

## Chapter 1 : History of Poland (â€™) | Revolvy

*Communism in Poland can trace its origins to the late 19th century: the Marxist First Proletariat party was founded in Rosa Luxemburg ().*

For more information, please see the full notice. Fall of Communism in Eastern Europe, On November 9, , thousands of jubilant Germans brought down the most visible symbol of division at the heart of Europeâ€™the Berlin Wall. For two generations, the Wall was the physical representation of the Iron Curtain, and East German border guards had standing shoot-to-kill orders against those who tried to escape. But just as the Wall had come to represent the division of Europe, its fall came to represent the end of the Cold War. Bush and his National Security Advisor, Brent Scowcroft, watched the unfolding scene on a television in the study, aware of both the historical significance of the moment and of the challenges for U. Germans celebrating the fall of the Berlin Wall on November 10, By , the former communist leaders were out of power, free elections were held, and Germany was whole again. The peaceful collapse of the regimes was by no means pre-ordained. Soviet tanks crushed demonstrators in East Berlin in June , in Hungary in , and again in Czechoslovakia in Soviet military planners were intimately involved in the Polish planning for martial law in , and Soviet troops remained stationed throughout Eastern Europe, as much a guarantee for Soviet security as an ominous reminder to Eastern European peoples of Soviet dominance over their countries. Gorbachev also made clearâ€™at first secretly to the Eastern European leaders, then increasingly more publicâ€™that the Soviet Union had abandoned the policy of military intervention in support of communist regimes the Brezhnev Doctrine. On February 6, , negotiations between the Polish Government and members of the underground labor union Solidarity opened officially in Warsaw. Solidarity was formed in August following a series of strikes that paralyzed the Polish economy. On June 4, as Chinese tanks crushed student-led protests in Beijing, Solidarity delivered a crushing electoral victory. In Hungary, drastic changes were also under way. In doing so, it provided an avenue to escape for an ever-increasing number of East Germans. The Hungarian Party removed its long-time leader, Janos Kadar, agreed to its own version of the Round Table talks with the opposition, and, on June 16, ceremoniously re-interred Imre Nagy, the reformist communist leader of the Hungarian Revolution. By October 23, ten months after political reforms began, Hungary adopted a new constitution allowing a multi-party system and competitive elections. The economic collapse of East Germany led increasing numbers of East Germans to seek to emigrate to the West. Thousands sought refuge in West German embassies in other communist countries, eventually forcing the government to allow them to emigrate via special trains. Visiting Berlin in early October, Gorbachev cautioned the East German leadership of the need to reform, and confided in his advisors that East German leader Erich Honecker had to be replaced. Two weeks later, Honecker was forced to resign, while hundreds of thousands marched in protest throughout major East German cities. On November 9, as the world watched on television, the East German Government announced the opening of all East German borders. In a fluid situation, the Berlin Wall came down when an obviously ill-prepared East German spokesman told reporters that the new travel regulations also applied to Berlin. Before the end of the month, West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl unveiled a plan for reunification of the two Germanies. As the Wall came down and the fears of a Soviet reaction receded, the dominoes started falling at a quickened pace. In October, riot police arrested hundreds in Prague after an unsanctioned demonstration; only weeks later, hundreds of thousands gathered in Prague to protest the government. Alexander Dubcek, the reformist communist who led the Prague Spring in , made his first public appearance in over two decades. In Bulgaria, protests lead to the removal of Todor Zhivkov, the long-time leader of the Bulgarian Communist Party, and his replacement with reformist communist, Petar Mladenov. The new government quickly announced that the government would hold free elections in Only in Romania did the events turn violent. Nicolae Ceausescu, an increasingly idiosyncratic relic of Stalinist times, refused any reforms. On December 17 in Timisoara, the army and police fired into crowds protesting government policies, killing dozens. Protests spread to other cities, with hundreds killed when Ceausescu ordered the violent repression of demonstrations on December By the next day, Ceausescu was forced to flee Bucharest and was

arrested by Army units in the countryside. The interim government, led by a reformist communist Ion Iliescu, held a quick mock trial and Ceausescu and his wife were executed on December 25, 1989. By the summer of 1990, all of the former communist regimes of Eastern Europe were replaced by democratically elected governments. In Bulgaria and Romania, reformed communists retained control of the governments, but new center-right parties entered Parliaments and became active on the political scene. The course was set for the reintegration of Eastern Europe into Western economic, political, and security frameworks. In his memoirs, Bush noted that the rapport he built with Gorbachev at that meeting would prove beneficial later on. And while Scowcroft did not yet feel the Cold War was over, he noted that U.S.

**Chapter 2 : Communism In Poland Free Videos Search And Play**

*Communist Poland. The postwar Polish republic, renamed in the Polish People's Republic, occupied an area some 20 percent smaller than prewar Poland, and its population of almost 30 million rose to nearly 39 million in the following four decades.*

Gift economy – A gift economy, gift culture, or gift exchange is a mode of exchange where valuables are not traded or sold, but rather given without an explicit agreement for immediate or future rewards. This contrasts with an economy or a market economy, where goods. Social norms and custom govern gift exchange, Gifts are not given in an explicit exchange of goods or services for money or some other commodity. The nature of gift economies forms the subject of a debate in anthropology. The Kula trade appeared to be gift-like since Trobrianders would travel great distances over dangerous seas to give what were considered valuable objects without any guarantee of a return. According to anthropologists Maurice Bloch and Jonathan Parry, it is the relationship between market and non-market exchange that attracts the most attention. Gift economies are said, by some, to communities. Gift ideology in highly commercialized societies differs from the typical of non-market societies. Gift economies must also be differentiated from several closely related phenomena, such as common property regimes, however, he claims that anthropologists, through analysis of a variety of cultural and historical forms of exchange, have established that no universal practice exists. Gift exchange is frequently embedded in political, kin, or religious institutions, gift-giving is a form of transfer of property rights over particular objects. The nature of property rights varies from society to society, from culture to culture. The nature of gift-giving is thus altered by the type of property regime in place, property is not a thing, but a relationship amongst people about things. According to Chris Hann, property is a relationship that governs the conduct of people with respect to the use. Anthropologists analyze these relationships in terms of a variety of actors bundle of rights over objects, an example is the current debates around intellectual property rights. Hann and Strangelove both give the example of a book, over which the author retains a copyright. The gifts given in Kula exchange still remain, in some respects, in the example used above, copyright is one of those bundled rights that regulate the use and disposition of a book. Gift-giving in many societies is complicated because private property owned by an individual may be limited in scope.

