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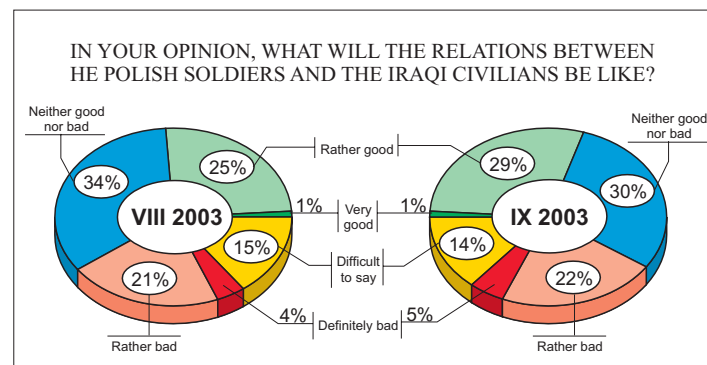
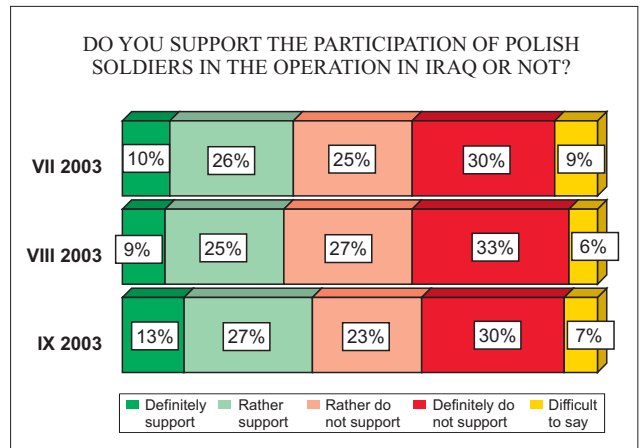
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### PARTICIPATION OF POLISH SOLDIERS IN THE STABILISATION MISSION IN IRAQ

The support for the participation of Polish soldiers in the stabilisation mission in Iraq has increased since the international division under the Polish command took over control of the central-south zone. However, a little more than half of the respondents are still against the presence of the Polish troops in Iraq.

In almost all socio-demographic groups, most respondents are sceptical about the participation of Poland in the operation in Iraq.

The respondents with higher education are the only group where support prevails, whereas only the young people (under 34 years of age) support the operation as frequently as not. Others are predominantly against.



The participation of Poland in the mission in Iraq has the approval of half of the supporters and only one-fifth of the opponents of the integration with the European Union. It means that the Poles do not seem to notice any contradiction between the co-operation of Poland

with the United States and its integration with the European Union.

The expectations as to the relations between the Polish soldiers and the Iraqi civilians are somewhat more optimistic than a month ago.

More information on this subject can be found in the CBOS report (in Polish) "Opinions on the participation of Poles in the stabilisation mission in Iraq", September 2003. A representative random sample of the adult population of Poland. N=1105 persons.

### POLES ABOUT DEMOCRACY

Asked about their preferences as to the type of government, two-fifths of the respondents said that they did not care whether it was democratic or undemocratic and one-fifth agreed with the opinion that sometimes an undemocratic government could be more desirable than a democratic one. Less than a third of all respondents pointed to the statement that democracy is better than any other form of government as the closest to their views.

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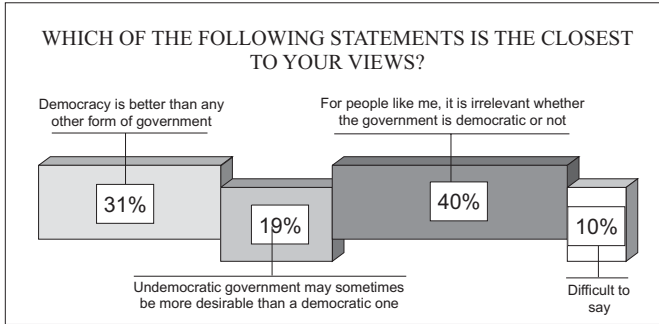
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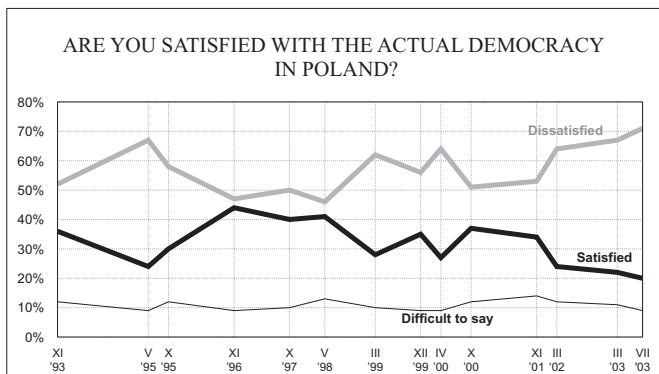
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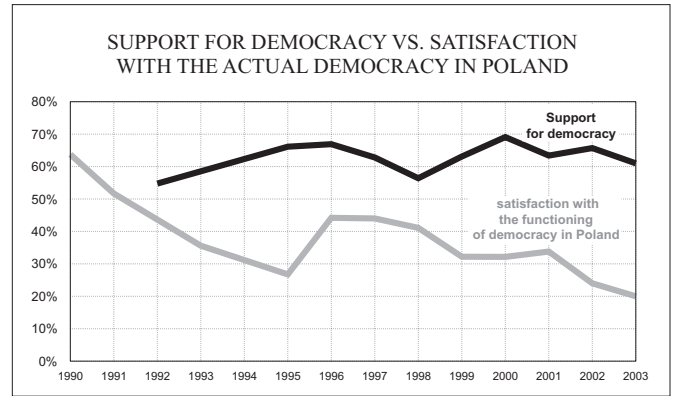


