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Wiktor Osiatynski, born 1945, holds degrees in law and sociology from Warsaw University and Polish Academy of Sciences. Since 1995, as a University Professor at the Central European University Osiatynski teaches at the CEU Legal Program in Budapest, and is also a counsel to the Open Society Foundation. Between 1991 and 1997, Osiatynski was a co-director of the Center for the Study of Constitutionalism in Eastern Europe at the Chicago Law School. Between 1991 and 2001, he was a recurrent visiting professor at the University of Chicago Law School. Since 2002, Osiatynski has been involved in the development of a multi-disciplinary center for Human Rights at the University of Connecticut. He also teaches at the Human Rights master program at the University of Siena, Italy. In 2004, Osiatynski has been elected a member of the Committee of Political Science at the Polish Academy of Sciences.

Main subject of Osiatynski's scholarly interests has been comparative study of individual rights and constitutionalism. He has written, in Polish, 20 books, a majority of them about the comparative history of social and political thought. Osiatynski has taught at the University of Warsaw, Antioch University, UCLA, University of Virginia, Columbia University, Chicago Law School, Harvard Law School, and Stanford University. He has developed a number of standard university syllabi, among others on "Human Rights in Eastern Europe" and "Constitutionalism and Rights in Transition from Communism," "Rights, Responsibilities, and Commitments." Osiatynski teaches at a number of post-graduate courses on human rights at the Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights in Warsaw.

In 1990-1997, Osiatynski has been an advisor to a number of Constitutional Committees of the Poland's Parliament. He has written extensively on constitutional developments in post-Communist Poland and Eastern Europe. He has been a co-editor of the East European Constitutional Review. In 1997, he wrote a book calling for the adoption of the new Constitution in Poland and in 2000 a definite analysis of the process of constitution-making in Poland, after 1989, co-authored by Osiatynski was published. In late 2004, his book "The Citizen's Republic" on the transformation from Communism, has become a national event in Poland. At present, he is working on a comparative study of theory and history of individual and human rights. Recently, Osiatynski has been an advisor to the Constitutional Committee of the National Assembly of Kyrgystan

Wiktor Osiatynski is a member of the board of the Open Society Budapest and the board of the OSI Justice Initiative as well as a Human Rights

and Law and European Union Accession sub-Boards of the OSI. He founded the Commission of Education on Alcoholism and Drug Addiction at the Stefan Batory Foundation in Warsaw, which he chaired between 1988 and 1995.