2. Communist symbolism – Communist symbolism represents a variety of themes, including revolution, the proletariat, peasantry, agriculture, or international solidarity. Communist states, parties and movements use these symbols to advance, the flag of the Soviet Union incorporated a yellow-outlined red star and a yellow hammer and sickle on red. The flags of Vietnam, China, Angola, and Mozambique would all incorporate similar symbolism under communist rule, the hammer and sickle have become the pan-communist symbol, appearing on the flags of most communist parties around the world. However, the flag of the Workers Party of Korea includes a hammer representing industrial workers, a hoe representing agricultural workers, and a brush representing the intelligentsia. In Hungary, Latvia, Indonesia, Poland, Ukraine and Lithuania, communist symbols are banned, the hammer and sickle is a symbol of the communist movement. The hammer stands for the industrial working-class while the sickle represents the workers, together the hammer. The hammer and sickle were first used during the Russian Revolution, since the Russian Revolution, the hammer and sickle have come to represent various communist parties and socialist states. The five-pointed red star is a symbol of communism as well as socialism in general. The red star was a symbol after the October Revolution. It was widely used by anti-fascist resistance parties and underground organizations in Europe leading up to, most states in the Eastern Bloc incorporated the red star into state symbols to signify their socialist nature. Today the red star is used by many socialist and communist parties, the red flag is often seen in combination with other communist symbols and party names. The flag is used at various communist and socialist rallies like May Day, the flag, being a symbol of socialism itself, is also commonly associated with non-communist variants of socialism. The red flag has had multiple meanings in history but it was first used as a flag of defiance, the red flag gained its modern political meaning in the French Revolution. After the October Revolution, the Soviet government adopted the red flag with a superimposed hammer, since the

October Revolution, various socialist states and movements have used the red flag. The red and black flag has been a symbol of general communist movements, the flag was used as the symbol of the Anarcho-syndicalists during the Spanish Civil War. The black represents anarchism and the red represents leftist ideals, over time the flag spilled into statist leftist movements, these movements include the Sandinistas and the 26th of July Movement, where the flags colors are not divided diagonally but horizontally. As in the case of the Sandinistas they adopted the flag due to the movements Anarchist roots, the Internationale is an anthem of the socialist movement. It is one of the most universally recognised songs in the world and has translated into nearly every spoken language 3. Anarcho-communism

Some anarcho-communists view anarcho-communism as a way of reconciling the opposition between the individual and society. Anarcho-communism developed out of radical socialist currents after the French Revolution, the theoretical work of Peter Kropotkin took importance later as it expanded and developed pro-organizationalist and insurrectionary anti-organizationalist sections. To date, the examples of anarchist communist societies were the anarchist territories during the Spanish Revolution. Unlike Proudhon, he argued that, it is not the product of his or her labor that the worker has a right to, returning to New York he was able to serialise his book in his periodical *Le Libertaire, Journal du Mouvement social*. Published in 27 issues from June 9, to February 4, and this was the first anarchist journal to use the term libertarian. He saw anarchic initiative, reasoned will and the autonomy of each as the conditions for the revolution of the proletariat. As Bakunins associate, James Guillaume, put it in his essay, *Ideas on Social Organization*, When production comes to outstrip consumption. But, Errico Malatesta stated that instead of running the risk of making a confusion in trying to distinguish what you and I each do, let us all work, the federal congress at Florence has eloquently demonstrated the opinion of the Italian International on this point. The above report was made in an article by Malatesta and Cafiero in the *Jura Federations bulletin* later that year, Peter Kropotkin, often seen as the most important theorist of anarchist communism, outlined his economic ideas in *The Conquest of Bread and Fields, Factories and Workshops*. Kropotkin felt that cooperation is more beneficial than competition, arguing in his scientific work *Mutual Aid*. Aims of life vary with each and every individual, and the society is civilized, the more will individuality be developed. He supported the expropriation of property into the commons or public goods. Some support a form of trade in the form of non-monetary commons. Others such as Tiziana Terranova easily see anarcho-communism being compatible with a non-hierarchical, open access, free association, so between and with the perspective of an immanent revolution, who was opposed to the official workers movement, which was then in the process of formation. They were opposed not only to political struggles but also to strikes which put forward wage or other claims, but While they were not opposed to strikes as such, they were opposed to trade unions and the struggle for the eight-hour day 4. Leninism

Functionally, the Leninist vanguard party was to provide the working class with the political consciousness and revolutionary leadership necessary to depose capitalism in Imperial Russia. As a political-science term, Leninism entered common usage in , two years later, in July , at the fifth congress of the Communist International, Grigory Zinoviev popularized the term Leninism to denote vanguard-party revolution. In the pamphlet *What is to be Done*, in the pamphlet *Freedom to Criticise and Unity of Action*, Lenin said, Full, inner-party democratic debate was Bolshevik Party practice under Lenin, even after the banning of party factions in Although a guiding influence in policy, Lenin did not exercise absolute power, under Stalin, the inner-party practice of democratic free debate did not continue after the death of Lenin in Democracy for the exploiters will be, in one or another form, is a question of the specific national features of this or that capitalism. In the soviet political system, the party would be one of many political parties competing for elected power. Nevertheless, the circumstances of the Red vs, to feed the populaces of town and country, Lenin instituted War Communism as a necessary conditionadequate supplies of food and weaponsfor fighting the Russian Civil War. Lenin regarded the appearance of new socialist states in the countries as necessary to the strengthening Russias economy. In that, he was encouraged by the German Revolution of , the Italian insurrection and general strikes of , and industrial unrest in Britain, France, and the U. To that end followed proposals reducing the powers of Party posts. Lenin advised Trotsky to emphasize Stalins recent bureaucratic alignment in such matters, despite advice to refuse any rotten compromise, Trotsky did not heed Lenins advice, and General Secretary Stalin

retained power over the Communist Party and the bureaucracy of the soviet government. In the course of instituting government policy, Stalin promoted the doctrine of Socialism in One Country, hence, revolutionary workers should politically ally with peasant political organisations, but not with capitalist political parties. The Oppositionists Until exiled from Russia in , Leon Trotsky helped develop and led the Left Opposition with members of the Workers Opposition, the Decembrists, the Stalinist economic policy vacillated between appeasing capitalist kulak interests in the countryside, and destroying them. Initially, the Stalinists also rejected the national industrialisation of Russia, in both cases, the Left Opposition denounced the regressive nature of the policy towards the kulak social class of wealthy peasants, and the brutality of forced industrialisation. Trotsky described the vacillating Stalinist policy as a symptom of the nature of a ruling bureaucracy. The anti-“Trotsky campaign culminated in the executions of the Moscow Trials, in political practice, Leninism, despite its origin as Communist revolutionary praxis, was adopted throughout the political spectrum. In Singapore, the Peoples Action Party was organised Leninist political party featuring internal democracy, the PAP initiated single-party dominance in the government and popular politics of Singapore. In Marxist philosophy, the term Left communism identifies a range of the Communist political perspectives that are the left-wing among Communists, Left communism criticizes the political ideas that the Bolshevik Party practiced at certain periods of their history as a revolutionary vanguard party 5. Trotskyism “ Trotskyism is the theory of Marxism as advocated by Leon Trotsky. Trotskyists are critical of Stalinism, as they oppose Stalins theory of Socialism in One Country in favor of Trotskys theory of Permanent Revolution, Trotskyists also criticize the bureaucracy that developed in the Soviet Union under Stalin. Vladimir Lenin and Trotsky were close both ideologically and personally during the Russian Revolution and its aftermath, and some call Trotsky its co-leader, Trotsky was the paramount leader of the Soviet Red Army in the direct aftermath of the Revolutionary period. Trotsky originally opposed some aspects of Leninism, later, he concluded that unity between the Mensheviks and Bolsheviks was impossible, and joined the Bolsheviks. Trotsky played a role with Lenin in the revolution. Assessing Trotsky, Lenin wrote, Trotsky long ago said that unification is impossible, Trotsky understood this and from that time on there has been no better Bolshevik. In contemporary English language usage, an advocate of Trotskys ideas is called a Trotskyist. In the s they called themselves the Left Opposition, although todays left communism is distinct, the terminological disagreement can be confusing because different versions of a left-right political spectrum are used. Anti-revisionists consider themselves the ultimate leftists on a spectrum from communism on the left to imperialist capitalism on the right, but given that Stalinism is often labeled rightist within the communist spectrum and left communism leftist, Anti-revisionists idea of left is very different from that of left communism. Trotsky was extremely critical of the Stalinist USSR for suppressing democracy, in , Trotsky formulated a theory that became known as the theory of Permanent Revolution. It is one of the characteristics of Trotskyism. Until , Marxism only claimed that a revolution in a European capitalist society would lead to a socialist one, according to the original theory it was impossible for such to occur in more backward countries such as early 20th century Russia. Russia in was widely considered to have not yet established a capitalist society, the theory of Permanent Revolution addressed the question of how such feudal regimes were to be overthrown, and how socialism could be established given the lack of economic prerequisites. Trotsky argued that in Russia only the class could overthrow feudalism. Furthermore, he argued that the Russian working class would not stop there and they would win its own revolution against the weak capitalist class, establish a workers state in Russia, and appeal to the working class in the advanced capitalist countries around the world. As a result, the working class would come to Russias aid. Revolutions in Britain in the 17th century and in France in abolished feudalism, Trotsky argued that these revolutions would not be repeated in Russia 6. Communist International “ The Communist International, abbreviated as Comintern and also known as the Third International, was an international communist organization that advocated world communism. The Comintern had seven World Congresses between and and it also had thirteen Enlarged Plenums of its governing Executive Committee, which had much the same function as the somewhat larger and more grandiose Congresses. The Comintern was officially dissolved by Joseph Stalin in , while the differences had been evident for decades, World War I proved the issue that finally divided the revolutionary and reformist

