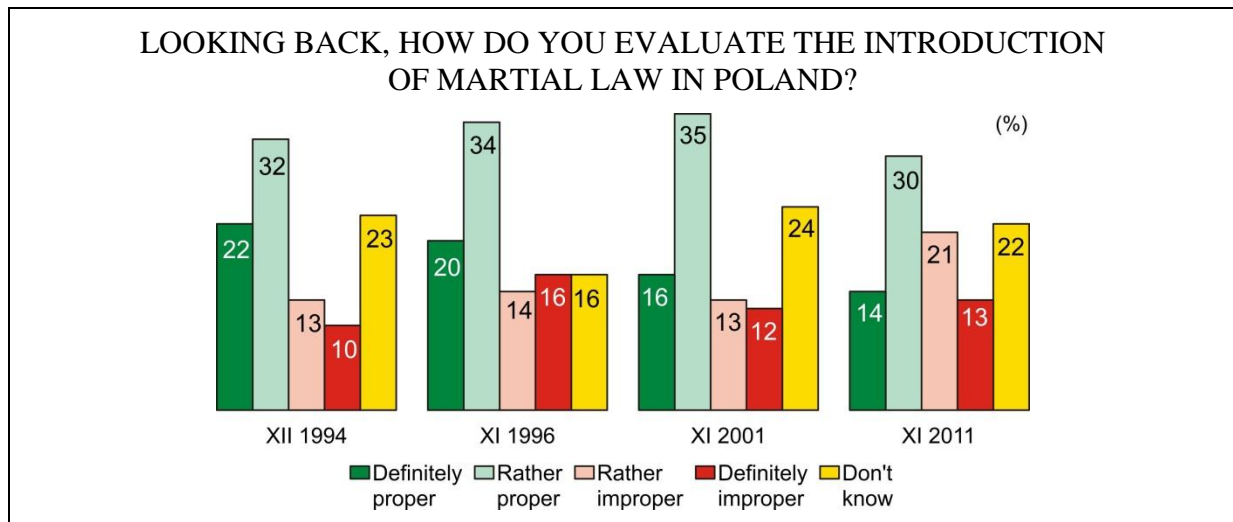


## THIRTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MARTIAL LAW

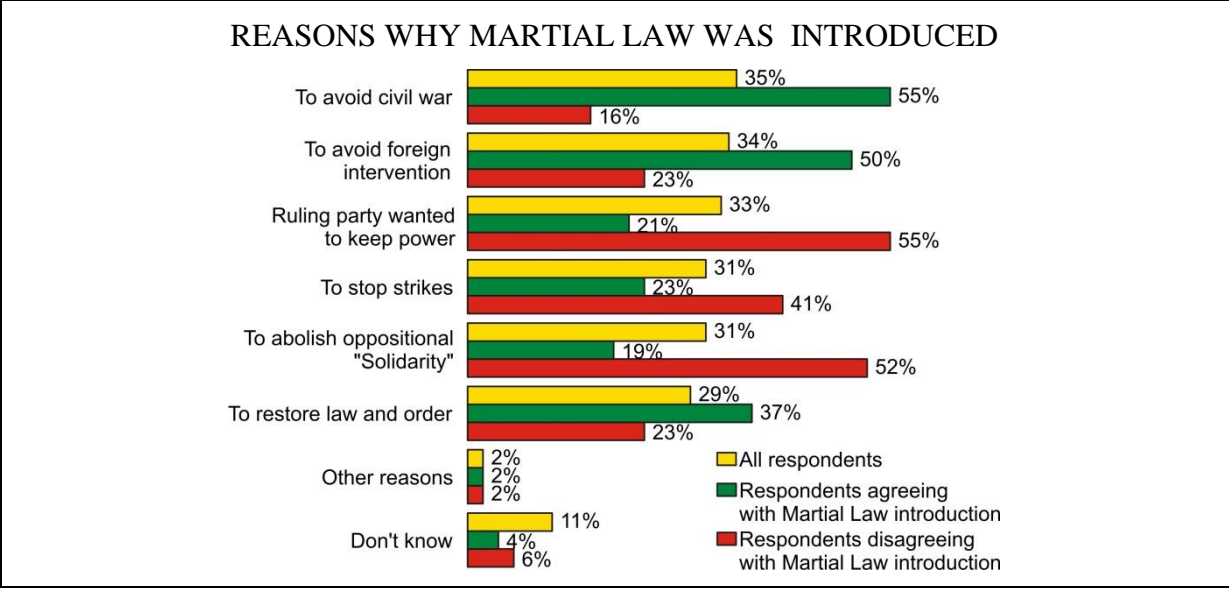
On 13 Dec. 2011 there was the 30th anniversary of the introduction of the Martial Law in Poland. Societal evaluation of this event is ambiguous. Earlier CBOS surveys indicated that, in spite of the fact that restrictions and difficulties of that period were alive in collective memory, the majority approved of the decision to introduce the Martial Law. Now the opinions are more diversified. Ten years ago, most Poles (51%) considered the decision to introduce the Martial Law as proper, while 25% disagreed. Now two-fifths (44%) consider it correct, and one-third (34%) think it was bad. Many people (22%) still refrain from expressing an opinion.



