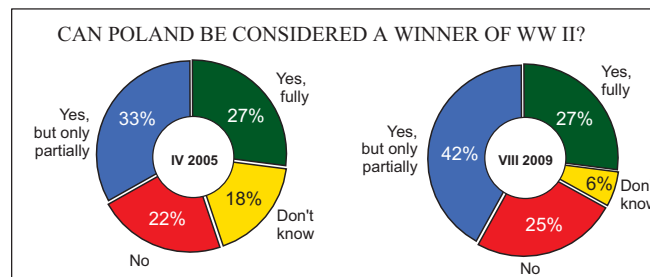
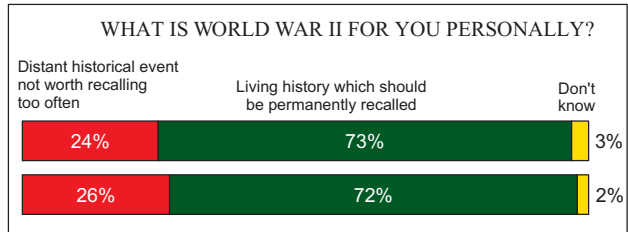


CONTENTS:

- 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF START OF WORLD WAR II
- HISTORIC AND CONTEMPORARY ROLE OF SOLIDARITY MOVEMENT
- FOREIGN TRAVEL AND KNOWLEDGE OF FOREIGN
- SELF-EVALUATION OF PERSONAL APPEARANCE

70TH ANNIVERSARY OF START OF WORLD WAR II

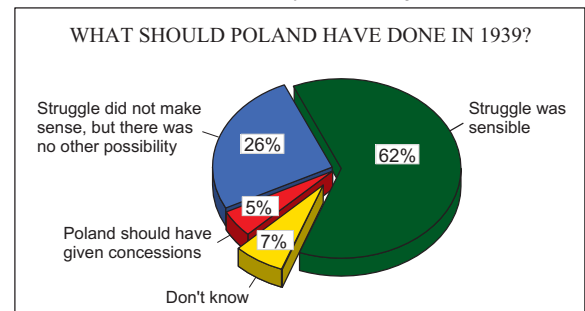
On Sept. 1 this year, 70th anniversary of German attack on Poland in 1939, which started World War II, passed. Few people remember the war, especially its beginning, i.e. the Sept. campaign. Nevertheless, for the vast majority of respondents (72%), it is not an event of the distant past, but a part of living history which should be kept in memory. It should be stressed that the attitude to WWII has not changed in the last 5 years. The fact that respondents' age has only limited influence on this attitude leads to a conclusion that treating WWII as living history is a stable characteristic of the Polish society.



Formally, Poland was one of the winners of WWII. However, in the opinion of the plurality of public opinion, the war ended with only partial victory. In the last ten years this opinion strengthened.

Poland was the first country to reject German

demands and resist Hitler's occupation strategy, in spite of a gross disproportion of power. In public discourse there have appeared voices questioning the correctness of this decision. Most respondents (62%) have an unambiguous opinion on that matter, claiming it made sense fighting Germany in spite of the disproportion in forces. A quarter (26%) accept the idea that the struggle was not sensible, but there was no other possibility to act. One in twenty respondents (5%) agrees that Poland should have given concessions.



More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish *70th Anniversary of World War II*, August 2009. Fieldwork: August 2009, N=1041. The random address sample is representative for adult population of Poland.

HISTORIC AND CONTEMPORARY ROLE OF SOLIDARITY MOVEMENT

Recently, 29th anniversary of August Agreements passed. They were signed in August and September 1980 by the Inter-enterprise Strike Committee and representatives of the government. One of the demands of striking workers was the creation of free trade unions. On the basis of strike committees, the Solidarity Trade Union was formed. It later

