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**Oligarchs are not born: who is Tomas Fiala, and why is he considered the viceroy of Soros in Ukraine**

And why did he suddenly need a whole "Ukrainian Truth"?

**Tomas Fiala**





Minutes to read:

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Until 2014, he was just one of the Ukrainian businessmen of foreign origin, not very famous and far from the richest. But then **Tomas Fiala** became an official business partner**George Soros**, and as the business grew, so did its influence. Today it is so great that he is no longer considered just one of the "Soros", but a trusted "viceroy" of Soros, who is responsible for buying up Ukrainian real estate, and now also the Ukrainian media.

His latest [the acquisition was the online publication "Ukrainian Truth"](https://klymenko-time.com/en/novosti/ukrainskaya-pravda-prodana-izvestnoe-izdanie-oficzialno-priobryol-pravaya-ruka-sorosa-tomash-fiala-nitr/). Although it has never been among the profitable assets, rather, it was even planned-unprofitable and was supported by grants, but for two decades now it has had a noticeable influence on the formation of the political mainstream. And now it will be controlled by a person with a very ambiguous reputation, whose promises can not always be trusted.

**Born of the "velvet revolution"**

Tomas Fiala was born on May 13, 1974 in the city of Brno (Moravia, Czech Republic). Several media outlets have reported that [born there ten years earlier Petr Fiala](https://ruski.radio.cz/novym-liderom-grazhdanskih-demokratov-stal-petr-fiala-8305718) (Czech politician, was the Minister of Education) - this is supposedly the older brother of Tomas. However, this information has never been publicly confirmed by Fiala, so either it's fake or there's a reason the brothers pretend not to know each other.

According to Tomasz Fiala himself, [his parents were principled anti-communists](https://forbes.ua/ru/leadership/marafonets-01012021-810), and the great-grandfather was generally “repressed” (degraded from the officers). But, despite this, their family had an excellent apartment and a good job, and young Tomas in socialist times regularly traveled to sports competitions in Austria, Italy and Germany. From there, he brought home gifts and admiration for the capitalist world, and also, thanks to these trips, he began to diligently learn German.

In November 1989 in [Prague began the so-called. "velvet revolution"](https://meduza.io/feature/2019/11/29/ischerpyvayuschiy-putevoditel-meduzy-po-barhatnym-revolyutsiyam-v-vostochnoy-evrope-30-let-nazad-oni-razrushili-sotslager). 15-year-old Fiala immediately dropped out of school and went to "Maidan" in the capital, where he had an exciting time and made many useful connections that would be useful to him in later life. One of the main sponsors of those events was George Soros, who supported "youth leaders" with money. It is possible that it was then that Tomas Fiala proved himself to one of these "leaders" and was enrolled in the personnel reserve of the "Soros". he himself[claims to have met Soros for the first time](https://www.pravda.com.ua/articles/2021/06/3/7295922/) only in 2014:

*“I met in the summer of 2014 with one of his colleagues who was here in Kyiv on behalf of Mr. Soros. As a result, this colleague invited me to New York to meet with employees representing various departments of Soros Fund Management and with George Soros.”*

In the 11th grade (there was a 12-year school in Czechoslovakia), Fiala again left his studies and went to Berlin, from where he returned only a year later. But instead of catching up in school and preparing for final exams, he began working as an interpreter in the Czech branch of Volkswagen.

**From "Wood&Company" to Dragon Capital**

In 1993, thanks to the Deutschmarks earned and "velvet" connections, Tomas Fiala had no problems **entered the Prague University of Economics, but studied there only three courses**. Just like at school, he was much less interested in studying than participation in a political party, and, moreover, money. As a student, he headed[cell of the Young Conservatives](https://ru.xcv.wiki/wiki/Young_Conservatives_%28Czech_Republic%29), and already from the first year he actively "worked on". At first he tried himself as an "investment banker" (more precisely, a clerk of the investment department) in the Prague branch of the German Bayerische Vereinsbank, but there he quickly failed. Without hanging his nose, Fiala immediately found himself another job: an analyst of privatization processes at Wood & Company.

This company appears in any version of the biography of Tomasz Fiala, but there is little information about this company itself, as well as about its founder Richard Wood (former vice president of Salomon Brothers). It is only known that ["Wood&Company" was opened in Prague in 1990](https://investgazeta.delo.ua/finansy/kto-v-wood-hozjain-255712/)and specialized in [analysis, securities trading, underwriting and client asset management](https://ffin.ua/ru/blog/faq/investytsii/post/shcho-take-anderraitynh-tsinnykh-paperiv). It is worth noting that it is usually this kind of activity that companies controlled by Soros or associated with him are engaged in.

