



His Excellency

## Andrei Dapkiunas

Ambassador Extraordinary and  
 Plenipotentiary Permanent  
 Representative to the  
 United Nations

Prior to his appointment in September 2004 as the Permanent Representative of Belarus to the United Nations, Ambassador Dapkiunas served in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as Director of the Americas Department (1997 to 2004), Head of the Office for the United States and Canada (1995 to 1997) and Assistant to the Minister (1994 to 1995).

He was also Second Secretary at the Permanent Mission of Belarus to the United Nations (1992 to 1994) and Second Secretary of the Chernobyl International Cooperation Department in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Belarus (1992). From 1985 to 1988 he served as a lecturer in the Minsk State Institute for Foreign Languages.

While in Minsk, Mr. Dapkiunas served as a member of the Board of the Minis-

try of Foreign Affairs, Deputy Head of the Recruitment and Postings Commission and a member of the Personnel Assessment Commission.

In 2006 Ambassador Dapkiunas served as the President of the Executive Board of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and in 2008 he was a Vice-President of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).

He holds a doctorate in political science from the Belarusian State University (1991) and a Higher Education Diploma in languages (English and French) from the Minsk State Institute for Foreign Languages (1985). As a research scholar he attended the London School of Economics and Political Science (1989-90).

His knowledge of languages includes Belarusian, English, French, Polish and Russian.

Born in Minsk on 11 April 1963, Mr. Dapkiunas is married with a daughter and a son.

*"Belarus is a very distinctive European nation. There is no Belarus Ambassador in the U.S. and visa versa, although each has a mission with a Charge d'Affaires in their respective national capitals. Ambassador Dapkiunas is the highest ranking official of the country in the U.S. and his presentation on Belarus in Europe will be a historic and extremely informative event for the UVU community. " Associate Vice President for UVU International Affairs & Diplomacy Rusty Butler*

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### WHO WE ARE

The Office of International Affairs & Diplomacy actively supports UVU's global engagement efforts by advancing UVU's presence and prestige in the International community; helping UVU students become globally competent graduates; promoting cultural literacy and diversity both on campus and in the community.

### CONTACT US

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## INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT

# Belarus

## THE FLAG OF BELARUS



## MEANING

Red symbolizes Belarus' glorious past. That was the color of the victorious standards of the Belarussian regiments that defeated crusaders, and was the color of the battle flags of the Red Army divisions and Belarussian guerrilla detachments that liberated the country from fascist invaders and their henchmen.

Green symbolizes the future. It is the color of hope, spring and revival, the color of forests and fields.

The vertical red-on-white Belarussian decorative pattern symbolizes Belarus' rich cultural heritage, its spiritual continuity, and the unity of its people.

*Information gathered from:  
[www.wikipedia.org](http://www.wikipedia.org),*

- Belarus means "White Russia." The actual name is The Republic of Belarus.
- Settled by a Slavic people, Belarus was dominated by Kiev during the 13th century, by Lithuania and Poland into the 18th century, and by Russia after 1772. Belarus gained independence from the Soviet Union in July 1990.
- There are 31 different banks in Belarus. 30 are owned by the government and 1 is privately owned.



The Kamenets Tower, a citadel of the thirteenth century

- The region suffered grievously during World War II. Occupied by the Nazis between 1941 and 1944, it lost 2.2 million people, including most of its Jewish population.
- The 1986 nuclear disaster at Chornobyl (Chernobyl), just south of Belarus in Ukraine, contaminated one third of Belarus—70 percent of the radiation fell on its territory. Belarusians continue to suffer from high incidences of cancer and birth defects, and about 25 percent of the land is considered uninhabitable.
- Approximately 40 per cent of Belarus is covered in forests, reflected by the green stripe on the national flag.



- Agriculture and manufacturing are the largest industries in Belarus. Manufacturing products include metal-cutting machine tools, tractors, trucks, earth movers, motorcycles, television sets, chemical fibers, fertilizer, textiles, radios, refrigerators, optical elements.
- Belarus is quite flat, low-lying country including the Poltsk Lowland (north) and the Dnieper Lowland (south). It has many winding rivers, small lakes, marshes and swamps
- Russian Orthodox Christianity and Catholicism are the two major religions in Belarus. The Constitution of Belarus does not declare any official religion.
- Clothes designer Ralph Lauren - born Ralph Lifshitz in New York in 1939 - is the son of Belarusian Jewish immigrants.

*Information gathered from: [www.belarus.by](http://www.belarus.by),  
[www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook](http://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook)*