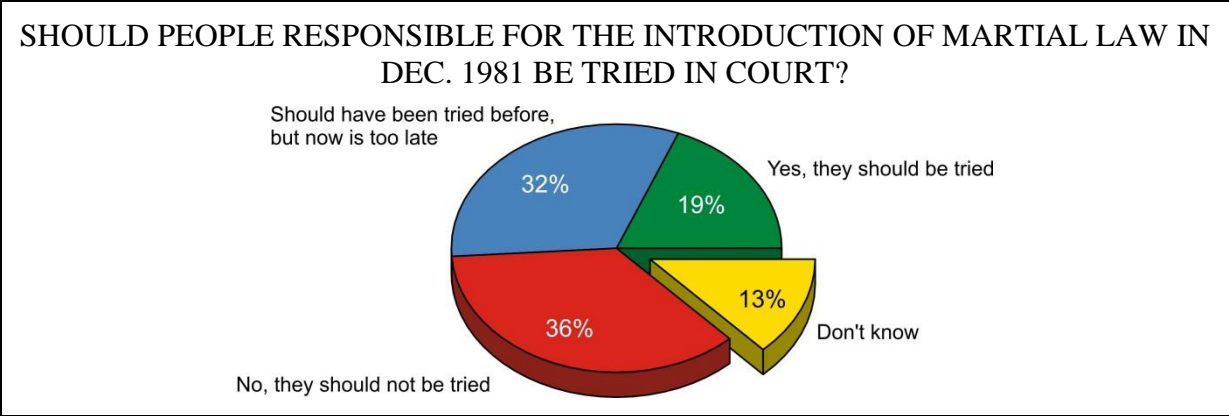
The attitude to the introduction of the Martial Law depends on age. Those born after 13 Dec. 1981, and people who were then too young to remember anything, have a predominantly negative opinion about Martial Law introduction. Older respondents usually think that it was a proper decision.

Poles also disagree about the reasons why Martial Law was introduced. Opinions depend on the evaluation of these events. Respondents convinced that the introduction was proper usually think in this way civil war and foreign intervention was avoided. People

disagreeing with this move usually explain it by the desire to maintain power by the ruling Polish United Workers' Party, and by its intention to abolish “Solidarity”.



The most important leaders who introduced the Martial Law have not been tried so far. The case against them has been brought to court by the investigative office of the Institute of National Remembrance (IPN) and has not been decided. Over one-third of respondents (36%) believe that people responsible for the introduction of the Martial Law should not be tried at all.



More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: “*Thirtieth anniversary of the Martial Law*”, December 2011. Fieldwork for national sample: November 2011 (N=969). The random address sample is representative for adult population of Poland.