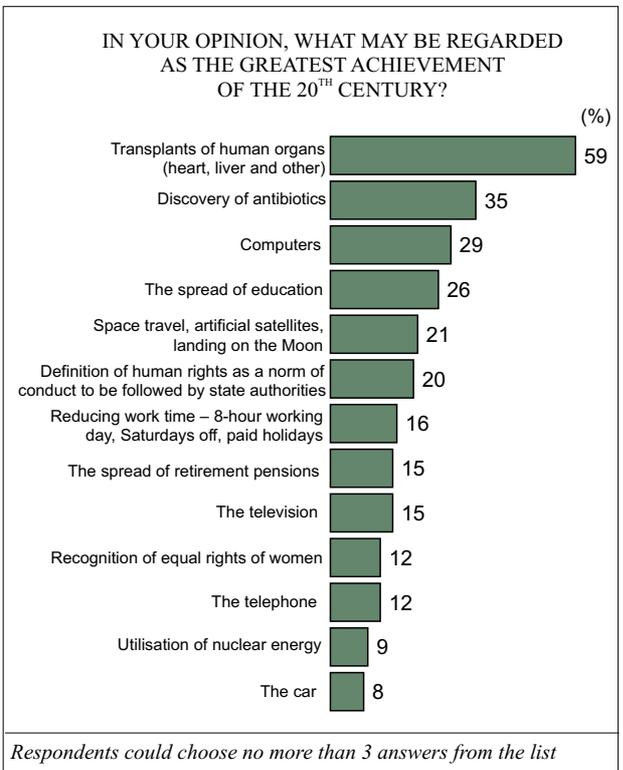


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- WHAT HAS THE 20TH CENTURY BROUGHT US?
- EGALITARIAN ATTITUDES IN POLAND, THE CZECH REPUBLIC, UKRAINE AND HUNGARY
- OPINIONS ON LEGAL GUARANTEES OF THE EQUALITY OF SEXES
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WHAT HAS THE 20TH CENTURY BROUGHT US?

The Poles evaluate the last century rather positively. Although the largest group of respondents (42%) believe that the 20th century has brought us as many bad things as good ones, the opinion that positive aspects outnumber negative ones prevails among the other respondents. Such medical achievements as organ transplants and the discovery of antibiotics are considered the greatest achievements of this century. The next most important achievements of the 20th century are computers and space travel. The high position of cultural, political and social changes should also be noted: the spread of education, recognition of human rights by state authorities as a norm of conduct, as well as the reduction of work time and the spread of pension systems. On the whole it appears that, apart from computers and space travel, the accomplishments in the sphere of social policy are generally valued more than new technologies.



In the Poles' opinions, the greatest plagues of the 20th century are drug addiction (49%) and AIDS (47%). Such calamities of the last century as wars (42%), crime (37%), genocide (35%), the existence of nuclear weapons (34%) and devastation of the natural environment (32%) were indicated only slightly less frequently. Hunger (25%) and terrorism (20%) are also among the top ten disasters and threats of this century.

In the respondents' opinions, the history of Poland in the 20th century was dominated first and foremost by two events: regaining of independence in 1918 (62%) and the election of Karol Wojtyła as Pope John Paul II (52%). The third most important event was the beginning of world war II, i.e. the German aggression against Poland in September 1939 (35%). The next four events that are important for our history happened during the last quarter of the 20th century and are connected with the changes taking place in these years. They are: the fall of communism in Poland (28%), our entry into NATO (18%), the establishment of "Solidarity" in 1980 (15%) and the Round Table Agreements in 1989 (11%).

