Belarus is trying to implement a scenario of a change of government. Everyone knows who pulls the strings. It is very easy to create discontent among the population.	Co-author of the YouTube channel <i>Anti-Spiegel</i> , frequent commentator for pro-Kremlin media
Igor Korotchenko , Chief editor for the magazine <i>National Defense</i> (Russia)	What Tikhanovskaya is doing is calling for the destruction of Belarusian statehood. After destroying it, chaos would ensue. "There will be a continuous Ukraine, there will be nationalism, and people will be killed." The state is behind the Belarusian security forces. They are responsible for the people. Therefore, legal constitutional methods of suppressing a "color revolution" are necessary.	Well-known Russian propagandist, often appearing in pro-Kremlin media as a military expert
Vladimir Mamontov , Director of the radio station <i>Moscow Speaking</i>	Lukashenko has proved to be a tough nut to crack, unlike the corrupt, vacillating Yanukovich.	Russian propagandist, frequent commentator for pro-Kremlin media, including Sputnik Belarus. Co-chairman of the <i>Druz'ya-Syabry</i> (trans. note – <i>Friends in RUS and BEL</i>) society
Sergey Naryshkin , Director of the Russian Foreign Intelligence Service	The West began preparing protests long before the elections. In 2019 to early 2020 alone, the U.S. directed about \$20 million through various NGOs to organize anti-government protests.	High-ranking Russian statesman and military leader
Andrey Suzdaltsev , Deputy Dean of the State University of Higher School of Economics, specialist in Belarus	If money (of the West) went through Poland, then it probably did not reach its destination.	Russian political scientist
Alexander Goncharov , Director of the Institute for Ukrainian Economic Development	There is an outflow of foreign investment in Ukraine. Belarus has gone far ahead in its development of the IT sector and is developing cooperation with China, whose economy has continued to grow amid the crisis. One should not count on the help of the West, as it has seen a huge drop in GDP (up to 30%). Ukraine is the poorest European country and it has nowhere to fall to. Tikhanovskaya made an amateurish statement.	Ukrainian economist

Name, affiliation (as represented by the channel)	Summary of commentator's argument	Category
Vadim Borovik , political scientist	The politicians who push people to protest are afraid to sit down at the negotiating table. Their goal is to seize power by any means through blood, and then they will settle accounts with those who got them there.	Belarusian propagandist, Chairman of the Supervisory Board of the Belarusian Committee of Youth Organizations
Dmitry Zhuk , Editor-in-chief of the publishing house Belarus Today	Young people are led to this and they think that there will be changes. In fact, there will be another redistribution of spheres of influence among major players.	Belarusian propagandist, editor-in-chief of <i>Sovietskaya Belarus</i>
Vladimir Pertsov , Director of the representative office of MTRK <i>Mir</i> in Belarus	From the moment Lukashenko visited the pre-trial detention center and the interview with Voskresensky began, radical people began subversive activities and pro-fascist collaborationist white-red-white flags appeared.	Belarusian propagandist, Minister of Information of Belarus
Marat Markov (not introduced)	In doxing the <i>siloviki</i> they wanted to silence the state media.	Belarusian propagandist, television presenter
Dmitry Belyakov , Director of the Center for Studying the Prospects of EAEU Integration	We have one country, one people, and there is nothing to divide. We must sit down for negotiations within the framework of the law.	Belarusian propagandist, frequent guest of pro-Kremlin media
Mateusz Piskorski , political scientist (Poland)	It is already known who is behind the Telegram channels. They are supervised from Poland and linked to Belsat. Belsat itself is funded from Polish, American, and British sources.	Polish pro-Kremlin politician and propagandist
Alexander Nosovich , political scientist (Russia)	Funding comes from non-governmental organizations in Western countries. These are German funds, as well as from the EU budget within the framework of the Eastern Partnership projects. There are also confidential funding channels from Poland and Lithuania.	Russian propagandist, columnist for RuBaltic.ru
Dmitriy Dzhangirov , political consultant (Ukraine)	The Ukrainian judicial system has not undergone much reform and infiltration. It is to a lesser extent filled with "Soros-ists and liberals." The instinct of self-preservation is triggered in this system. Their fight against the fifth column is a side effect.	Ukrainian political commentator

Television channel ONT, editions of the new program *Kontury*

Kontury, August 16, 2020

Name, affiliation (as represented by the channel)	Short summary of commentary	Category
Sergey Lebedev , Head of the mission of election observers for the CIS	Good organization of the Belarusian elections.	Russian general, Acting Secretary of the CIS
Pavel Rudyakov , political scientist (Ukraine)	The authorities extended a hand to those who disagree.	Commentator of Ukrainian heritage, independent guest of pro-Kremlin media
Semion Uralov , political scientist (Russia)	The crowd is not a subject. It is not clear with whom to conduct a dialogue.	Russian propagandist, editor of Sonor-2050, frequent guest of pro-Kremlin media
Dmitry Belyakov , Director of the Center for Studying the Prospects of Integration of EAEU Member States	Western countries are organizing a “color revolution” in Belarus. The U.S. gave the signal to European countries to put together an anti-Belarusian coalition.	Belarusian propagandist, frequent guest of pro-Kremlin media
Andrey Konnov , Head of a communications agency	Methods of manipulation are aimed at overthrowing heads of state.	Russian specialist
Igor Shatrov , Deputy Director of the National Institute for the Development of Contemporary Ideology	New technologies are used in Belarus to destabilize the situation.	Russian political writer, independent guest of pro-Kremlin media

Kontury, August 23, 2020

Name, affiliation (as represented by the channel)	Summary of commentator’s argument	Category
Alexey Avdonin , analyst at the Belarusian Institute for Strategic Research	External forces are interested in destabilizing and weakening Belarus.	Belarusian propagandist, frequent guest of pro-Kremlin media
Alexey Kurinniy , surgeon, PhD in medicine	Belarusian doctors should not protest. People’s health is like a bargaining chip in political games.	Russian medical specialist

Tatiana Novozemtseva , PhD in medicine, Chief Physician at GAUZ “SP No. 62 DZM”	Doctors must be apolitical and they should not attend protests.	Russian medical specialist
Gennady Onishchenko , Doctor of Medical Sciences, Academic at the Russian Academy of Sciences, Professor	Belarusian doctors should not succumb to the destructive policies of the so-called opposition.	Russian MP and medical specialist
Vladimir Solovyov , journalist, television and radio presenter (Russia)	Lukashenko is opposed by supporters of Poland. The Belarusian opposition leader is announcing stupid things. The Belarusian authorities dealt with the protesters harshly and fairly.	Russian propagandist, host of the talk show <i>Evening with Vladimir Solovyov</i>

