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## **Nobel Prize Laureates from Belarus**

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Since 1901, the Nobel Prize, which is awarded every year, has been one of the most significant events for science and culture. The winners of such a prestigious award are outstanding scientists, writers, public figures and organizations which have made discoveries that have served for the benefit of humanity in the following areas: physics, chemistry, literature, medicine, promotion of world peace, economics. Over the entire history of the award, 943 people and 25 organizations have become laureates [1].

One of the main advantages of the Nobel Prize is that absolutely anyone can become a laureate, regardless of citizenship. Thus, the USA is in the first place in terms of the number of laureates, the UK is in the second, and Germany is in the third. There were natives of Belarus among the laureates.

Svetlana Aleksandrovna Alexievich is the first Nobel Prize winner in the history of independent Belarus. The future writer was born in Ukraine, but at a young age she moved with her family to Belarus, where she received an education.

Alexievich's writing path was difficult. For a long time her works were not published because of the criticism of the communist system. The most famous work of the writer "The war does not have a woman's face" was published only 2 years after writing, a significant part of it was deleted by censors. However, Alexievich continued to work on new books. Her cycle "The Voice of Utopia", written in the genre of documentary prose, is able to evoke genuine emotions in

readers. The work of the writer did not go unnoticed. Criticized in her homeland, she was appreciated abroad. Svetlana Alexievich was among the contenders for the Nobel Prize in Literature twice, and only for the second time, in 2015, she managed to receive the prize with the wording: “for her polyphonic writings, a monument to suffering and courage in our time” [2].

In addition to Svetlana Alexievich, who is directly a citizen of the Republic of Belarus, some other natives of Belarus were awarded the Nobel Prize. The most famous of them is Zhores Ivanovich Alferov, who received the prize in physics in 2000 with the formulation: “for developing semiconductor heterostructures used in high-speed- and optoelectronics” [1] In addition to Zhores Alferov, the Nobel Prize winners were: Simon Kuznets (Nobel Prize in Economics, 1971), Menachem Begin (Nobel Peace Prize, 1978), Richard Phillips Feynman (Nobel Prize in Physics, 1965) [1].

It is impossible to overestimate the role of the Nobel Prize. It serves as an incentive for promising young people to engage in activities that will have a beneficial effect on the development of mankind. And the example of Svetlana Alexievich shows that it is necessary to continue working, even if it causes misunderstanding of others, because in the end your work will be appreciated.

#### References:

1. The Nobel Prize [Electronic resource]. – Mode of access: <https://www.nobelprize.org/prizes/>. – Date of access: 08.03.2022.
2. Svetlana Alexievich Wins Nobel Literature Prize [Electronic resource]. – Mode of access: <https://www.bbc.com/news/entertainment-arts-34475251>. – Date of access: 13.03.2022.