

Sarmatian Review Data

The shock therapy of the 1990s in Poland in figures

Decrease in industrial production in the first two years of the shock therapy: 30 percent.

Unemployment: from zero to 25 percent (in 1993), the highest in the European Union.

Lingering unemployment for those younger than twenty-four years: 40 percent in 2006.

Increase in poverty: in 1989, 15 percent of the population lived below poverty line; in 2003 59 percent of Poles fell below that line.

Percentage of Poles in 1992 that opposed privatization of heavy industry: 60 percent.

Number of Solidarity strikes by 1992: over 6,000.

Amount of aid George H.W. Bush offered Poland to alleviate the Jeffrey Sachs-Leszek Balcerowicz shock therapy: 119 million dollars, or less than three dollars per person.

Naomi Klein's assessment of the shock therapy process in Poland: "A massacre."

Source: Naomi Klein, *The Shock Doctrine: The Rise of Disaster Capitalism* (New York: Picador-Henry Holt, 2007), 222–23, 241–44.

Legacy of the shock therapy in postcommunist countries

Percentage of population in postcommunist countries that experienced income growth below the average for those countries: 73 percent.

Percentage of those who are at the bottom and who are worse off today than they were in 1989: 23 percent.

Source: European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, Transition Report 2016–17, <2016.tr-ebrd.com>, accessed 19 January 2017.

Legacy of Soviet colonialism in apartment availability

Number of apartment dwellings per 1,000 population in 2016: Poland, 310; Germany and Switzerland, 500–600.

Average in EU: 435 apartments per 1,000 population.

Remedy: a government program to make Poland reach the EU average by 2030.

Source: Polish Press Agency, as reported by portal <wgospodarce.pl>, 12 December 2016, <http://wgospodarce.pl/informacje/31671-pierwsze-mieszkania-plus-powstana-w-bialej-podlaskiej> accessed on the same day.

2017 reduction in retirement benefits for former employees of the security system in Soviet-occupied Poland (1945–1990)

Estimated number of persons affected by the new bill, signed into law by President Duda on 29 December 2016: 240,000.

Wording of the bill: retirement benefits of the former security apparatus employees and their dependents cannot exceed average retirement benefits in Poland, or 2,000 zloties (ca. 500 dollars) per month.

Institutions affected: former Security Ministry, Internal Affairs Ministry, former Security Police (UB), and other institutions directly engaged in promoting the interests of the totalitarian state.

Source: Grzegorz Dyjak and Krzysztof Markowski of the Polish Press Agency, as reported by *Rzeczpospolita*, <<http://www.rp.pl/Praca-emerytury-renty/312309915-Ustawa-dezubekizacyjna-podpisana-przez-prezydenta-Andrzeja-Dude.html#ap-1>>, 30 December 2016, accessed on the same day.

Polish poverty

Estimated number of persons in Poland whose liquid assets are above one million zloties (ca. 240,000 dollars): 41,100, out of the population of 38.5 million.

Source: Portal <wgospodarce.pl>, 12 December 2016, <http://wgospodarce.pl/informacje/31662-segment-aut-luksusowych-w-polsce-ma-wartosc-85-mld-zl>, accessed on the same day.

Immigration to Poland

Number of permanent residence permits issued to foreigners in Poland in 2015: 542,000.

Among these, the prevailing nationality: Ukrainian.

Ranking of Poland in Europe concerning the number of long-stay visas: second after Great Britain.

Source: Eurostatistics, as reported by Lena Białkowska in *Donosy*, no. 6030 (21 November 2016).

More about the Polish media

Percentage of Polish mass media market controlled by foreign capital: 76 percent.

Name of the German-owned press company that controls 20 out of 24 regional newspapers in Poland: Grupa Polska Press.

Name of another German press company that controls 33 percent of the entire newspaper market and 28 percent of the radio market, and at the same time is the owner of Grupa Inertia.pl, or the third-largest Internet medium in Poland: Bauer.

How communism led to this anomaly: in the 1990s there was only one media owner in Poland, RSW Prasa Książka Ruch. This state-owned institution was divided into segments and sold by the liberal postcommunist governments of Poland, mainly to German firms.

Bottom line: foreign owners control 138 Polish periodicals that sold 567 million copies in 2014, whereas Polish owners control 47 titles that sold 178 million copies.

Ways of getting out of this dilemma: lowering the fees for the right to broadcast, and transparency in spending money on advertising in the media.

Source: Ewa Wesołowska interviews Paweł Grzegorzczak, portal <wpolityce.pl>, 19 January 2017, <<http://wpolityce.pl/media/324062-pawel-grzegorzczak-podmioty-o-kapitale-zagranicznym-kontroluja-az-76-proc-rynku-prasy-nasz-wywiad?strona=2>>, accessed on the same day.

Financing of the far-left and neo-Marxist organizations in Poland

Percentage of funding that *Krytyka Polityczna*, a neo-Marxist left-wing periodical, receives from abroad: 90 percent.

Exact quote: “My organization employs several dozen people and the majority of donations—90 percent, and it has always been so—comes from abroad.”

Source: *Krytyka Polityczna* editor Sławomir Sierakowski in a Radio TOK interview, as reported by portal <wpolityce.pl>, 24 November 2016, <<http://wpolityce.pl/polityka/316708-sierakowski-niechcacy-ujawnia-kto-finansuje-polska-lewice-90-proc-dotacji-dla-mojej-organizacji-pochodzi-z-zagranicy-kaczynski-moze-nam-skoczyc>>, accessed on the same day.

Data on secret murders by communist occupiers of Poland, 1945–1960

Estimated number of political prisoners secretly murdered, executed, or compelled to die in communist prisons in Soviet-occupied Poland in the 1940s and ‘50s: 50,000 persons.

Estimated number of anticommunist partisans among these: 15,000 persons.

Disposal of the bodies of these persons: they were secretly buried in unmarked graves throughout the country.

Source: Professor Krzysztof Szewczyk of the Institute of National Memory, as reported by portal <wpolityce.pl>, <<http://wpolityce.pl/historia/324688-prof-szewczyk-w-latach-40-i-50-w-polsce-zmarlo-zostalo-straconych-lub-zabitych-ok-50-tysiecy-ludzi>>, 24 January 2017, accessed on the same day.

Denominations in Belarus, according to a Russian newspaper

Catholics: 30 percent; Orthodox: 70 percent.

Source: Denis Lavnikovich, “Belarusskuii nastoiatel’ nitsu ubila krestnaia doch’,” <gazeta.ru>, 6 January 2017, <https://www.gazeta.ru/politics/2017/01/06_a_10464509.shtml#>, accessed on the same day.

Denominations in Belarus, according to Wikipedia

Russian Orthodox: 82 percent; Catholics: 7.1 percent.

Source; Lead article on Belarus, Wikipedia, <<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Belarus#Religion>>, accessed 19 January 2017.

Editor’s comment: In this case there are more reasons to trust the Russian paper than Wikipedia.

Polish help for Syrians

Number of Syrian and Lebanese families that receive continuous help from Poland via Caritas, a Polish Catholic charity: 1,100.

Source: Tomasz Krzyżak in *Rzeczpospolita*, 1 January 2017 <<http://www.rp.pl/Spoleczenstwo/301019928-1100-syryjskich-i-libanskich-rodzin-pod-opieka-Polakow.html?template=restricted>>, accessed 3 January 2017.