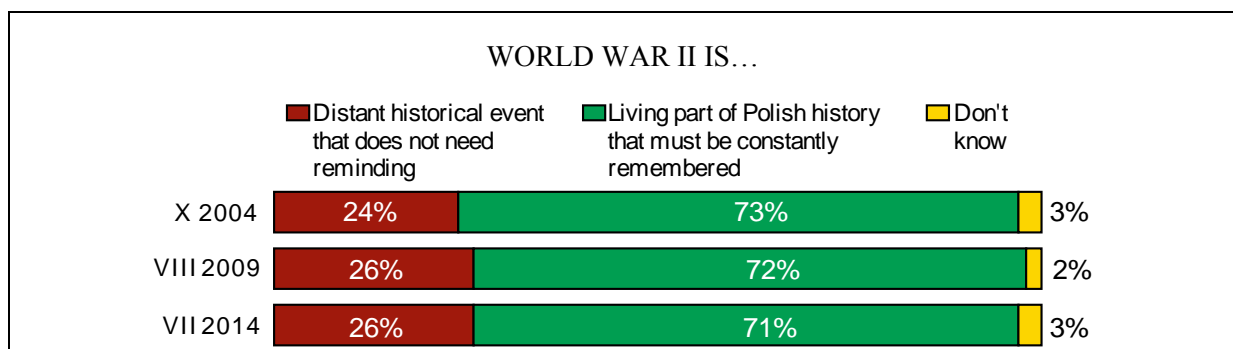
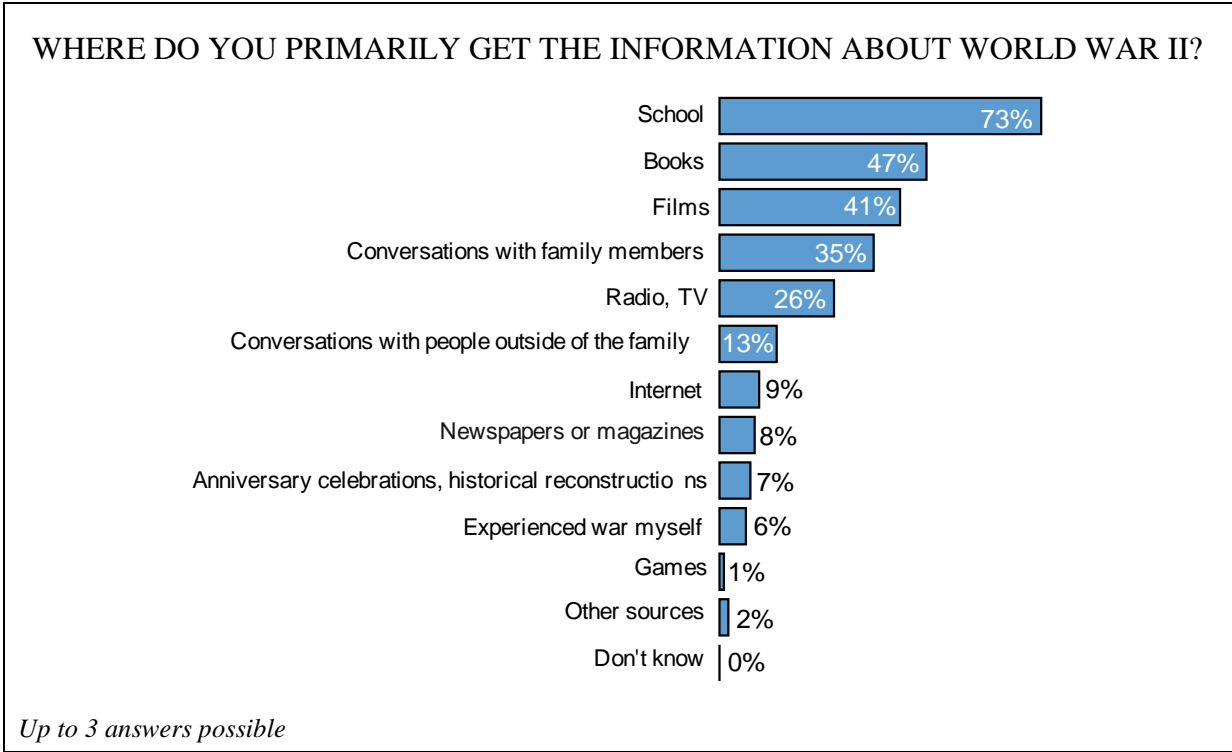


75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE START OF WORLD WAR II

On 1st September, the 75th anniversary of the beginning of World War II passed. In spite of the passage of time and reduction in the number of people who remember the war, the number of people who think that it is a living part of Polish history has not changed significantly in the last 10 years. The conviction that World War II is a recent historical event which needs to be constantly remembered is expressed by 71% of respondents. The attitude to World War II is related to age. Young respondents are slightly more distant, as for them it is more commonly a distant historical event. However, they also in their majority think that it is a living part of the Polish history. Political orientation has the strongest impact on opinions: right-wing respondents consider it more often as a recent event (83%) than left-wing (64%) or centrist (66%).

