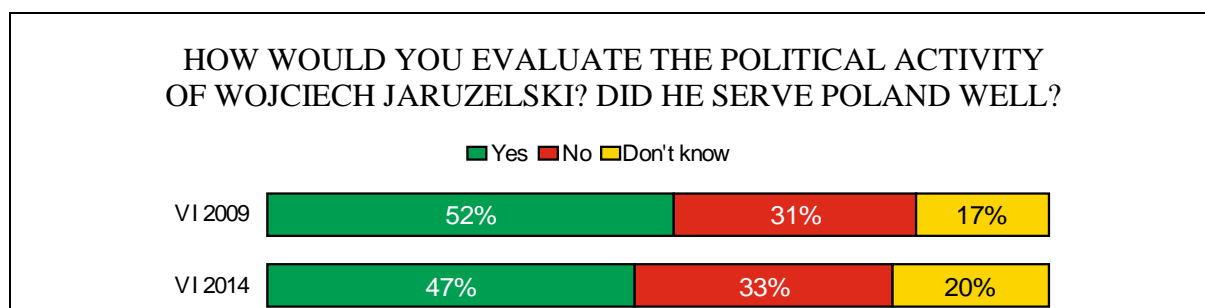


OPINIONS ABOUT WOJCIECH JARUZELSKI

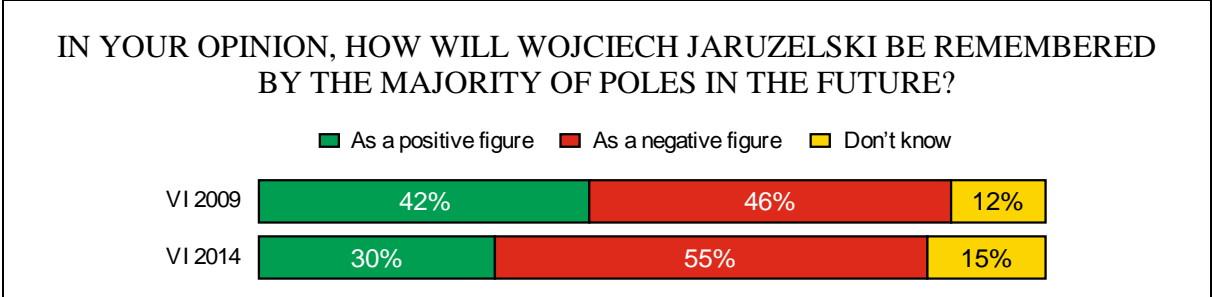
General Wojciech Jaruzelski died in May 2014. He introduced the martial law, but also initiated the Round Table agreements and became the first president of the independent Poland. He was buried at the Pawazki cemetery with military honours, which caused protests of his opponents. The disturbances accompanied the ceremony itself. These controversies revived the unfinished discussion about his role in the history of Poland.

Poles are divided in their opinions about general Jaruzelski. Almost half (47%) think he served Poland well, while a third (33%) express the opposite opinion. One-fifth cannot judge him as a politician. The evaluation of the political activity of Wojciech Jaruzelski has not changed significantly in the last 5 years. Since 2009, the number of respondents positively judging his service for Poland has diminished slightly.

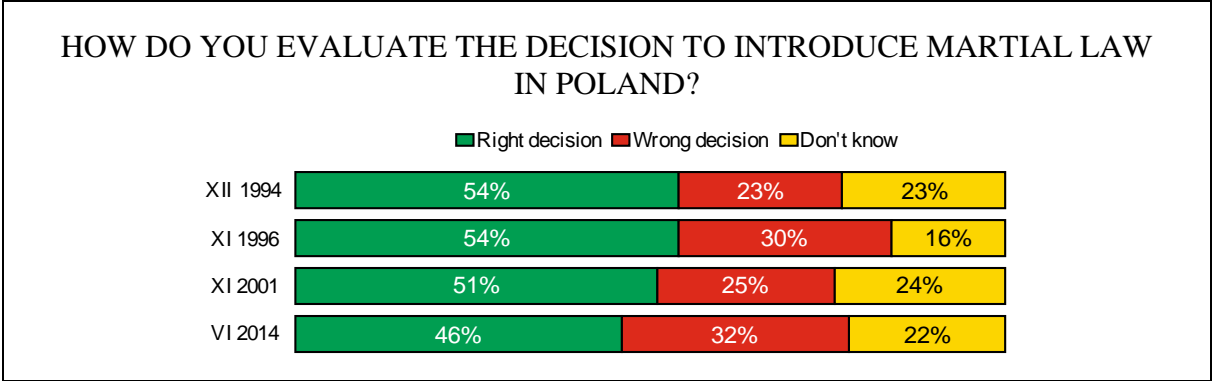


Although the plurality of respondents have a positive opinion about Jaruzelski's service, the opinions about collective memory about him are different. The majority (55%) think he will be remembered by the society as a negative figure, while less than a third (30%) think he will

be remembered positively. The belief that the collective memory will perpetuate the negative image of Wojciech Jaruzelski is now more common than five years ago.



Assessing the historical role of Wojciech Jaruzelski is inextricably linked to his decision to introduce martial law in Poland in December 1981. Almost half of respondents (46%) believe that it was the correct decision, while one-third (32%) disagree. The conviction that it was the right decision is less widespread than in the 1990s and early 2000s.



More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: *"Opinions about Wojciech Jaruzelski"*, June 2014. Fieldwork for national sample: June 2014, N=1044. The random address sample is representative for adult population of Poland.