Kontury, August 30, 2020

Name, affiliation (as represented by the channel)	Summary of commentator’s argument	Category
Mykola Azarov , Ukrainian statesman and politician, Prime Minister of Ukraine (March 2010 - January 2014)	The Belarusian events use methods of a coup d’état. They are a copy of the first Ukrainian Maidan and the work of Western foreign special services. European officials are hypocritical, and they treat Belarus and Ukraine as second-class countries. There is no evidence of election fraud. Through provocations, the regime will be portrayed as bloodthirsty, as it was in Kyiv. The Western-funded Belarusian opposition is lying.	Former Ukrainian bureaucrat now residing in Russia
Sergey Lavrov , Minister of Foreign Affairs, Russia	Russia calls on the U.S. and EU countries to pay attention to the destructive actions of Poland and Lithuania. They are trying to provoke nationalist actions in Belarus.	High-ranking Russian bureaucrat
Armen Gasparyan , journalist, political scientist, political writer	The Belarusian opposition has no clear program of action and the Coordination Council does not represent anyone.	Well-known Russian propagandist, frequent guest of pro-Kremlin media
Sergey Baburin , politician, public figure	Western coordinators are calling on those businesses that the West wants to strangle to strike.	Russian politician, co-founder of the civic initiative <i>Union</i> , connected to the network of anti-Belarusian propaganda

Name, affiliation (as represented by the channel)	Summary of commentator's argument	Category
<p>Nikita Danyuk, Deputy Director of the Institute for Strategic Studies and Forecasts of the Russian People's Friendship University</p>	<p>The poisoning of Navalny is an excuse invented by the West to increase pressure on Russia to intervene in Belarus.</p>	<p>Russian propagandist, frequent guest of pro-Kremlin media</p>
<p>Andrey Slepnev, Minister for Trade of the Eurasian Economic Commission</p>	<p>Western sanctions are inconvenient, but their goals against Belarus and Russia have not been achieved. This is a way of dealing with competitors, which is illegal from the point of view of international trade.</p>	<p>High-ranking Russian official of the EAEU</p>
<p>Pavel Kirilenko, Deputy of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine of the 7th convocation (2012-2014)</p>	<p>There are comfortable conditions for business development in Belarus. Lukashenko must stay in power, as the opposition wants to plunge the country into chaos. The new government will destroy businesses through a coup d'etat.</p>	<p>Ukrainian politician</p>
<p>Gennady Zyuganov, leader, Russian Communist Party</p>	<p>The opposition is Western puppets who want to stifle the sovereignty of Belarus and destroy factories. It is necessary to fight off the opposition with its criminal and destructive ideas in the same way as the fascists were fought off.</p>	<p>Well-known Russian politician</p>
<p>Alexey Avdonin, analyst at the Belarusian Institute for Strategic Studies</p>	<p>The calls not to pay taxes are intended to destabilize the country. After the Maidan and the failed "color revolution," alternative sources of power are being created with the aim of destroying the state.</p>	<p>Belarusian propagandist, frequent guest of pro-Kremlin media</p>
<p>Mikhail Kovalev, economic analyst</p>	<p>The people receive pensions in state banks. Calls to withdraw deposits are absurd and stupid.</p>	<p>Belarusian pro-government economist</p>

Name, affiliation (as represented by the channel)	Summary of commentator's argument	Category
Alexey Mukhin , General Director, Center for Political Information	Belarus and Russia are a single political organism, therefore attacks on Belarus are also attacks on Russia. Their goal is not only Belarus, but also Russia.	Russian propagandist, frequent guest of pro-Kremlin media
Roman Babayan , Chief editor, radio station <i>Moscow Speaking</i>	There are signs of a color revolution in Belarus, but not all of them coincide with the Yugoslav and Ukrainian events.	Russian propagandist
Nikita Danyuk , First Vice-Director of the Institute for Strategic Research and Deputy Director of the Institute for Strategic Research and Forecasts, Russian People's Friendship University	Lukashenko is ready for a compromise, but within the framework of legal procedures and will not be pressured by the mob.	Russian propagandist, frequent guest of pro-Kremlin media
Alexey Pushkov , Russian senator	Lithuania launched the Belarusian "Operation Guaido." Lithuania took the role of spearhead and totally different forces are holding the shaft	Russian government actor
Éric Zemmour , screenwriter, writer (France)	What is happening in Belarus is the hand of the CIA. Soros finance and American intelligence services are behind the color revolution. The U.S. and NATO want to destroy the Russian zone. Russia and Belarus are like France and Mali.	French political writer
Marat Kasem , Chief Editor of <i>Sputnik Lithuania</i>	The Party of Poles in Lithuania did not support the resolution on Belarus, which shows the pluses of having a normal Lithuanian population.	Head of the Lithuania edition of Sputnik
Sergey Lavrov , Minister of Foreign Affairs for Russia	Tihanovskaya calls for resistance and sanctions. She is affected by the fact that she is in Vilnius, and Lithuania does not hide its ambitions for Belarus.	High-ranking Russian official
Vladimir Kornilov political scientist, journalist, historian	Biden could become the American version of Svetlana Tikhanovskaya and the U.S. will find itself without a legitimate president.	Russian propagandist of Ukrainian heritage, independent guest of pro-Kremlin media. Columnist for the <i>MIA Russia Today</i> .

Kontury, September 20, 2020

Name, affiliation (as represented by the channel)	Summary of commentator's argument	Category
Alexander Alesin , independent military commentator	During the presidential elections in Belarus, the West demonstrated military activity aimed at aggravating the situation inside the country.	Belarusian military columnist
Sergey Lushch , Co-chairman of the civic initiative <i>Soyuz</i>	Russia supports Belarus's course towards political transformation, deep political reforms, and new elections.	Belarusian propagandist, owner of the domain for the propaganda site Sozh.info. Chairman of the organizational committee for the pro-Russian <i>Soyuz</i> party.
Sergey Markov , political scientist (Russia)	Putin clearly supported Lukashenko and provided guarantees for the sovereignty of Belarus and economic assistance.	Russian public figure, independent guest of pro-Kremlin media

Kontury, September 27, 2020

Name, affiliation (as represented by the channel)	Summary of commentator's argument	Category
Alexey Avdonin , analyst at the Belarusian Institute for Strategic Studies	Political technology methods are being used against Belarus to transform the protest into a radical form. People are being used as meat. Opponents of the ruling government need sacrifices to accuse the government of violence. The EU won in the case of Ukraine by getting cheap labor. Western powers benefit enormously from revolutions.	Belarusian propagandist, frequent guest of pro-Kremlin media
Armen Gasparyan , journalist and radio presenter	The participation of women in Belarusian protests is a means and a farce. They have been given a shameful role and they are pawns in someone else's game. There is no practical meaning here.	Well-known Russian propagandist, frequent guest of pro-Kremlin media

