

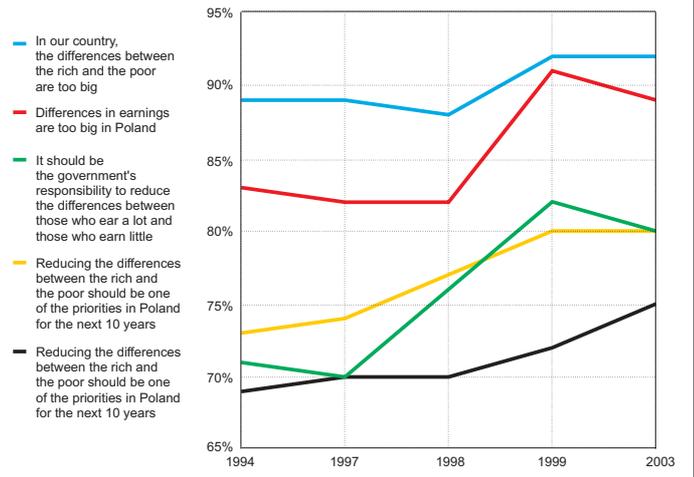
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- OPINIONS ABOUT THE POLISH POLITICAL CLASS

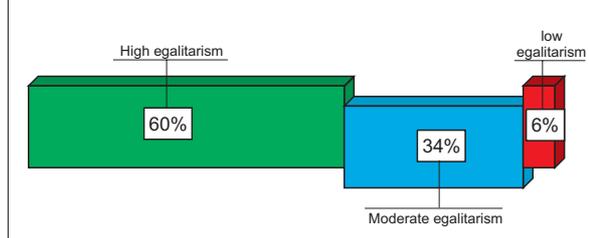
## PERCEIVED INEQUALITIES AND CONFLICTS IN THE POLISH SOCIETY

It is commonly believed in Poland that the differences between the rich and the poor in general and the differences in earnings are too big. About 90% of the respondents share this opinion. At the same time, three quarters believe that income and wealth should be more evenly distributed among the working people. In consequence, a definite majority of the Poles opt for state intervention aimed at reducing the differences between those who earn a lot and those who earn little.

DO YOU AGREE WITH THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS (Percentages of positive answers):



INTENSITY OF EGALITARIAN ATTITUDES

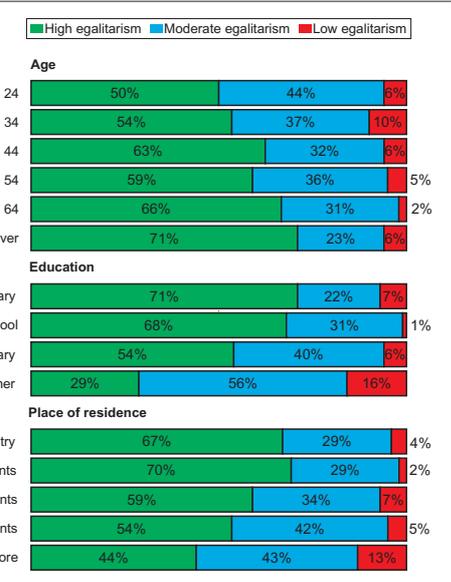


Egalitarian attitudes, very strong already in the first half of the 1990s, became even stronger at the end of the decade and have remained on more or less the same level ever since.

We divided the respondents into three categories. Two of them are characterised by extreme attitudes, i.e. *high egalitarianism* (acceptance

of all five statements) on the one hand and *low egalitarianism* (rejection of all or almost all statements, i.e. acceptance of no more than one) on the other, with the third, *moderately egalitarian* (acceptance of two to four statements), in between. This exercise revealed that as many as three-fifths of adult Poles share highly egalitarian attitudes, while only one in seventeen belongs to the opposite category. One in three is characterised by moderate egalitarianism.

