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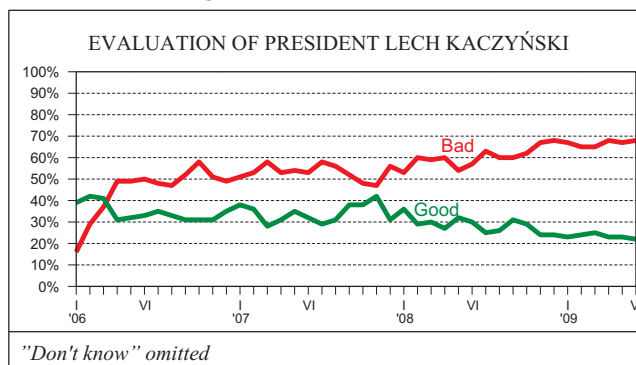
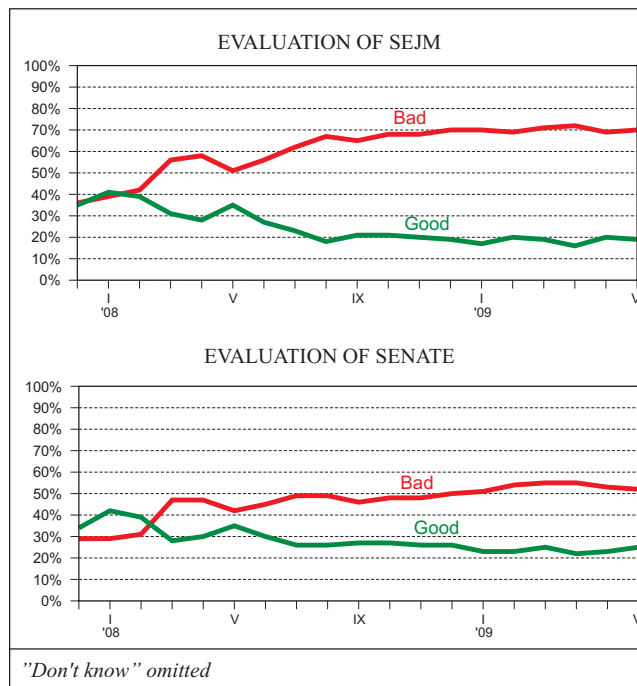
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## EVALUATION OF POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS

The public opinion about the performance of the key institutions of legislative and executive power is predominantly negative. The Sejm of the 6th term, elected in autumn 2007, was initially very well received by the society. The expectations related to the new parliament were higher than at any time earlier during the 3rd Republic. Three weeks after the elections, the majority of Poles (57%, 21 percentage points more than after 2005 parliamentary elections) expected the new Sejm to do better than the previous.

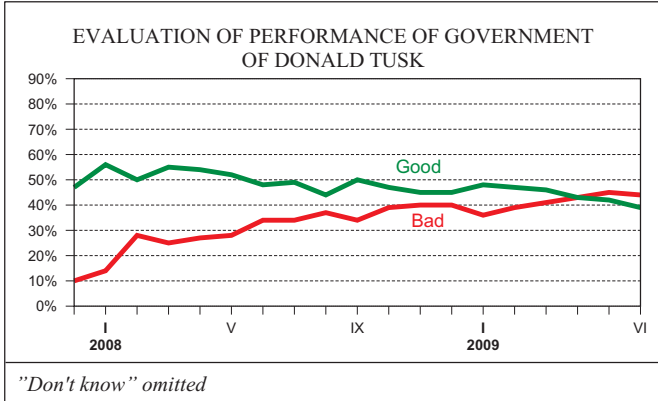
Initial evaluations of the Sejm and Senate of the current term were relatively positive, better than the first evaluations of the previous two terms of parliament. In Dec. 2007, 35% positively evaluated the activity of the newly elected Sejm, while 36% had a negative opinion. Traditionally, Senate received better evaluations (34% positive, 29% negative). After a few months, criticism started to prevail in the evaluation of parliament. In June 2009, less than one-fifth of Poles (19%) had a positive opinion about Sejm, while one-fourth (25%) approved of the functioning of the Senate. In spite of the high hopes caused by the election of new MPs, the current parliament did not manage to improve the well-set negative image of the Polish parliament or the negative image of the political establishment in general.



The performance of president Lech Kaczyński has been evaluated negatively almost from the beginning of his term in office. In June 2009, 22% of respondents approved of the way he handled his duties, while over two-thirds (68%) expressed critical opinion.

Against the background of negative evaluation of parliament and president, the public reception of the government of Donald Tusk is relatively good. The government of the coalition PO-PSL (Citizens' Platform with Polish Peasant Party) began its term with a large credit of social trust. Therefore, although its evaluations are deteriorating, they remain relatively high. The government still has more supporters (38%) than opponents (27%), and

almost half of all adult Poles (46%) are satisfied with Donald Tusk as prime minister. On the other hand, the performance of the government has received predominantly negative evaluations in the last month. In June, 39% had a good opinion about the results of its activity up to date, while 44% expressed a negative view.

