

Sarmatian Review Data

Increase in bureaucracy and indebtedness under the Civic Platform (PO) government in Poland

Increase in the number of public employees in various offices of the Tusk government, as compared to the previous (Kaczyński) government: 60,000 persons.

Public debt size as of December 2010: 755 billion zloties.

The cost of servicing the public debt (i.e., interest paid to lenders) vs. the total amount of taxes paid by privately owned enterprises and industries in Poland: the first is larger than the second.

Anticipated results during 2011 elections to the Sejm: businessmen will cease to vote for PO who turned out to be unfriendly to business, and will instead vote for SLD (postcommunist party that has a proven record of friendliness to business) or Polska Jest Najważniejsza (a splinter group from Jarosław Kaczyński's PiS).

Source: Marek Goliszewski, President of the Business Centre Club in Poland, in an interview titled "Biznes nie chce już głosować na PO," *Rzeczpospolita*, 26 December 2010.

Increase in Polish GDP in 2010

Growth of Polish GDP in 2010: 3.8 percent, or 0.8 percent more than the state budget had anticipated and 0.5 percent more than the National Bank of Poland anticipated.

Source: Michał Pawlak in *Donosy*, no. 5168 (28 January 2011).

Poland and the United States in an OECD education test

Ranking of Poland and the United States in Science: Poland, 19 (508 points), United States, 23 (502 points); Reading: Poland, 15 (500), United States, 17 (500); Math: Poland, 26 (495 points), United States, 32 (487 points).

Winners in Science: Shanghai, China (575 points); Reading: Shanghai, China (556 points); Math: Shanghai, China (600 points).

Number of countries ranked: 65.

Source: *New York Times*, 7 December 2010 (<http://www.nytimes.com/imagepages/2010/12/07/education/07edu>), accessed 7 December 2010.

Overproduction of doctorates?

Number of doctorates in all fields produced yearly at American universities: 64,000, or double that produced in 1970.

Number of academic openings at professorial level in the United States between 2005–2009: 16,000.

Number of doctorates produced in Canada in 2007: 4,800; number of professorial job openings in 2007: 2,616.

Percentage of world students enrolled in the United States: 12 percent.

Estimated number of foreign-born PhD students in the United States: 48 percent.

Countries in which the production of doctorates sped up most dramatically: Mexico, Portugal, Italy, Slovakia.

Percentage of PhD graduates who were still on temporary contracts five years after completing the degree: 60 percent in Slovakia, 45 percent in Belgium, the Czech Republic, Germany, and Spain.

Source: *Economist*, 16 December 2010 (<http://www.economist.com/node/17723223>, accessed 19 December 2010).

Some little-known realities of German occupation of Poland during the Second World War

Food allotment to Catholic Poles in German-occupied Warsaw in 1941: 669 calories per person.

Source: Richard Lukas, *The Forgotten Holocaust* [1986] (New York: Hippocrene, 1990), p. 30.

Number of days during the Warsaw Rising (1 August 1944–2 October 1944) when the inhabitants of Warsaw did not see corpses lying in the streets: zero.

Place where fierce fighting between Poles and Germans left a particularly large number of corpses in August 1944: 50 Długa Street [now part of the Old Town, *Ed.*].

What happened to these corpses: they could not be buried because of fighting, so they remained in the street for days and fell victim to criminals seeking valuables and clothing.

Source: Rafał Jabłoński, "Cegła ze złota," *Zycie Warszawy*, 3 February 2011 (<http://www.zyciewarszawy.pl/artukul/1,563448.html>, accessed 3 February 2011).

Unity of church and state in Russia

Names of Russian Orthodox Church clergy who ran for political posts in 2010 and won: Metropolitan Agafangel in Odessa and Archbishop Pavel in Kyiv.

The Catholic Church and AIDS

Percentage of AIDS patients who are cared for in Catholic hospitals and institutions: 25 percent.

Source: Peter Seewald, author of *Light of the World: The Pope, the Church and the Signs of the Times* (Ignatius Press, 2010), in a conversation with Ewa K. Czackowska, *Rzeczpospolita*, Plus-Minus, 22 January 2011.

Russia and AIDS: an ongoing story

Estimated number of intravenous drug users in Russia (pop. 139 million in 2010): 1.8 million.

Of these, estimated percentage of those living with AIDS: 37 percent.

Estimated number of AIDS/HIV infection as of 2007 (no more recent data is available): 940,000.

Action Russia takes to curb the spread of AIDS: placing intravenous drug users in jail.

Source: IRIN PlusNews, 28 January 2011; *CIA World Factbook* (2011).

A view from Asia of European and American media

Reasons for hiding the sorry state of affairs in political and economic life, as practiced by the major media: “The biggest cognitive bias of them all. . . that newspapers need optimistic headlines to sell more papers and get more advertising budgets allocated to them. That is also not frequently commented upon, but is very much the elephant in the room when it comes to readers wanting to better understand the process of writing headlines in the mainstream media.”

Source: Chan Akya, “Ostrich investing,” *Asia Times Online* (www.atimes.com), 29 January 2011, accessed 5 February 2011.

Postcolonial spells invisible

Number of days Polish kayaker Aleksander Doba spent crossing the Atlantic alone (he rowed from Dakar, Senegal, to Acarau, Brazil): 99.

Number of times this extraordinary feat was mentioned in the English-language, large print run press (like the *NYT*) in the United States and elsewhere: none, as indicated by Google Search.

Source: Michał Jankowski in *Donosy*, no. 5170 (2 February 2011).

but here are some data



Maker of kayak: a small private Polish shipyard in Szczecin

Designers: Rafał Głodek, Michał Klimek, and Radosław Zygmunt

Length: 7 meters

Width: 1 meter

Immersion: 0.30 (0.88) meters

Weight including provisions: 550 kg (1,210 lbs)

Covered distance: 5,500 km

Kayaker's age: 64.

Kayaker's diary online: <www.aleksanderdoba.pl>.

Source: “Po 99 dobach Doba dobił,” Portal *Rebelya*, 3 February 2011 (http://rebelya.pl/discussion/18179/po-99-dobach-doba-dobil/#Item_0), accessed 3 February 2011; Grzegorz Kaźmierczak, “Wiosłował sto dni przez Atlantyk,” *Rzeczpospolita*, 4 February 2011 (www.rzeczpospolita.pl, accessed 4 February 2011).