Kontury, October 4, 2020

Name, affiliation (as represented by the channel)	Summary of commentator's argument	Category
Yuri Voskresenskiy , coordinator for the Babariko headquarters	Tikhanovskaya, Tsepkalov, and Kolesnikova were led like kittens. They had no political responsibility. Sharp's methods, NLP, and Ericksonian hypnosis were used against the protesters. The destructive plan "Anna" was created with the help of Georgian specialists. Gathering people at polling stations, white ribbons, blocking roads and so on – these are all parts of this plan.	Pro-government activist, frequent guest of propaganda programs for Belarusian government media
Artur Krizhanovsky , (pseudonym – Sergey Sobolev), member of the <i>Russian-speaking Klaipeda</i> committee, writer, Lithuania	Taxpayers want to know why the Lithuanian authorities gave Tikhanovskaya asylum and supports her.	Writer living in Lithuania
Alexander Sosnovsky , political scientist, editor-in-chief for <i>World Economy</i> (Berlin)	There is no unanimity in the EU on sanctions against Belarus and Russia. They are symbolic. Lukashenko is not added to the sanctions to keep the window for dialogue open.	Well-known pro-Kremlin propagandist, frequent guest of pro-Kremlin media.
Tatjana Ždanoka , Member of European Parliament	I did not want to support the resolution, which is a clear interference in the sovereign affairs of Belarus. It is a policy of double standards.	Pro-Russian Latvian political figure

Kontury, October 11, 2020

Name, affiliation (as represented by the channel)	Summary of commentator's argument	Category
Armen Gasparyan , political scientist, political writer (Russia)	In Kyrgyzstan, people are used to changing power this way. Lukashenko's meeting with political prisoners is a strong move. He wants to preserve civil society.	Well-known Russian propagandist, frequent guest of pro-Kremlin media
Igor Shatrov , Head of the Expert Council of the Fund for Strategic Development (Russia)	All democratic instruments used by the Kyrgyz authorities are fake.	Russian political writer, independent guest of pro-Kremlin media

Alexander Malkevich , First Deputy Chairman of the Commission of the Public Chamber of Russia for the Development of an Information Society	In Kyrgyzstan during the election campaign some parties engaged in vote-buying. But there are no questions about the organization of the elections themselves.	Russian propagandist, editor of "USA Really" website
Alexey Avdonin , analyst at the Belarusian Institute for Strategic Studies	Kyrgyzstan's party system has shown its weakness, giving rise to external forces organizing "color revolutions" and keeping the country in a state of constant conflict.	Belarusian propagandist, frequent guest of pro-Kremlin media
Nikolai Zlobin , President of the Center for Global Interests (Russia)	The conflict in Nagorno-Karabakh is beneficial for many countries. Each is behaving selfishly. This conflict has become the epicenter of the clash of the egoism of large countries.	Russian and American political writer
Jānis Kuzins , Co-chairman of the party <i>New Harmony</i> (Latvia)	Lukashenka's visit to the KGB pre-trial detention center is historic. If such decisions were made in the Soviet Union, perhaps it would not have collapsed.	Latvian politician
Vadim Gigin , PhD in history, professor	Lukashenko's visit to the KGB jail was a risky step. The authorities have a plan to transform the political system and establish dialogue with the opposition.	Belarusian political writer, regular participant in Belarusian propaganda television programs
Stanislav Byshok , political scientist (Russia)	Lukashenko's visit to the KGB jail is an unprecedented act. The intensity of the confrontation will decrease, and everything will turn toward constitutional reform and a peaceful dialogue between the authorities and the opposition.	Russian propagandist, head of the CIS-EMO organization and co-founder of the civic initiative <i>Union</i> , connected to the anti-Belarusian propaganda network
Sergey Lushch , Co-chairman of the civic initiative <i>Soyuz</i>	Lukashenko's meeting with prisoners is in the interests of the opposition itself and was an initiative of the opposition leaders. It is important that this happened on the eve of constitutional reform.	Belarusian propagandist, owner of the domain of the propaganda website Sozh.info. Chairman of the organizing committee of the pro-Russian <i>Union</i> party
Marat Kasem , Chief editor of the information agency <i>Sputnik Lithuania</i>	Lukashenko in the KGB jail shows that Lukashenko is a person who can negotiate and who is interested in real constitutional reform.	Head of the Lithuanian edition of Sputnik

Yuri Voskresensky , political scientist, former coordinator of the opposition headquarters	It is time to sit down at the negotiating table and propose changes to the constitution. Sooner or later, mentally ill people appear in the crowd. Protest actions must be stopped, and the authorities' outstretched hand must be shaken.	Pro-government activist, frequent guest of propaganda programs on Belarusian state media
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Kontury, October 18, 2020

Name, affiliation (as represented by the channel)	Summary of commentator's argument	Category
Alexander Alesin , military expert	As the threat from Afghanistan fell away, the CSTO was considered dormant and unnecessary. However, now its importance has increased, and it is helping to fight hybrid warfare.	Belarusian military observer
Yuri Voskresensky , former coordinator of the headquarters of Victor Babariko	They call me a traitor, however I am proposing the election of all government bodies, an independent court, and the election of the president for no more than two terms.	Pro-government activist, frequent guest of propaganda programs on Belarusian state media
Mikhail Pogrebinsky , Director of the Kyiv Center for Political Studies and Conflict	The radical actions of the Belarusian opposition have sharply intensified. The only way to keep the protest movement from dying is to act radically.	Ukrainian political writer, opponent of Viktor Medvedchuk
Karine Gevorgyan , political analyst (Russia)	The scenario is highly twisted, and Belarus is part of this scenario. The authorities and society are interested in stabilizing the situation.	Russian propagandist of Armenian heritage
Alexander Malkevich , First Deputy Chairman of the Commission for the development of information of community, media, and mass communications of the public chamber of Russia	The goal of the opposition, which is located outside Belarus, is to bring the country to the condition of the Ukrainian Maidan. The Belarusians themselves have no such desire, but they are open to manipulation.	Russian propagandist, editor of "USA Really" website
Kirill Koktysh , Associate Professor of the Department of Political Theory at MGIMO (Russia)	Everything that Tikhonovskaya threatens now would have already come true if there were forces and resources. The strike movement collapsed because the opposition was unable to convince workers, and the authorities began to conduct a propaganda campaign in a timely manner.	Russian propagandist of Belarusian heritage, frequent guest of pro-Kremlin media

Vladimir Kuznetsov, prankster	(The author of the practical joke: The Foreign Policy Committee of the Danish Parliament invited Tikhanovskaya to an online meeting. Instead of her, there was another woman who brought up the topic of the alleged rape of turtles and beavers in Denmark.) We demonstrate how EU officials behave.	Russian prankster repeatedly involved in anti-Western and anti-Ukrainian propaganda activities
Armen Gasparyan, political analyst	Regarding Svetlana Tikhanovskaya: In the 21st century, we devote many hours of airtime to fools. I have become a specialist in idiots. In Moldova, during elections, a dirty campaign always begins with compromising evidence, bribery of voters, and so on.	Well-known Russian propagandist, frequent guest of pro-Kremlin media
Alexey Mukhin, Director of the Center for Political Information	Moldovan labor migrants in Russia are a significant political force. Pro-Western groups of influence cannot offer anything positive to Moldova.	Russian propagandist, frequent guest of pro-Kremlin media

