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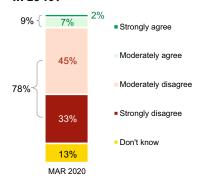
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Katyń massacre and evaluation of Polish-Russian relations

The term "Katyń massacre" refers to the mass shooting of Polish citizens, to a large extent officers of the Polish Army, as well as officers of the State Police and the Border Protection Corps, carried out by the NKVD in the spring of 1940 in the east: in Katyń and other locations such as Kalinin (today Tver), Kharkiv, Minsk and Kiev. This year marks the 80th anniversary of these events.

Respondents' declarations show that elementary knowledge of the Katyń massacre is now almost universal (97%). Over half of respondents (56%) know a lot about it, and two-fifths (41%) only heard about it.

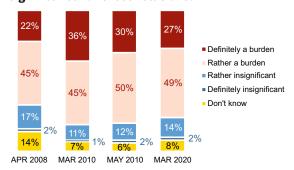
Do you agree that Russia has already done enough to explain the circumstances of the Katyń massacre in 1940?



The Katyń massacre is still not fully documented. There are problems with establishing the names of all victims (e.g. the so-called Belarusian Katyń list has not been restored) or their burial sites (e.g. from the so-called Ukrainian Katyń list). There is also lack of access to documents from Russian archives, which would allow Polish historians to better reconstruct the course of events. In the opinion of the vast majority of Poles (78%), Russia has not taken sufficient action to clarify the circumstances of the Katyń massacre. Only nine out of one hundred (9%) respondents believe that the Russian side has done enough in this respect.

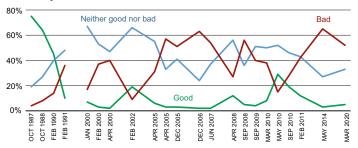
Eight out of ten respondents (76%), i.e. slightly fewer than ten years ago, think that the Katyń massacre continues to be a burden on Polish-Russian relations, while roughly onesixth (16%) claim that it is irrelevant in this context.

From the early 1990s on, Polish-Russian relations were generally perceived as bad or average. A noticeable, but short-lived improvement in In your opinion, is the Katyń massacre in 1940 still a burden on contemporary Polish-Russian relations or does it currently have no great significance for these relations?



ratings followed the plane crash near Smoleńsk, while their significant deterioration was noted after the annexation of Crimea by Russia and its military aggression in eastern Ukraine. Currently, more than half of Poles (52%) assess them badly, i.e. 13 percentage points less than in May 2014. Since then, there have been more respondents who believe that relations between our countries are neither good nor bad (increase from 27% to 33%). Still, only very few (5%) say they are good.

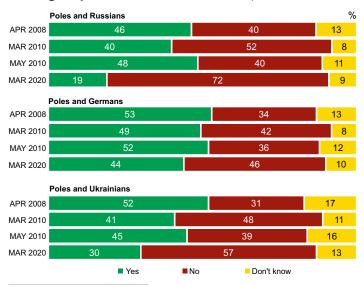
How do you assess current Polish-Russian relations? *



* Until February 1991, the question concerned Polish-Soviet relations. "Don't know" answers were omitted.

One of the indicators of relations between nations may be the belief that it is possible to agree on a common version of events in the history of these nations and, for example, to create one history textbook. According to declarations, it would be most difficult for Poles to create such a hypothetical history textbook with Russians. Almost three-quarters of respondents (72%) consider it impossible, while one-fifth (19%) are optimistic about such an undertaking. Currently, scepticism about establishing a common Polish-Russian version of recent history is much more common than in the previous decade. Also more often than ten years ago, Poles are sceptical about the possibility of agreeing a joint version of the events of recent history together with Ukrainians and Germans. In case of the former, agreement on a textbook for learning history is unrealistic according to more than half (57% doubt it, while 30% think it is possible). Opinions on the Polish-German consensus on recent history are almost equally divided: more than twofifths (44%) consider it achievable, and slightly more (46%) think it is impossible.

In your opinion, is it possible to agree on the most important events in recent history and, for example, to create a joint version of a history textbook that would be obligatory in schools in both countries, for:

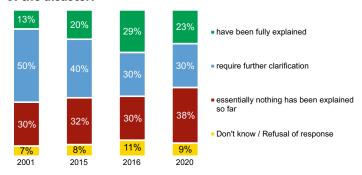


More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: "Katyn Massacre and Its Significance for Polish-Russians Relations", April 2020. Fieldwork for national sample: March 2020, N=875. The random sample is representative for adult population of Poland.

10 years after the Smoleńsk plane crash

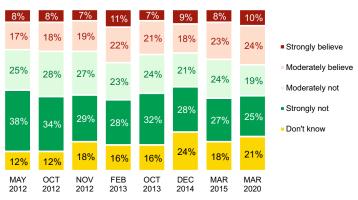
On April 10, ten years have passed since the plane crash near Smoleńsk, which killed 96 people, including President of Poland Lech Kaczyński. Despite the passage of time, only less than a quarter of Poles (23%) believe that the causes of the disaster have been fully explained. Nearly a third (30%) think that they still require additional explanation. Almost two-fifths (38%) are of the opinion that nothing has been explained so far. What is more, compared to previous measurements, there are fewer people who consider the investigation to be successful.

How do you assess current knowledge about the causes of the Smoleńsk plane crash? Do you think the causes of the disaster:



The belief that President Lech Kaczyński may have died as a result of an assassination does not lose in popularity. Overall, 34% of respondents currently consider it more or less likely, while 44% do not believe it.