In the respondents' opinions, the person who has had the greatest influence on the history of our country in the last century is Pope John Paul II (77%). At the same time, this influence is evaluated as undoubtedly

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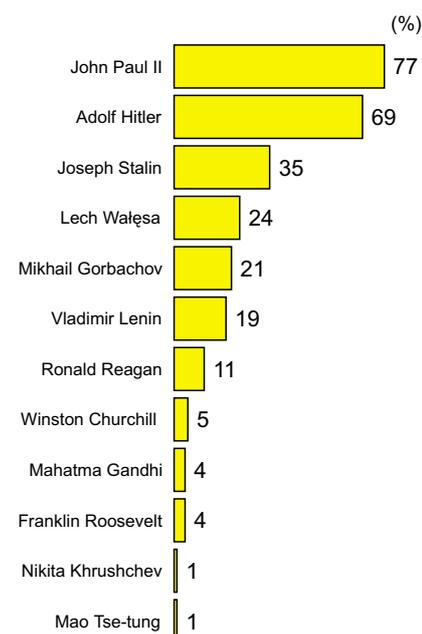
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IN YOUR OPINION, WHICH OF THESE PERSONS HAVE HAD THE GREATEST INFLUENCE ON THE WORLD HISTORY, REGARDLESS OF WHETHER THIS INFLUENCE WAS GOOD OR BAD?



Respondents could choose no more than 3 answers from the list

positive. The next two most popular personages, i.e. Józef Piłsudski and Lech Wałęsa (58% each), are a little more controversial. This is especially true of Lech Wałęsa, whose influence on the history of Poland is evaluated as "partly positive, partly negative" by over one third of respondents. Every eighth respondent evaluates it as negative.

More information on this subject can be found in the CBOS reports "What good things has the 20th century brought the world", "The world in the 20th century - people and events. What bad things has the 20th century brought", "People and events in the history of Poland in the 20th century", December 1999.

EGALITARIAN ATTITUDES IN POLAND, THE CZECH REPUBLIC, UKRAINE AND HUNGARY

The equality of citizens with regard to income was one of the leading ideological assumptions of the socialist system. Although in real life this idea was not always effective and there were many exceptions, differences in wealth between different social and occupational groups were generally rather small. The idea of equality of income, which in the Soviet sphere was forced into peoples' heads for years, is in fact widely recognised there. However, the changes connected with the introduction of the market economy are associated with the growing differentiation of income, leading to a significant stratification of the society. One of the last surveys conducted by CBOS in co-operation with public opinion research institutions in Hungary (TARKI), the Czech Republic (IVVM) and Ukraine (KIIS) was devoted to social attitudes connected with egalitarianism.

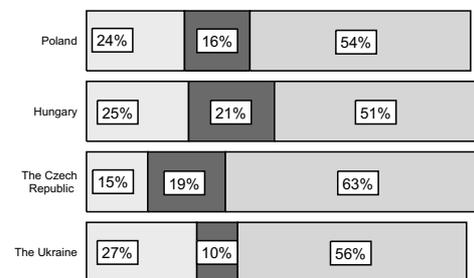
The societies of all these four countries accept the meritocratic model of wealth distribution, provided that the level of income depends on the amount of work done. The question whether the market value of work would also be regarded as a postulated criterion of differentiation remains open. However, an extremely egalitarian approach, based on the conviction that everybody should receive an equal share of income and wealth, appears to be still quite widespread in the Central and Eastern European countries. Approximately one quarter of the Poles, Hungarians and Ukrainians agree with it. The Czechs approve the absolute equality of income the least frequently. The idea of fair redistribution of subsistence in accordance with the principle "to everybody according to their needs, from everybody according to their abilities" also has many followers, especially in the Central European countries. The Poles support this system of wealth distribution the most frequently.

Non-egalitarian attitudes are the strongest in the Ukraine, where the process of building a free market economy seems relatively less advanced. Compared with the other three countries, Ukrainian society supports giving up egalitarian redistribution of income most strongly. In order to interpret this data properly it should be remembered, however, that the economic situation of