It is symptomatic that the older the respondents, the more frequently they are characterised



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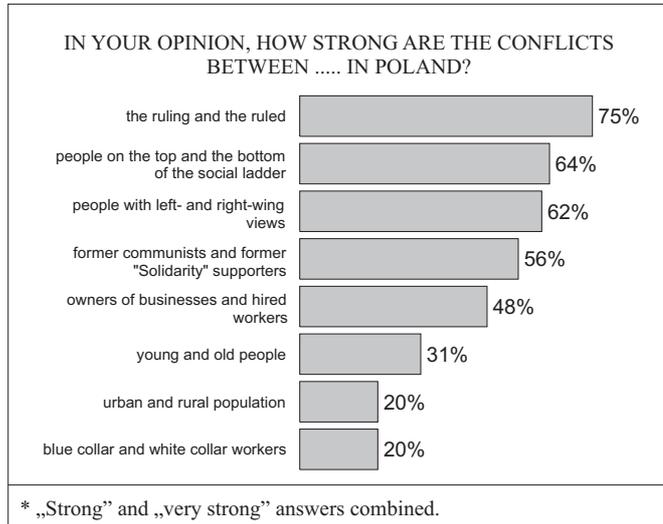
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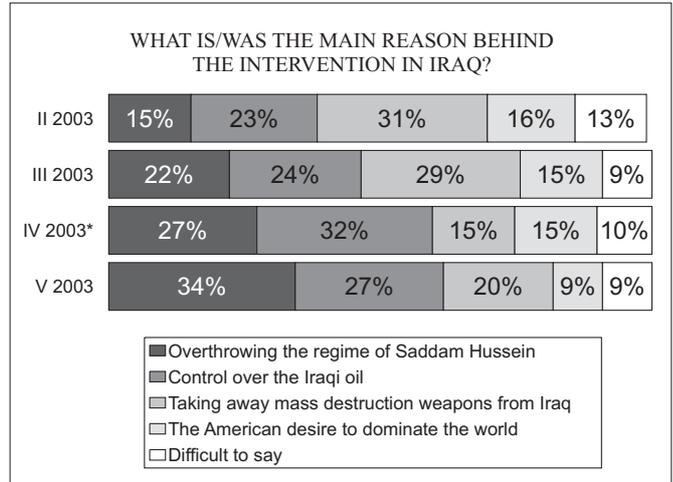
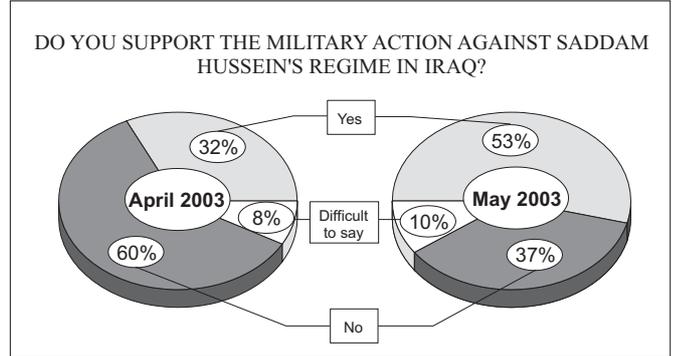
by highly egalitarian attitudes. On the other hand, the higher the respondents' education, the lower their egalitarian attitudes. The difference between the respondents with higher education and the rest is particularly visible. High egalitarianism is the most common in rural areas and small towns and the least common in big cities. The popularity of egalitarian attitudes is accompanied by a belief that class divisions and differences in wealth are a source of strong conflicts in the Polish society. However, the relations between the ruling elites and the society are seen as a source of strong conflicts even more frequently. Ideological (connected with left- or right-wing views) and political (connected with the division into former communists and former „Solidarity” supporters) conflicts are the third most frequently mentioned type. The relations between employers and employees are also often mentioned as a source of conflict. On the other hand, the conflicts between different generations are mentioned rarely, although more frequently than the conflicts between rural and urban people and between blue collar and white collar workers.



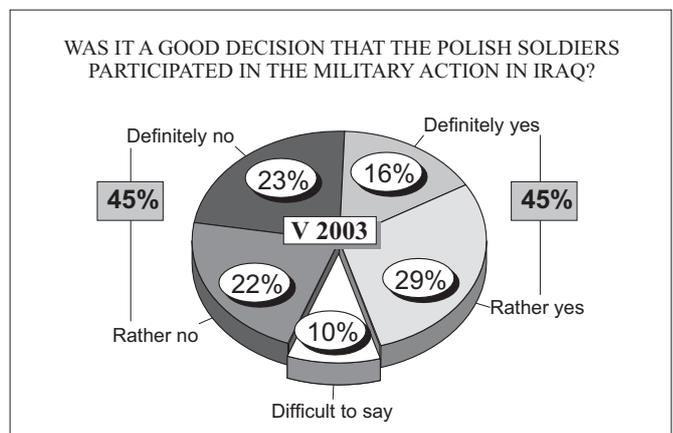
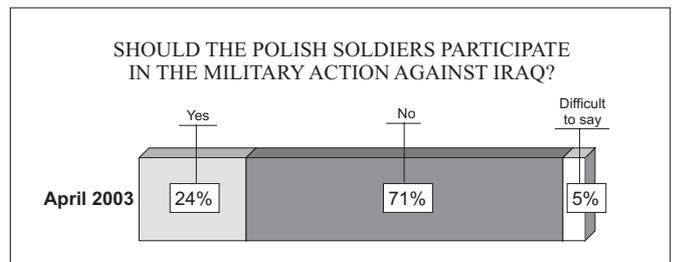
More information on this subject can be found in the CBOS reports (in Polish) "The attitude to income inequalities" and „Opinions about the strength of social conflicts”, June 2003. Survey executed in May 2003. A representative random-address sample of the general adult population of Poland. N=1264.