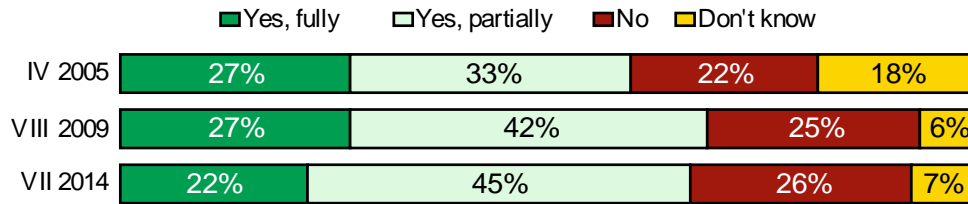


Poles derive their knowledge about World War II primarily from school. It is the most common source of information not only for the young people, but also for the middle-aged and seniors. Another important source of information are books and film, which are among the top three sources of information. Another important source is the family. More than a third of adult Poles declare getting information about the war primarily from family conversations. It is a topic of discussions mostly for older respondents (55 years and older). It is not as frequently a topic of conversations with people outside of the family, or these conversations are not as meaningful. Additionally, the media provide information about the war, primarily radio and television. For the youngest respondents (18-24 years of age), the internet is the most important medium. A small, but not marginal, group of respondents mentioned official anniversary events and historical reconstructions. A small number of respondents declare knowing the war from personal experience.



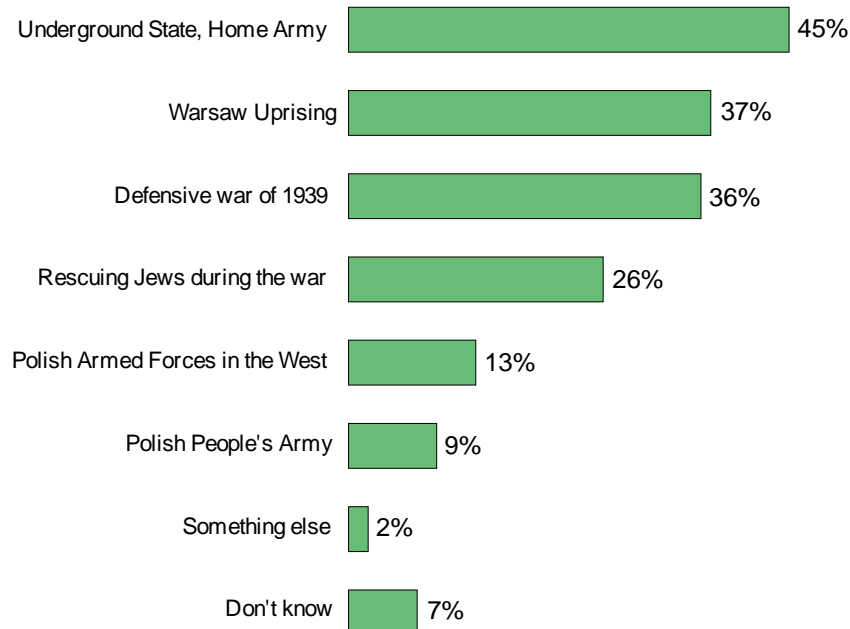
Formally, Poland was among the winners of World War II as one of the allied states. This opinion was not questioned during the period of People's Republic, but now is not obvious to most people. Only slightly more than a fifth (22%) have no doubts that Poland can be considered a winner of World War II. The proportion of people sharing this view has diminished in recent years. On the other hand, there has been an increase in the number of respondents who agree partially (from 33% in 2005 to 45% now). Over a quarter of respondents think that Poland cannot be considered a winner in World War II.

DO YOU THINK POLAND CAN BE CONSIDERED A WINNER IN WORLD WAR II



World War II is among the events which influenced the collective consciousness of Poles to the greatest extent. The attitude of the Polish people during the war is a source of pride. After 75 years since the war began, Poles take pride in the organization of the Underground State and the Home Army. A lot of respect is shown to the defensive war of 1939 and the Warsaw Uprising. Slightly fewer people mentioned help for the Jews. Less frequently, respondents declared pride in the activity of Polish troops abroad: Polish Armed Forces in the West and Polish People's Army.

IN WHAT WORLD WAR II EVENTS CAN POLISH PEOPLE TAKE PRIDE?



Up to 2 answers possible

More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: "75th anniversary of the start of World War II", August 2014. Fieldwork for national sample: July 2014, N=943. The random address sample is representative for adult population of Poland.