*“When I was finishing my third year, I worked at Wood & Company at the same time, and from the clients of this company I received an offer to go to work in the UK and the USA in different investment funds. I said at my work that I was going, but I was offered to stay and continue working in another position. I had a choice - Romania, Ukraine or Russia. I thought it would be interesting and accepted the offer to stay"* - Fiala himself talks about this period of his career.

So in 1996, a half-educated student was sent to lead the Ukrainian branch of Wood & Company. The task of Tomasz Fiala was to buy up the assets of promising Ukrainian enterprises, whose value would increase in the future without the need for investments in their development - that is, energy, raw materials, financial institutions. There were high hopes for speculation in such assets.

But Fiala did not cope with this task. For example, an attempt to acquire 4% of the bank "Ukraine" ended with the fact that these shares were taken back from him. Participation in [the first stage of the oblenergo privatization](http://www.ier.com.ua/files/publications/Policy_papers/German_advisory_group/2007/W8_ukr.pdf), which Western companies (especially American ones) were counting on. Later, Fiala explained his failure by the fact that privatization in Ukraine was absolutely corrupt, competitions were fictitious, and enterprises were “distributed” in advance by agreement with the oligarchs. But there is also an opposite point of view on this matter: **the authorities then simply gave preference to national business**rather than multinational speculators. The truth, as usual, lies somewhere in the middle.

These failures, plus the crisis of 1998, led to the transfer of Tomasz Fiala from Kyiv to Warsaw, to the head office of the Polish branch of Wood & Company. There he was no longer a boss, but again only a performer: he was engaged in the creation of Internet trading (access to exchange trading via the Internet). This did not suit him, and in 2000 Fiala left the company - as he later said, *"for the purpose of self-realization"*. And together with those who left with him from "Wood & Company" **Kamil Gotsei**, **Dmitry Tarabakin**, **Igor Maslyuk** и **Michael Sito** **founded his own company "Dragon Capital"**.

Note that [Tarabakin has been personally acquainted with Soros since 1994](https://dragon-capital.com/ru/media/our-comments/ne-tayaschiysya-drakon/)(he paid for his education in the USA). But Kamil Gotza a few years later “surfaced” in the context [scandal with the seizure of apartments from the debtors of "UkrSibbank"](http://odessa-daily.com.ua/news/otkrytoe-pismo-mihailu-saakashvili-po-povodu-banditskogo-zahvata-sobstvennosti-grazhdan-id91065.html). It was Gotsa who was the beneficiary of Key-collect LLC (through the Cypriot company Promatek Limited), which bought the debts of individuals from the bank. Then, **with the help of its "black notaries" and "titushki" from private security companies, "K-collect" began to throw people out into the street**.

**Flight of the "Dragon": real estate, schemes and scandals**

Tomas Fiala himself registered his business in Cyprus. The Ukrainian Dragon Capital, which has now grown into a group of companies, is listed under the Cypriot Dragon Capital Holding Limited. And she, in turn, belongs to the Cypriot ["Conebond Limited", which Fiala himself does not hide at all](https://www.pravda.com.ua/articles/2021/06/3/7295922/). Why does it happen that a supporter (at least in words) of an “open economy” practically hides his business offshore? And why was the activity of his “Dragon Capital” in Ukraine so often accompanied by scandals?

For the first two years, Dragon Capital did not make any notable progress. But in 2002, East Capital became his partner in Ukraine, co-founded and managed by [**Aivaras Abromavicius**](https://klymenko-time.com/en/dose/ajvaras-abromavichus-dosje/) - one of the most famous "Soros", who oversaw the Ukrainian "reforms" in 2014-2016. Together with him, Fiala then acquired the Novaya Liniya supermarket chain, and investors' money was attracted into their development and construction of new ones. But under the "wise" leadership of Fiala and Abromavicius [New Line began to suffer multimillion-dollar losses](https://bp.ubr.ua/business/novaia-liniia-2016), so in 2013 it was sold to Alexander and Galina Gereg, recently [uniting them with their "Epicenter"](https://biz.nv.ua/consmarket/epicentr-likvidiruet-novuyu-liniyu-set-gipermarketov-obedinit-brendy-novosti-ukrainy-50114036.html). Moreover, according to rumors, the proposal for this sale was rejected by the owners for quite a long time, and as a result, the deal turned out to be not at all as profitable as it could be.

