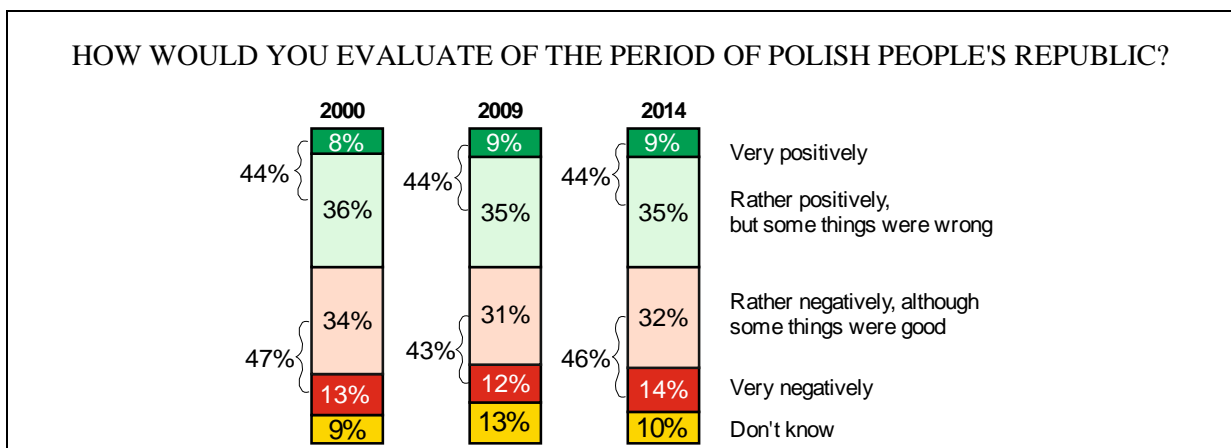


PEOPLE'S POLAND: EXPERIENCE, EVALUATION, ASSOCIATIONS

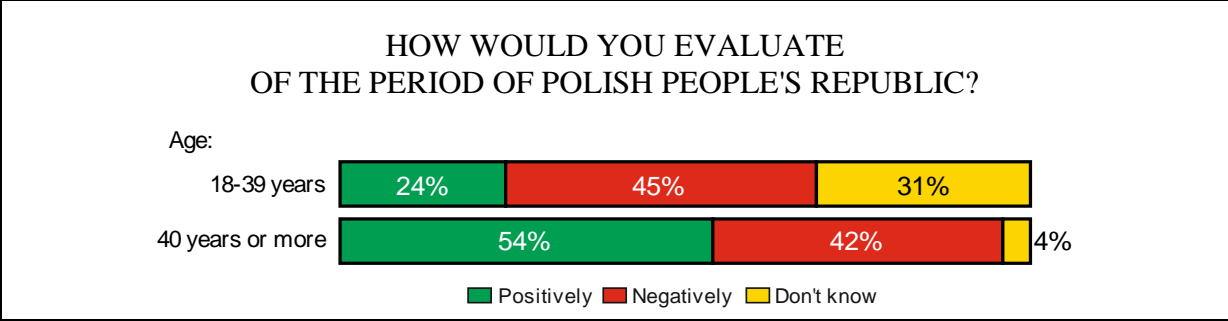
As time passes, the number of people who remember People's Poland diminishes, while the group for whom it is merely history grows. The survey shows that age significantly influences the perception of the former system. Some older people are nostalgic for People's Republic, while the youth are usually critical, if they have an opinion at all.



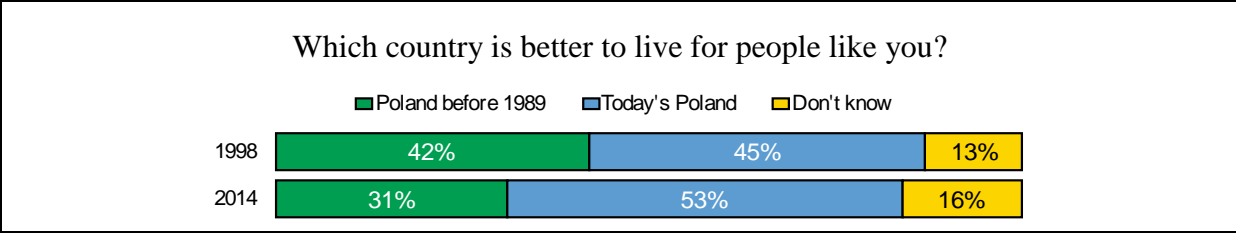
Poles remain divided into two almost equal parts in their opinions about People's Republic. Over two-fifths (44%) evaluate this period in history positively, while a slightly

larger group (46%) express a critical opinion. For the last fourteen years these proportion have remained practically unchanged.