Kontury, October 25, 2020

Name, affiliation (as represented by the channel)	Summary of commentator's argument	Category
Pavel Feldman, Deputy Director of the Institute for Strategic Studies and Forecasts, Russian People's Friendship University (Russia)	Western countries are happy to support the protests and violence in Belarus, because by doing so they undermine their rival's economy and take away highly qualified labor resources.	Russian propagandist and political writer

Kontury, November 1, 2020

Name, affiliation (as represented by the channel)	Summary of commentator's argument	Category
Mateusz Piskorski, political scientist, journalist (Poland)	Unlike the Belarusian protests, the Polish protests have a real socio-economic basis.	Polish pro-Kremlin politician and propagandist
Evgeny Muraev, Former Deputy of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine	Zelensky is surrendering the national interests of Ukraine.	Ukrainian pro-Russian politician

Andrey Krivosheev , Chairman of the Board of the Belarusian Union of Journal- ists	There is a huge pro-Romanian movement in Moldova, which de- nies Moldova as a state and consid- ers it part of Romania. There have already been Moldovan Maidans under the leadership of the pro-Ro- manian forces, and the riots will continue.	Belarusian propagandist
Nikolai Shchekin , political scientist, PhD in philosophy	Maia Sandu said that if Dodon wins, she will go on strike. As Minister of Education, she closed all Rus- sian-language schools in the coun- try and all Russian language cours- es in universities.	Head of the Sociology Department of the Nation- al Academy of Sciences, propagandist
Ruslan Bortnik , political consultant (Ukraine)	Western and Chinese goods took hold of the Ukrainian market. All former foreign markets and entire branches of Ukraine have been lost.	Ukrainian political consul- tant, independent guest of pro-Kremlin media
Dmitry Mezentsev , Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Russia to Belarus	I am pushing Belarus towards the difficult, unpromising times of the 1980-1990s. Putin has consistently supported Belarus. At the last fo- rum, contracts were signed for \$750 million. The movement towards Europe is ephemeral – Europe does not give something for nothing.	Russian diplomat, Secre- tary of State of the Union State of Belarus and Russia

Kontury, November 8, 2020

Name, affiliation (as repre- sented by the channel)	Summary of commentator's argu- ment	Category
Evgeny Minchenko , Director of the International Institute of Political Expertise (Russia)	Biden will continue to put pressure on human rights in the post-Soviet space, however Trump will contin- ue to dismantle Europe's security architecture.	Russian political consul- tant
Maksim Shevchenko , political scientist (Russia)	The Democrats and Biden person- ally oversaw the Ukraine issue. The status of Eastern Europe is mainly a topic for the Democratic Party. The U.S. will seek contact with Minsk as part of the creation of a "Greater Eastern Europe."	Russian propagandist and public figure

Alexey Dzermant , political scientist	The Polish government intervened, hoping that the Belarusian events would follow a scenario favorable to it and distract from the tension in Polish society. Against the background of Belarus, they would have looked like successful politicians, but this did not work out as planned.	Belarusian propagandist, editor of Imhoclub.by
Nikolai Shchekin , political scientist	The Polish authorities stumbled in their policy towards Belarus. Moravetsky even counted Belarusian cities with protests. Poles go out into the streets not only because of the issue of abortion. There are many other reasons.	Head of the department of sociology at the National Academy of Sciences, propagandist

Kontury, November 15, 2020

Name, affiliation (as represented by the channel)	Summary of commentator's argument	Category
Yuri Voskresensky , former coordinator of an opposition headquarters, businessman	The leaders of the opposition Coordinating Council contacted the team of the Round Table of Democratic Forces and sent dozens of proposals to amend the legislation. The mechanism for national dialogue is registered, and I invite all opposition forces to participate.	Pro-government activist, frequent guest on propaganda programs for government media
Grigory Kostusev , Chairman of the BPF party	The current constitution of Belarus has been turned upside down. To begin with, we must do everything possible to make the existing constitution work.	Belarusian opposition politician

Kontury, November 22, 2020

Name, affiliation (as represented by the channel)	Summary of commentator's argument	Category
Mark Ginsburg , investor (U.S.)	Belarus does not need a Maidan. People do not value stability and security. There are no billionaires in Belarus, there is no division between the rich and the middle class, there are no salary delays. After two Maidans, the Ukrainian economy is comparable to what it could have been after losses from a devastating war. The U.S. has lost the moral right to evaluate elections in other countries. The myth of free speech in America has been dispelled.	Ukrainian-American businessman

Television channel STV, editions of the program *Nedelya*

Nedelya, August 16, 2020

Name, affiliation (as represented by the channel)	Summary of commentator's argument	Category
Gennady Zyuganov , Chairman of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Russia	They are trying to stifle our Belarusian brother through a "color revolution." A dramatic fate may await, as happened with the USSR.	Well-known Russian politician
David Stockinger , Representative of the Social Democratic Party of Austria	One must distinguish manipulation from the truth. Today, social networks and Telegram channels are a threat to young people, hindering dialogue with the authorities. Their trust is abused, and they are manipulated in by political groups serving their own interests that want to gain power.	Austrian politician
Olesia Medvedeva , journalist, blogger	A pro-Western government in Belarus would carry out mass privatization and terminate subsidies. Most Belarusian industry will become scrap metal and there will be no jobs or wages.	Ukrainian journalist, host of the video blog <i>Clearly Understandable</i> on the pro-Russian media Strana.ua
Vladimir Solovyov , journalist, television and radio presenter (Russia)	Belarusians, do not let them steal your country, do not move towards discord and civil war, do not fall for Lithuanian, Polish, and American tricks, and do not listen to Western media.	Russian propagandist, talk-show host for <i>Evening with Vladimir Solovyov</i>

Nedelya, August 23, 2020

Name, affiliation (as represented by the channel)	Summary of commentator's argument	Category
Andreas Miller , Russian-German, businessman	Bild writes that a boy under 10 can choose his gender. They want to overthrow Lukashenko for his conservative values. The protesters used Molotov cocktails and were manipulated.	Foreign businessman
Mikhail Degtyarenko , student of the philological faculty of BSU	At the protests, there are many young people who do not have the right to vote and go out for the hype.	Head of the BRYU at BSU

