

Polish anti-communist underground in collective memory

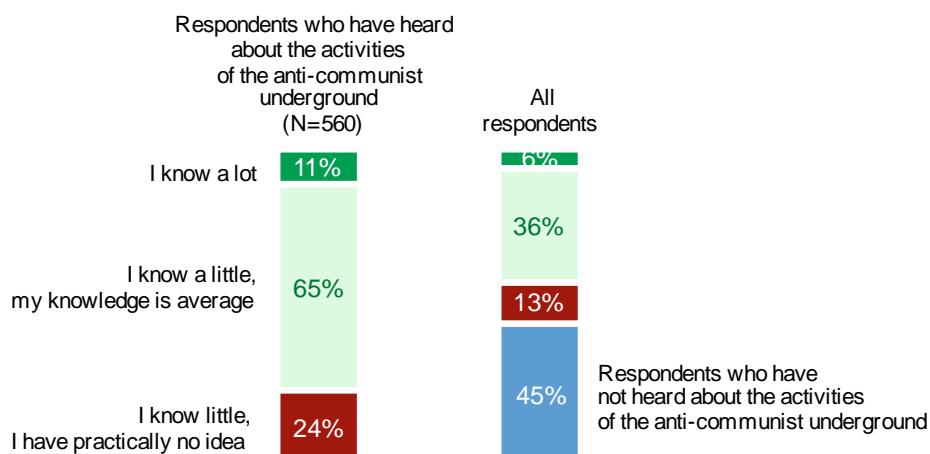
On March 1 is the National Day of Remembrance of post-war anti-communist resistance. It was unequivocally condemned in the past and branded as rogue or marginalized in the mainstream historical education. Recently it has become one of the main narratives in the state historical policy.

The majority of Poles (55%) have heard about armed groups fighting against the new authorities supported by the Soviet Union. Six out of every hundred (6%) say that their knowledge of the subject is large, more than one-third (36%) evaluates it as average, and about one eighth (13%) - as small.

For several years after World War II, armed groups fought in Poland against the new communist authorities, supported by the USSR. Have you heard of the activities of these groups?

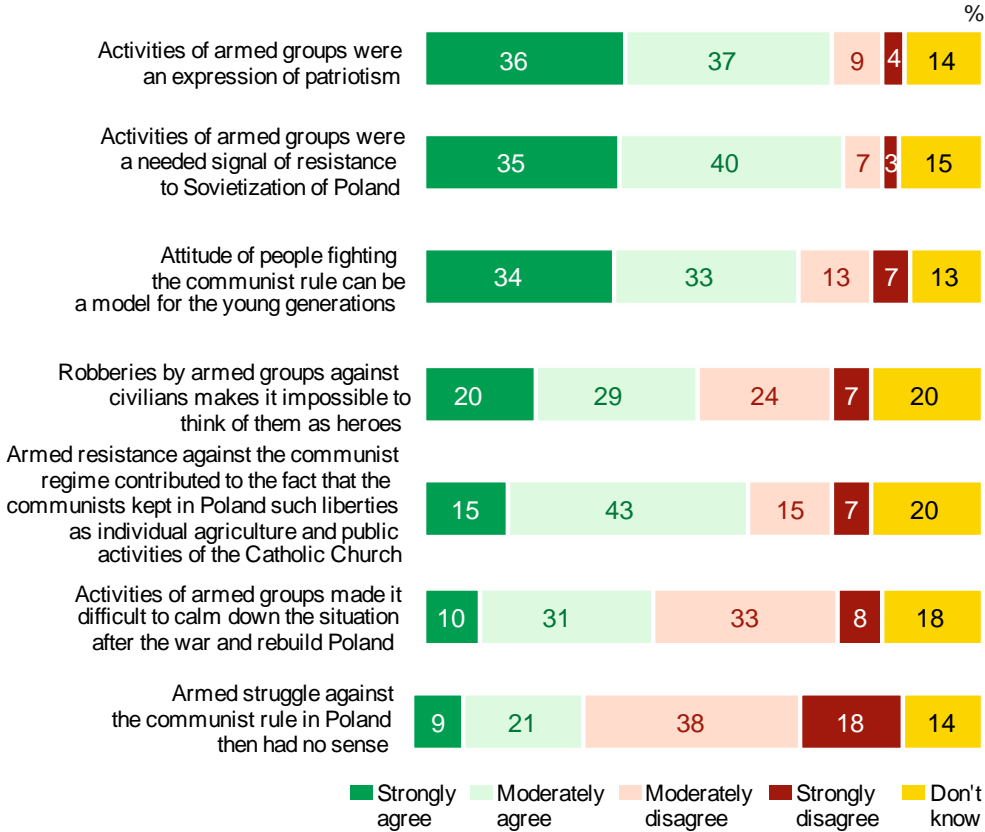


How would you describe your knowledge on the subject?



The image of guerrillas fighting the People's Republic among all people who have heard about them is overwhelmingly positive. The vast majority agree with the statement that their activities were a needed sign of resistance to the Sovietization of the country (75%). According to two-thirds of respondents (67%) the attitude of the soldiers of the anti-communist underground can be a model for the younger generation, slightly fewer (58%) believe that it contributed to the fact that communist authorities kept such liberties as individual agriculture and public activity of the Church. The plurality agree the view that guerrillas cannot be called heroes, as they carried out robberies on civilians (49% agree vs. 31% disagree). Opinions are divided as to whether the activities of armed groups fighting against the communist regime made it difficult to achieve stabilization of the situation in Poland and its reconstruction after the war - two-fifths of respondents agree and the same proportion take the opposite view (41%). The majority of Poles (56%) disagree with the view that the armed struggle against the authorities and in new socio-political order did not make sense.

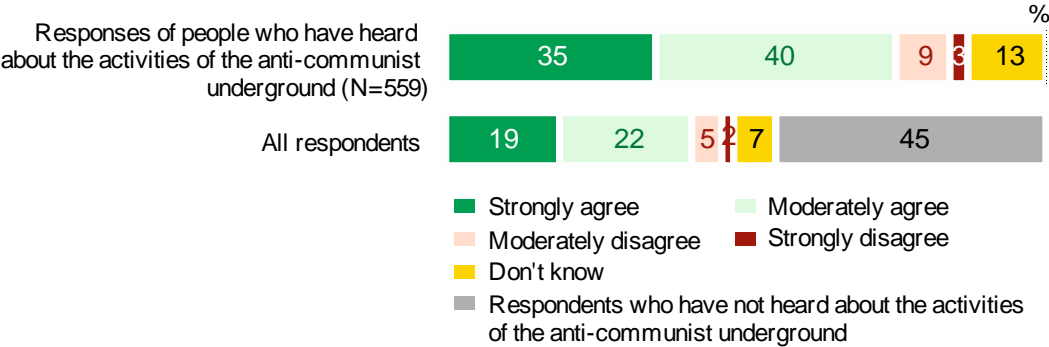
Do you agree with the following statements concerning the activities of armed groups fighting against communist authorities?



Responses of people who have heard about the activities of the anti-communist underground

In total, 75% of those who have heard of the anti-communist underground in Poland declare that for them personally the people fighting with the communist authorities after the war are heroes.

Do you personally agree that people fighting communist rule after the war are heroes?



More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: "Polish Anti-communist Resistance Movements in Collective Memory", March 2017. Fieldwork for national sample: February 2017, N=1016. The random address sample is representative for adult population of Poland.