Declarations of indifference to the way the country is governed are usually correlated with lower than secondary education, whereas the belief that democracy is the best possible form of government - with higher education. The respondents' age is also a very important factor. Almost half (45%) of the youngest respondents (aged 18-24), who have lived their entire conscious life in a democratic state, consider democracy the best possible form of government and only 28% declare their indifference to the way the country is ruled. On the other hand, only 22% of the oldest group (over 65) consider democracy to be the best form of government, whereas as many as 45% declare indifference.

At the same time, dissatisfaction with the democratic practice in Poland prevailed among the respondents throughout the last decade. These opinions are rather loosely connected with the social standing of the respondents and quite strongly with the general social moods. The highest levels of satisfaction with the functioning of democracy in Poland were recorded in the years 1996-1998, where the general social moods were the best in the whole decade. When the social moods started to decline, the level of satisfaction with the democratic practice started to fall as well.



The opinion on how democracy works in practice has little impact on the support for democracy as such, reflected in the belief that it is the best political system that has existed so far. In order to assess their support, we have also asked our respondents if they agreed or disagreed with the statement that democracy is the best form of government, without giving them possibility to express their indifference to such a question. Invariably, most respondents answered in the affirmative, irrespective of their evaluation of democracy in action.

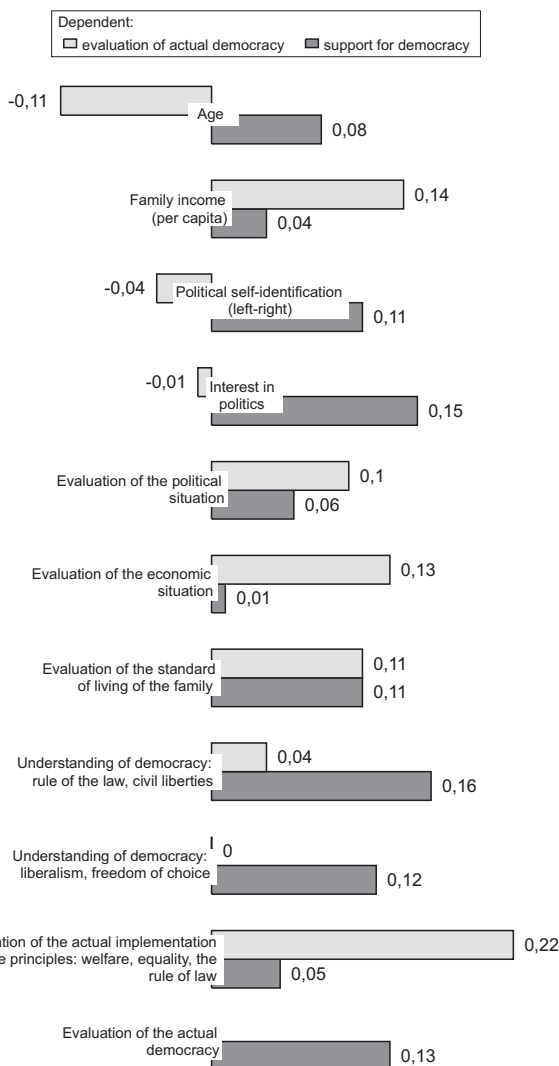


In order to determine the correlation between the evaluation of democracy and the support for it on one hand, and the way people understand democracy and see how this „ideal” model works in practice on the other, 23 characteristics of a political system were presented to the respondents, who were asked to indicate those critical for a state to be considered democratic. Subsequently, the respondents were to indicate to what extent these characteristics are present in the Polish political system.

