The Siloviki in Belarus's System of Public Administration Since 2020

Semyanov Artem

IPU - Public Administration Research Centre, School of Young Managers in Public Administration (SYMPA), Minsk, Belarus

Abstract: The political events of 2020 became a catalyst for the transformation of the Siloviki into the core pillar of the Belarusian state administration system, whose main task became ensuring the preservation of Alexander Lukashenko's personal power. This study analyses the key processes that have defined this new reality:

- The total politicisation of the Siloviki, establishing personal loyalty as the sole criterion for personnel policy;
- Internal purges to eliminate any dissent within the apparatus itself;
- The erosion of institutional autonomy, during which the Prosecutor's Office, the Investigative Committee, the State Control Committee, and the KGB lost their independence, becoming a single repressive instrument;
- Consolidation of control, linking the Siloviki directly to the Presidential Administration and the Security Council;
- Militarisation of the civil service through the infusion of security logic (search for enemies, total control) into the daily practice of the civil bureaucracy.

The study is based on open-source intelligence (OSINT) analysis, monitoring of regulatory acts and personnel appointments, as well as a series of qualitative expert interviews.

In conclusion, the research argues that these processes have shaped a new model of political-administrative relations, where the Siloviki not only dominate but have completely subjugated the functions of state administration, based on loyalty and repression.