PUBLIC OPINION
RESEARCH CENTER
- CBOS -

4a Żurawia
00-503 Warszawa
POLAND

Ph: (48 22) 629 35 69
(48 22) 628 37 04
(48 22) 693 46 91

Fax: (48 22) 629 40 89

E-mail: sekretariat@cbos.pl
<http://www.cbos.pl>

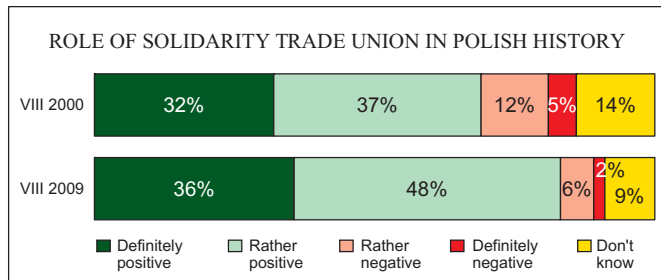
Editor:
Beata Roguska

Translated by
Michał Wenzel

© COPYRIGHT BY CBOS 2009
ALL SOURCES MUST BE CREDITED
WHEN ANY PART OF THIS
PUBLICATION IS REPRODUCED

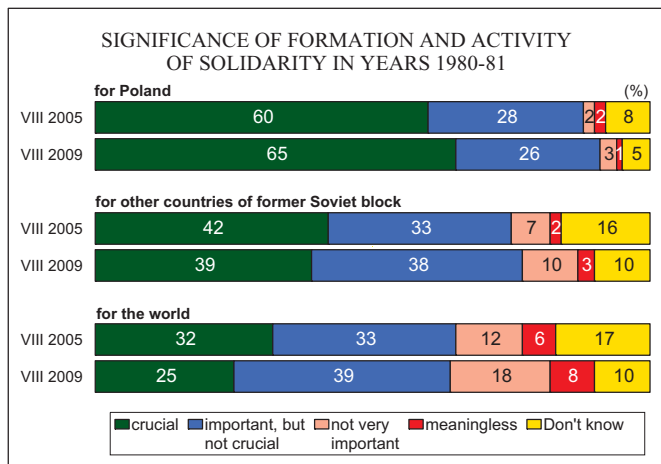
transformed into a mass social movement with up to 10 million members. The trade union was banned in 1982 and it acted in the underground for several years, becoming the major force of the opposition. It was made legal again in April 1989.

Polish people acknowledge the historic significance of Solidarity Trade Union. A vast majority (84%) evaluate its role positively, while 8% have the opposite opinion. In the last 9 years, the conviction strengthened.



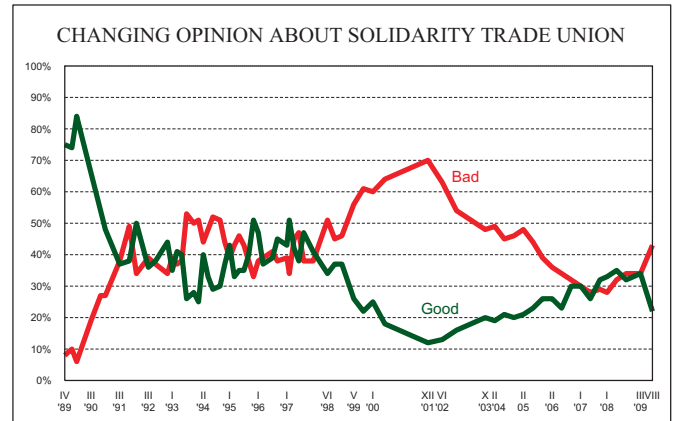
Most Polish people (65%) consider the formation and activity of Solidarity in the years 1980-81 as a crucial event with historic significance for Poland, while 26% think it was important, but not crucial. Only very few respondents question the significance of the formation of Solidarity. In the last four years, the number of people considering the emergence of Solidarity as crucial increased.

Two-fifths (39%) consider the emergence of Solidarity as very important for other countries of the former Soviet block, while a quarter think its formation was crucially important for the whole world. The appreciation of the historic importance of Solidarity in Europe and in the world is less common than several years ago.

