

6TH TRANSNATIONAL LEARNING ACTIVITY

BUCHAREST, ROMANIA,

13TH-18TH OCTOBER 2019

TRIUMPH OF DEMOCRACY IN POLAND



Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union



The Beginning

1945 wasn't only the end of World War II, but the same time it was the beginning of the process of implementation of communism in Poland.



The conference in Yalta

Poland in the period of the Stalinist system

1947-1956 - the period when the most severe repression and terror took place.



Stalin's terror

- persecutions
- no free speech
- false accusations
- tortures
- unfair trials



The first mass protests

In 1956, workers in the city of Poznań began to riot and strike. More than 360 tanks were rolled out. Fifty-seven people were killed and nearly 750 arrested. The message to the authorities was clear: the Polish people were ready to lay their lives down.



The event is also called - "The first scream"

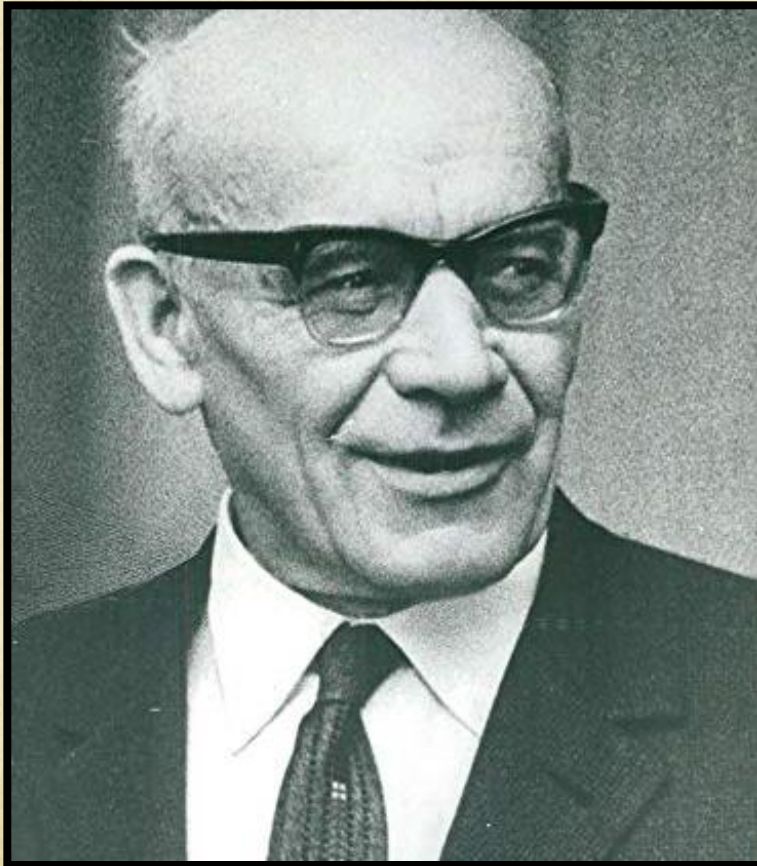


Students' protest

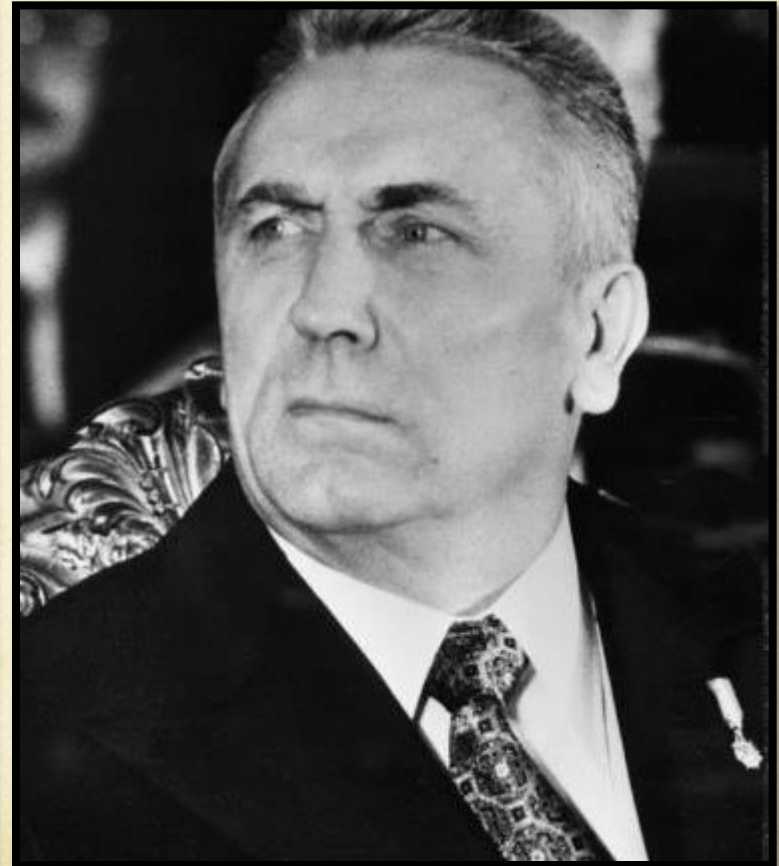
This time, university students organized mass rallies to speak out against strict cultural policies and suffocating censorship.