Gennady Zyuganov , Chairman of the Central Committee of the Communist Party	Politically, changes are needed, but those which will involve an improvement in life. You cannot give the country to strangers who may destroy it because it is a serious geopolitical force in Europe. The younger generation does not yet know what kind of destruction the “color revolutions” can lead to.	Well-known Russian politician
Petr Symonenko , First Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Ukraine	There is paid patriotism in Belarus. The opposition has no clear program. It is not thinking about the future but is performing the task of clearing the area for the true masters.	Ukrainian politician, head of the Communist Party of Ukraine
Alexey Yakubin , political scientist (Ukraine)	The Coordinating Council is avoiding specifying what will happen next. They only speak in general phrases. There is no agreement within the Council.	Ukrainian political writer, commentator for pro-Kremlin media, including Ukraina.ru
Yakov Kedmi , political scientist (Israel)	Letting the mob establish what it wants is to repeat the history of Russia in 1917, the Soviet Union in 1991, and Ukraine. There is no opposition in Belarus – there are those who are dissatisfied.	Well-known pro-Kremlin propagandist, independent guest of pro-Kremlin media
Boris Yulin , political scientist (Russia)	The implementation of the promises of the Belarusian opposition will lead to the closure of most industrial enterprises and mass unemployment, poverty, and class stratification in society.	Russian historian
Ruslan Bortnik , political scientist (Ukraine)	Lukashenko has many supporters. The absence of numerous rallies in support of the winning side is not a sign of falsification, but a sign of their trust and confidence in authorities.	Ukrainian political consultant, independent guest of pro-Kremlin media
Vasily Gursky , Director of the Institute of Economics of the National Academy of Sciences, PhD in economic sciences	The state is trying with all its might to stabilize the situation in the country, and the protesters and provocateurs shake the people in various ways, making things worse for themselves. All proposals of the coordination headquarters are not related to improvements and will lead to the loss of jobs.	Director of a government research institute

Nedelya, August 30, 2020

Name, affiliation (as represented by the channel)	Summary of commentator’s argument	Category
Mikhail Degtyarenko , student of the philological faculty of BSU	There are many young people at the protests who do not have the right to vote and go out for the hype.	Head of BRYU at BSU

Vladimir Solovyov , journalist, television and radio presenter (Russia)	Protests are now taking place in different countries (U.S., Berlin), but no one there demands the resignation of the country's leadership and no one imposes sanctions against these states.	Russian propagandist, host of the talk show <i>Evening with Vladimir Solovyov</i>
Alexander Pavlovsky , military expert, PhD in military sciences	A person manipulates the minds of people by spreading unverified information. People do not know what to believe. Color revolutions, hybrid wars – they throw in information so people do not know what to believe. It should be noted the developed technology of people from abroad.	Former Chairman of the State Committee of Border Troops and former Ambassador of Belarus to France
Sergey Shlapak , psychologist, teacher of psychology, kinesiologist	Psychological violence, threats, and denigration are used (against teachers regarding election fraud)	Belarusian independent sociologist
Ruslan Bortnik , Director of the Ukrainian Institute for Politics (Ukraine)	The Belarusian opposition is incapable of conducting a political dialogue with the authorities. Foreign coordinators of the protests want to overthrow the current government to change the political course of the state. They do not care about the interests of the people. The collapse of the Belarusian economy due to protests may be significantly larger than in Ukraine in 2014.	Ukrainian political consultant, frequent guest of pro-Kremlin media
Alexander Tikhansky , Professor of the Russian Academy of Military Sciences	Patrolling of the Belarusian borders from the West is active. The military danger for Belarus lies in the increase and intensification of military risks and challenges from the West, which form a specific military threat for Belarus. Organizing protests in Belarus is a tactical exercise by the U.S. before using the same methods in protests in Russia.	Russian military expert, propagandist
Dmitry Belyakov , Director of the Center for Studying the Prospects of Integration for EAEU Member States	The destabilization of Belarus can lead to sabotaging the integration processes within the EEC, undermining the activities of the CSTO, and stopping the economic train of the Silk Road. Only Lukashenko and his team can resolve all the issues in the country. We need to work with children.	Belarusian propagandist, frequent guest of pro-Kremlin media
Elena Mankevich , Deputy Chairperson of the Federation of Trade Unions of Belarus	Participation of women in protests is a result of pressure coming from men. Platforms for negotiations in labor collectives have been created.	Deputy Chairperson of the largest GONGO in Belarus

Name, affiliation (as represented by the channel)	Summary of commentator's argument	Category
Yuri Voskresenskiy , coordinator of the Babariko headquarters	The white ribbons are from Navalny. The whole campaign was built only on emotions and negativity towards the country's leadership. Everyone wants change, but there are no specifics. The fictitious slogan "Sasha 3%" explains it this way: the bigger the lie, the more willingly they believe in it. Young people go out for any scandal except hunger strikes.	Pro-government activist, frequent guest of propaganda programs in Belarusian government media
Sergey Musienko , political scientist	Those who are leaving the country are those who were ready to leave earlier.	Pro-government Belarusian sociologist and propagandist
Alexey Dzermant , political scientist	Latushko realized that he would not be the leader and left. Tikhanovskaya does not manage the Coordination Council but is subordinate to the will of external forces and broadcasts exclusively the Polish and Lithuanian agenda. She cannot claim to be a Belarusian politician. Telegram channels will insist on a more radical position for the protesters and there will be a fork in the road when the leaders will have to dissociate themselves. Otherwise, they will face the law and a tough reaction from the state.	Belarusian propagandist, editor of Imhoclub.by
Artūrs Rubiks , political scientist (Latvia)	The reorientation of goods from Lithuanian ports will negatively affect the Lithuanian economy. They wanted to make a "color revolution" in Belarus like in Ukraine, but it did not work out. Europe is not interested in the Belarusian economy. If the opposition comes to power, all businesses will be closed, and people will be left without work. The modernization of production promised by the opposition is a complete deception. There are dissatisfied people in Belarus, but there is no opposition as a political force.	Latvian pro-Russian politician, son of the first secretary of the central committee of the Communist Party of Latvia Alfrēds Rubiks
Nikolai Mezhevich , Director of the Center for Belarusian Studies of the Institute of Europe of the Russian Academy of Sciences	The reorientation of goods from Lithuanian ports will negatively affect the Lithuanian economy. Integration with Russia is a critical issue for the two states. The entire vertical of Russia and Belarus is preparing for integration.	Russian propagandist, frequent commentator for pro-Kremlin media
Umberto , Italian living in Belarus	Does not understand what the protests are for and says that everything is fine in Belarus.	Foreign citizen

Sergey Shlapak , psychologist, teacher of psychology, kinesiol- ogist	There are methods of influencing a person who is under stress (regarding manipulation through the internet).	Belarusian inde- pendent sociologist
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Nedelya, September 13, 2020