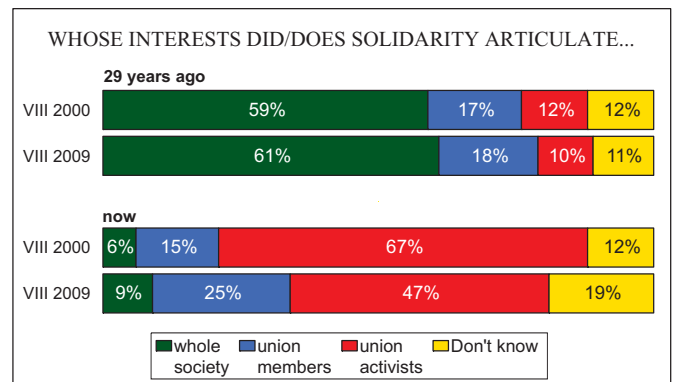


In Poland after Communism, Solidarity was, up to a point in time, an active political subject, and it had its representatives in parliament and government. Several political groupings evoked the Solidarity legacy. The post-1989 political involvement of people with Solidarity roots tarnished the image of this union and its activists and

resulted in loss of societal support. At present, less than a quarter of Poles have a good opinion, whereas negative evaluation prevails (43%).



The majority of Poles are convinced that, in the years 1980-81, the Solidarity movement expressed the interests of the whole society. Few people think it articulated particularistic union interests, or the interests of its activists. The present activity is perceived differently. Almost half of respondents think it represents its own activists, while a quarter believe it acts in the name of its members, and one-eleventh believe it articulates the interests of the whole society. Compared with the 2000 survey, the current activity of Solidarity Trade Union is evaluated much better now: respondents more frequently than in 2000 think it acts for union members, while the conviction that the union represents its activists diminished. The change can be explained by the socio-political context in 2000. At that time, Solidarity Electoral Action was in power. This grouping was led by the leader of the Solidarity Trade Union, and was associated with the union in public opinion. The presence of Solidarity activists on important positions in public administration and in state enterprises caused the conviction that they use the union to advance their own goals.

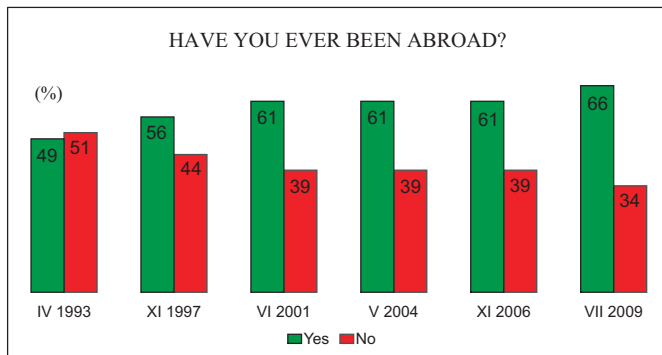


More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish *Historic and Contemporary Role of Solidarity Movement*, August 2009. Fieldwork: August 2009, N=1041. The random address sample is representative for adult population of Poland.