Besides, **Władysław Gomułka** – the leader of the communist party since 1956 – was replaced by the promising **Edward Gierek**.

Władysław Gomułka

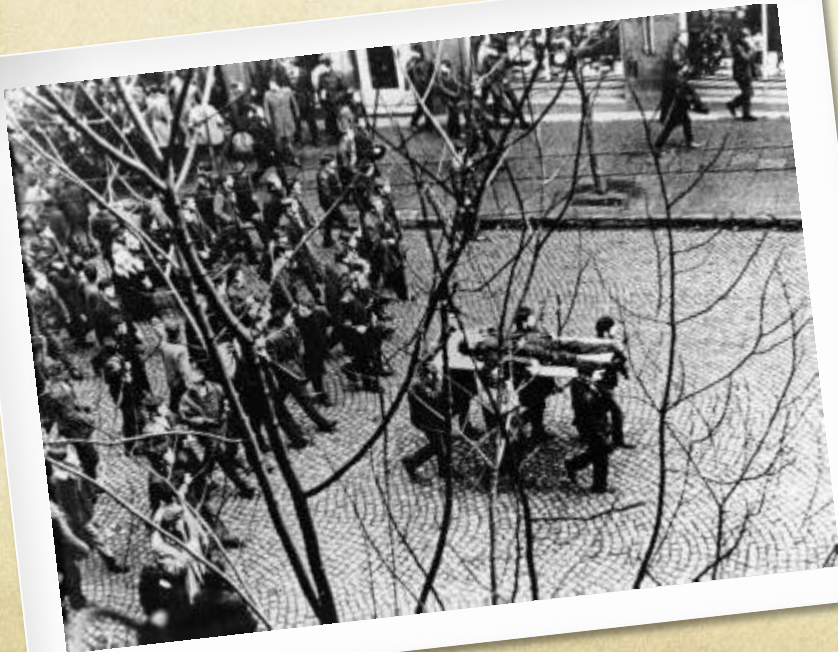


Edward Gierek





The protests of the Tricity workers



1970- the protests were brutally suppressed and at least 44 people were killed.



John Paul II

“Be not afraid, do not quench the spirit”

Amid this crisis, a Pole, **Karol Wojtyła**, was elected the new pope – **John Paul II** .

New wave of strikes

The deteriorating economic situation and reluctance of foreign banks to further sponsor the inefficient Polish system forced communist leaders to raise consumer prices which led to a new wave of strikes in 1980 .