Name, affiliation (as represented by the channel)	Summary of commentator's argument	Category
Margarita Simonyan , Editor-in-chief at RT	The processes are not even controlled from Poland and Lithuania. Lukashenko was very sincere during the interview.	Well-known Russian propagandist, editor-in-chief at RT
Mateusz Piskorski , Polish politician, political scientist, political writer	Warsaw serves as a U.S. contractor in Belarusian affairs. Polish groups are supported by Soros. Polish militants with Donbas experience were sent to Minsk. Behind Nexta is a large group of PR people with experience in conducting information operations.	Polish pro-Kremlin politician and propagandist
Sergey Shabovta , Security Expert, Ukrainian Institute of Politics	Ukraine is dependent on external management. The statements of some Ukrainian politicians, the hanging of the White-Red-White flag by the mayor of Kyiv – these are the layouts of interference in the affairs of Belarus.	Ukrainian political writer, independent commentator for pro-Kremlin media
Albert Santin , General Secretary of the Communist Party of Catalonia	The protests are monitored and funded by Soros. Spain, Portugal, and France are satellite countries. Belarusian youth need to listen to Lukashenko. In Catalonia, there is unemployment, homelessness. In Belarus you can live and eat, there is education and medicine. If the opposition comes to power, there will be an end to industry and agriculture. There is more democracy in Belarus than in any European country.	Marginal Catalanian politician

Nedelya, September 20, 2020

Name, affiliation (as represented by the channel)	Summary of commentator's argument	Category
Igor Chaika , Director of Social Programs, Iron Birds Motorcycle Club	It is unacceptable to change the history of the victory in the war and the contribution of the Russian and Belarusian peoples. We will actively fight this.	Russian businessmen, son of the former Russian Minister of Justice

Sergey Mikheev , political scientist (Russia)	Is the collective West ready to accept Belarus on an equal footing? Of course not. Only Moscow is ready. The Constitution strengthens the social role of the state in Russia, and the search for a new model is imperative for Russia.	Well-known pro-Kremlin propagandist, television and radio presenter
Maxim Shevchenko (not introduced)	Nekrasov's great lines were written long before Lenin and Stalin. The sovereignty of Belarus is of great importance for the Russian people.	Russian political writer, television presenter
Natalia Korolevska , People's Deputy of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine	We were responsible for our country, and the people on the Maidan were engaged in overthrowing the system. Methods were employed to change the order. And they did not lead to progress – they threw the country back decades. I would like to request that Belarusians bear in mind manipulations and that the best indicator of a good life is a person's refrigerator. Because of the dictatorship of the Poroshenko regime, Ukrainians have lost access to their medical system. They prohibit the Russian language in schools and are rewriting history.	Ukrainian parliamentarian
Nikolay Sushkov , WWII veteran	If there were no unemployed people, like in the USSR, everything would be fine! Each family must have three children and all apartments must be made for three children. We need to confirm our president and let him stay for now.	Senior citizen, veteran
Alexey Dzermant , political scientist	Western countries impose their model of democracy on other societies. The West has a sense of its own superiority. They think that they have reached the pinnacle of human development and everyone should accept these models. If you criticize democracy in the West, you will be deprived of your livelihood.	Belarusian propagandist, frequent contributor to Belarusian government and pro-Kremlin media. Editor at Imhoclub.by
Vadim Gigin , Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences, BSU	Modern Western civilization is the heir to the Roman Empire. It was believed that Rome represents law and civilization, and non-Rome is only barbarians. There are real forces that are not in the forefront, but which govern countries, and this is not a conspiracy theory. Many people from France have told me, "Do you really think Macron is in control?"	Belarusian political writer, regular participant in Belarusian propaganda television programs
Gennady Gatilov , Permanent Representative of Russia to the UN HRC	For some reason, countries condemn the events in Belarus and no attention is paid to the protests in France, Germany, and the U.S.	Russian diplomat

Natalia Narochnitskaya , Russian historian and political scientist	I observed double standards even when the Serbs were bombed. Democracy has passed the peak of its development, like any other system. Elites are oblivious to the population. Public consciousness is being manipulated.	Russian historian
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Nedelya, September 27, 2020

Name, affiliation (as represented by the channel)	Summary of commentator's argument	Category
Dmitriy Mezentsev , Russian Ambassador	My generation has experienced a great tragedy, the death of a great country. Hundreds of thousands of people went out into the streets, wanting the best. But the price was the loss of half of the population and territory. Telegram channels against the united fatherland. The protesters break the law and are ruled from abroad. Who benefits from it is clear. EU countries violate partnerships and interfere in internal affairs.	Russian diplomat, now Secretary of State of the Union State of Belarus and Russia
Igor Konyakin , Russian General Consul in Brest	In the Union State, we always keep our powder dry.	Russian diplomat
Dmitry Voronyuk , First Secretary of the Belarusian Republican Youth Union	We will voice the thoughts of youth to the head of state.	Head of the pro-government association BRYU
Yegor Makarevich , Chairman of the Youth Parliament under the National Assembly of Belarus	We are on the verge of constitutional reform and the voice of young people must be heard.	Head of a pro-government association
Alexander Ivanovsky , Professor of the Department of Legal Informatics of the Academy of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Belarus	Democratic methods are inappropriate for people who organize riots and insurrection. My daughter lives in Chicago, in the U.S., and purchases weapons. Our police force is one of the most humane. From abroad, the descendants of (Nazi) police talk about us, which is the height of cynicism. The roughness on the part of the attackers is much harsher than what is given by the police.	Employee of the Academy of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Belarus

Name, affiliation (as represented by the channel)	Summary of commentator's argument	Category
Dmitry Azarov , Governor of the Samara Region of Russia	Our countries are facing new challenges, and against this background the social distance is only narrowing.	Russian bureaucrat
Petr Petrovskiy , political scientist	Many of our oppositionists called on Western countries to implement a Yugoslav scenario in Belarus, and now their followers who have emigrated to the West are undermining sovereignty and national security. The implementation of the Union programs, the EAEU, and the CSTO is the foundation that ensures sovereignty and independence in an emergency geopolitical situation. The Rurikovichs are partly related to the princes of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania. The 1995 referendum has not been voided.	Belarusian propagandist, frequent commentator for Belarusian government and pro-Kremlin media
Mohammed Al-Abbar , Chairman of the Board of Directors of Emaar Properties	We are using all our experience to invest and build the most modern infrastructure in the world in Minsk. We have worked in 40 countries from the heart. The President wants to do more for citizens and for the beauty of Belarus. That is why I want to build my house in Belarus, on the lake.	Foreign businessman
Artūrs Rubiks , political scientist (Latvia)	Lukashenko was already under sanctions and this did not change anything. The EU imposed sanctions because it decided they were not happy with the elections.	Latvian pro-Russian politician, son of the first secretary of the central committee of the Communist Party of Latvia Alfrēds Rubiks
Artur Krizhanovsky , member of the <i>Russian-Speaking Klaipeda</i> committee	Open letter: At whose expense is the banquet? Who pays for Tikhonovskaya's maintenance?	Writer living in Lithuania