wings of the workers movement. The socialist movement had been historically antimilitarist and internationalist, and therefore opposed workers serving as fodder for the bourgeois governments at war. This especially since the Triple Alliance comprised two empires, while the Triple Entente gathered France and Britain into an alliance with Russia, Karl Marx's *The Communist Manifesto* had stated that the working class has no country and exclaimed "Proletarians of all countries, unite." Massive majorities voted in favor of resolutions for the Second International to call upon the working class to resist war if it were declared. Nevertheless, within hours of the declarations of war, almost all the socialist parties of the combatant states announced their support for the war, the only exceptions were the socialist parties of the Balkans. To Lenin's surprise, even the Social Democratic Party of Germany voted in favor of war credits, Socialist parties in neutral countries mostly supported neutrality rather than total opposition to the war. The International divided into a left and a reformist right. Lenin condemned much of the center as social-pacifists for several reasons, Lenin's term social-pacifist aimed in particular at Ramsay MacDonald, leader of the Independent Labour Party in Britain, who opposed the war on grounds of pacifism, but did not actively resist it. Discredited by its passivity towards world events, the Second International dissolved in the middle of the war in 1916, the victory of the Russian Communist Party in the Bolshevik Revolution of November 1917 was felt throughout the world. An alternative path to power to parliamentary politics was demonstrated, with much of Europe on the verge of economic and political collapse in the aftermath of the carnage of the Great War, revolutionary sentiments were widespread. The Bolsheviks believed that required a new international to ferment revolution in Europe. The Comintern was founded at a Congress held in Moscow March 2-6, 1919, there were 52 delegates present from 34 parties.

### Chapter 3 : Polish People's Republic | Revolvy

*The history of Poland from to spans the period of Soviet dominance and communist rule imposed after the end of World War II over Poland, as reestablished within new borders.*

Communism in these countries ended democracy, made limited economic and social progress, and finally collapsed. These nations were supposed to become democracies, but they would need time to do this. In the s, time ran out. Ethnic differences, political corruption, and finally the Great Depression undermined the infant democracies. Nazi troops overran most of the rest of Eastern Europe in the first years of the war. Troops of Fascist Italy took over Albania. Some Eastern Europeans joined resistance groups to fight the Nazis. The strongest forces emerged in Yugoslavia and Albania, led by communists. Shortly before Germany surrendered, U. The Allied leaders discussed terms for the German surrender and the future of Eastern Europe. At Yalta, Stalin assured the other Allies that he would allow the people in the Soviet-occupied countries to hold free elections and choose democratic governments. Within three years, however, well-organized and disciplined national communist parties, aided by Stalin, had taken control of Eastern Europe. Millions had been killed. Famine threatened the survivors. Unemployment and inflation demoralized the people. The Nazis and the Soviet Union had wiped out the pre-war democratic leadership. National communist parties moved quickly to fill the political vacuum. The communists promised the people of Eastern Europe a new era of equality and economic plenty under a socialist system. Helped by Stalin, most East European communist parties made temporary alliances with non-communists until gaining control of government power centers like the national police. The communists who had fought the Nazis in Yugoslavia and Albania were the only ones to use military force to seize power. By , with the occupying Soviet Red Army always in the background, the communists had taken over the governments of eight Eastern European countries. Eastern Germany was at first a Soviet military occupation zone, but soon became the German Democratic Republic under German communist party rule. Stalin wanted Eastern Europe under his thumb both as a defense buffer to protect the Soviet motherland and to expand socialism, the communist economic system. He believed that "scientific laws" of history determined that the world would eventually become socialist. The Soviet Union had already developed a socialist system. Stalin, therefore, demanded that all the communist countries of Eastern Europe adopt the Soviet model. The Stalinization of Eastern Europe began. The communist party in each country held a complete monopoly of political power. This permitted no independent political parties, no meaningful elections, and no criticism of the ruling communist party. Stalin imposed a socialist economic model. The government, in the name of the people, owned the factories, farms, mines, and other means of production. People could no longer own their own profit-making businesses and farms, as in the capitalist system. Government economic planners decided what and how much should be produced each year, what the prices should be, and what wages should be paid to the workers. Consumer goods like automobiles, clothing, and TVs became scarce and expensive. The government guaranteed everyone the "right to work," but this often meant a low wage doing a dirty job. With the emphasis on industrial production, smoke billowed from factories and industrial waste flowed into rivers. Pollution became a major problem, but little was done about it. Factory managers were under pressure to meet production quotas. Consumers demanded more goods. Planners mainly ignored environmental problems. In most countries, the government took over privately owned farms. It combined them into large, state-owned agricultural enterprises or cooperatives where farmers shared the land and equipment. Eastern European farmers often resisted this collectivization of agriculture, but the communist governments applied special taxes and denied health benefits to force them to comply. In , Hungarians revolted against their communist regime. The Soviet Union and several other members of the Warsaw Pact invaded Hungary and brutally put down the revolt. The Hungarian Revolt shocked Eastern European communist leaders, forcing most to enact economic reforms. The reforms placed more emphasis on producing consumer goods, eased up on farm collectivization, and even allowed some private free enterprise. Economic and Social Conditions By , economic reforms had somewhat improved the standard of living in most countries in Eastern Europe. Poland, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, and East Germany had the highest