## ABOUT THE SITUATION IN IRAQ AND THE POLISH PRESENCE IN THAT COUNTRY

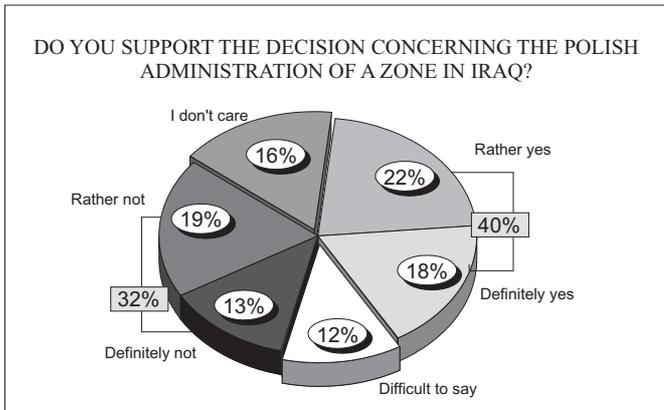
The acceptance of the intervention of the United States and their allies in Iraq grew significantly when the military action was over. At the same time, the opinion that the most important purpose of the intervention in Iraq was to overthrow the government of Saddam Hussein became more popular, while the belief that the main reason was the control over the Iraqi oil and the American desire to dominate the world lost some of its former supporters.



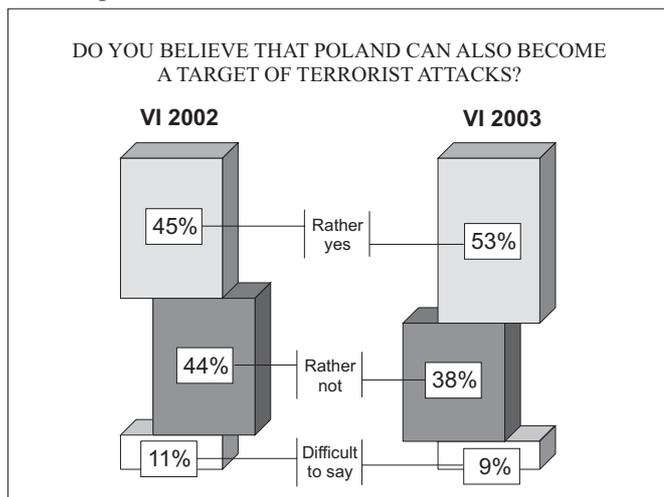
In May 2003, the proportion of the respondents who believed that the participation of Polish soldiers in the action in Iraq was the right decision was exactly the same as the proportion of those who expressed the opposite opinion. Previously, almost three quarters of the respondents were against the participation of the Poles in the military action in Iraq.



As far as the Polish administration of one of stabilisation zones in Iraq is concerned, approval slightly prevails over disapproval and one in six respondents declares indifference.



Over half of the Poles are afraid that as a result of our presence in Iraq Poland may become a target of terrorist attacks by Muslim fundamentalists. It should be noted, however, that the fear of terrorism threatening Poland is almost the same as immediately after the attack of 11 September.



