

Daily Beast: Klaus ousted from Libertarian group

Former president's love of Putin has cost him dearly in some circles

Former Czech President Václav Klaus, an extreme free-market advocate and global warming denier, has not been associated with the Washington, D.C.-based think tank Cato Institutes since September, according to [news site the Daily Beast](#).

After his presidency ended in 2013, Klaus was named a Distinguished Senior Fellow at the Cato Institute.

The page on the Cato website with Klaus' bio now refers to him as a "former distinguished senior fellow," with no further explanation. The first sentence clearly states "was" not "is" when referring to his relationship with the Libertarian think tank.

His publications are still listed and his bio includes his academic work and political career up to the end of his presidency in 2013, but there is no mention of anything after that, including the dates he gained or was 86ed from his fellowship.

The Daily Beast says causes for the rift included his "slavish defense of Russian President Vladimir Putin's aggression against Ukraine" and his move toward the far right.

Personal freedom is a key issue for Libertarians, and Klaus' open hostility to the LGBT community also rubbed people in Libertarian circles the wrong way.

A spokesman for Klaus did not deny the axing, but put the blame for the situation on a former Putin adviser who is now a harsh Putin critic, current Cato senior fellow Andrei Illarionov, the Daily Beast stated.

Klaus during his 2003–13 presidency of the Czech Republic was famous for refusing to fly the European Union flag. He seldom missed an opportunity to criticize the bloc, of which the Czech Republic is a member, and was instrumental in the downfall of the government during the 2009 EU presidency. This led to the Czech EU presidency being called the worst one ever in EU history.

Klaus is also a skeptic of the euro and opposes adoption of the single currency, even though this was one of the conditions of the Czech Republic entering the EU in 2004.

He has written extensively that global warming is myth. Initial printing of his book *Blue Planet in Green Shackles* was paid for by Russian petroleum company Lukoil.

Margaret Thatcher was one his heroes, and he took many of his ideas about privatizing government companies from her, although the coupon or voucher privatization scheme of the early 1990s was his invention. The plan had mixed results and was considered by some analysts not to be completely transparent.

His biggest international notoriety came in 2011 when on a state visit to Chile [he pocketed a pen](#) while on camera.