standard. But even these countries still fell way behind the West. A small minority of people were members of the Communist Party. They held almost every important government post. They also enjoyed many privileges such as better housing and special access to Western consumer goods. Others "voted with their feet" and fled their homelands. Some risked open dissent. Most Eastern Europeans, however, conformed to life under communism. Shortages of goods constantly occurred. Even when in stock, there was little variety of goods. Often there was only one type of laundry soap, one flavor of ice cream, and one kind of coffee. But most families owned a television set and a washing machine. But cars and appliances required long waits. In fact, lines were a part of daily life. Shopping was an ordeal, especially in the Soviet Union. Every day, women would go from shop to shop to get items. It is estimated that a Soviet woman spent two hours in line every day, seven days a week. Shoppers paid in cash. People did not have credit cards, charge accounts, or checking accounts. In the workplace, almost everyone had a job. Wages, however, lagged far behind those in the Western democracies. A common joke was, "They pretend to pay us, and we pretend to work. Most industrial workers belonged to labor unions. But the unions were run by the government mainly to help factory managers achieve their production goals. Farmers resented having to give up their land and work for the government on collective farms. Many left to work in city factories for higher pay or better working conditions. Housing, built mainly by the government or group cooperatives, was always in short supply. Often, two or three generations of a family lived in a three-room apartment. Newlyweds usually had to wait years for a small apartment of their own. But everyone had a home. Homelessness was not a problem. Public transportation was affordable and extensive. Most cities had a web of subway, streetcar, and bus lines that carried people everywhere in the city. Railroad transportation between cities was also low priced. Officials, however, forbid travel outside the Eastern bloc. The government subsidized entertainment. The government paid the salaries of theater companies and athletes. Box office prices were low. Everyone could afford to go to the theater, movies, the opera, the ballet, or sporting events. Universal public health systems "socialized medicine" covered everyone. The government and state-owned businesses paid the costs of doctors, health clinics, and hospitals. As a result, the health of the population generally improved. The quality of health care, however, still fell short of that provided by public health systems in most Western European nations. The communist governments offered many benefits for child care. They provided paid maternity leave, grants of money for childbirth, monthly childcare allowances, and low-cost pre-school. All education--from elementary school through college--was free. The government in most Eastern European countries required all children to attend school until age 14. At the end of the eighth grade, they entered high schools. Students who wanted to go to special language or science schools took exams for entry. As in most Western European countries, a government education ministry created a uniform curriculum taught in all the schools. By the 1980s, illiteracy had been eliminated in most Eastern European countries.

**Chapter 4 : The Year " The End of Communism in Poland**

*Poland is divided between Nazi Germany and Communist Soviet Union In , Poland was pressured by two totalitarian powers, the Nazi Germany and the communist Soviet Union. After secret negotiations, a non-aggression pact was signed between the two.*

Poland had about 35 million inhabitants in , but fewer than 24 million in , within the respective borders. Of the remaining population over three million were ethnic minorities, such as Germans, Ukrainians and Jews, most of whom would soon leave Poland. The number of ethnically Polish victims was perhaps 2 million. Most of the former German population of 10 million had fled or was expelled to post-war Germany by The Polish state acquired more highly developed western territories and lost the more economically backward eastern regions. Already in the prewar level of industrial production was exceeded in global and per capita terms during the Three-Year Plan Plan Trzyletni , implemented first and fueled by the collective desire to rebuild shattered lives. Standard of living of the population of Poland markedly improved. Historian Norman Davies found the new Polish frontiers, from the Polish interests point of view, entirely advantageous, but realized at the cost of enormous suffering and specious justifications. The radically new Eastern European borders constituted a "colossal feat of political engineering", but could not be derived from immemorial historical determinations, as claimed by the communist propaganda. He loathed the Soviet practices he experienced while being trained in Russia and Ukraine in the s, but was convinced of the historic necessity of alliance with the Soviet Union. He may have survived the purges because of being imprisoned in Poland for illegal labor-organizing activities in " The Polish communists became the most influential Polish factor in the politics of emerging Poland, [33] despite having initially minuscule popular support. Over one million peasant families benefited from parcellation of the larger estates. The population was tired of the years of oppression and conflict and the ideas expressed in the PKWN Manifesto and their progressive implementation attracted widening social support. On the contrary, business property was supposed to return to its owners as the economic relations become properly regulated. A considerable labor struggle and compulsion were necessary for the PPR to claim the factories and enforce its own rules. The government was "provisional" and the Potsdam Conference soon declared that before a regular government is created, free elections must be held and a permanent constitutional system established. Bierut represented the influx of appointees to the Polish party coming during and after the war from the Soviet Union and imposed by the Soviets, a process accelerated at the time of the PPR Congress of December The absence of the expected death sentences was their relief. Between and , some , Poles were imprisoned by the Soviet authorities. Many former Home Army members were apprehended and executed. To circumvent this difficulty, in a national plebiscite, known as the "Three Times Yes" referendum Trzy razy tak , was held first, before the parliamentary elections. It was meant to check and promote the popularity of communist initiatives in Poland. The partial results, reconstructed by the PSL, showed that the communist side was met with little support on the first question. However, after a campaign marked by electoral fraud and intimidation the communists claimed large majorities on all three questions, [52] [51] which led to the nationalization of industry and state control of economic activity in general, and a unicameral national parliament Sejm. Many resistance fighters were murdered extrajudicially, or forced to exile. Although the ongoing persecution of the former anti-Nazi and right-wing organizations by state security kept some partisans in the forests, the actions of the Ministry of Public Security known as the UB, Department of Security , NKVD and the Red Army steadily diminished their numbers. The right-wing insurgency radically decreased after the amnesty of July [56] and faded after the amnesty of February The British and American governments protested the poll for its blatant violations of the Yalta and Potsdam accords. Over the next two years, the communists monopolized political power in Poland. Poland became a de facto one-party state and a satellite state of the Soviet Union. List of political parties in Poland. While Marxism"Leninism , the official ideology, was new to Poland, the communist regime continued, in many psychologically and practically important ways, the precepts, methods and manners of past Polish ruling circles, including those of the Sanation , the National Democracy , and 19th century traditions of cooperation

with the partitioning powers. It comprised leaders, administrators and managers within the ruling party structure, in all branches of central and local government and in institutions of all kinds. Nomenklatura members were appointed by the party and exercised political control in all spheres of public life, for example economic development, industry management, or education. For Stalinism in general, see Stalinism. For the state-sanctioned art of the period, see Socialist realism in Poland. Their leaders at that time included Wanda Wasilewska and Zygmunt Berling. The most important of them was Konstantin Rokossovsky Konstanty Rokossowski in Polish, defense minister of Poland from 1949 to 1955, Marshal of the Soviet Union and war hero. At its Stalinist peak, there was one UB agent for every Polish citizen. The ORMO originated from popular self-defense efforts, which were a spontaneous reaction to the explosion of crime in the power vacuum of 1956. In October 1956, 5,000 people were arrested in one night in the so-called "Operation K". In 1957, over 21,000 people were arrested. By the second half of 1957, according to official data, 49,000 political prisoners were being held. According to Norman Davies, political violence after 1956 was not widespread. The government, headed by President Bierut, Prime Minister Cyrankiewicz and Minc, embarked on a sweeping program of economic reform and national reconstruction. The changes, implemented in the name of egalitarianism, enjoyed broad societal approval and support. In what became known as the battle for trade union reform, the private trade and industry were nationalized. Within few years most private shops disappeared. Despite the lack of American aid, the East European "command economies", including Poland, made some progress in bridging the historically existing wealth gap with the market economy driven Western Europe. The economic transition and industrialization were accompanied and made possible by massive social transformations, as peasants migrated and were converted into city dwelling working class 1.

**Chapter 5 : Communism in Poland - Wikipedia**

*The Fall of Communism in Poland: A Chronology* November Poland regains its independence after years of foreign occupation May J zef Pi sudski overthrows the parliamentary government in a.