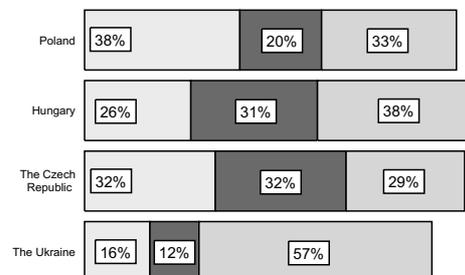
Ukraine is fundamentally different from that of the other three countries, which may also lead to a different understanding of the question discussed here. In the Ukraine salaries and wages are quite often delayed, therefore some respondents from this country may express their attitude to a possible loss of their earnings, while the respondents from Central Europe talk about the fiscal policy of the state. It should also be remembered that in Poland non-egalitarian attitudes were the most common before socio-economic changes sped up, i.e. in the late 1980s and early 1990s. It is possible that the present situation in the Ukraine is similar in this respect. Regardless of the interpretation, the Poles, Czechs and Hungarians accept actions aimed at reducing social inequalities more frequently than the Ukrainians.

DO YOU AGREE OR DISAGREE WITH THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS?

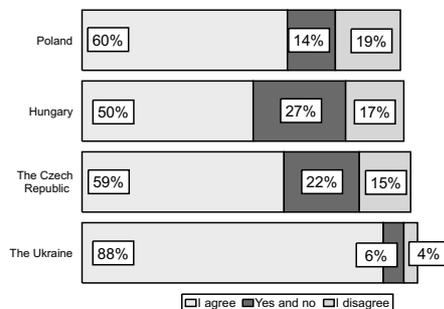
The distribution of income and wealth is the fairest when everybody gets an equal share



The most important thing is that everybody should be able to satisfy their needs, even if a part of income had to be taken away from those who have earned more than they need in order to achieve this goal



People should have the right to keep all their earnings even if some people are richer than others as a result

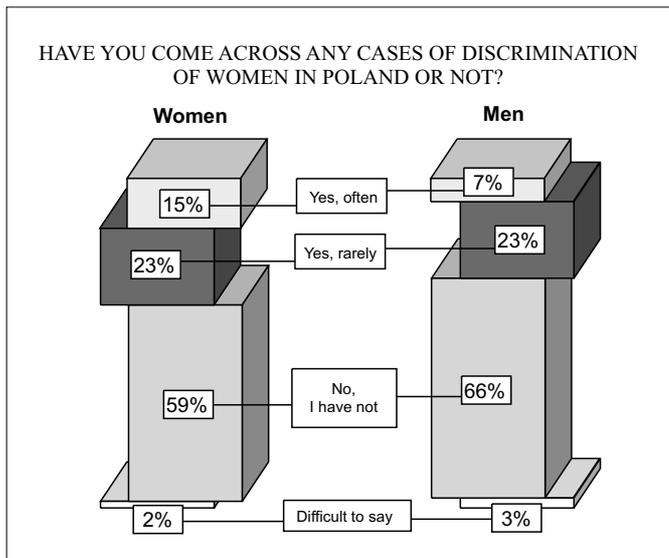


"Difficult to say" answers were disregarded

More information on this subject can be found in the CBOS report "Egalitarian attitudes in Poland, the Czech Republic, Ukraine and Hungary", December 1999.

OPINIONS ON THE LEGAL GUARANTEES OF THE EQUALITY OF THE SEXES

A discussion on the equality of the sexes in professional and public life has been going on in Poland for a long time now. It was initiated by a draft bill on the equal status of women and men proposed by the Parliamentary Group of Women two years ago. The bill provided for, among others, proportional participation of the representatives of both sexes in public authorities, a ban on discrimination against women at work, verification of school books with regard to the equality of the sexes, and appointing a spokesperson for the equal status of men and women.

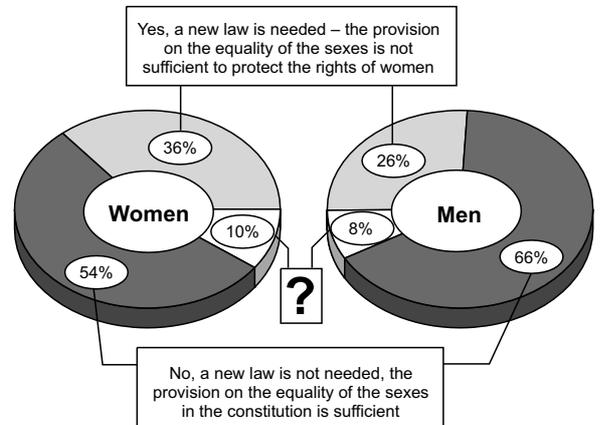


Regardless of these initiatives, violation of women's rights in Poland is not perceived as very common. Most respondents (both women and men) claim that they do not come across any overt symptoms of sex discrimination. At the same time, however, a significant percentage of respondents notice some signs of it. They usually refer to inequalities in professional life: lower pay for women as compared with men (14%), lower chances for promotion (10%), higher risk of unemployment and bigger problems with finding a job (9%).

