

Sarmatian Review Data

Russian opinions about Russian imperialism

Percentage of Russians who approve of the March 2014 annexation of Crimea: 88 percent.

Percentage of those who disapprove: 7 percent.

Source: Iurii Levada-Centre poll, as reported by <wpolityce.pl>, 27 March 2014, accessed on the same day.

Cost to Russia of the Russo-Ukrainian confrontation

Capital flow from Russia in the first quarter of 2014: 51 billion dollars, the highest since the fourth quarter of 2008, with an estimated outflow of 160 billion dollars at the end of the year.

Estimate of Russian foreign currency reserves in April 2014: over 400 billion dollars.

Organizations and structures in which Russia's status has changed as a result of aggression against Ukraine: ejected from the G-8 group; stripped of its voting rights by Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe.

Source: Ilan Berman, "What Putin Is Costing Russia," *Wall Street Journal*, 20 April 2014
<<http://online.wsj.com/news/articles>>, accessed 21 April 2014.

Russian equities decline on a year-to-year basis, as reported by the Market Vectors Russia ETF, as of 15 April 2014: -22 percent.

Source: Ingrid Pan, "Will the Russia-Ukraine tension affect world energy supplies?" Yahoo Finance, 21 April 2014
<<http://marketrealist.com/2014/04/major-takeaways/>>, accessed 21 April 2014.

Ukrainian and Russian views on the unity of Ukraine after Crimea's annexation by Russia

Percent of Ukrainians who wish to maintain current borders: 77 percent.

Among those, percentage of those who want to maintain current borders and are Russian speakers: 58 percent.

Attitudes toward the EU: 45 percent think its influence is good, whereas 33 percent think it is bad.

Attitudes toward Russia: 67 percent think its influence is bad, 22 percent assess it as good.

Attitudes toward the United States: 38 percent think its influence is good, 38 percent assess it as bad.

Size of poll: 1,659 randomly selected adults from across the country interviewed by Pew Research Center between 5–23 April 2014.

Percentage of Russians in Russia who support the annexation of Crimea: 84 percent.

Percentage of Russians who believe that there are parts of neighboring countries that belong to Russia: 61 percent.

Percentage of Russians who consider the collapse of the Soviet Union a great tragedy: 55 percent.

Size of poll: 1,000 randomly selected adults across Russia interviewed by Pew Research Center between 4–20 April 2014.

Source: Pew Research Center Global Attitudes Project, 8 May 2014
<<http://www.pewglobal.org/2014/05/08/despite-concerns-about-governance-ukrainians-want-to-remain-one-country/>>, accessed on the same day.

European and American exports to Russia before the Ukraine crisis

Percentage of total exports of various countries that go to Russia: United States, less than 1 percent; Belarus, 32 percent; Ukraine, 27 percent; Moldova, 26 percent; Lithuania and Estonia, 14 percent each; Latvia, 9 percent; Germany and Italy, 3 percent each; France, 2 percent.

Source: Rob Garver, "If Russia Goes Over the Economic Cliff, It Won't Go Alone," *The Fiscal Times* (via Yahoo), 2 May 2014 <<http://news.yahoo.com/russia-goes-over-economic-cliff-100000334.html>>, accessed 2 May 2014.

Poland a third-world country concerning dental health

Percentage of Polish children aged 6–12 that have cavities: 80 percent, with 3–4 teeth affected on average.

Percentage of children aged 5–9 that have never visited a dentist's office: 33 percent.

What led to this conclusion: 5805 children from five voivodships were tested from September to November 2013.

Source: Polish Red Cross site <http://www.pck.pl/pages.10_300.html>, accessed 11 March 2014.

Poland a first-world country in education in 2014 international ranking, based on cognitive skills and educational attainment (the Pearson Index)

World rank of Poland in overall index rank and score: #10 (it was #16 in 2012).

World rank of selected other countries: Germany, #12; Russia, #13; United States, #14; South Korea, #1; Japan, #2.

Source: <http://thelearningcurve.pearson.com/index/index-ranking>, accessed 9 May 2014.

