

# Belarus' Lukashenko Blames Soviet Union Collapse on Consumer Products Shortage

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**Sergei Grits / AP**

Belarussian president Alexander Lukashenko told journalists in Minsk on Thursday that the Soviet Union's collapse could be blamed on a lack of essential products during a press conference for Russia's regional media outlets.

"The reason for the collapse of the Soviet Union? Don't tell fairy tales — there wasn't enough washing powder," Lukashenko said.

"I felt sorry for the women standing in line, and more than once I stood in line to buy 10-20 packets of imported washing powder," he said.

"We must solve everyday issues, finally correct the mistakes of the Soviet Union, and provide the population with everything it needs," he added.

**Read about [President Lukashenko's present for Steven Seagal](#).**

The Belarussian president has acquired a reputation for giving extremely long press conferences. One such conference held on Jan. 29, 2015, lasted more than seven hours.

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