Edit In August Solidarity was founded in Gdansk after the allowance by the government. It was supported by the Catholic Church. During the politicaly critical labour turmoil in Poland during , the independent trade union, Solidarity , had been formed. On 13 December , Communist leader Wojciech Jaruzelski started a political crack-down on Solidarity as it took off as a protest movement. A new non-Communist government, the first of its kind in the former Eastern Bloc in September Hungary Edit By , the Soviet Union had repealed the Brezhnev Doctrine in favor of non-intervention in the internal affairs of its Warsaw Pact allies, taking notice from Poland, Hungary was next to follow. The first visible cracks in the Iron Curtain appeared when Hungary began dismantling its mile long border fence with Austria on 2 May Germans, Hungarians and Czechoslovaks soon poured in to Austria. Czechoslovakia Edit The "Velvet Revolution" was a non-violent revolution in Czechoslovakia that saw the overthrow of the Communist government. On 17th November Czechoslovak riot police suppressed a peaceful, pro-democracy student demonstration in Prague. This event sparked a series of popular demonstrations from 19 November to late December and by 20th November the number of peaceful protesters assembled in Prague had swelled from , the previous day to an estimated , Czechoslovakia held its first democratic elections since in the June On 27 June the last Soviet troops were withdrawn from Czechoslovakia. The Czech and Slovak republics later seperated in to new nations soon afterwards. The independence struggle began in Kazakhstan with the Jeltoqsan uprising in Many people started protesting against the Soviet rule in Georgia in early In April the Soviet army massacred demonstrators in the Tbilisi Massacre. By November , the Georgian SSR officially condemned the Russian invasion in and continuing genocidal occupation of the nation. When the Soviet Union was dissolved, the 19 nations declared their independence from the Soviet Union: Chechnya would be at war with Russia for many years to come. The impact was felt in dozens of Socialist countries. The USSR dissolved later in On October 9th 70, citizens demonstrated in Leipzig, dispute of rumors of a planned mascare by the army. The authorities on the ground refused to open fire and told there superiors and the communist party to shove off. This had encouraged more and more citizens to take to the streets. By 16 October , people demonstrated on the streets of Leipzig. There were plans by army chiefs to defend the Berin wall, but troops did not folow there orders and let it fall. The demonstrations qucikly spread throughout the country. The militery were shocked to here this. Believing Milea had actually been murdered by the state, the rank-and-file soldiers went over virtually en masse to the revolution. As the rebel army tanks began moving towards the Central Committee building with rebellious crowds swarming alongside them. Later the piolt later betrayed them to the rebels en flight. It was the first free elections held in Romania since The revolution resulted in 1, deaths. Unlike its kindred parties in the Warsaw Pact, the PCR simply melted away; no present-day Romanian party claiming to be its successor has ever been elected to the legislature since the change of system. Bulgaria Edit In October and November ecological demonstrationswere staged in Sofia, where other demands for political reform and democatisation were also voiced. He was succeeded by a considerably more liberal Communist, former foreign minister Petar Mladenov. Soon the liberals relegalised the protests and relaxed security, secorship and political controle policies. After initial resistance by the Communists and continued protests, a "Polish Round Table" style coalition was formed between the protesters liberal communists in the transition to democracy. In June the first free elections since were held, won by the Bulgarian Socialist Party. The escalating ethnic and national tensions led to the Yugoslav wars and the independence of the constituent federal units, in chronological order: Montenegro proclaimed independence on 3 June , while Serbia proclaimed its succession to the union as an independent state on 5 June Kosovo 17 February , partially recognized.

### Chapter 6 : Milestones: " - Office of the Historian

August 18, , Page The New York Times Archives. Stalin said that imposing Communism on Roman Catholic Poland was as absurd as putting a saddle on a cow. But after World War II, he went.

Created on Tuesday, 23 August The creation of NSZZ Solidarity and its over year long period of legal functioning significantly altered the social awareness, a change which could no longer be reversed by the so-called politics of normalisation, which began after the introducing of martial law in Poland in December Below I will try to enumerate the most important factors which, in my opinion, made the crisis grow and, in consequence, led to the breakdown of the system in Changes in the USSR. This factor appeared last, only after the proclamation of the politics of perestroika by Mikhail Gorbachev in but has to be mentioned first as it played a crucial role in inclining the team of general Wojciech Jaruzelski to begin changes in the political system, which, eventually, led to its complete breakdown. This meant that in the Kremlin opinion was prevalent, that the model of cooperation within the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance, which was based on the transferable ruble, needed to be changed. The supply of petroleum and natural gas " the main export articles of the USSR " to the Comecon countries at set prices had no longer been profitable for the Soviet economy. French researcher Jacques Levesque even claims, that Jaruzelski for a long time was not using the freedom which Gorbachev had given him. The state of the economy. As general Jaruzelski correctly observed in The rigor of martial law had not been the main reason why the introduction of a real reform of the inefficient economic system of PRL was a failure, however. In fact the system could not be reformed, what was made clear by the unrelenting resistance of the people governing the economy. The situation is well illustrated by the example of closing down unions of state-owned companies in in a reform which brought in their place unions, different only in name. Instances of state privatisation. Compared to the general economic decay of the s, the rise of the private sector in the economy was a curious occurrence. However, gradually, especially in mid-level state apparatus, belief was getting stronger that without development of the private sector the deficit on the market of consumer goods could not be satisfied. The so-called Polonia Polish diaspora companies had a special position within the private sector. Foreigners of Polish descent were taking part in their establishment on the basis of the law from July Some of the employees leave from foreign trade offices, they possess information which is a business and national secret. The Polonia companies became a sort of a testing ground for the authorities and especially for the secret service both the SB and military. The behaviour of entities functioning within market mechanisms was tested and used in operational activities. What followed was a gradual acquaintance of part of the government elite with the thought of a need for radical breaking off with the economic system based on national property, originating in the s. In such a way a climate appropriate for the reforms of the Rakowski government was beginning to appear, with the side-effect of the process of so-called nomenclature enfranchisement. Deregulation of the political system. The crisis of the years and the martial law left the PZPR with about 1 million members less. Only in the middle of the decade had the party stopped shrinking and the number of members stabilised at 2. A similar process began to threaten also the ranks of the party apparatus, over 12 thousand functionaries strong. The communist party was becoming old and was losing its influence, becoming less of a core of the political system and more of a tool of various pressure groups operating within the government apparatus. In the first year of martial law 32 officers were delegated to high positions in the party apparatus, and 88 more to national administration. Besides the military men the role of higher functionaries of the Security Service SB and other people working in the economy apparatus also increased in the s. All of them were obviously members of the PZPR but in reality often opposed many decisions and solutions forced by the functionaries of the PZPR apparatus. The Alliance was supposed to replace Solidarity in public consciousness. Still, OPZZ with nearly 7 million members, in time became a force, which, especially in the late s, contributed significantly to the limiting of the level of control of the PZPR over state apparatus and especially over the part, which governed the economy. Evolution of social moods. After the introducing of martial law, the social moods became relatively stable. This state of a kind of waiting began to change in the middle of the decade in a direction very unfavourable for

the authorities. In the following months it was becoming even worse and that significantly affected the consciousness of the elite of the authorities. Ultimately such a turn of action, in the form of the Round Table Talks, happened a year later. Its main source were the persistent problems with supplies especially manufactured goods and that created a stark contrast with not only the situation in the Western countries but also with often visited Soviet Bloc countries. This affected mainly the young and the broadly understood intelligentsia, most severely affected by the apathy increasing during the s. Church and political opposition activity. It was apparent both in record-breaking number of new priests and temples built according to government data in over three thousand churches were being built as well as in quick development of Catholic press and publishing houses. In the middle of the decade there were 89 Catholic periodicals, with circulation of 1. Politics of the authorities regarding the founding of new churches and Clubs of Catholic Intellectuals had also been liberalised. Additionally, Church structures played a dominant role in the distribution of charity aid from the West, while its substantial amount constantly worried the authorities. The authorities expected that the liberal course would bring gradual increased acceptance of the system by the clergy. They knew that the support of the Church would be necessary to introduce the system reform plans maturing since the middle of the decade but they could not determine to what extent the bishops would be willing to endorse them, nor how far they identified themselves with the aims of the opposition. Meanwhile, the opposition, despite its weakness apparent in the middle of the decade, became a constant factor generating resistance against the system. In late the Ministry of the Interior assessed that there were over different opposition structures in Poland, over half of them active in the area of just 5 of the 49 then existing voivodeships: According to the SB its hard core was 1. This opposition was divided into different groups opposing each other, but generally fitted into one of two categories, differing in their attitude to the PRL authorities. Antoni Dudek born 1928 political scientist, deals mainly with recent Polish political history. Member of the Council of the Institute of National Remembrance.