Are these characteristics of a political system present in Poland?	Importance of the characteristics of a political system for defining it as a democracy	
	Important	Of little importance and unimportant
Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Freedom of expression and organisation</li> <li>Free choice of the place of residence in Poland or abroad</li> <li>Active participation of citizens in the public life</li> <li>Protection of personal freedom</li> <li>Responsibility of the state for the economic life</li> <li>Transfer of the powers from the state to the local authorities and social organisations, to the widest extent possible</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Little intervention of the state in the economy</li> <li>Little intervention of the state in the lives of the people</li> <li>Protection of the rights of minorities</li> <li>Choice between the programmes of different political parties</li> <li>Limitation of the rights of individuals in order to achieve the goals of the society as a whole</li> <li>Submission of a minority to the will of the majority</li> </ul>
No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Equality before the law</li> <li>The rule of law</li> <li>Guarantee of decent living conditions for the poorest citizens by the state</li> <li>Guarantee of equal educational opportunities for all children</li> <li>The government's interest in the well-being of the citizens</li> <li>The best possible satisfaction of the needs of all citizens by the state</li> <li>Selection of the best people to rule the country</li> <li>Ongoing social consultation of important decisions concerning the state</li> <li>Representation of the will of the electorate by the Parliament</li> <li>Financing of healthcare, science and culture by the state</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reduction of inequalities in the conditions of living by the state</li> </ul>

Four generalised characteristics of a political system, by which the respondents define democracy, were determined using the factor analysis. They are: "the rule of law and civil liberties", "egalitarian welfare state", "liberalism, self-government and freedom of choice" and finally "collectivism". An identical analysis of the perception of the actual presence of various features of the political system in Poland resulted in a slightly different list of general criteria of evaluation of democracy: "civil liberties", "collectivism", "liberalism and self-government", "interventionism, welfare, equality, the rule of law".

DETERMINANTS OF THE EVALUATIONS OF THE ACTUAL DEMOCRACY IN POLAND AND THE SUPPORT FOR DEMOCRACY AS THE BEST FORM OF GOVERNMENT  
Standardized regression coefficients (beta)



\*Independent variables insignificant for both evaluation and support are not shown

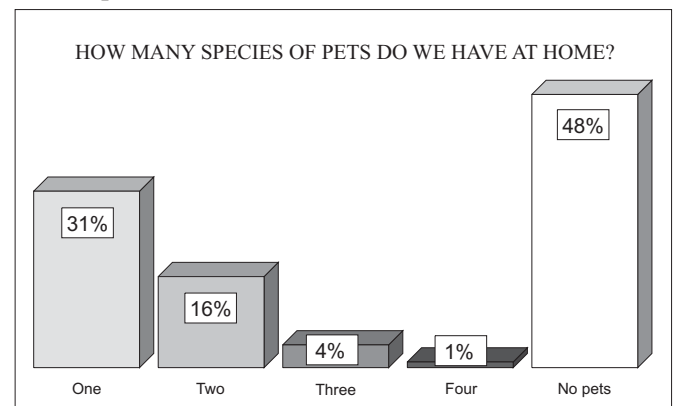
Regression analysis has determined that age is the only socio-demographic factor affecting both the evaluation of the functioning of democracy (negatively) and support for democracy (positively). Actual conditions of living affect the evaluation of the actual democracy only. On the other hand, subjective standard of living of the respondent's family affect both aspects of the opinion concerning democracy. The evaluations of condition of the economy and the political situation of the country affect the evaluation of the functioning of democracy, but are totally irrelevant to the general attitude to it. In contrast, political self-identification and the level of interest in politics do not affect the evaluation of the actual democracy, but affect the support for it in general. Right-wing political views and greater interest in politics encourage support for democracy as a form of government. The way the respondents understand democracy affects their general support for it, but not their evaluation of the functioning of democracy in practice.

On the other hand, the evaluation of the actual implementation of the principles of democracy does not affect support for democracy as such, but influences the evaluation of existing democratic order of the day.

More information on this subject can be found in the CBOS report (in Polish) "The Poles about democracy", September 2003. Survey executed in March (N=975) and July (N=952) 2003. In both cases, a random-address sample of the adult population of Poland was used.