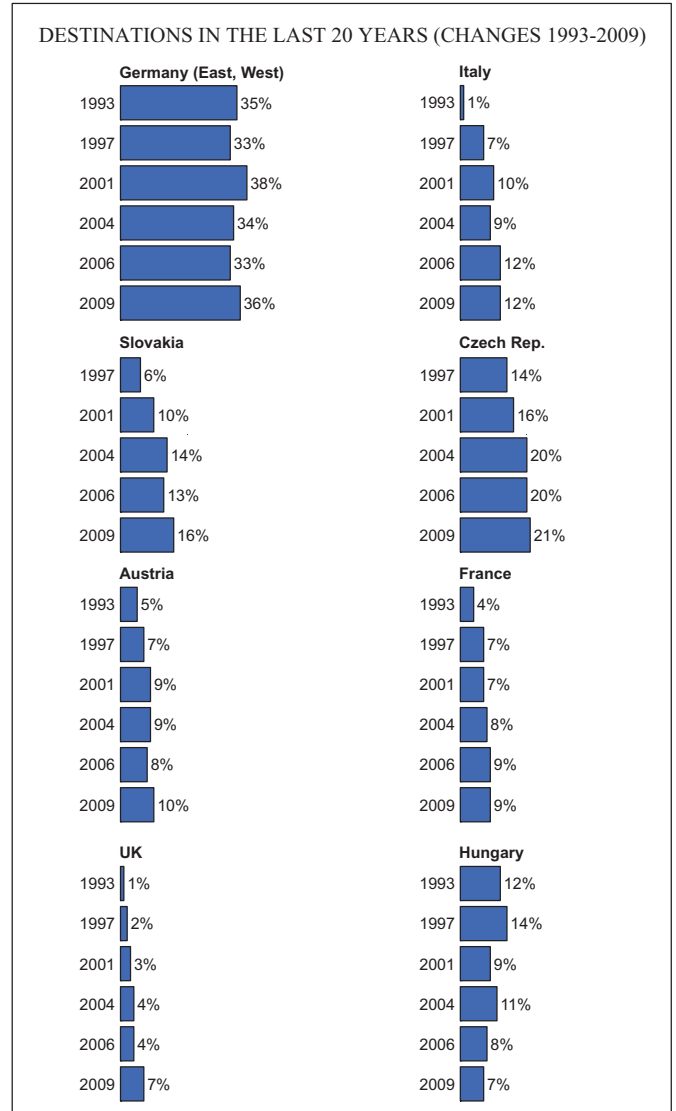
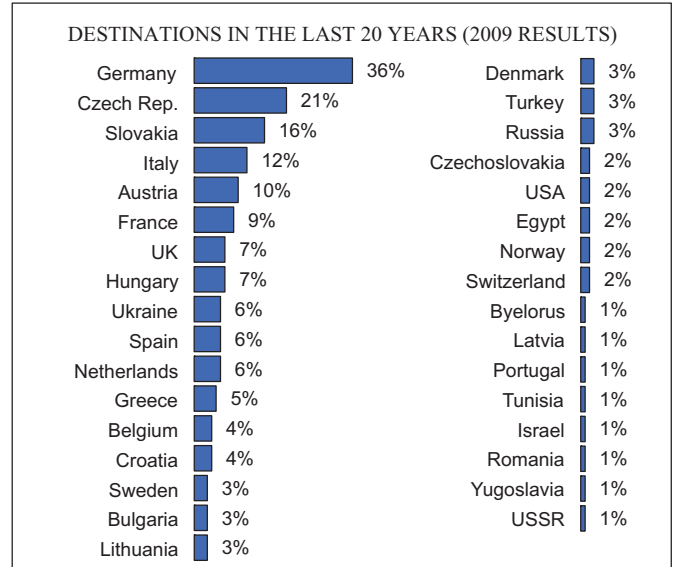
FOREIGN TRAVEL AND KNOWLEDGE OF FOREIGN LANGUAGES

During the period of People's Republic, Polish residents had only very limited possibility to travel abroad. The restrictions concerned primarily western countries, whereas travel to the countries of the former Soviet block became quite common in the 1970s. In mid-1980s, foreign travel became more easily accessible, but full freedom of travel was effective only after the 1989 transition. Obtaining a passport was no longer restricted, and in several years many countries, both European and other, lifted the visa requirement. The next step in facilitating free travel was Poland's EU accession.

At the beginning of 1990s, about half of adult Poland declared ever traveling abroad. In subsequent years their number increased, and at the turn of the century it stabilised at 61%. At present, 66% of adults have been abroad. Since 1993 the proportion of people traveling abroad increased by 17 percentage points.



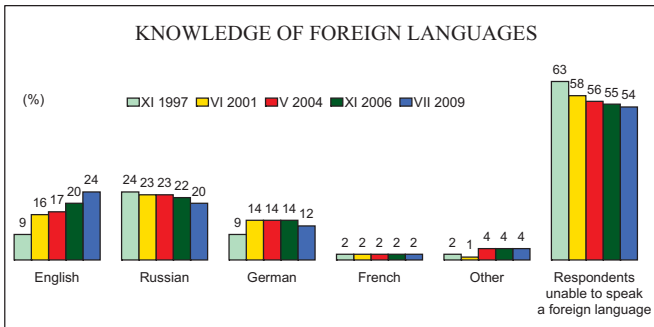
Germany remains the most commonly visited country: in the last 20 years one-third of respondents have been there. Next in line is the Czech Republic, visited by one-fifth, and Slovakia, visited by one in six respondents. The eastern neighbours such as Ukraine, Russia, Lithuania and Byelorussia were less commonly visited. The most popular of the more distant destinations is Italy. Comparing the declarations from the years 1993-2009, we can see that Poles are increasingly keen on traveling to West European countries such as Italy, Austria, France, UK, Spain, Netherlands, and Belgium. The number of Poles traveling to Germany remains sizeable and stable. The number of visitors in Czech Republic and Slovakia rises gradually. There is a slow increase in the number of people going to Ukraine and Lithuania. Compared with 1997, the relatively low interest in travel to Russia fell further. The sharpest decrease was in the number of visitors in Hungary, which used to be one of the most popular destinations, as shown by 1993 and 1997 surveys. The popularity of Greece, Croatia and Egypt (noted for the first time his year) increased.