Although a significant majority of respondents regard the problem of sex inequality as an important issue (74%), only slightly less than one third believe that a special law is needed to guarantee the equal rights of men and women. Most respondents (almost two thirds) regard the existing legal regulations, i.e. the constitutional guarantee of equal rights of women, as sufficient.

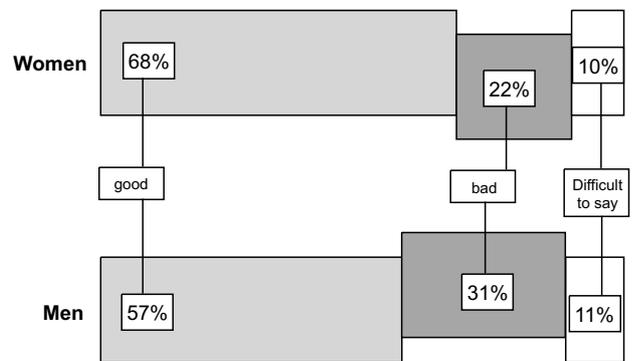
Increasing the participation of women in public life is another problem. Over two fifths of respondents believe that women should have a bigger representation in the government and one third agree that there should be more women in managerial positions in the state administration, political parties, industrial companies and the administration of justice. Therefore most respondents approve the idea that parity for each sex should be established in the elections to the Parliament and local authorities.

IN YOUR OPINION, IS THERE A NEED FOR A SEPARATE LAW THAT WOULD GUARANTEE EQUAL RIGHTS FOR WOMEN AND MEN AND EQUAL TREATMENT OF BOTH SEXES IN THE PUBLIC LIFE, IN THE FAMILY AND AT WORK, OR IS THE CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISION ON THE EQUALITY OF THE SEXES SUFFICIENT?



Interestingly enough, both of these proposed solutions, i.e. a special law on the equality of the sexes and a definition of parity (proportion) of women and men on the lists of candidates for elective offices have their greatest opponents among managers, the intelligentsia and educated people - particularly women with higher education. These are the same social groups that notice the existence of sex inequalities in Poland the most frequently.

IN YOUR OPINION, IS THE IDEA THAT A CERTAIN NUMBER OF PLACES ON THE LISTS OF CANDIDATES TO THE SEJM, SENATE AND LOCAL AUTHORITIES SHOULD BE GUARANTEED FOR WOMEN BY LAW:

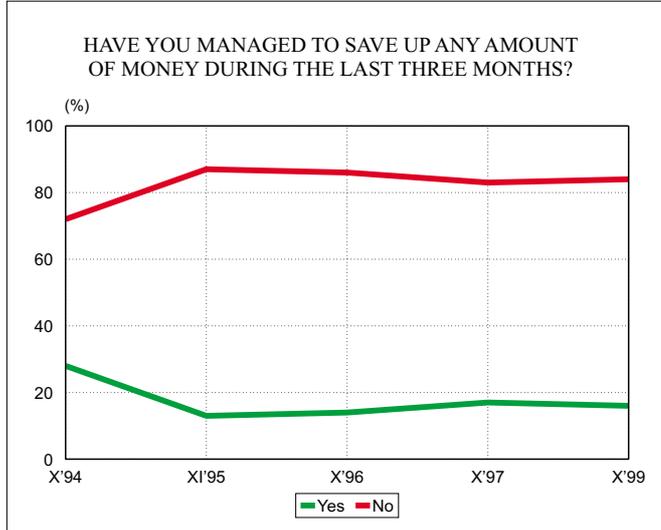


More information on this subject can be found in the CBOS report "Opinions on the legal guarantees of the equality of the sexes", December 1999.