### Chapter 7 : Effects of Living under Communism in Poland

*The history of Poland from to spans the period of Soviet Communist dominance over the People's Republic of Poland following World War II, while featuring many improvements in the standards of living in Poland, were marred by social unrest and economic depression.*

Much of the world now associates the end of communism in Europe with the collapse of the Berlin Wall. But in fact, the dismantling of the system started in Poland some 10 years before with the founding of Solidarity. The communists soon clamped down by imposing martial law, but the spirit of Solidarity lived on. In June 1988, Poles overwhelmingly voted for democracy in the first partly free elections. As the victory of the democratic opposition was being announced on June 4, 1988, it was like a dream come true for the 10 million Solidarity members who had started the long march to freedom a decade before. Unlike in other countries of Central and Eastern Europe, where anti-communist struggle was limited to narrow groups of dissidents, a mass grassroots movement had developed in Poland. But I believe that Solidarity was the first true embodiment of the concept of civil society. It was plain and simple: The communists were still in power in the Kremlin, with 50,000 Soviet troops stationed in Poland. At a historic round table meeting in Warsaw in the spring of 1989, Solidarity and the communists struck a power-sharing deal that paved the way for the elections. A third of the seats in the lower house of Parliament were freely contested, plus all the seats in the senate. The communists and their allies were to automatically fill the rest of the seats. One of the Solidarity leaders Bronislaw Geremek made it clear that the movement was prepared to honor the deal in the election results. Bronislaw Geremek went on to become Polish Foreign Minister before his death in 1996. In a recently released documentary, Solidarity leaders including Geremek can be heard pledging not to prosecute former communists, no matter what evidence of their past wrongdoings came up. This later came to be known as the policy of a "thick line" to make a clean break with the past. Those who negotiated the deal said this was to allow everyone a fresh start in a new Poland. However, critics like nationalist Christian Democratic politician Wieslaw Chrzanowski maintain that it was a sell-out. Solidarity agreed to take all the responsibility, while the former communist bosses were free to pursue their business interests. Even though it had to quickly introduce a set of painful market reforms to stop the economy from collapsing, it still enjoyed strong popular support. The amazing energy kept the country cohesive and prevented anarchy from breaking out, or what could turn into a nasty lot of arguments. Critics said that the power-sharing deal with the communists distorted Polish democracy. But most commentators agree that the critics largely ignore the European realities of the day. After all, when the first democratic Polish government was being inaugurated, the Berlin Wall was still standing.

**Chapter 8 : History of Poland () - New World Encyclopedia**

*This is a video about the communist history of Poland - I own no rights to the tiny clip of the movie 'Katyn' If you enjoyed this video, please watch my new student drama!*

The growing strength of the opposition led the government of Wojciech Jaruzelski to declare martial law in December. However, with the reforms of Mikhail Gorbachev in the Soviet Union, increasing pressure from the West, and continuing unrest, the Communists were forced to negotiate with their opponents. Poland suffered heavy losses during World War II. While in Poland had The losses in national resources and infrastructure amounted to over 30 percent of the pre-war potential. In Soviet influence caused the Polish government to reject the American-sponsored Marshall Plan, [9] and to join the Soviet Union-dominated Comecon in . At the same time Soviet forces had engaged in plunder on Recovered Territories which were to be transferred to Poland, stripping it of valuable industrial equipment, infrastructure and factories and sending them to the Soviet Union. The referendum comprised three fairly general questions, and was meant to check the popularity of communist rule in Poland. Only vote rigging won them a majority in the carefully controlled poll. In some cases, their opponents were sentenced to death –among them Witold Pilecki, the organizer of the Auschwitz resistance, and many leaders of Armia Krajowa and the Council of National Unity in the Trial of the Sixteen. Although the initial persecution of these former anti-Nazi organizations forced thousands of partisans back into forests, the actions of the UB Polish secret police, NKVD and Red Army steadily diminished their number. By , rightist parties had been outlawed. By January , the first parliamentary election allowed only opposition candidates of the Polish Peasant Party, which was nearly powerless due to government controls. A period of Sovietization and Stalinism thus began. As in the other eastern European satellite states, there was a purge of Communists suspected of nationalist or other "deviationist" tendencies in Poland. They were "assisted" –and in some cases controlled –by Soviet "advisers" who were placed in every part of the government; Polish Army, intelligence and police were full of Soviet officers. The most important of these advisers was Konstantin Rokossovsky Konstanty Rokossowski in Polish, the Defense Minister from to . Although of Polish parentage, he had spent his adult life in the Soviet Union, and had attained the rank of Marshal in the Soviet Armed Forces. In what became known as the "battle for trade," the private trade and industry were nationalized, the land seized from prewar landowners was redistributed to the peasants. In the United States announced the Marshall plan, its initiative to help rebuild Europe. After initially welcoming the idea of Polish involvement in the plan, the Polish government declined to participate under pressure from Moscow. Millions of Poles relocated from the eastern territories annexed by the Soviet Union into the western territories, which Soviets transferred from Germany to Poland. By , 5 million Poles had been re-settled in what the government called the Regained Territories. Warsaw and other ruined cities were cleared of rubble –mainly by hand –and rebuilt with great speed, [16] one of the successes of the Three-Year Plan. The constitution of guaranteed universal free health care. The Communist program of free and compulsory school education for all, and the establishment of new free universities, received much support. The Communists also took the opportunity to screen out what facts and interpretations were to be taught; history as well as other sciences had to follow a Marxist view as well as be subject to political censorship. The control over art and artists was deepened and with time the Socialist Realism became the only movement that was accepted by the authorities. After most of works of art presented to the public had to be in line with the voice of the Party and represent its propaganda. After the Second World War many people were willing to accept even Communist rule in exchange for the restoration of relatively normal life; tens of thousands joined the communist party and actively supported the regime. Nonetheless a latent popular discontent remained present. Many Poles adopted an attitude that might be called "resigned cooperation. Although most had surrendered during the amnesty of , the brutal repressions by the secret police led many of them back into the forests, where a few continued to fight well into the s. Stalin had died in . Between and Nikita Khrushchev outmaneuvered his rivals and achieved power in the Soviet Union. Voices began to be raised in the Party and among the intellectuals calling for wider reforms of the Stalinist system. As a further sign that the end of