<p>Alexander Shpakovskiy, political scientist</p>	<p>Up to 30% of detained activists are people previously convicted. “Country for Life” has involved in its activities people who consider themselves wronged, who are feeling the repressive influence of the police. “Coarse courtroom rhetoric.” The illusion of the possibility of criminal revenge and a return to the ‘90s has been created. The intensification of protests in July-August coincided with a criminal war between the comrades-in-arms of two leaders.</p> <p>Poles and Lithuanians stabbed us with a knife, but it was not fatal. We have lived under tougher sanctions. And we built a more successful country than theirs. We, too, could recognize another Polish candidate and start an anti-Polish campaign from Brest, but these are not our methods.</p>	<p>Belarusian propagandist, columnist for Sputnik Belarus, frequent commentator for pro-Kremlin media</p>
<p>Alexey Dzermant, political scientist</p>	<p>The West is creating pressure to change the system and bring its henchmen and like-minded people to power. This is overt interference in internal affairs. They want to create a puppet regime. Navalny’s case is a part of the chain of anti-Belarusian and anti-Russian events.</p>	<p>Belarusian propagandist, frequent commentator in Belarusian government and pro-Kremlin media. Editor at Imhoclub.by</p>
<p>Leonid Kalashnikov, Deputy of the State Duma of Russia</p>	<p>The West needs territory and they need a foothold against Russia. The West does not need Belarusian industry or agriculture. No one in the State Duma wants to talk to Tikhanovskaya.</p>	<p>Russian MP</p>
<p>Alexander Rahr journalist, political scientist (Germany)</p>	<p>We have already been through sanctions. The EU wants to show that it supports liberal values. Poland and Lithuania may see Belarus, Ukraine, and Moldova as buffer states against Russia.</p>	<p>Frequent commentator for pro-Kremlin media</p>
<p>Yakov Kedmi, public figure (Israel)</p>	<p>Everything that has been happening in Armenia over the past 15 years is an attempt to reorient the country. American instructors brought the Armenian army to this point so let them say thank you to the Americans and all those who took to the streets.</p>	<p>Well-known pro-Kremlin propagandist, frequent guest of pro-Kremlin media</p>
<p>Ilham Aliyev, President of Azerbaijan</p>	<p>In Armenia there is a Soros regime. Pashinyan is a protégé of Soros and the country is in crisis. A coup succeeded in Armenia, however failed in Belarus.</p>	<p>President of Azerbaijan</p>
<p>Alexander Tikhansky, military-political analyst</p>	<p>There was essentially an agreement on Karabakh. The results were visible and the Pashinyan government slowed down. Agrees with Aliyev that CIA agents are in the government and the army is full of advisers from Canada and the U.S.</p>	<p>Russian military expert, propagandist</p>

Denis Bukonkin , Director of the Center for Foreign Policy and Security Studies	Foreign countries are interested in protests in Belarus. Pashinyan is the first president not from Karabakh. Azerbaijan considers Karabakh its own. The situation is being exacerbated by Turkey and France in Karabakh. There is a threat of regional conflict.	Belarusian propagandist, political writer commentator for pro-Kremlin media
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Nedelya, October 11, 2020

Name, affiliation (as represented by the channel)	Summary of commentator's argument	Category
Vadim Gigin , PhD in historical sciences, associate professor	The authorities admit that the opposition has supporters. Lukashenko wants opposition-minded people to participate in the revision of the constitution. Many unexpected political steps await us.	Belarusian political writer, regular participant of Belarusian propaganda television programs
Igor Tyshkevich , blogger	Lukashenko's visit to the pre-trial detention center is a signal to the EU that he is entering into dialogue with those whom he considers potential opposition leaders.	Blogger of Belarusian heritage
Alexey Dzermant , Researcher at the philosophy institute of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus, political scientist	There will be no quick effect from the meeting in the "American." (trans. note – slang for the isolation detention center in the KGB building in Minsk). More important is the subject of changing the constitution through the creation of various dialogue platforms through which constructive oppositionists need to be involved.	Belarusian propagandist, editor of Imhoclub.by
Alexander Lukyanov , Chairman of the Youth Chamber at the Parliamentary Assembly of the Union of Belarus and Russia	The video of Lukashenko's visit to prisoners shows that some of the oppositionists are calm. Lukashenko is initiating negotiations.	Civil servant, chairman of a GONGO
Sergey Musienko , Head of the think tank EcooM	Serious dialogue with the opposition was initiated in the pre-trial detention center. The first agreement was not to disclose the content of this meeting.	Pro-government Belarusian sociologist and propagandist
Alexander Mushta , Leading specialist of the information-political Center of the Academy of Management under the President of Belarus	Kyrgyzstan is another example of a "color revolution" where the interests of the U.S. and its allies are manifested. Today we are witnessing an example when the mechanisms of "color revolutions" can turn against their creators.	Employee of a state educational institution

Alexander Ivanovskiy , political scientist	This is not about aggravating the situation in individual countries (Belarus, Kyrgyzstan, etc.), but about undermining the entire region. The technologies of the “color revolutions” were primarily developed by the U.S. Now this boomerang has returned to them.	Employee of the Academy of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Belarus
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Nedelya, October 18, 2020

Name, affiliation (as represented by the channel)	Summary of commentator’s argument	Category
Alexander Ivanovskiy , political scientist	The protesters are incredibly intrusive. They interfere with the lives of the rest of the people.	Employee of the Academy of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Belarus

Nedelya, October 25, 2020

Name, affiliation (as represented by the channel)	Summary of commentator’s argument	Category
Alexander Ivanovskiy , political scientist	The protesters are incredibly intrusive. They interfere with the lives of the rest of the people.	Employee of the Academy of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Belarus
Elena Ponomareva , PhD in political science, professor at Moscow State Institute for International Relations	The Sakharov Prize awarded by the European Parliament is slippery. Sakharov made great efforts to destroy the Soviet system. The Coordinating Council (CC) is dismantling Belarusian statehood. All its activities can be regarded as an attempt to overthrow the state system and as treason. Taking money from a foreign state, the CC goes about its work. Chatham House interviewed only 899 people. This is an improper methodology and political manipulation, an element of information and psychological warfare. Tikhonovskaya, through ultimatums, is trying to revive the protests, which are becoming more violent and unsafe and in need of sacred sacrifices.	Russian propagandist, frequent commentator for pro-Kremlin media
Dmitry Belyakov , leader of the network movement <i>Infospetsnaz</i>	There are many who want to join volunteer squads to partially relieve the pressure from the security forces.	Belarusian propagandist, frequent guest of pro-Kremlin media

