



Vaclav Klaus

Former President of the Czech Republic

Initially elected in 2003, and then again in 2008, Vaclav Klaus spent a decade as the President of the Czech Republic, having already served as Prime Minister between 1992 and 1998 during some of the country's historic moment of independence. A foremost post-communist reformer, Klaus was known for his views on economic policy and international affairs, areas of expertise which now make him a popular and highly regarded speaker.

Vaclav's biography

Who is Vaclav Klaus?

- Former President of the Czech Republic (2003 – 2013)
- Economist and [Politician](#)
- Co-founder of the Czech Republic's Civic Democratic Party
- Distinguished Senior Fellow at the Cato Institute
- Speaking Style
- Highly experienced and knowledgeable, Klaus's role in converting the Czech Republic to a capitalist economy makes him a [sought after speaker for businesses](#) within his country and around the world.
- Initially elected as President in 2003, Vaclav Klaus success in the role saw him elected to serve another five year term in 2008. During his political career he also served as the last Prime Minister of the Czech Republic whilst it was within the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic and continued in the role as the independent Czech Republics first Prime Minister, in total occupying the position for six years between 1992 and 1998. He became President of the Czech Parliament between 1998 and 2002, continuing in his role as a post-communist reformer and winning the respect of colleagues and the people alike, his actions and experience in such roles leading to his future success as President of the country.
- During his early career, Klaus worked as a researcher at the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences

Institute of Economics, where he eventually became the head of the Academy's newly founded Department of Macroeconomic Policy, part of the Institute of Forecasting. His ability as an economist meant that he had valuable insight as he ventured into politics, becoming the country's first non-communist Finance Minister for over four decades in 1989 and becoming Deputy Prime Minister in 1992. He became Vice-Chairman of the European Democratic Union in 1996, having been elected to the position.

- Klaus studied foreign trade [economics](#) at Prague's University of Economics, in Italy and at Cornell University.
- Positions and honours
- Member – Mont Perlin Society
- Order of the White Double Cross – Slovakia (2013)
- Grand Star of the Decoration – Austria (2009)
- Grand Cross of the Order of Vytautas the Great – Lithuania (2009)
- Merit Cross – Saxony (2008)
- Medal of Pushkin – Russia (2007)
- Order of the White Eagle – Poland (2007)
- Founders Award – The Fraser Institute (2004)
- Knight Grand Cross of the Order of Isabella the Catholic – Spain (2004)
- Distinguished Leader Award (2003)
- Knight Grand Cross of the Order of the White Lion – Czech Republic (2003 – 2013)
- Knight Grand Cross of the Order of Tom Garrigue Masaryk – Czech Republic (2003 2013)
- Bernhard Harms Medal – Kiel Institute of World Economics (1999)
- Goldwater Medal for Economic Freedom (1997)
- Transatlantic Leadership Award – European Institute, USA (1995)
- Club of Europe Award (1995)
- Max Schmidheiny Freedom Prize – Max Schmidheiny Foundation (1992)
- Schumpeter Prize for Economy (1991) Freedom Award – International Freedom Foundation (1990)
- In addition to these awards, Klaus has been awarded honorary degrees by numerous universities in countries all over the world.

Vaclav's talks

- **Monetary and Fiscal Policies, Inflation**
- **Visions and Strategies for an Enlarged European Union**
- **Developments in Central and Eastern Europe**
- **Leadership and Change**
- **Transformation of Economies**