Soviet influence in Poland was nowhere in sight, the Warsaw Pact was signed in the Polish capital of Warsaw on May 14, 1955, to counteract the establishment of the Western military alliance, NATO. Hard-line Stalinists such as Berman were removed from power, and many Soviet officers serving in the Polish Armed Forces were dismissed, [18] [22] but almost no one was put on trial for the repressions of the Bierut period. Konstantin Rokossovsky and other Soviet advisors were sent home, and Polish Communism took on a more independent orientation. He agreed that Soviet troops could remain in Poland, and that no overt anti-Soviet outbursts would be allowed. In this way, Poland avoided the risk of the kind of Soviet armed intervention that crushed the revolution in Hungary that same month. Poland enjoyed a period of relative stability over the next decade, but the idealism of the "Polish October" had faded away. By the mid-1960s, Poland was starting to experience economic, as well as political, difficulties. Economic relations with West Germany were frozen because of the impasse over the Oder-Neisse line. In March 1956 student demonstrations at Warsaw University broke out when the government banned the performance of a play by Adam Mickiewicz *Dziady*, written in 1804 at the Polish Theatre in Warsaw, on the grounds that it contained "anti-Soviet references. One was an official approval for demonstrating Polish national feelings, including the scaling down of official criticism of the prewar Polish regime, and of Poles who had fought in the anti-Communist wartime partisan movement, the *Armia Krajowa*. The second was the complete alienation of the regime from the leftist intelligentsia, who were disgusted at the official promotion of anti-Semitism. The third was the founding by Polish emigrants to the West of organizations that encouraged opposition within Poland. First, the Soviet Union, now led by Leonid Brezhnev, made it clear that it would not tolerate political upheaval in Poland at a time when it was trying to deal with the crisis in Czechoslovakia. In particular, the Soviets made it clear that they would not allow Moczar, whom they suspected of anti-Soviet nationalism, to be leader of Poland. The Catholic Church, while protesting against police violence against demonstrating students, was also not willing to support a direct confrontation with the regime. This occurred five years after Polish bishops had issued the famous Letter of Reconciliation of the Polish Bishops to the German Bishops, then heavily criticized by the Polish government. Although the system of fixed, artificially low food prices kept urban discontent under control, it caused stagnation in agriculture and made more expensive food imports necessary. This situation was unsustainable, and in December 1956, the regime suddenly announced massive increases in the prices of basic foodstuffs. The raised prices were unpopular among many urban workers. However, in Gdynia the soldiers had orders to prevent workers from returning to work, and they fired into a crowd of workers emerging from their trains; hundreds of workers were killed. The Party leadership met in Warsaw and decided that a full-scale working-class revolt was inevitable unless drastic steps were taken. Gierek era "Edward Gierek. Although Poles were much more cynical than they had been in 1956, Gierek was believed to be an honest and well-intentioned man, and his promises bought him some time. Real wages rose 40 percent between 1956 and 1957, [19] and for the first time most Poles could afford to buy cars, televisions and other consumer goods. Poles living abroad, veterans of the *Armia Krajowa* and the Polish Armed Forces in the West, were invited to return and to invest their money in Poland, which many did. The peasants were subsidized to grow more food. Poles were able to travel "mainly to West Germany, Sweden and Italy" with little difficulty. There was also some cultural and political relaxation. As long as the "leading role of the Party" and the Soviet "alliance" were not criticized, there was a limited freedom of speech. With the workers and peasants reasonably happy, the regime knew that a few grumbling intellectuals could pose no challenge. This made it more and more difficult for Poland to continue borrowing from the West. Once again, consumer goods began to disappear from Polish shops. However, Poles were gradually becoming more aware of the rights they were being denied. The government had been so afraid of a repeat of the worker rebellion that it had kept prices frozen at the levels rather than allowing them to rise gradually. Then, in June 1956, under pressure from Western creditors, the government again introduced price increases: This left the government looking both economically foolish and politically weak, a very dangerous combination. A typical meat shop in Poland in the 1950s. The disturbances and the subsequent arrests and dismissals of worker militants brought the workers and the intellectual opposition to the regime back into contact. These events brought many more Polish intellectuals into active opposition of the Polish government. The complete failure of the Gierek regime, both economically and politically, led many of them

to join or rejoin the opposition. For the rest of the s, resistance to the regime grew, in the form of trade unions, student groups, clandestine newspapers and publishers, imported books and newspapers, and even a "flying university". Gierek was interested only in buying off dissatisfied workers and keeping the Soviet Union convinced that Poland was a loyal ally. Nor would they allow any fundamental economic reform that would endanger the "socialist system. At this juncture, on October 16, , Poland experienced what many Poles literally believed to be a miracle. The election of a Polish Pope had an electrifying effect [19] on what was by the s one of the last idiosyncratically Catholic countries in Europe. When John Paul toured Poland in June , half a million people heard him speak in Warsaw, and about a quarter of the entire population of the country attended at least one of his outdoor masses. Overnight, John Paul became the most important person in Poland, leaving the regime not so much opposed as ignored. However, John Paul did not call for rebellion; instead, he encouraged the creation of an "alternative Poland" of social institutions independent of the government, so that when the next crisis came, the nation would present a united front. The regime had no means of legitimizing itself, since it knew that the PZPR would never win a free election. It had no choice but to make another attempt to raise consumer prices to realistic levels, but it knew that to do so would certainly spark another worker rebellion, much better-organized than the or outbreaks. In one sense, it was a reliance on capitalism that led to the fall of communism. By this time, the Polish Communists had lost the Stalinist zealotry of the s; they had grown corrupt and cynical during the Gierek years, [19] and had no stomach for bloodshed. The country waited to see what would happen. The strike wave spread along the coast, closing the ports and bringing the economy to a halt. With the assistance of the activists from KOR and the support of many intellectuals, the workers occupying the various factories, mines and shipyards across Poland came together. The period that started afterwards is often called the first part of the "Polish carnival" - with the second one taking place in the second half of s. The union was backed by a group of intellectual dissidents, the KOR, and adhered to a policy of nonviolent resistance. The ideas of the Solidarity movement spread rapidly throughout Poland; more and more new unions were formed and joined the federation. Using strikes and other tactics, the union sought to block government initiatives. The regime was still trapped by the conflict between economic necessity and political instability. It could not revive the economy without abandoning state control of prices, but it could not do this without triggering another general strike. Nor could it gain the support of the population through political reform, because of the threat of Soviet intervention. GNP fell in by 2 percent, in by 8 percent and in by 15â€”20 percent.

**Chapter 9 : Poland profile - Timeline - BBC News**

*Tags: European Network Remembrance and Solidarity, , End of Communism, Poland, Solidarity Movement The wave of strikes in the summer of and its consequence, the birth of NSZZ Solidarity started the deepest phase of the crisis of the communist state in Poland.*