John Varoli , journalist, political scientist (U.S.)	Biden constantly pressed the topic of the coronavirus – a failure for Trump – whereas Trump talked up corruption in the Biden family. Biden has a mafia family. He is like the godfather from the movie.	American political writer, regular contribute to pro-Kremlin media
Michael Morgulis , Honorary Consul of Belarus in the U.S.	There is evidence of the corruption of the Biden family, which he submitted to Congress. This includes a statement by the former Prosecutor General of Ukraine Shelkin, who Poroshenko removed from office at the insistence of Biden. There are already cases of postal workers throwing out filled ballots. It is possible to determine in advance which district will vote for whom.	Soviet-American writer
Grigory Ioffe , professor at Radford University	If you live in an uncontested state and vote for Trump (for example, California) – and 40% of Californians could do so – the winner will still take all the votes, i.e. their opinion will not be taken into account. Biden seems to be a dependent person with senile dementia.	American political writer, sympathetic to Lukashenko
Pavel Potapeyko , political scientist, Americanist	Society in the U.S. is very polarized. This affected the results of the election.	Belarusian political writer, columnist for pro-Kremlin media
Andrey Rusakovich , Head of the Department of International Relations at BSU	Biden will fight for human rights. This wording means that U.S. interests will be defended in other countries. Trump was considered a pragmatist and was not ready to get involved in armed conflicts, but Biden does not rule this out.	Employee at the Belarusian State University

Nedelya, November 1, 2020

Name, affiliation (as represented by the channel)	Summary of commentator's argument	Category
Dmitry Belyakov , Director of the Center for Studying the Prospects of EAEU Integration	Belarus is the Achilles heel of the Union State. The blow inflicted on it will affect the closure of the EEU and the Union State, and, as a result, this will be a colossal blow to the military potential of the Russian Federation (CSTO). While the U.S. is sorting itself out – reformatting of multiculturalism into nationalism, getting together the power of the state – it is beneficial for them that there are problems all over the world.	Belarusian propagandist, frequent guest of pro-Kremlin media

Sergey Musiyenko , political scientist	A massive worldwide movement is being trained under the guidance of artificial intelligence. Oil and gas have dropped out of the sphere of international politics and need to be replaced with something. The signals in Telegram channels are control signals.	Pro-government Belarusian sociologist and propagandist
Petr Petrovskiy , political scientist	We see double standards by the Polish authorities. When Morawiecki talks about the Belarusian protests, he talks about freedom and human rights. His Polish protests are illegal and are the source of aggression in society.	Belarusian propagandist, independent commentator for Belarusian state and pro-Kremlin media
Nikolai Shchekin , political scientist, PhD in philosophy	Decrees do not just cause this kind of wave of indignation in society where people take to the streets on their own. There is always a leader and a driving force in this big game. Where are the democracy and liberal values in Poland that they are trying to teach us? People have a psychological need for self-realization, for positioning themselves and they do this on the pages of Telegram channels.	Head of the sociology department at the National Academy of Sciences, propagandist
Alexander Ivanovskiy , political scientist	Over the past 25-30 years, the number of globalists – those who talk about global governance and the absence of nation-states – has been growing. They attack the population of these states. America, a hotbed of such sentiment, has itself become a victim of globalists.	Employee of the MFA Academy in Belarus

Nedelya, November 8, 2020

Name, affiliation (as represented by the channel)	Summary of commentator's argument	Category
Elena Ponomareva , Professor, Moscow State Institute of International Relations, PhD in political science, Russia	The winner is not the one who votes, but the one who counts. It is too early to talk about Biden's victory. The Americans chose instead a vice president (Kamala Harris). She will determine the White House policy, since Biden is prone to illness. In America, a new social system, mediocracy, is emerging, where social networks and the media are changing the people's minds by censoring information. As a result, people do not know what the Trump administration is doing. Soon we will see the decline of the U.S. as a dominant country, which will ultimately make it difficult for everyone.	Russian propagandist, independent commentator for pro-Kremlin media

Fedor Povny , Rector of the parish of the Church of All Saints in Minsk	Religion turns into ideology when ritual and prescription, imposed by force, become important for people instead of God. Lukashenko calls himself a faithful Orthodox atheist. He always pronounces the name of God with respect.	Belarusian pro-government religious activist
Sergey Musienko , political scientist	Many European leaders (e.g., France) trade national interests for interests of transnational corporations or corrupt private businesses.	Pro-government Belarusian sociologist and propagandist

Nedelya, November 15, 2020

External commentary of events not available

Nedelya, November 22, 2020

Name, affiliation (as represented by the channel)	Summary of commentator's argument	Category
Alexander Tikhansky , military-political analyst	There is one gap in the Black Sea-Russian belt – Belarus. Pompeo tried to reorient Belarus to the West. But if you are a geopolitical enemy, then you will remain so. International security has disintegrated and now nothing is holding anyone back.	Russian military expert, propagandist
Alexey Belyaev , political scientist, PhD in history	Even before the start of the elections, the EU was betting on reorienting Belarus by stirring up internal protest and supporting the Belarusian opposition. The main goal was to destroy relations with Russia. Sanctions became possible during the coronavirus period, when overall economic cooperation in the world decreased. If there had been no epidemic, then the sanctions would not have been imposed.	Belarusian pro-government historian, political writer, and commentator for pro-Kremlin media
Sergey Reveda , analyst, Director of the Center for the Study of Integration Prospects (Russia)	Belarus takes on the function of ensuring that no military incursions and threats interfere with the regulatory process. It has the right to do so by virtue of Union State agreements.	Russian propagandist, editor of RuBaltic.ru
Ruslan Bortnik , Director of the Ukrainian Institute for Policy Management Analysis	The sanctions against Belarus are a demonstration of disappointment that the coup d'état did not happen and that Belarus turned to the East. The Ukrainian government does not have an independent policy towards Belarus. It is guided by the position of the West. Belarus has survived foremost thanks to Russia's assistance, but China's position has also been important.	Ukrainian political strategist, frequent guest of pro-Kremlin media

<p>Anton Savichev, Chief editor of VESTI.UA</p>	<p>Belarus energy issues are being actively discussed in Ukraine because they use Belarusian fuel.</p>	<p>Editor of a Ukrainian publication with pro-Kremlin editorial policy</p>
<p>Dmitry Belyakov, leader of the <i>Infospetsnaz</i> movement</p>	<p>The main task of the vigilante is to assist the police, especially in ideological sense.</p>	<p>Belarusian propagandist, frequent guest of pro-Kremlin media</p>
<p>Andrey Lazutkin, political scientist</p>	<p>They drew [BCHB-symbols] on garbage containers, at large intersections, in industrial zones, where there is a large flow of people, on tobacco kiosks. Work needed to be demonstrated not only with protests, but also with target groups.</p>	<p>Belarusian propagandist, columnist at Imhoclub.by</p>