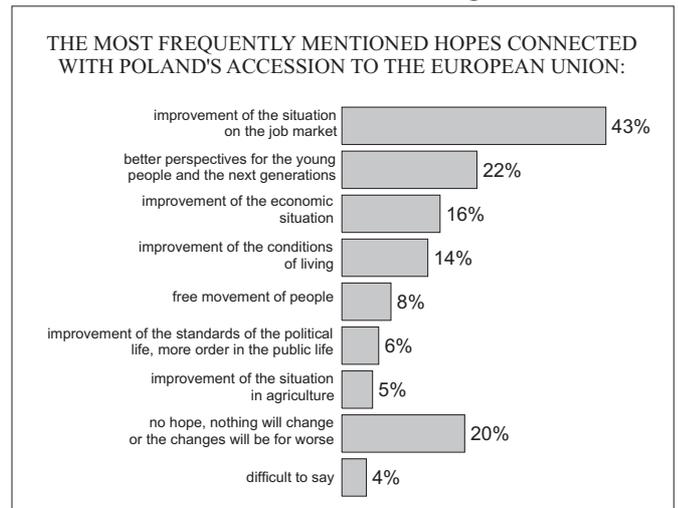
More information on this subject can be found in the CBOS reports (in Polish): "Changes of opinion about the war in Iraq and the participation of Polish soldiers in that war", June 2003, surveys executed in April and May 2003. A representative random-address samples of the general adult population of Poland. N= 1229 persons (April), N= 1264 persons (May). „Increase of the fear of terrorism in connection with the presence of Polish troops in Iraq”, June 2003. A representative random-address sample of the general adult population of Poland. N=1260 persons.

## POLAND IN THE EU: HOPES AND FEARS

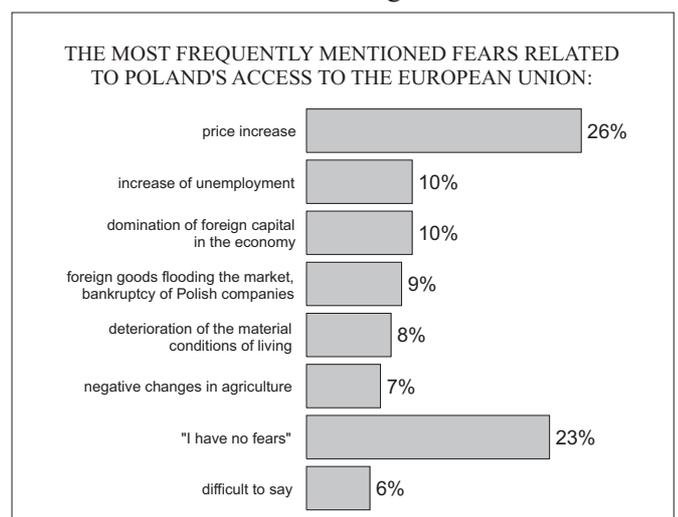
A week before the referendum on Poland's access to the European Union, the Poles, asked about their hopes connected with the EU membership, talked mainly about two categories of issues: positive changes of the socio-economic situation of Poland and the perspectives for the

young people and the next generations of Poles arising from the EU membership.

As far as the first category of issues is concerned, reduction of unemployment in Poland and the possibility of finding a job abroad were mentioned the most frequently. Other issues mentioned by the respondents, although not as frequently, include a general improvement of the economic situation of Poland, improvement in the conditions of living and increase of the wealth of the Polish society. As far as the second category of issues is concerned, the respondents expressed more general hopes, saying that the young people and the respondents' children and grandchildren will be the main beneficiaries of the integration.



Other issues were mentioned much less frequently. Moreover, one in five respondents said explicitly that he/she did not see any hope or even was afraid that the situation will change for worse.



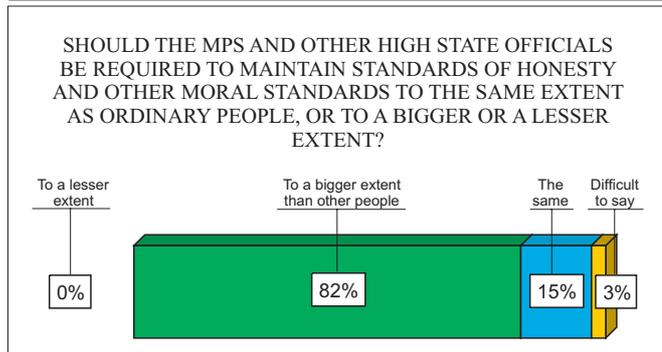
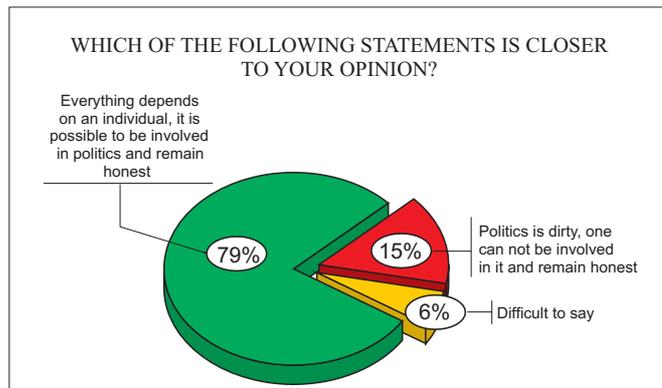
The fears connected with the accession were focused almost exclusively on the possible negative changes in the socio-economic situation of Poland. Possible price increases are definitely the most common cause for concern. Other fears concern growth of unemployment and deterioration of the conditions of living in general. People are also afraid of domination of