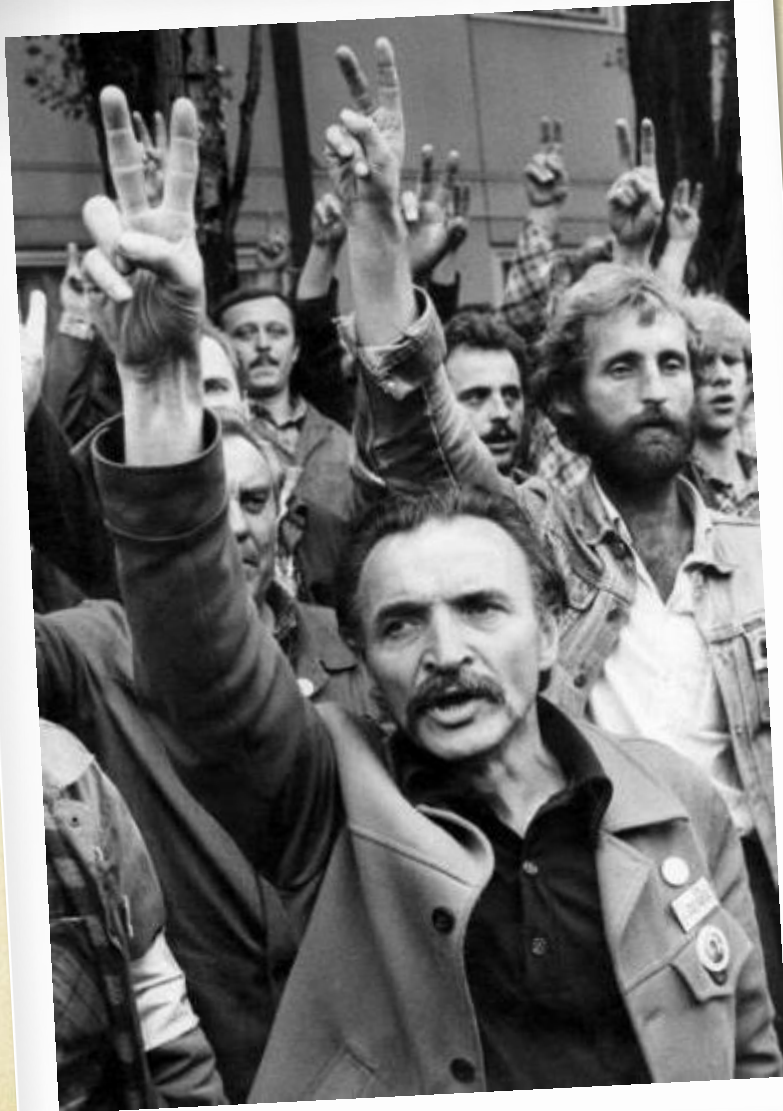


Lenin Shipyard in Gdańsk-1980



Gdansk Agreement- the end of the communist system begins...

On the 31st of August, Lech Wałęsa and Mieczysław Jagielski representing the communist party, signed the Gdańsk Agreement.



“Solidarity”

In **September 1980**, the Solidarity trade union was registered as the first legal non-political workers' union.

Martial Law - 13th December 1981

The communist government was completely unable to meet the provisions of the Gdańsk Agreement because of the country's miserable economy. The communists wanted to outlaw the "Solidarność" movement and there was strong pressure from the USSR in order not to reform Poland. That is why **the Martial Law** was announced.



General Wojciech Jaruzelski

Solidarity goes underground

1982 - During the period of the martial law thousands of Poles were arrested and emigrated for political or economic reasons. "Solidarity" transformed from a huge social movement to a cluster of small clandestine groups.





Lifting of the Martial Law

Although the **martial law** was lifted in **1983**, the repressions didn't stop there. The regime's agents murdered a leading figure of the Catholic Church – the Priest **Jerzy Popiełuszko**.



Gorbachev and Jaruzelski

Perestroika- 1986

Name of the transformation process of the communist system of the USSR. It was the beginning of changes in the eastern block

1988

The standard of living in Poland was lower than ever. Soon, almost all of the factories were idle, with the whole seaside paralyzed by strikes. This led the communist regime to begin negotiations.



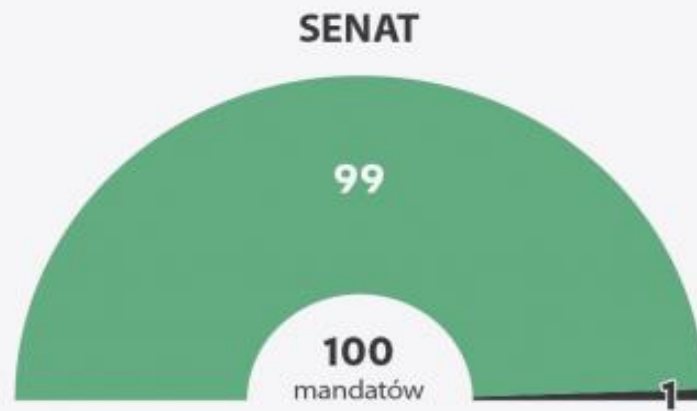
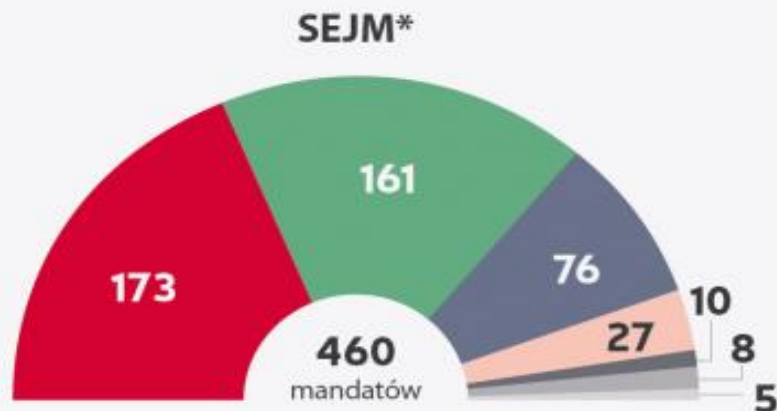
1989

Formal negotiations between the democratic opposition and the regime took place at **the Round Table Talks**. The Round Table led to only a semi-free election.