The attitude to the People's Poland depends on respondents' age. People over 40, i.e. those who were at least 15 in 1989, evaluate this period much better than younger respondents.



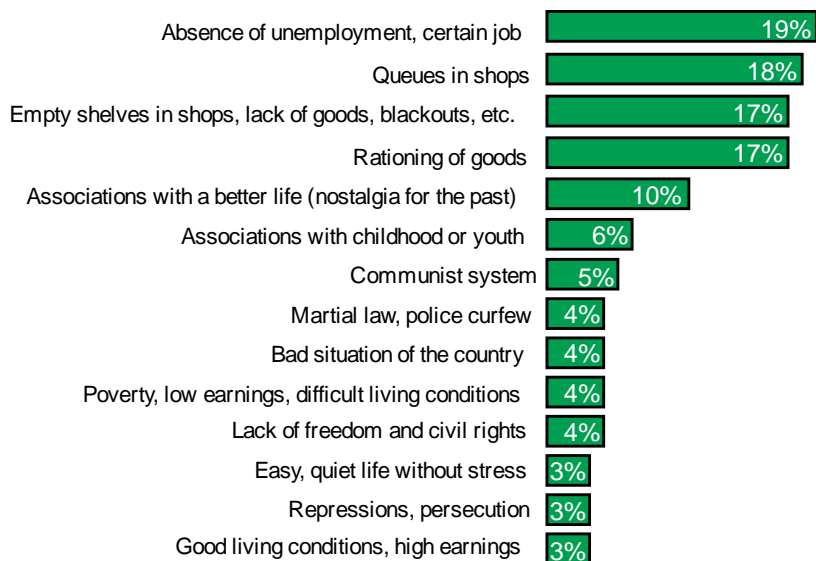
At present Poles see positive sides of the present Poland more than they did in 1990s. While ten years after the systemic change the opinions were divided, now the prevailing opinion holds that today's Poland is a better country to live than the pre-1989 (53% vs. 31%).



The changes in opinions are, to a large extent, the result of a growing number of people who have no clear memories of People's Republic or were born after 1989. Young people much less often than the older respondents consider the pre-1989 Poland to be a better place live.

The period of People's Poland is mentally associated, on the one hand, with deficit of consumer goods: queues, empty shelves in stores, rationing. On the other hand, respondents associate it with certainty of employment, absence of unemployment. Nostalgia for the People's Poland is indicated by associations with a better life, with childhood or youth, and also with a quiet life devoid of stress and poverty. However, this period also evokes images of the communist system, martial law, lack of freedom and civil rights, repressions, difficult situation in the country, and poverty.

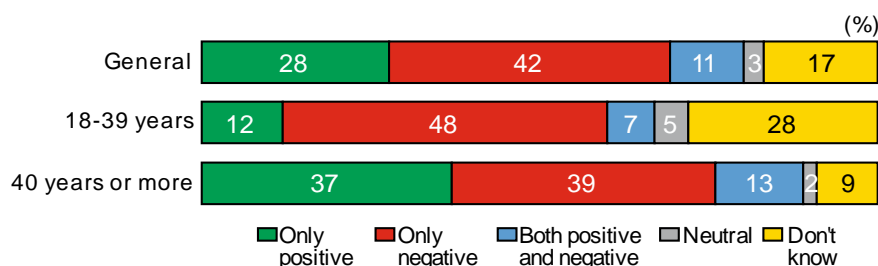
MOST COMMON MENTAL ASSOCIATIONS WITH THE PERIOD OF POLISH PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC



**Based on answers to an open-ended question*

In general, the People's Poland brings more negative than positive associations. Young respondents tend to have negative associations, while older ones are divided.

MENTAL ASSOCIATIONS WITH THE PERIOD OF POLISH PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC



More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: *"People's Poland: experience, evaluation, associations"*, May 2014. Fieldwork for national sample: February and May 2014, N=1074. The random address sample is representative for adult population of Poland.