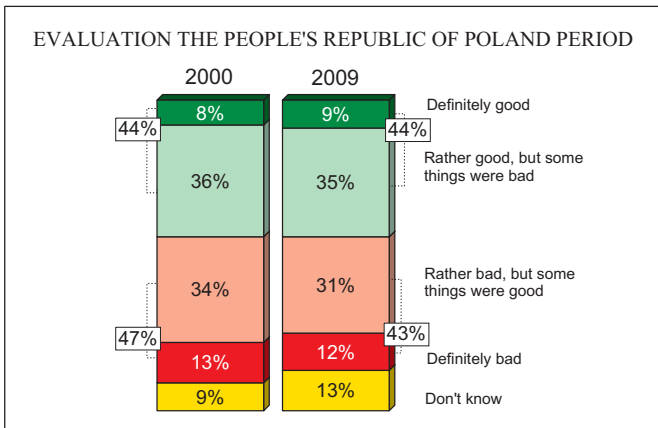


More information about this topic can be found in CBOS reports in *Polish Evaluation of Parliament and President and Attitude to Government in June*, June 2009. Fieldwork: June 2009, N=1038. The random address sample is representative for adult population of Poland.

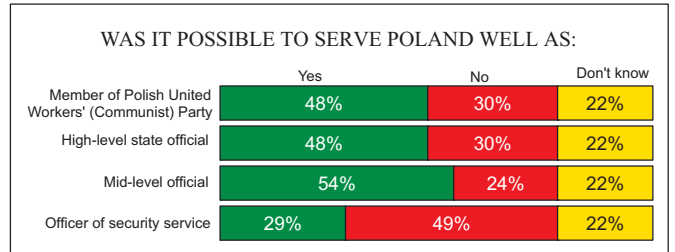
## EVALUATION AND JUDGMENT OF COMMUNIST POLAND

After 20 years of democracy in Poland, questions about the attitude to the past remain valid: how to evaluate people and events in the period of the People's Republic; should we pronounce judgment on this period in our past; is it at all possible to be a fair judge from today's perspective.

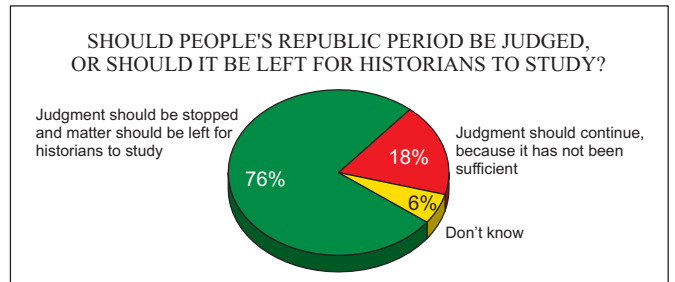
Poles are divided in their opinions about the past. Similar groups have a positive opinion about the People's Republic period in the history of Poland (44%) and a negative view of that period (43%). In the last years, the perception of that period changed only slightly. There is a slight drop in the number of people expressing a negative view, and an increase in the number of respondents without any opinion.



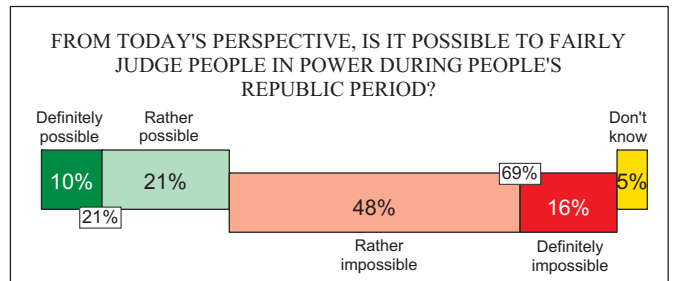
Most adult Poles are of the opinion that, during the People's Republic, it was possible to serve the country well as a mid-level official. Almost half believe that it was also possible in case of members of the Party and high-level state officials. The opinion about work in secret services is different. Almost half of respondents (49%) think that it was not possible to serve Poland well as an officer of the security service (SB).



It seems clear that the Polish people have an unequivocal attitude towards pronouncing judgments on the post-war history of the country. The majority (76%) believe that it should be stopped, and historians should study this period. Less than one in five (18%) believe it should be continued, because the Communist period has not been properly judged.