the foreign capital in the Polish economy and of a deterioration of the situation of Polish companies.

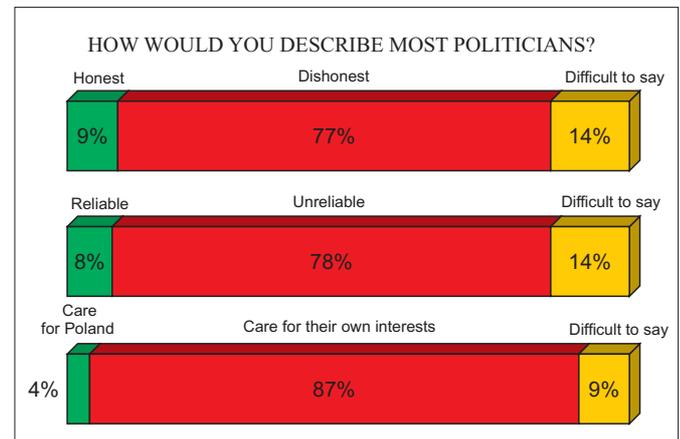
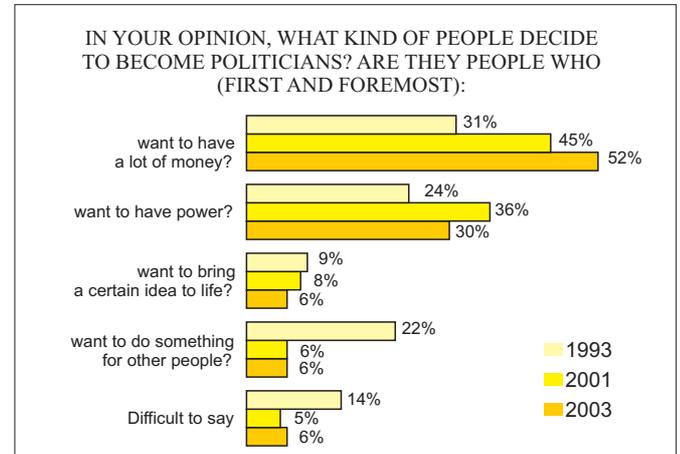
More information on this subject can be found in the CBOS report (in Polish): "Hopes and fears connected with the European integration", June 2003. A representative random-address sample of the general adult population of Poland. N=1260 persons.

## OPINIONS ABOUT THE POLISH POLITICAL CLASS

A definite majority of the Poles believe that it is possible to be involved in politics and remain honest, and that politicians who are high state officials should maintain higher standards of honesty than ordinary people.



At the same time, over the last 10 years the opinion that people usually become involved in politics, because they want to make money, gained popularity. Therefore, in the respondents' opinion, nowadays most politicians care about their own interests only, are unreliable and dishonest.



More information on this subject can be found in the CBOS report (in Polish): "Opinions about the Polish political class", June 2003. Survey executed in April 2003. A representative random-address sample of the general adult population of Poland. N=1229 persons.

### In addition to the reports referred to above, the following have been published recently (in Polish):

- ◆ People not voting in the referendum the causes of the declared absences
- ◆ Support for Poland's integration with the European Union a week before the accession referendum
- ◆ Social moods before the accession referendum
- ◆ Political party preferences in June
- ◆ Attitude to the government a week before the accession referendum
- ◆ Evaluations of the work of the Parliament and the President at the beginning of June
- ◆ Situation on the job market and the threat of unemployment in June
- ◆ Poles about the style of performance of the political parties present in the Parliament
- ◆ Opinions about the so-called Rywingate
- ◆ Trust in politicians in June
- ◆ Do Poles trust journalists?
- ◆ Poles about the safety of children

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