With a population of approximately 30 million throughout its existence, economic hardships and social unrest were common almost in every decade. The birth rate was high and the population almost doubled between 1945 and 1970. Under the command of the Ministry of Public Security of Poland "UB", the Militia committed serious crimes to maintain the Communists in power, including the harsh treatment of protesters, arrest of opposition leaders and in extreme cases murder. Stalin then imposed upon Poland a Soviet-backed puppet communist government following the war, forcibly bringing the nation into the Soviet sphere of influence. His armed forces were in occupation of the country, and his agents, the communists, were in control of its administration. The USSR was in the process of incorporating the lands in eastern Poland which it had invaded and occupied between 1939 and 1945. These awards were confirmed at the Tripartite Conference of Berlin, otherwise known as the Potsdam Conference in August after the end of the war in Europe. He had severed relations with the Polish government-in-exile in London in 1943, but to appease Roosevelt and Churchill he agreed at Yalta that a coalition government would be formed. The communists held a majority of key posts in this new government, and with Soviet support they soon gained almost total control of the country, rigging all elections. The communist-controlled Interior Ministry issued results showing that all three questions passed overwhelmingly. Years later, however, evidence was uncovered showing that the referendum had been tainted by massive fraud, and only the third question actually passed. Between the referendum and the January general elections, the opposition was subjected to persecution. Meanwhile, several opposition candidates were prevented from campaigning at all. Although it supported the other two questions, the Communist-dominated government branded the PSL "traitors". The eastern territories Kresy were annexed by the Soviets. The western so-called "Recovered Territories" were granted as war reparations. Later, some historians announced that the official results were only obtained through massive fraud. In other areas, the ballot boxes were either destroyed or replaced with boxes containing prefilled ballots. The government also embarked on the collectivisation of agriculture, although the pace was slower than in other satellites: Poland remained the only Soviet bloc country where individual peasants dominated agriculture. He was put under house arrest from 1956 to 1957 for failing to punish priests who participated in anti-government activity. Voices began to be raised in the Party and among the intellectuals calling for wider reforms of the Stalinist system. Hardline Stalinists were removed from power and many Soviet officers serving in the Polish Army were dismissed. This marked the end of the Stalinist era. The resulting widespread violent protests in December that same year resulted in a number of deaths. While it boosted the Polish economy, and is still remembered as the "Golden Age" of socialist Poland, it left the country vulnerable to global economic fluctuations and western undermining, and the repercussions in the form of massive debt is still felt in Poland even today. This Golden Age came to an end after the energy crisis. The failure of the Gierk government, both economically and politically, soon led to the creation of opposition in the form of trade unions, student groups, clandestine newspapers and publishers, imported books and newspapers, and even a "flying university. The election of a Polish Pope had an electrifying effect on what had been, even under Communist rule, one of the most devoutly Catholic nations in Europe. Gierk is alleged to have said to his cabinet, "O God, what are we going to do now? When John Paul II made his first papal tour of Poland in June 1981, half a million people heard him speak in Warsaw; he did not call for rebellion, instead encouraged the creation of an "alternative Poland" of social institutions independent of the government, so that when the next crisis came, the nation would present a united front. However, Kania was unable to find an answer for the fast-eroding support of communism in Poland. In fact, Solidarity became a broad anti-communist social movement ranging from people associated with the Roman Catholic Church, to members of the anti-stalinist left. Kania resigned under Soviet pressure in October and was succeeded by Wojciech Jaruzelski, who had been Defence minister since 1976 and Premier since February 1980. The new Warszawa

Centralna railway station in Warsaw had automatic doors and escalators, an unlikely sight in Communist Poland. It was a flagship project during the s economic boom and was dubbed the most modern station in Europe at the time of its completion in On 13 December , Jaruzelski proclaimed martial law , suspended Solidarity, and temporarily imprisoned most of its leaders. This sudden crackdown on Solidarity was reportedly out of fear of Soviet intervention see Soviet reaction to the Polish crisis of " The government then disallowed Solidarity on October 8, Martial law was formally lifted in July , though many heightened controls on civil liberties and political life, as well as food rationing, remained in place through the mid-to-lates. Jaruzelski stepped down as prime minister in and became president chairman of the Council of State. Eventually it eroded the dominance of the PUP, which in lost approximately 85, of its 3 million members. This all but forced Jaruzelski, who had been named president in July, to appoint a Solidarity member as prime minister. This began the Third Polish Republic , and served as a prelude to the fully democratic elections of "only the third free election ever held in Poland. On 27 October , the first entirely free Polish parliamentary elections since the s took place. The last post-Soviet troops left Poland on 18 September It was dependent on the USSR to the extent of being its satellite state. Elections were held on the single lists of the Front of National Unity. In , PRL restored relations with Israel. State farms were a form of collective farming created in Poland suffered tremendous economic losses during World War II. In , Poland had The difference was partially the result of the border revision. Compared to Western European nations, including Germany, Poland was still mostly an agrarian country. The implementation of the immense tasks involved with the reconstruction of the country was intertwined with the struggle of the new government for the stabilisation of power, made even more difficult by the fact that a considerable part of society was mistrustful of the communist government. The occupation of Poland by the Red Army and the support the Soviet Union had shown for the Polish communists was decisive in the communists gaining the upper hand in the new Polish government. One of the first major steps in that direction involved the agricultural reform issued by the Polish Committee of National Liberation government on 6 September All estates over 0. However, the collectivization of Polish farming never reached the same extent as it did in the Soviet Union or other countries of the Eastern Bloc. As nationalization was unpopular, the communists delayed the nationalization reform until , when after the 3xTAK referendums they were fairly certain they had total control of the state and could deal a heavy blow to eventual public protests. Some semi-official nationalisation of various private enterprises had begun also in In , all enterprises with over 50 employees were nationalised, with no compensation to Polish owners. However, those were truncated into insignificance by the break-up of Germany into East and West and the onset of the Cold War. Poland was then relegated to receive her share from the Soviet-controlled East Germany. Later years Supersam Warsaw , the first self-serve shopping centre in Poland, During the Gierk era, Poland borrowed large sums of Western money. By , it was therefore obvious that eventually the regime would again have to raise prices and risk another outbreak of labor unrest. During the chaotic Solidarity years and the imposition of martial law , Poland entered a decade of economic crisis, officially acknowledged as such even by the regime. Rationing and queuing became a way of life, with ration cards Kartki necessary to buy even such basic consumer staples as milk and sugar. The exchange rate worsened distortions in the economy at all levels, resulting in a growing black market and the development of a shortage economy. An entire illegal industry of street-corner money changers emerged as a result. The so-called Cinkciarze gave clients far better than official exchange rate and became wealthy from their opportunism albeit at the risk of punishment, usually diminished by the wide scale bribery of the Militia. It even introduced its own ersatz U. This situation was incompatible with any remaining ideals of socialism, which were soon completely abandoned at the community level. Ration cards for sugar, In this desperate situation, all development and growth in the Polish economy slowed to a crawl. Most visibly, work on most of the major investment projects that had begun in the s was stopped. As a result, most Polish cities acquired at least one infamous example of a large unfinished building languishing in a state of limbo. Polish investment in economic infrastructure and technological development fell rapidly, ensuring that the country lost whatever ground it had gained relative to Western European economies in the s. To escape the constant economic and political pressures during these years, and the general sense of hopelessness, many family income providers

traveled for work in Western Europe, particularly West Germany Wyjazd na saksy. Tens of thousands of others went to work in countries that could offer them salaries in hard currency, notably Libya and Iraq. These canteens offered value meals to citizens throughout Communist Poland After several years of the situation continuing to worsen, during which time the socialist government unsuccessfully tried various expedients to improve the performance of the economyâ€”at one point resorting to placing military commissars to direct work in the factories â€” it grudgingly accepted pressures to liberalize the economy. The government introduced a series of small-scale reforms, such as allowing more small-scale private enterprises to function. However, the government also realized that it lacked the legitimacy to carry out any large-scale reforms, which would inevitably cause large-scale social dislocation and economic difficulties for most of the population, accustomed to the extensive social safety net that the socialist system had provided. The only way to carry out such changes without social upheaval would be to acquire at least some support from the opposition side. The government accepted the idea that some kind of a deal with the opposition would be necessary, and repeatedly attempted to find common ground throughout the s. However, at this point the communists generally still believed that they should retain the reins of power for the near future, and only allowed the opposition limited, advisory participation in the running of the country. They believed that this would be essential to pacifying the Soviet Union, which they felt was not yet ready to accept a non-Communist Poland. In Poland notified Club de Paris a group of Western-European central banks about its insolvency and a number of negotiations of repaying its foreign debt were completed between