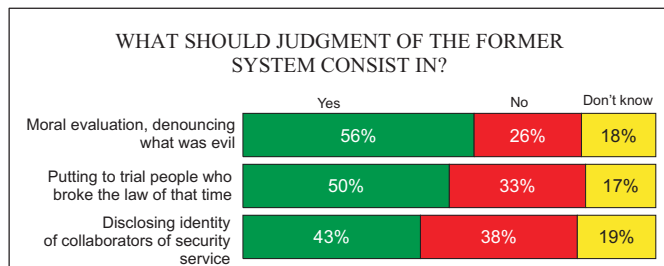


Poles do not want judgment to be prominent in public discourse, which is probably largely due to the entanglement of this subject matter in current politics, and with accusations and conflicts accompanying public discussion of that period. The negative opinion about judgmental attitude to the People's Republic can also be explained by the widespread conviction that, at present, it is impossible to judge fairly the people in power at that time. Only slightly more than one-fifth of respondents think it is possible.



In spite of the generally negative attitude to judgmental treatment of the post-war history, Poles allow some forms of judgment: moral evaluation of what was evil then, and punishment of people breaking the law of

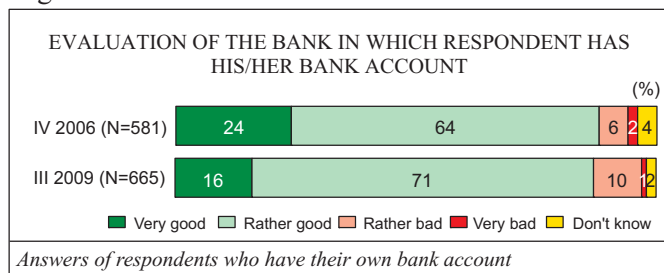
that time. Disclosing the identity of collaborators of security service is more controversial.



More information about this topic can be found in CBOS reports in *Polish Evaluation and Judgment of Communist Poland in Public Opinion*, June 2009. Fieldwork: May 2009, N=1078. The random address sample is representative for adult population of Poland.

## POLES AS BANK CLIENTS

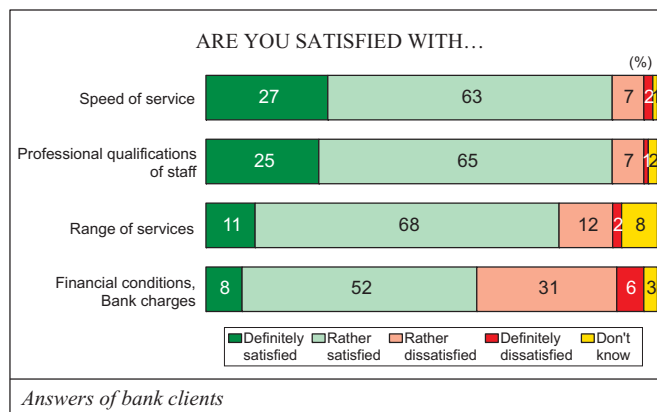
According to declarations, less than one-third of adult Poles (31%) never use services offered by banks. Among the users, over half (52%) buys services from one bank, 13% use 2 banks, while 4% use three or more banks. Only very few clients of banks (2%) do not have a personal bank account. A vast majority of respondents who own a bank account (87%) have a good opinion about their bank, whereas every ninth (11%) is dissatisfied. In the last three years, the general level of satisfaction with one's bank has practically stayed unchanged, although there is a slight decrease in unequivocal satisfaction and a rise in moderate opinion. There has also been a minimal rise in the number of negative evaluations.



A vast majority of bank clients (90%) are satisfied with speed and efficiency of bank service. The professional qualifications of staff are also rated very high: 90% are satisfied. Slightly worse, but very good nevertheless (79% satisfied), are the evaluations of the range of services the bank offers. The worst opinion, but still positive, is about the bank charges on the one hand, and interest on bank deposits on the other. Three fifths (60%) are satisfied with the financial conditions offered by their bank, while over one-third do not accept the level of bank charges, presumably considering them to be excessively high.

In theory, in the market economy, clients dissatisfied with the services offered by their bank could simply change it, and move their money to another bank

which offers better conditions. In practice, changing one's bank may not always be easy. The choice may be restricted by, for instance, proximity of the branch of a chosen bank, or unavailability of competitor banks in the locality. On the other hand, Polish people are rather conservative, and they often display long-lasting attachment to their bank.



A vast majority of Poles using bank services (93%) have not changed the bank in which they have their account in the 6 months preceding the survey. Only a small number of owners of bank accounts (6%) moved them to another bank. At the same time, 8% of owners want to move their money to a different bank in the nearest future.

The most active group of clients searching for the best conditions on the market are young, but presumably economically active, people at the age 25 to 34. One-fifth of people in that age (21%) either has changed, or wants to change his or her bank in the near future. The inclination to change one's bank is greater in big cities, no doubt due to better supply of bank services: 20% of inhabitants of the largest cities and 18% of people in cities in the 100,000-500,000 category either have changed, or want to change their bank. The search for better financial conditions is strongest among those in the best material situation, with per capita income above 1,500 Polish zloty: 18% have changed, or want to change their bank.