THE FINANCIAL SITUATION OF HOUSEHOLDS

Quite paradoxically, the stagnation of incomes presently noticed by Poles is accompanied by a credit boom. The Poles take loans primarily to buy goods associated with an improvement of the standard of living, such as "white" and "brown" goods and cars. The number of new cars sold in our country is growing significantly

every year. A few months ago the Monetary Policy Council made a decision to increase interest rates. One of the reasons behind it was to prevent households from running into excessive debt. In one of our last surveys we asked our respondents about the state of their finances and the amount of their family debt.

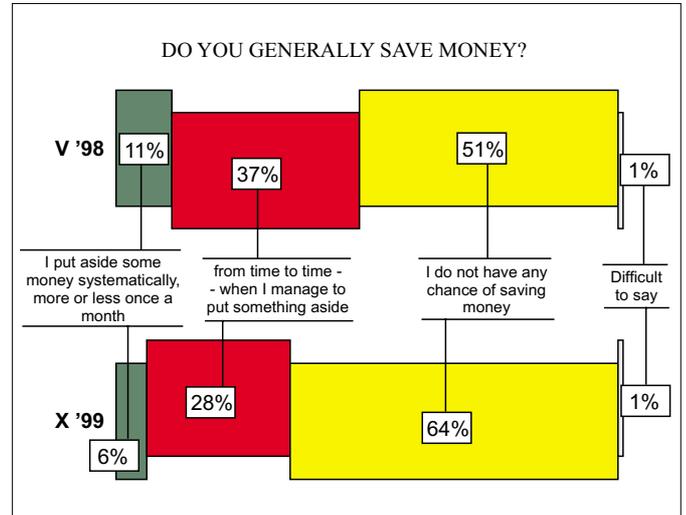


In the last two years the number of persons who managed to save up any amount of money during the three months preceding the survey has not changed. On the other hand, as compared with one and a half years ago, respondents are more pessimistic in their opinions on the possibilities of saving money. Currently the number of respondents who claim that they have no chance of saving any money is higher than in May 1998.

Half of Poles have savings or investments in securities, objects of value, land, real estate or other marketable investments. The percentages of respondents who have savings and investments and those who do not have anything of this type have been stable during the last few years.

During the six months preceding the survey, 43% of respondents took different forms of loans or bought

something in the instalment system. As compared with a similar opinion poll conducted in May 1998, we can notice a small decrease of the number of households that use borrowed money to satisfy their economic needs.



The most frequent use of loans is to improve the standard of the respondents' flats and houses, i.e. for the purchase of household appliances (22%), furniture (10%), TV equipment (7%). As compared with May 1998, more respondents use borrowed money to cover expenses associated with school education and training, and slightly less use it for such day-to-day needs as accommodation expenses and food for the family.

According to the respondents' declarations, more than a quarter have problems with paying their rent at least from time to time and one in four has problems with paying gas and electricity bills, at least sometimes. The total number of respondents who often have problems with paying their rent and heating bills has remained at the same, rather low level for years.

More information on this subject can be found in the CBOS report "Households: savings and investments, debts, expenses", December 1999.

In addition to the bulletins referred to above, the following have been published recently (in Polish):

- "Demographic problems of the world"
- "Opinions on the offensive language used by Poles"
- "Who has gained and who has lost as a result of the changes in Poland? How do we live now?"
- "Party preferences in December"
- "The attitude towards the government and the evaluation of the main political institutions"
- "Social moods in December"
- "Reactions to the veto on the new tax law and the fact that Leszek Balcerowicz has stayed in office"
- "How will we spend Christmas this year?"
- "Differences between the evaluations of the conditions of living and the economic situation of the country in different voivodships"
- "Trust in politicians in December"
- "The Sejm of the 3rd term in social opinion"
- "Politician of the year 1999. Event of the year 1999."
- "New Year's Eve 1999"

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