Are Poles naive? Astroturf marketing in Poland

Definition of astroturf marketing: launching controlled PR or advertising campaigns that pretend to be spontaneous initiatives by individuals.

Professor Bing Liu's (University of Illinois) estimate of the size of astroturf marketing worldwide: one-third of all Internet initiatives (popularity of Web sites, persons, photos, actions, initiatives) is astroturf marketing.

Status of allegedly spontaneous movements such as petition drives, support groups, protest groups: the majority are organized by PR firms that work for corporations or monied interest groups.

Price in Poland (advertised on the Web by a PR firm) of an allegedly spontaneous image-building via Internet: 990 zloties, or \$333. This includes placing 5,600 fictitious comments on 800 discussion forums.

Price of one positive or negative comment on the Web: between 1.5 and 3 zloties (\$0.33 to \$1.00).

Price Russians pay to those Poles who serve as Putin's spokespersons in Poland and write Web commentaries accordingly: \$36.00 per day, plus a free lunch.

Percentage of Americans who do not trust advertising (including Internet readers' comments): 76 percent, according to a survey by Lab42 conducted in fall 2012.

Percentage of Poles who do not trust advertising: 58 percent, according to poll conducted by the Center for Studies of Economic Behavior.

Percentage of Poles who trust information found on the Internet: 72 percent, as opposed to 49 percent in the remainder of EU, according to study conducted by European Trusted Brands in 2010.

Sources: Edward T. Walker, *Grassroots for Hire: Public Affairs Consultants in American Democracy* (Cambridge Univ. Press, 2014); <<http://m.forsal.pl/branze/media/astroturf-marketing-na-zachodzie-zakazany-w-polsce-sie-rozwija>>, 26 June 2014, accessed 28 June 2014.

Astroturf marketing in practice

Leaks from the Internal Security Agency in Poland indicate that in order to minimize damage to the public image of the Tusk cabinet ministers (compromised by illegal recordings of their dinner conversations), the following anecdote has been put into circulation. After handing the tip to the waiter, the customer is now supposed to ask whether the (illegal) recording was successfully completed.

Source: Jerzy Jachowicz, <wpolityce.pl>, 28 June 2014, accessed on the same day.

The wealth of nations and the poverty of Poland

2013 household wealth per capita (as distinct from income or GDP) in Poland: 20,803 dollars.

2013 household wealth per capita in Germany: 157,882 dollars; in France, 224,523 dollars; in Israel, 89,217 dollars (includes Arabs); in the United States, 220,677 dollars; in Norway, 285,875 dollars.

Debt per adult in these countries: Poland, 5,932 dollars; Germany, 30,819 dollars; France, 38,603 dollars; Israel, 29,849 dollars; United States, 56,811 dollars; Norway, 123,736 dollars.

Poland's share of world wealth: 0.33 percent.

Source: Credit Suisse survey, as reported by Cagemini <<http://www.capgemini.com/thought-leadership/world-wealth-report-2014-from-capgemini-and-rbc-wealth-management>>, accessed 7 July 2014.

Three cheers for bravery and endurance

Number of miles 67-year-old Polish kayaker Olek Doba rowed while crossing the Atlantic from Lisbon to New Smyrna Beach in Florida: 9,000 in a straight line, plus 2,000 to 3,000 additional miles because of strong adverse currents.

Amount of time it took him to achieve this: he started on 5 October 2013 in Lisbon and reached New Smyrna Beach in mid-April 2014.

Other achievements of this kayaker: he rowed around the Baltic Sea and Lake Baykal in Asia; he also crossed the Atlantic at its narrowest point (from Africa to Brazil) in 2011.

Means of communication with the outside world while traveling: telephone.

Source: "67-letni Polak przepłynął samotnie kajakiem Atlantyck," <wpolityce.pl>, 18 April 2014, accessed on the same day.

Vivat the Tatra National Park!

CNN ranking of the Polish Tatras National Park among the 30 best non-American parks in the world: 12.

Source: <wpolityce.pl/lifestyle/203998-tatry-bardzo-wysoko-w-slynnym-rankingu-cnn>, accessed 7 July 2014.