

**WE ARE PROUD OF OUR MOTHERLAND**

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My motherland is Belarus. The history of our country is full of significant events and dates. The events of the twentieth century have become an even more difficult ordeal for Belarus. The Great Patriotic War is an important component of our history. On June twenty-second, nineteen forty-one, Nazi Germany attacked the USSR. The BSSR also took the blow of enemy troops. Our land was occupied by German fascist troops. The Great Patriotic War is a tragedy for the entire Belarusian people. The heroic defense of the Brest Fortress is known all over the world. Even the enemies were surprised by the steadfastness and courage of its defenders. Wounded, exhausted from thirst and hunger, they held their own until the twentieth of July, but did not give up. The Germans were constantly killing Belarusian Jews during the war. March, 22 is the Memorial Day of the villages burned by the Nazis during the Great Patriotic War. On this day, the punishers burned alive all the inhabitants of the village of Khatyn. One hundred and forty-nine villagers, including Seventy-five children, were driven into a barn and surrounded with straw, doused with gasoline and set on fire. During the occupation in Belarus, more than nine thousand settlements were destroyed and burned by German invaders, traitors and policemen, more than two hundred and sixty death camps and over one hundred and ten ghettos were created. During the punitive operations following the Nazi policy of genocide in Belarus, over two million two hundred thousand people were brutally tortured, shot and burned alive by the Fascist occupiers for 3 years. Both old people and babies died. The tragedy of the people during the Great Patriotic War is the pain of every Belarusian family. We know a lot of names of heroes of Belarus. More than three hundred thousand soldiers and officers were awarded medals and orders for courage and heroism. I think all those people who courageously fought the enemy during the

war, who defended their homeland and suffered a lot are the heroes. The war is a test that has shown that the Belarusian people are incredibly strong, courageous, resilient and invincible. Our people have shown the whole world what unity, courage and bravery are. I am proud of the fact that our country honors the memory of the fallen heroes of the Great Patriotic War. Today, work continues in Belarus to restore the names of the soldiers buried on our land. Monuments are restored and museums are opened every year. Many Belarusian families still keep old yellowed letters and faded photographs sent from the front, and the orders and medals of their relatives who fought are preserved as relics. Respect for a national feat is passed down from generation to generation. Last year marked the 80th anniversary of the liberation of Belarus from the Nazi invaders. Every year there are fewer and fewer living witnesses of those terrible events. The Belarusian people paid a high price for their victory in the Great Patriotic War. Not only soldiers, but also old people and children fought for our peaceful sky. The women fought alongside the men. The ninth of May is the main holiday in my family. On this day, we remember the war heroes, watch war films, and themed TV shows. We are proud of the heroes of the last war: Alexander Matrosov, Konstantin Zasloukov, Nikolai Gastolet, the defenders of the Brest Fortress. The feat performed by the heroes of Belarus is immortal! I am sure that a person cannot be called a true patriot if he does not know the history of his Fatherland. A person for whom the history of his Homeland is not important, who is not interested in what his ancestors' life was like, what they had to go through, what successes they achieved, is like someone who does not know the history of his family, does not know the names of his relatives. The Russian and Soviet writer Fyodor Alexandrovich Abramov said: "A nation dies when it becomes a population. And it becomes a population when it forgets its history".

To feel one's unity with the people, it is important to know all the significant events that took place in the country, to be proud of the exploits of one's ancestors. This is the only way a person can understand the importance of preserving historical memory, and realize how difficult the fate of his people and his country was. Belarus has created many projects and programs that tell us about the heroic past of Belarus, introduce us to the history, culture, traditions of our country. Films are also being shot, and patriotic performances are being staged on theater stages. Belarusian writers have written and continue to write about the feat of

our ancestors. This theme is reflected in the novel-dilogy “Partisans”, the works “Khatyn Tale” and “Punishers” by Ales Adamovich, the documentary essay book by Svetlana Alekseevich “The war does not have a woman's face”, the novels by Vasil Bykov “Crane Cry”, “Quarry”, “It does not hurt the Dead”, “Obelisk”, “To live until dawn”, “Sotnikov”, “The Sign of Trouble”, Boris Vasiliev’s novel “And the dawns here are quiet” and in many other works. Belarusian writers sought to reflect the events of the historical past in relation to the prospects for the future development of the country. In their works, they talk to the reader, try to tell us as much as possible about the terrible events that took place on our land, so that we understand the price the Belarusian people paid for the peaceful sky above their heads.

Moreover, many monuments have been opened in our country. They remind us that we must remember the history of our country, its heroic and tragic pages. When visiting these memorial complexes, the heart is pierced by pain for all the people who had to endure inhuman torture. Here you understand the value of human life, you realize the tragedy of the fate of the Belarusian people.

Museums play an important role in shaping patriotic feelings among citizens and help preserve the memory of those who gave their lives for freedom. Today, Belarus is a rapidly developing country that has chosen an innovative path of development. Science is becoming the main tool for implementing serious plans. Assessing the successes and achievements of our country, it can be argued that Belarus is confidently moving towards innovative development.

Over the past five years, the country has made many innovations in science and technology. However, one should not forget the achievements of Belarusians, which are known far beyond the borders of our country. Among them are Belarusian cosmonauts Pyotr Klimuk, Vladimir Kovalenok, Oleg Novitsky, writers Vasil Bykov, Svetlana Alexievich, athletes Victoria Azarenka and Daria Domracheva and many others. It seems to me that in order for our country to continue to prosper and develop, we need to remember the lessons of the past. The past is not our burden, but our wealth.

The main goal of Belarusians is to preserve our national identity and the unique features of Belarusian culture. We must remember the heroic deeds of the heroes of Belarus, as well as be proud of the successes of our citizens.