In 2007 [Fiala created Dragon - Ukrainian Properties & Development Plc](https://dragon-capital.com/ru/media/press-releases/dragon---ukrainian-properties--development-plc-obyavlyaet-pervyy-investitsionnyy-proekt-v-ukraine/), especially for "investment in Ukrainian real estate." Through the sale of his shares through the London Stock Exchange, he very quickly raised more than 300 million, but it was believed that in fact it was the money of Ukrainian oligarchs, taken out of the country and “laundered” according to various schemes.

In any case, this [Fiala's idea turned into a loud land scandal](https://antikor.com.ua/articles/199420-cheshskij_investor_tomash_fiala_obmanul_ukrainskih_krestjjan_na_milliony_dollarov_-_hurnalist). It turned out that **Fiala arranged the purchase of shares of Ukrainian villagers through a cunning scheme** through the issuance of a loan secured by land. This allowed him to take over the agricultural land that was under the moratorium for mere pennies, because the amount of the loan issued was much less than the final amount of the debt (with interest). But he sold these plots to investors Dragon - Ukrainian Properties & Development Plc already at the "market" price, as a result of which the "earnings" amounted to one hundred million dollars.

Then **Dragon Capital bought a 70% stake in the Ukrainian company Chumak**, known primarily for its tomato ketchups and pasta. It's interesting that [in the first years of its work, Chumak did not yet have its own plant for the production of tomato paste, but bought it ... in Uzbekistan and China](https://vkurse.pro/compromat/ivan-vinnik-neprostoj-put-v-narodnye-deputaty-kidaly-iz-hersona/)through Global Concentrate **Ivan Vinnik**.

Also in 2007, Fiala became a partner **Goldman Sachs, who bought 5% of his Dragon Capital**. This large international investment bank has repeatedly participated in various projects of George Soros. Thanks to this, during the 2008 crisis, neither Dragon Capital nor Tomas Fiala himself experienced a shortage of money, which made it easy to buy up the "troubled assets" of distressed enterprises.

**One of them was the Kyiv SEC "SkyMall"**. It was built by Arricano Real Estate Plc. **Estonian businessman Hillar Teder**, which somewhat went bankrupt during that crisis and therefore invited investors to complete the project. They were the offshore company "Stockman Interhold"**Andrey Adamovsky** и **Alexander Granovsky** and "Dragon - Ukrainian Properties & Development Plc" Fiala. Their partnership turned [mutual scams and conflict over this ill-fated "SkyMall"](https://www.epravda.com.ua/rus/news/2019/06/24/649023/)spanning nine years!

**To whom is the crisis, and to whom is profit: deriban real estate in a company with Soros**

After the second Maidan, another and most severe crisis covered Ukraine, and the country largely came under the control of Western-controlled “reformers”. The long-awaited hour has struck for those who have long wanted to buy it! And in the next two years, Dragon Capital acquired assets worth several times more than in the entire previous period.

Fiala's now direct and open partnership with Soros played a big role in this. In 2015, the Ukrainian Redevelopment Fund LP, managed by Soros Fund Management, invested heavily in Dragon Capital and created a joint project Dragon Capital New Ukraine Fund, which immediately started buying real estate. Together with other partners, also under the control of Soros, Fiala during 2015-2017. “invested in Ukrainian real estate” about half a billion dollars!

Mainly [metropolitan business centers, shopping malls and logistics centers in the Kyiv region](https://retailers.ua/news/partneryi/7400-dragonovskie-apetityi-fond-tomasha-fialyi-i-djordja-sorosa-za-dva-goda-poglotil-350-tyis-kv-m-nedvijimosti). Biggest acquisitions include: Victoria Gardens Mall ($70 million), Horizon Park Business Center ($70 million), Prime Business Center ($35 million), Piramida Shopping Center ($25 million), West Gate Logistic and East Gate Logistic" (together 45 million).

Where problems arose during the purchase of real estate, they were solved by the most stringent methods, reminiscent of outright looting. So, everyone remembers that series of pogroms and arsons of Kyiv markets in 2015-2017. Dragon Capital has been involved in at least one such episode.

15 декабря 2016 года **"titushki" defeated the market "Obolon"**, the territory of which was claimed by Sollur LLC and Obolon Plaza Park LLC - both of these companies are controlled by Dragon Capital. After the debacle of the market, followed by its closure, [firms began building a shopping center and a residential complex there](https://kievvlast.com.ua/news/v-rassledovanii-stroitelstva-zhk-ot-dragon-capital-vozle-metro-obolon-naznachili-e-kspertizu) Obolon Plaza.