Wybory z czerwca 1989

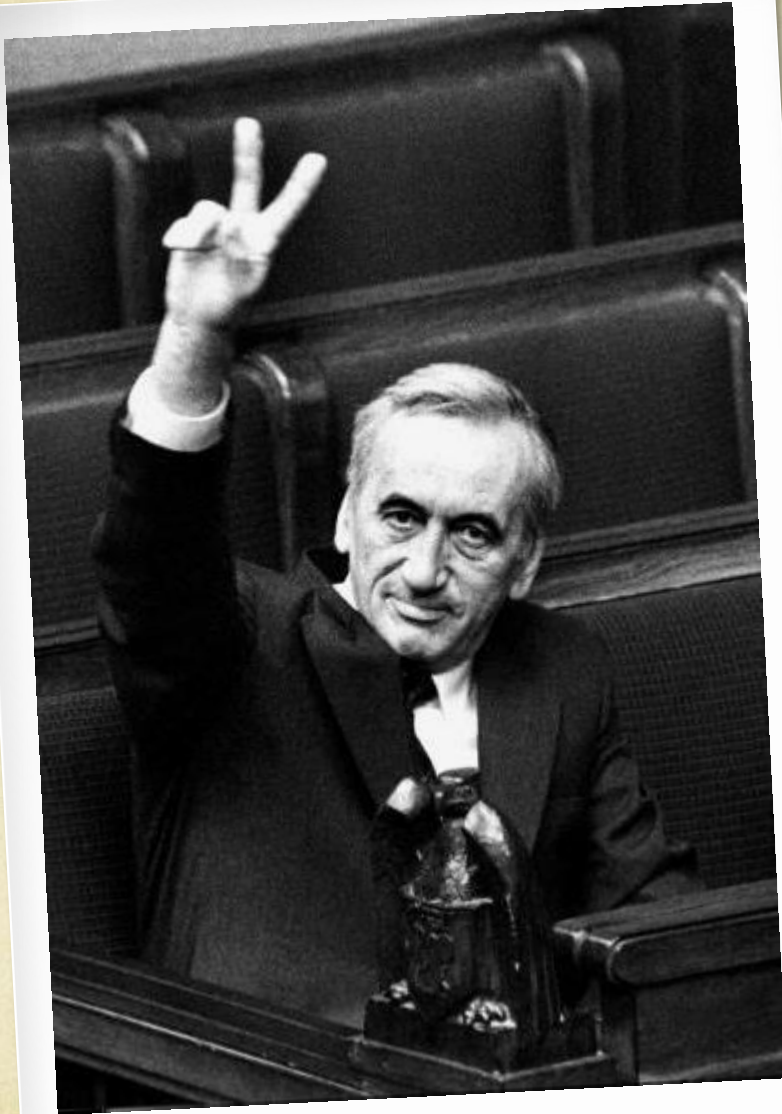
Wybory parlamentarne w Polsce w 1989 roku odbyły się w dwóch turach 4 czerwca i 18 czerwca



*65% miejsc było zagwarantowane PZPR i jej sojusznikom

- Polska Zjednoczona Partia Robotnicza
- Komitet Obywatelski „Solidarność”
- Zjednoczone Stronnictwo Ludowe
- Stronnictwo Demokratyczne
- Stowarzyszenie „Pax”
- Unia Chrześcijańsko-Społeczna (UChS)
- Polski Związek Katolicko-Społeczny
- senator niezrzeszony

źródło: Państwowa Komisja Wyborcza



The first non-communist prime minister

Tadeusz Mazowiecki -
the first non-communist prime
minister of Poland since 1945.

Mazowiecki's government
immediately began fighting the
dramatic deficits, as well as
transforming the country into a
free market economy.

Presidential elections 1990



Lech Wałęsa elected the President 9th December 1990.



PRESIDENTIAL INSIGNIA

Triumph of democracy



12th March 1999
Poland joined NATO

22nd November 1996
Poland joined Organisation
for Economic Co-operation
and Development (OECD)



1st May 2004
Poland became a EU member

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Thank you for your attention



Ten projekt został zrealizowany przy wsparciu finansowym Komisji Europejskiej. Projekt lub publikacja odzwierciedlają jedynie stanowisko ich autora i Komisja Europejska nie ponosi odpowiedzialności za umieszczoną w nich zawartość merytoryczną.

This project has been funded with support from the European Commission. This publication [communication] reflects the views only of the author, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.