Almost half of respondents (46%) claim to be able to communicate in a foreign language. The number of people who are able to do this rises slowly but

systematically, and since 1997 it has increased by 9 percentage points. Still, most Poles do not know a foreign language well enough to communicate with a foreigner.

The most popular foreign languages are English and Russian. In the last year, English became the most commonly spoken. According to declarations, almost a quarter of Poles can speak English, and one-fifth speak Russian. The number of Russian-speakers remains stable, with a slight declining tendency (4 pct. point drop since 1997). At the same time, the proportion of English-speakers rises systematically (15 point increase since 1997). German remains third most commonly spoken language (one in eight respondents knows it).

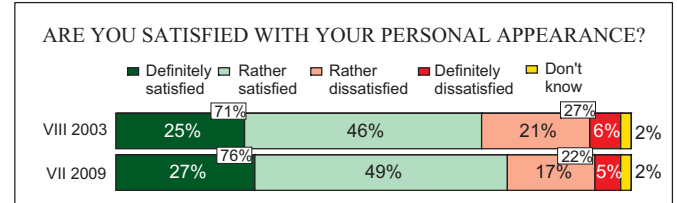


More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish *Foreign Travel and Knowledge of Foreign Languages*, August 2009. Fieldwork: July 2009, N=1125. The random address sample is representative for adult population of Poland.

SELF-EVALUATION OF PERSONAL APPEARANCE

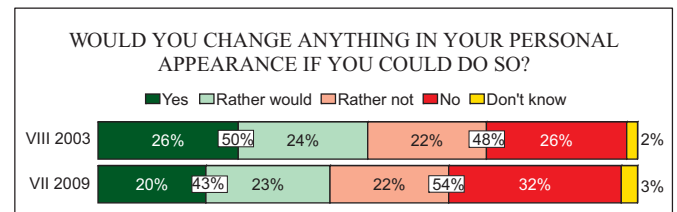
Three-quarters of Polish adults accept their own personal appearance and are satisfied with their shape, out of which one-quarter are completely satisfied with their appearance. A little more than one-fifth are dissatisfied with what they look like, and one out of twenty is completely dissatisfied. Compared with the survey conducted 6 years ago, the percentage of Poles

satisfied with their appearance increased by 5 points. The number of adults who do not accept the way they look decreased to a similar extent.



Men tend to be more confident (84% satisfied, 14% dissatisfied) than women (67% satisfied, 30% dissatisfied). Dissatisfaction increases with age. Accepting one's physical appearance is psychologically grounded, which is evidenced by the fact that it is correlated with satisfaction with material living conditions (though not with income). The worse the evaluation of material situation, the more dissatisfied are respondents with their appearance. Among those dissatisfied with living conditions, 63% accept the way they look, and 34% do not accept it. A vast majority of people satisfied with living conditions accept the way they look (84% satisfied, 16% dissatisfied).

Most adult Poles (54%) do not want to change anything in their appearance, while 43% would like to change something. Compared with the survey conducted six years ago, the proportion of people who would like to change the way they look fell, and the number of those disinclined to do so increased.



More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish *Self-Evaluation of Personal Appearance*, August 2009. Fieldwork: July 2009, N=1125. 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):

- ◆ Party Preferences in August
- ◆ Opinions About President and Parliament
- ◆ Social Moods in August
- ◆ Attitude to Government in August
- ◆ Trust in Politicians in August

For more information on CBOS services and publications please contact:

CBOS POLAND
4a, Żurawia, 00-503 Warsaw
Phones: (48 22) 629 35 69, 628 37 04
Fax: (48 22) 629 40 89

e-mail: sekretariat@cbos.pl
http://www.cbos.pl

Yearly subscription rate for "Polish Public Opinion" is 80 USD

Circulation: 70 copies

CBOS expertise in providing professional, accurate and timely research has made us the leading authority in political, social and consumer research in Poland.