But this is all, so to speak, business as usual. But the news that Dragon Capital could play the role of the main intermediary in the sale of the strategic enterprise Motor Sich to the Chinese was completely unexpected. As you know, this deal was actively blocked by the United States, under pressure from which Zelensky gave the go-ahead to reverse “nationalization”. Some [The media called it Fiala's "first such scandal"](https://www.capital.ua/ru/publication/155296-oligarkh-2-0-kak-investbankir-tomash-fiala-stal-serym-kardinalom-ukrainskoy-vlasti). But now we know that he was far from the first, and is unlikely to be the last.

**Is a new oligarch born?**

Once upon a time, Tomas Fiala pointedly distanced himself from politics and positioned himself exclusively as a businessman. However, immediately after the second Maidan, like many other "Soros", he decided that his time had come, and went into public service, became **take the media under your wing, sponsor political projects**.

In the spring of 2014, Fiala became the sponsor of the creation, and then the owner **publications "New time"**. It was created by a team of journalists who had left the Korrespondent publication six months earlier after purchasing it. **Sergey Kurchenko**. It should be clarified that the Korrespondent itself belonged to an American for more than ten years. **Jed Sanden** (he is also a sponsor of the Femen movement). And although Fiala promised not to interfere in the editorial policy of Novoye Vremya (as he is now promising this to Ukrayinska Pravda), in 2018 [under his pressure, the entire staff of the economic bloc left the publication](https://strana.ua/news/177923-zhurnal-novoe-vremja-uvolil-zhurnalistov-biznes-bloka.html).

In 2015, Fiala became co-founder and head of the Supervisory Board [NGO Center for Economic Strategy](https://ces.org.ua/). Another founder of this organization was **Svyatoslav Vakarchuk**, later put at the head of the electoral list of the party "Voice". This [the party was called the political project of Soros and Fiala](https://www.dsnews.ua/politics/partiynaya-kassa-kto-i-kak-vkladyvaet-dengi-v-dosrochnye-19062019220000), which they funded through Dragon Capital. Vakarchuk denied this information, but then he himself named among the main donors of the party **Sergei Fursu**  - and after all, he just works at Dragon Capital!



Fiala is also [Patron of the Ukrainian Catholic University](https://m.facebook.com/UkrainianCatholicUniversity/posts/3793804473984660), from the walls of which come radical "pro-Europeans" and Russophobes. Its rector **Boris Gudziak** is a US citizen (came to Ukraine in 1992) and a friend of the Clinton family. More [Fiala donated large sums to the Kyiv School of Economics](https://www.capital.ua/ru/publication/155296-oligarkh-2-0-kak-investbankir-tomash-fiala-stal-serym-kardinalom-ukrainskoy-vlasti), whose director **Timofey Milovanov** (one of the "soros") then became the Minister of Economy of Ukraine, and recently [headed the Supervisory Board of Ukroboronprom](https://klymenko-time.com/en/novosti/milovanova-naznachili-glavoj-nabsoveta-ukroboronproma-nedebil-i-duelyant-dorvalsya-do-vlasti-diho/).

In October 2016, Tomasz[Fiala was elected a member of the board of the Ukrainian branch of Transparency International](https://dragon-capital.com/ru/media/press-releases/konferentsiya-chlenov-transparency-international-ukraina-izbrala-novyy-sostav-pravleniya-organizatsii2016_10_17/) - an international NGO that exists on Western money and is engaged in anti-corruption activities in the countries of the second and third world. This organization more than once **accused of bias and even data manipulation**. But, perhaps, this is exactly what Fiala needs, because a bunch of Transparency International plus Ukrayinska Pravda is a powerful weapon in capable hands!

*“Now, when Fiala likes some business, its owner will be declared a terrible corrupt official on the pages of Ukrayinska Pravda. This will make the business cheaper and the owner more accommodating.”*, - this apt comment from the Internet exhaustively explains the newfound opportunities of the owner of "Dragon Capital". And yet, in our opinion, this is only part of the puzzle!

[Financing of political forces](https://klymenko-time.com/en/novosti/kto-by-somnevalsya-pritula-oficzialno-priznal-chto-golos-sponsiruet-partnyor-sorosa-nitr/), social movements and educational institutions, the presence of friends and associates in power, control over the media, the possibility of using the "anti-corruption baton" - all this is now in the hands and capabilities of Mr. Fiala. And the presence of half a billion capital and the presence behind the back of such a partner as George Soros, in fact **makes Tomas Fiala the new Ukrainian oligarch**. Which, by all indications, will have to take its place of honor among the domestic oligarchs, who [as if declared war Office of the President](https://klymenko-time.com/en/novosti/zakon-protiv-oligarhov-bezzakonie-utverdyat-v-speczialnom-zakone-angr/).

But who in Ukraine can seriously believe in the reality of such an outcome for the new owner of all Ukrainian Pravda?