

# Putin taps civilian economist to run defence

President Vladimir Putin has nominated civilian **Andrei Belousov**, a former deputy prime minister who specialises in economics, as Russia's new defence minister, replacing **Sergei Shoigu**



■ **Mar 17, 1959:** **Andrei Belousov** born in Moscow, Russia

■ **1981:** Graduates from Faculty of Economics of Moscow State University with distinction

■ **2000:** Appointed non-staff adviser to Russian prime minister

■ **2006:** Joins economy ministry as deputy minister

■ **2008-2012:** Serves as director of government department for economics and finance

■ **2012:** Made economics minister

■ **2013-2020:** Adviser to Russian president. Reportedly helped to convince Putin that digital economy and blockchain were crucial to Russia's future

■ **2020-2024:** Works as first deputy prime minister of Russia. Temporarily performs duties of Prime Minister **Mikhail Mishustin** after latter is diagnosed with Covid

■ **May 2024**  
Nominated as defence minister, replacing long-time Putin friend and ally **Sergei Shoigu** (right) – in charge of defence since 2012



■ Move seen by some analysts as indication that Putin seeks to align Russian economy more closely with war effort in Ukraine

■ Putin wants Shoigu to become secretary of Russia's powerful Security Council, replacing incumbent **Nikolai Patrushev**