

Sarmatian Review Data

Are our media biased?

Amount of money 1,160 employees of the big three networks (ABC, CBS, NBC) gave to Democratic candidates and campaign committees in 2008: 1.02 million dollars.

Amount of money 193 employees of the same networks gave to Republican candidates and campaign committees: 142.863 dollars.

Amount of money given by these employees directly to the Obama campaign: 461,898 dollars; to John McCain campaign, 26,926 dollars.

Number of White House correspondents who in 1988 voted for Democratic candidate for president: 12; for Republican candidate: one.

Number of Washington Bureau chiefs and congressional correspondents who in 1992 voted for the Democratic candidate for president: 89 percent; for the Republican candidate, 7 percent; for Independent Ross Perot, 2 percent.

Percentage of journalists (sample size, 300 journalists) who in 2004 voted for Democratic candidate for president: 52 percent; for Republican candidate: 19 percent; percentage of journalists who refused to say for whom they voted: 21 percent.

Source: "Media Bias: The Chasm Widens," *Investors Business Daily*, 10 September 2010, p. A13.

Western Europeans lecture Eastern Europeans on human rights

Number of Roma individuals expelled from France in 2010: about 8,000.

Number of Roma expelled back to Romania from Denmark and Sweden in July 2010: 23 and 50, respectively.

Number of Roma paid by Germans to return to Romania in 2009: over 100.

Source: Antoine Blua and Robert Tait, "Roma's Expulsions Challenge Europe's Benevolent Self-Image,"

Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (www.rferl.org/content/Roma_Expulsions_Challenge_Europes_Benevolent_SelfImage_/2163231.html), 20 September 2010

(accessed 20 September 2010).

Number of copies sold of Thilo Sarrazin's book *Deutschland schafft sich ab* (in which Sarrazin made disparaging comments about Jews and Muslims), released 30 August 2010: 1.1 million, as of 30 September 2010.

Source: "Thilo Sarrazin im F.A.Z.-Interview," *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, 30 September 2010

(accessed 30 September 2010).

Quality of life in contemporary Poland

Ranking of Poland (score: 0.56) in the uSwitch Quality of Life Index assembled in September 2010: fifth out of nine, after France (score: 6.94), Spain, Denmark, and Germany, and before Netherlands, Italy, Sweden, UK and Ireland (score: -7.97).

Reasons for low ranking of the developed western European countries: late retirement age, long working hours.

Source: <http://www.uswitch.com/news/money/uk-worst-place-to-live-in-europe-uswitch-quality-of-life-index>,

21 September 2010 (accessed 23 September 2010).

The Polish Republican tradition thrives in spite of poverty

Number of Poles who in 2009 supported civil society organizations with 1 percent of their annual income tax: 7.3 million (over two million more than the year before).

Progressive increase in total donations: from 2.8 million dollars in 2004 to 127 million dollars in 2009.

... but sometimes it falters

Between 2009 and 2010, a decline in scores for judicial independence, corruption, and overall democracy occurred: from 2.25 to 2.50 for judicial independence, from 2.75 to 3.25 for corruption, and from 2.25 to 2.32 for democracy.

Scale: from one (the highest and best) to seven (the lowest and worst).

Reasons for the deterioration of democracy scores: inability of the judicial system to successfully prosecute the Olewnik Case (detailed in the Report), involvement of the top Tusk government officials in corruption scandals, controversial court decisions involving freedom of the press (Adam Michnik suing his political opponent and public critic Professor Andrzej Zybertowicz for a periodical article and winning in court).

Source: 2009 Freedom House Report for Poland (www.freedomhouse.hu/images/.../NIT-2010-Poland-final.pdf),

accessed 14 October 2010.

The wealth of philosophers

Plato's wealth (as enumerated by his Last Will and Testament preserved by Diogenes Laertius (4th century B.C.): two parcels of land, four slaves, and eight mins (or 800 drachms, an equivalent of \$160). A slave cost 150 drachms.

Source: Zbigniew Herbert, *Labirynt nad morzem* (Warsaw: Fundacja Zeszytów Literackich, 2000), p. 101;
John M. Dillon, *The Heirs of Plato* (Oxford Univ. Press, 2003), pp. 30–1.

Price of colonial subjugation

Number of soldiers of Polish nationality drafted into the armies of Russia, Prussia, and Austria in partitioned Poland in 1840: 320,000.

Source: *Trzeci Maj* (Polish émigré periodical published in Paris), 31 March 1840 (as quoted in Jan Kucharczyński, *Maurycy Mochnacki* (Warsaw-Kraków: Gebethner, 1910), p. 454.

Job prospects in journalism in 2010

Number of newspaper jobs lost between January 2008 and June 2010: 32,578.

Source: Lisa Anderson, "After the Storm," *Columbia Journalism Review*, July-August 2010, 45.

Polish public opinion about in vitro method of countering infertility

Percentage of Poles opposed to in vitro method: 74 percent.

Percentage of Poles supporting in vitro method and requesting full reimbursement of cost by the state: 15 percent.

Percentage of Poles willing to tolerate in vitro and partial reimbursement of cost by the state: 6 percent.

Percentage of Poles willing to tolerate in vitro but opposed to any reimbursement by the state: 5 percent.

Number of persons participating in the survey: 19,003.

Source: Online survey by *Gazeta Wyborcza*, 21 October 2010 (http://wyborcza.pl/1,76842,8526553,Wyklecie_in_vitro.html), accessed 21 October 2010.

Ecology: perception vs. reality

Estimated number of birds killed by the Gulf of Mexico oil spill in 2010: 1,300.

Estimated yearly worldwide bird kill due to wind turbines that are now touted as a "clean" energy source: between 75,000 and 275,000.

Source: Matt Ridley, "Studying the Biases of Bureaucrats," *Wall Street Journal*, Section C4, 23–24 October 2010.

US government spending: rhetoric vs. reality

Last time federal spending fell: 1965.

Size of fall: 0.25 percent.

Source: Loren Steffy, "Fiscal truth is a no-show," *Houston Chronicle*, 5 November 2010.

The economy is bad, Ricky. . .

Polish national debt as of December 2010: 55.4 percent of GNP.

Current account deficit in 2010: 7.9 percent.

Source: Lena Białkowska in *Donosy*, no. 5133 (25 October 2010).

Gazprom's increasing monopoly in the Polish gas market

Percentage of natural gas Poland purchased from Russia before and after signing the new agreement on 29 October 2010: 60–65 percent and 80 percent, respectively.

Source: Aleksei Topalov, "Gazprom ne ustupil Pol'she," *gazeta.ru* (<http://www.gazeta.ru/financial/2010/10/29/3432845.shtml>), 31 October 2010 (accessed 31 October 2010).

Details of the agreement: Gazprom prolongs its transit monopoly through the Polish section of the Yamal-Europe pipeline until 2019 (the line has a capacity of 33 billion cubic meters per year, most of that volume is sold in Germany; Poland has agreed to a formula establishing Gazprom's transit fees; Poland will be receiving 10.5 bcm of gas in 2011 and 11 bcm from 2012 until 2022.

Poland's present annual consumption of gas: 14 bcm per year, of which 4.3 bcm are produced internally while the rest is imported from Gazprom.

Results of the signing of the Gazprom agreement: Polish interest in diversification of imports could diminish; plans to build a liquefied natural gas import terminal in Świnoujście by 2014 could be postponed, as could efforts to increase domestic production.

Source: Vladimir Socor, "Russian-Polish Gas Agreement Leaves Key Questions Unanswered," *Eurasia Daily Monitor*, vol. 7, no. 198 (2 November 2010).