More information about this topic can be found in CBOS reports in *Polish Poles as Bank Clients*, June 2009. Fieldwork: March 2009, N=979. The random address sample is representative for adult population of Poland.

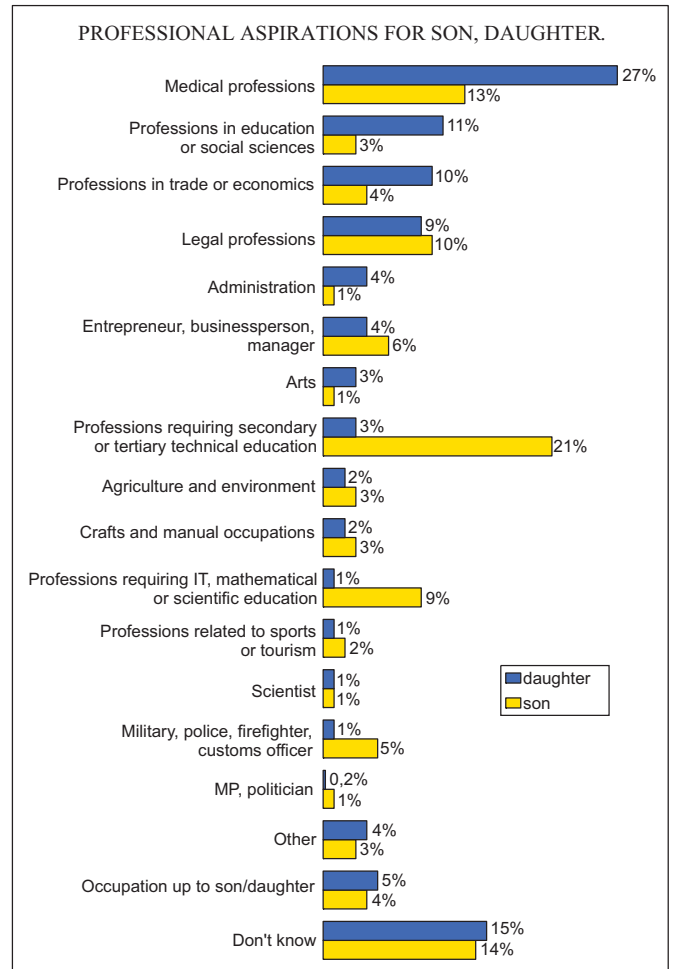
## PROFESSIONAL ASPIRATIONS OF THE POLISH PEOPLE

Educational advancement of the Polish society is one of the most visible positive effects of the systemic change. It is reflected by the surveys conducted since 1993. They show that, in the last 16 years, educational aspirations of Poles rose markedly and, at present, a clear

majority of respondents would like their children, both sons and daughters, to have higher education.

When asked what profession they would wish for a daughter (regardless of whether they have one or not), respondents most commonly mentioned medical professions, usually the physician. Secondly, with much lower frequency, they listed professions requiring education in social sciences, education or the humanities. The most commonly mentioned of these professions was the teacher. Further on, professions related to economics, trade, and law were given. Administrative and managing occupations were listed less often. Other groups of professions good for a daughter were chosen rarely. Few people would like their daughter to perform a job requiring education in IT, mathematics, or sciences, to work in the military or police, to do something related to sports or tourism, or to become a scientist, politician, or a Member of Parliament.

For the sons, professions requiring secondary or tertiary technical education were chosen most frequently. Secondly, much less commonly, medical occupations (esp. the physician) were mentioned. Thirdly, legal professions, and fourthly, IT jobs were chosen. The occupations related to computer science dominated the responses grouped under the heading "IT, mathematical and scientific occupations". Fewer respondents would like their son to become an entrepreneur, businessman, manager, or director. The frequency of selecting occupations related to trade and economics, and to military and police, is similar. Other groups of occupations were mentioned only rarely. Few respondents would like their son to work in administration, to be an artist, scientist, an MP or politician.



More information about this topic can be found in CBOS reports in Polish *Professional Aspirations of the Polish People*, June 2009. Fieldwork: April 2009, N=1094. The random address sample is representative for adult population of Poland.

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

- ◆ First Pilgrimage to Poland of Pope John Paul II
- ◆ Interest in Elections to European Parliament: Opinions in Poland, Czech Rep., Slovakia and Hungary
- ◆ Elections to European Parliament
- ◆ Party Preferences in June
- ◆ Taxpayers Give Opinions About Tax Returns
- ◆ Social Moods in June
- ◆ Trust in Politicians in June
- ◆ Trust in Global Political Leaders. Opinions in 20 Countries of the World

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