



- Born January 25, 1978
- Ran on *anti-corruption* platform won him widespread support.
- Got his start as a comedian on a show where he played the president of *Ukraine* 🇺🇦.
- Network that broadcasted the show is 70% owned by *Ihor Kolomoyskyi*
- He was a close ally of this former Prime Minister *Yulia Tymoshenko*
- Volodymyr Zelenskyy 23% approval rating.
 - <https://www.wionews.com/world/approval-ratings-of-ukrainian-president-volodymyr-zelensky-falls-amid-russia-conflict-453290>
- 🇺🇦 *Ukraine* 🇺🇦 Rated #1 most corrupt country in Europe in 2015 and 9th in the world in 2017
 - <https://apnews.com/article/russia-ukraine-business-kyiv-europe-russia-fe82e0c34f0226b29764390e805b304a>
- He is licenced to practice law.
- In 2003, Zelensky cofounded Studio Kvartal 95, a production company that would become one of Ukraine's most successful and *prolific* entertainment studios.
- Zelensky left Inter TV in 2012, and in October of that year he and Kvartal 95 concluded a joint production agreement with the Ukrainian network 1+1 70% owned by *Ihor Kolomoyskyi*.
- Zelensky and Kolomoisky would become the subject of scrutiny when Zelensky declared his intention to enter politics.
- *Servant of the People* premiered on 1+1 in October 2015.
- In anticipation of that move, in 2018 Kvartal 95 officially registered *Servant of the People* as a *political party* in Ukraine.
- Zelensky took steps to distance himself from *Ihor Kolomoyskyi*, a task that was simplified by his unorthodox campaign strategy. He *eschewed* detailed policy statements and press conferences in favour of short speeches or comedy routines posted to *YouTube* and Instagram.
- On March 31, 2019, Zelensky won over 30 percent of the vote in the first round of the presidential election, and Poroshenko finished a distant second with 16 percent.
- Zelensky declined to debate Poroshenko until two days before the second round of polling would begin, and that meeting had all the trappings of a

sporting event.

- On April 19, 2019, tens of thousands gathered at Kyiv's Olympic Stadium to witness the confrontation, and, although Poroshenko attempted to portray Zelensky as a political novice who lacked the *fortitude* to confront Russian Pres. *Vladimir Putin*, he failed to land any significant blows against his opponent.
- A second debate was scheduled for later in the evening, but Zelensky did not attend, stating that there "had been enough debates for one day."
- April 21 Zelensky was elected president of Ukraine with an impressive 73 percent of the vote.
- May 20, 2019, Zelensky was sworn in as president.
- There has been a lot of scrutiny regarding the billionaire *Ihor Kolomoyskyi* acting as a "*grey cardinal*," directing policy from behind the scenes.
- In September 2019 Zelensky found his administration thrust into the centre of a political scandal in the *United States* when a whistleblower in the American intelligence *community* lodged a formal complaint about the actions of U.S. Pres. *Donald Trump*.
 - The matter concerned Trump's *alleged* withholding of a significant military aid package to Ukraine unless Ukraine initiated an investigation of alleged wrongdoing by former U.S. vice president *Joe Biden* and his son *Hunter*.
 - Hunter Biden had served on the board of Ukrainian energy conglomerate Burisma Holdings, and Trump claimed, without evidence, that the elder Biden had used his office to benefit his son.
- April 2019 *Joe Biden* had announced that he would seek the *Democratic* presidential nomination to challenge Trump in 2020, and Biden quickly became the party's front-runner.
- Contact between *Rudolph Giuliani*, and Yuriy Lutsenko, Ukraine's prosecutor general began discussions initially focused on the *2016 U.S. presidential election* and former Trump campaign manager Paul Manafort, but they soon expanded to include Biden.
- July 25, 2019, *Donald Trump* discussed an investigation of the Biden family with Zelenskyy
- Zelensky stated that he would look into the Burisma matter, and he sacked Lutsenko in August. At that time nearly \$400 million in U.S. military aid remained in limbo, despite its bipartisan authorization by the *U.S. Congress*.
- On September 11, 2019, the funds were released.

The COVID-19 pandemic and the Russian invasion of Ukraine

- Zelensky and the mayors would have a significant effect on local elections in October 2020.
- Regional parties dominated mayoral races while national parties, including Zelensky's Servant of the People, struggled.
- The poor electoral performance also reflected an overall decline in Zelensky's public approval.
- In late 2021 Russia began a massive buildup of troops and matériel along its border with Ukraine.
- Western intelligence agencies stated that the moves were a clear *precursor* to an invasion, but *Vladimir Putin* denied any such intent.
- On February 21, 2022, Putin announced that he would recognize the independence of the self-proclaimed people's republics of Donetsk and Luhansk and dispatch "peacekeepers" to both regions.
- On February 24, Zelensky delivered a televised plea for peace directly to the Russian people.
 - Shortly thereafter, at about 6:00 AM *Moscow* time, Putin announced the beginning of a "special military operation," and Russian cruise missiles began to rain down on targets in Ukraine.

Ukraine Scandal

- *Joe Biden* and Biden's son *Hunter* for *alleged* wrongdoing in connection with a Ukrainian energy company.
- Zelensky carried out two requests, which Trump introduced by saying,
 - "I would like you to do us a favor though...." The first request was that Zelensky search his country for a computer server used by the *Democratic National Committee* (DNC) from which thousands of *confidential* e-mails had been stolen by hackers and later published by *WikiLeaks* beginning in July 2016 (in fact, dozens of networks had been broken into).
 - I was beleived that it was Ukranian Hackers NOT Russian hackers who hacked the DNC servers.
 - Trump's second request was that Zelensky investigate an unfounded allegation regarding Joe Biden's motivation for pressuring the Ukrainian

government in 2015 to remove Ukraine's prosecutor general at the time, Viktor Shokin.

- Allegedly tried to halt an investigation of the Ukrainian natural-gas company Burisma Holdings, Ltd., that threatened to uncover wrongdoing by Hunter Biden, who was then a member of the company's board of directors.
- In 2016 the Ukrainian parliament voted to remove Shokin as prosecutor general. Later it was discovered, it may have been due to:
 - In 2018, Joe Biden stated that he had called for Shokin's removal (and threatened to withhold \$1 billion in loan guarantees to Ukraine) because Shokin had declined to pursue major corruption cases and thus had perpetuated rather than combated corruption in the Ukrainian government.

Coincidences

The pro-Russian mayor of a city in eastern *Ukraine* who welcomed President *Vladimir Putin's* invasion was 'shot dead' after being kidnapped from his home, it has been announced.

Vlodymyr Struk, of Kreminna in Luhansk, was killed on Tuesday and suffered a 'gunshot wound to the heart' after he was 'abducted from his home', according to his wife.

Ukraine's president, Volodymyr Zelenskiy, who was elected in 2019 on a pledge to clean up his country's notoriously corrupt and oligarch-influenced economy, *is also named in the leak*. During the campaign, Zelenskiy transferred his 25% stake in an offshore company to a close friend who now works as the president's top adviser, the files suggest. Zelenskiy declined to comment and it is unclear if he remains a beneficiary.

The Russian president, *Vladimir Putin*, whom the US suspects of having a secret fortune, does not appear in the files by name. But *numerous close associates do*, including his best friend from childhood – the late Petr Kolbin – whom critics have called a "wallet" for Putin's own wealth, and a woman the Russian leader was allegedly once romantically involved with. None responded to invitations to comment.

<https://www.theguardian.com/news/2021/oct/03/pandora-papers-biggest-ever-leak-of-offshore-data-exposes-financial-secrets-of-rich-and-powerful>