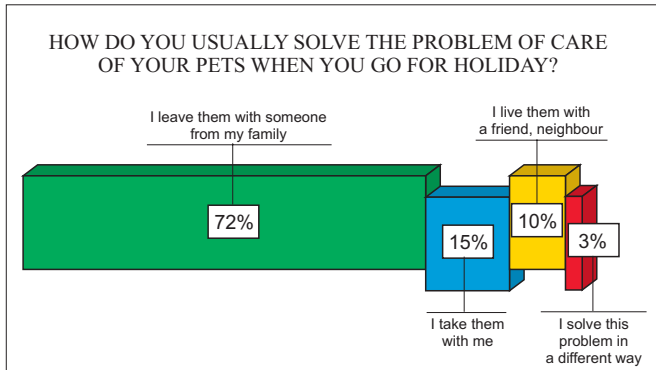
### PETS IN POLISH HOMES

Every other Pole (52%) lives under one roof with a pet. 21% have two or more pets. Pets are usually kept by families; only 27% of people living on their own have them. The Poles usually keep dogs (36%) and cats (19%). 8% of the respondents have other mammals at home, mainly rabbits, hamsters and guinea-pigs. 9% of the respondents have aquaria with fish and 5% have caged birds. Under 1% of the respondents keep snakes or other reptiles.



In the homes of 8% of the respondents a dog and a cat live under one roof. Dog is the only pet in 18% of the households; cat in 7%; fish in 3%. Most pets live with some other species in different combinations.

A vast majority of the respondents who have pets (75%) go away from home for summer holidays. Most of them leave their pets with the relatives.

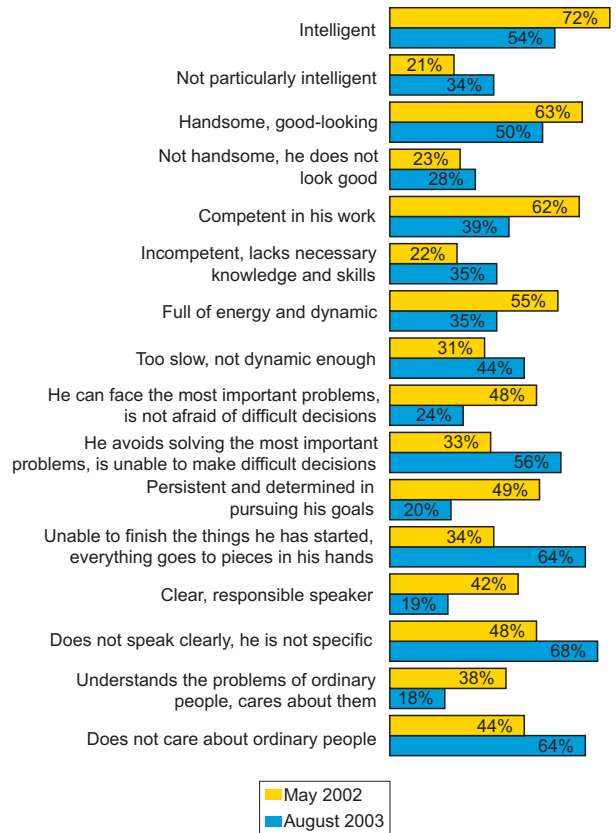


More information on this subject can be found in the CBOS report (in Polish) "Taking care of pets during summer holidays", September 2003. Survey executed in August 2003. Random-address sample of the adult population of Poland. N=880

## THE IMAGE OF THE PRIME MINISTER LESZEK MILLER

In August, we have analysed the public image of the Prime Minister Leszek Miller for the second time since his coming into the office. Pairs of contrasting statements were presented to the respondents who were asked to indicate those which characterise the Prime Minister Leszek Miller better.

FROM EACH PAIR OF STATEMENTS CHOOSE THE ONE THAT CHARACTERISES LESZEK MILLER BETTER



„Neither this nor that” and "difficult to say" answers were disregarded.

More information on this subject can be found in the CBOS report (in Polish) "The image of the Prime Minister Leszek Miller", September 2003. Survey executed in August 2003. Random-address sample of the adult population of Poland. N=880

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

- ◆ Taxes in the social opinion
- ◆ Opinions on the so-called "Rywingate" and the causes of scandals in Polish public life
- ◆ Opinions on abortion laws
- ◆ The position of Poland in Europe in 2005
- ◆ Situation on the job market and the threat of unemployment in September
- ◆ Changes in the political party preferences of the Poles
- ◆ Opinions on the work of the Parliament and the President in September
- ◆ Social moods in September
- ◆ The attitude to the government and the Prime Minister.
- ◆ How school students rest and earn during holidays
- ◆ The Poles about the international situation of Poland
- ◆ Trust in politicians in September
- ◆ Trust in the key individuals and institutions involved in the so-called Rywingate

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