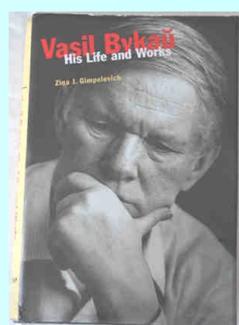




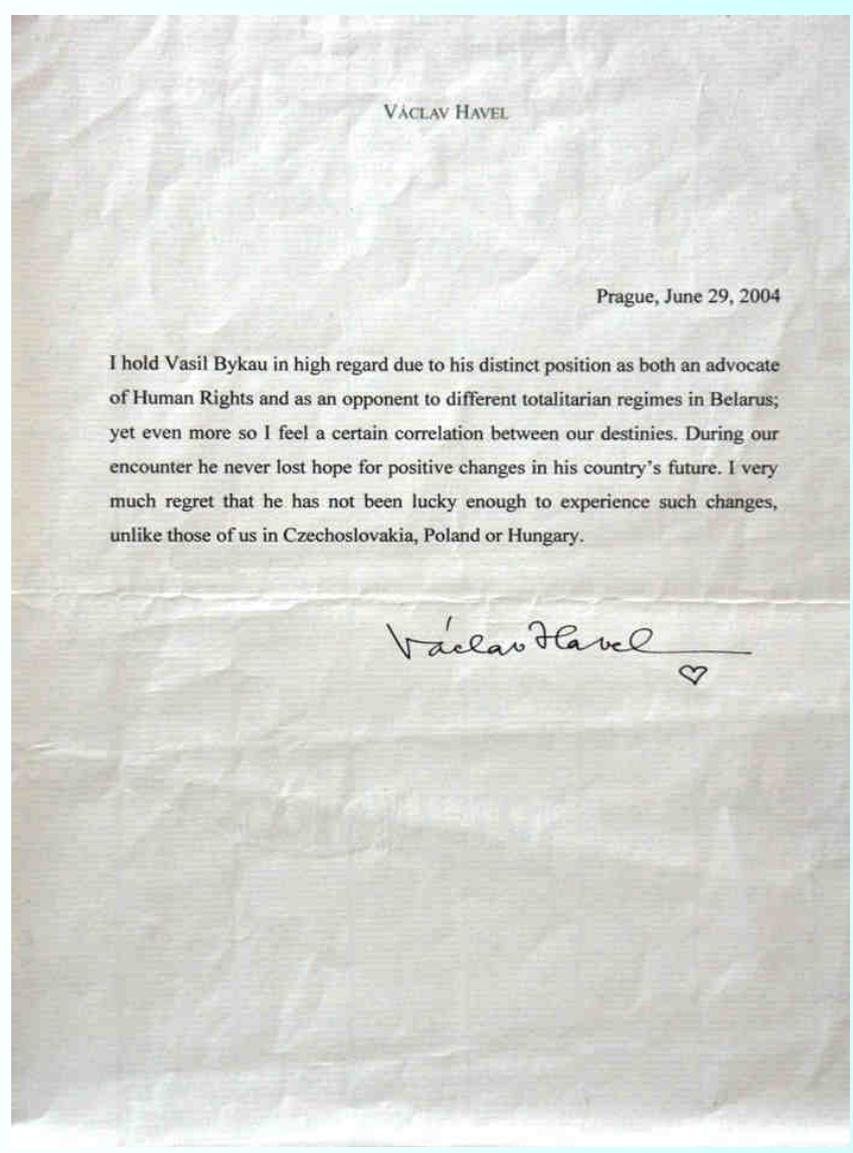
# Books by Zina J. Gimpelevich: Excerpts from Some Reviews

*Vasil Bykau His Life and Works (English).*  
Montreal: McGill-Queen's UP, 2005.

Bibliography. Index. Photographs. Transliteration. xi + 260.



## **Endorsement:** Vaclav Havel





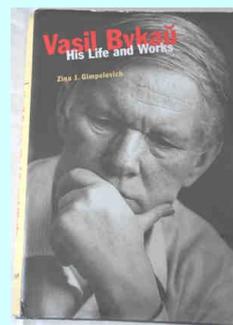
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**Endorsement:** Considered the best modern Belarusian writer and the last East European literary dissident, Vasil Bykaŭ (1924-2003) is referred to as “conscience of a nation” for leading an intellectual crusade against Lukašenka’s totalitarian regime. In exile from Belarus for several years, he was given refuge by Vaclav Havel. He has been nominated for the Nobel Prize by Havel, Czesław Miłosz, and PEN.

**Choice, 2006:** Offering the first English-language study of this Belarusian writer (Vasil Bykaŭ 1924-2003), Z. Gimpelevich (University of Waterloo), treats each of Bykaŭ’s novels and several of his stories, stressing the writer’s passionate “war against human injustices.” Summing Up: Recommended. Upper-division undergraduates and above. — *N. Titler, SUNY at Binghamton.*

**Slavic Review, 2006:** This study succeeds in exploring the ways in which Bykaŭ countered the prevailing official culture of the Soviet Union through his writing, while still continue to publish and reach a wide readership. It also emphasizes Bykaŭ’s Belarusian identity, and the important place it occupies in his writing, and reminds the reader to be wary of Soviet-era Russian translations of his work, which provide a telling example how translation can shade into rewriting. In adopting “life and works” approach, Gimpelevich provides readers with a valuable introduction to a writer who is still relatively little known in the west. Nevertheless, this study goes a long way towards explaining Bykaŭ’s significance as a “man of towering influence in twentieth-century Slavic literature.” Katherine Hodgson, *University of Exeter, United Kingdom.*



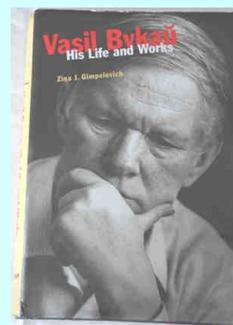
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***Canadian Slavonic Papers, 2007:*** Zina J. Gimpelevich's monograph provides deep insights into the life and work of Vasil Bykaŭ (1924-2003), world-renowned Belarusian writer and activist in the national independence and renaissance movements in Belarus. As Gimpelevich points out, the main message of Bykaŭ's war novels is "there is no glory in war." Gimpelevich's analysis of Bykaŭ's literary legacy not only gives a detailed overview of its main topics and specific artistic features but also brings into the discussion critical scholarship on Belarusian literature, giving detailed attention to English, Belarusian, and Russian-language critiques of Bykaŭ's writings. Alexander Pershai, *University of Western Ontario*.

***Slavic and East European Journal, 2007:*** Gimpelevich offers us an important book on a major twentieth-century Belarusian and European writer. The study reflects her own deep affection for Bykaŭ and his works. "The beauty of Bykaŭ's narration touches me," she writes, "he spoke of Chagall in the same voice he used when he remembered his parents and his childhood (28). Bykaŭ's works also portray the painful history of Belarus in the twentieth century and the difficult road the Belarusian nation has endured to define and maintain its national identity. Gimpelevich captures this admirably as well, for which her readers are extremely grateful. Alicja Boruta-Sadkowski, *University of Northern Iowa*.

***The International Fiction review, 2007:*** Zina Gimpelevich's recent biography of Vasil Bykaŭ fills a void. As the interest in Belarus increases, so does the need for works on this country's culture, history, language, and literature. There are very few academic works on Belarus in English. Therefore this initiative is very timely and contributes to put this often-neglected country on the map. It highlights the fact that Belarus has a literary tradition as old as neighboring Russian and Ukraine. *Per Anders Rudling, University of Alberta*.