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Graduate of the Leningrad Institute of Rail Transport Engineers. Worked in telecommunications and at international sections of the Leningrad Regional Committee and the Central Committee of the Communist Party. In 1982 – 1987 elected deputy of the District Council and the City Council. After graduating from the Diplomatic Academy by MFA of RF, held executive posts at the MFA and abroad: director of department for security and Consul General of RF in Kirkenes (1992 – 1997). Studied computer science in Norway and at the Russian Academy of Public Service under the President of RF. Was awarded a certificate of expert CIO of South Korea (2004). In 1998-2011 - Head of the Center for Informatics of MFA. In 2011 retired from diplomatic service and became Deputy Director of the R&D Centre for Informatics under MFA of the Russia. Since 2012 - member of the Advisory Council of the Committee for Security of the State Duma of Russia and President of NGO “National Institute of Research of Global Security”. Smirnov is honorary doctor of the Northern (Arctic) Federal University. He is author of over 200 monographs and articles, published in foreign languages as well. The latest books: “Global security in the digital age: stratagems for Russia” (2014), “Arctic: network diplomacy 2.0 in the discourse of global security” (2016), "Modern information technologies in international relations" (2017). Repeatedly represented Russia at large international conferences and in expert councils, including those under the aegis of the Security Council of the Russia.

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