

Arkadi V. Dvorkovich

Born, 1972; graduated from Moscow State University in Economic Cybernetics (1994); M.A., Duke University (1997).

Current posts: economics advisor to the President of Russia; chairman, Supervisory Board of the Russian Chess Federation.

Dvorkovich is too young to have been in the group of Russian economists who prepared, during the 1980s, at the International Institute of Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA), and in cooperation with London's Institute for Economic Affairs, to take over Soviet, and then, Russian economic policy (see "London's 'Our Men' in Moscow Keep Poisoning Russian Policy," *EIR*, March 26, 2010). He is a next-generation child of that process, which has made Russia hostage to the demands of the bankrupt, speculation-based, international financial system.

Son of chess grandmaster and referee Vladimir Dvorkovich, Arkadi Dvorkovich received a specialized high school education in applied mathematics. He continued into mathematical economics, majoring in "economic cybernetics" at Moscow State.

In 1994, Dvorkovich went to work as an economist for the Russian Ministry of Finance, where he remained until 2000, a period when former privatization chief Anatoli Chubais was Finance Minister (in 1997), and current Finance Minister Alexei Kudrin was First Deputy Minister (1997-2000). Dvorkovich took time off to get his masters degree in economics at Duke in 1997. He also co-authored a 2000 book, *An Economic Strategy for Russia in the First Decade of the 21st Century*, issued by the Liberal Mission foundation, a project of the kingpin of the London-IIASA group, former acting Prime Minister Yegor Gaidar, and Yevgeni Yasin, co-author of the 500 Days plan for a "shock" transition of the Soviet Union to a full market economy, in 1990. The 500 Days plan was cooked up largely at IIASA; Dvorkovich later wrote articles jointly with another of its authors, Sergei Alexashenko.

Dvorkovich later worked as an analyst for the Ministry of Economic Development, and as Deputy

Minister of Economic Development and Trade (2001-04). He helped design Russia's laws on land, customs procedures, labor, deposit insurance, and currency regulation. In 2004-07, he was an analyst on then-President Vladimir Putin's staff. In May 2008, incoming President Dmitri Medvedev named him his top aide for economic questions, and "sherpa" for G8 and related summit activities.

Travelling with Medvedev to the Nuclear Summit in Washington April 13-14, Dvorkovich went on to address a seminar at the Peterson Institute, then flew to California to keynote the first annual Stanford-U.S. Russia Forum (SURF) April 16. Dvorkovich presented to his U.S. audiences Medvedev's "modernization" policy, expressed purely in terms of money. For him, economic modernization through technological advance chiefly means IT company start-ups, to boost Russia's "investment climate" and "attract venture capital and private equity funds" to the country. For the near term, Dvorkovich said, his goal is to attract as much foreign capital as possible into Russia, along with management and other know-how to push ahead these mostly post-industrial start-ups. Physical infrastructure was barely mentioned, except for the push to bring broadband Internet access to more Russians.

Dvorkovich is currently in the news in connection with two additional high-profile stories. One is that mandatory income declarations by Kremlin officials revealed his family as one of the wealthiest in Russia. His wife, Zumrud Rustamova, a former Deputy Minister for Property Issues, received nearly \$1 million last year as deputy director of the metals company OAO Polymetall.

Secondly, in a scandal which broke April 23, just after Dvorkovich's return from the Western Hemisphere, former world chess champion Anatoli Karpov denounced Dvorkovich in an open letter. Dvorkovich had unilaterally announced the Royal Chess Federation's endorsement of Kirsan Ilyumzhinov, President of the southern Republic of Kalmykia, for reelection as head of the FIDE world chess federation. Karpov charged that Dvorkovich and Ilyumzhinov are "two senior Russian officials . . . ready to sacrifice the prestige of our country to achieve their disreputable goals," and himself pledged to "reform [FIDE] by putting intellectual modernization and a cleansing of corruption at the forefront."