Do you believe that President Lech Kaczyński may have died as a result of an assassination?



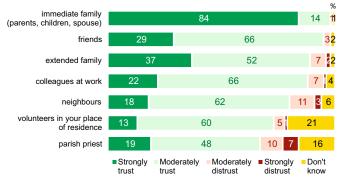
More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: "10th Anniversary of Smolensk Air Disaster", April 2020. Fieldwork for national sample: March 2020, N=875. The random sample is representative for adult population of Poland.

Social trust

Poles generally trust people with whom they maintain everyday relations. The greatest trust is declared for members of their immediate family (98% trust them, including 84% strongly). The vast majority of respondents also trust their friends (95%), extended family (89%),

people they work with on a daily basis (88%) and neighbours (80%). Almost three-quarters trust volunteers in their place of residence (73%), and approximately two-thirds of people who belong to the parish trust their priest (67%).

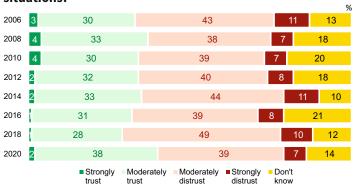
In general, do you trust your...



Taking into account the data from the last eighteen years, the level of trust in the private sphere is quite stable. Nevertheless, over the past four years, Poles have increased their confidence in the people they work with on a daily basis (by 7 percentage points), neighbours (by 5 points) and people volunteering in their place of residence (by 12 points).

Confidence in strangers is much more cautiously declared: 40% of respondents trust them, slightly more (46%) express distrust. The level of trust in strangers is currently the highest in the history of CBOS research.

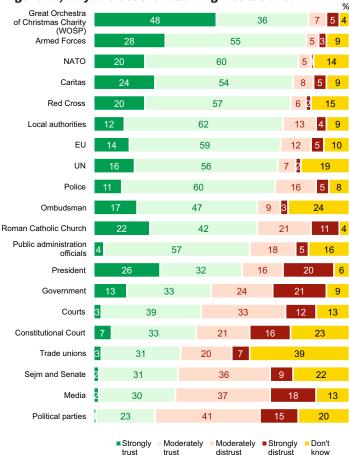
In general, do you trust the strangers you meet in different situations?



Poles generally declare trust in the public sphere. The vast majority of respondents have confidence in charitable institutions such as the Great Orchestra of Christmas Charity (WOŚP, 84%), Caritas (78%) and the Red Cross (77%). The Armed Forces (83%), NATO (80%), the European Union (73%), the UN (72%), local authorities (74%) and the police (71%) also enjoy sizeable public confidence. About six out of ten respondents trust the Ombudsman (64%), the Roman Catholic Church (64%), public administration officials (61%) and the president (58%).

Less than half express confidence in the government (46%), courts (42%) and the Constitutional Court (40%), and a comparable number of people declare distrust of these institutions.

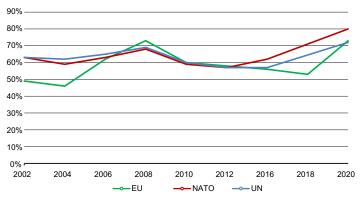
In general, do you trust the following institutions?



One-third of respondents trust trade unions (34%), the Sejm and Senate (33%) and the media (32%). However, while trust is more often declared than distrust on case of trade unions, distrust prevails in case of the Sejm and the Senate, as well as the media.

The ranking of trust in institutions is closed by political parties, which enjoy confidence of only a quarter (24%), and towards whom more than half declare distrust (56%).

Trust in:



Over the past few years, international institutions have gained in credibility: the European Union (an increase from 53% to 73% compared to 2018), the UN (an increase from 57% to 72% compared to 2016) and NATO (an increase from 62% to 80% compared to 2016). The level of trust in NATO and the UN is the highest registered so far, i.e. since 2002. Trust in the European Union is also among the highest: a comparable level of trust in the EU was recorded in 2008. At that time, the same percentage as

now declared confidence in the EU, but the proportion expressing lack of confidence was slightly smaller.

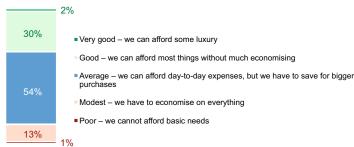
More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: "Social Trust", April 2020. Fieldwork for national sample: February 2020, N=958. The random sample is representative for adult population of Poland.

Material living conditions before the epidemic

The epidemic, whose economic effects are increasingly felt, came at a time when the assessment of the financial situation and living standards had been best in over three decades.

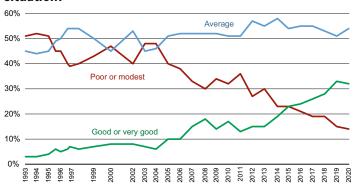
In the second half of March, more than half of adults described their household finances as being on a medium level - they had enough for everyday expenses, but they had to save for more serious expenses (54%). Almost one in three people had more freedom in managing their budget - in their household they had enough without special savings (30%) or could afford some luxury (2%). Less than one-seventh lived modestly - they had to manage very economically every day (13%). Only very few respondents (1%) admitted that they lived very poorly and could not meet basic needs.

How would you describe your household's financial situation?



In the last year, financial situation has changed little: there has been some increase in the number of people declaring that they lived on average level. On the other hand, clear changes in living standards are visible from a longer perspective. Even in 2004, more people declared that they lived modestly or even very poorly (48% in total) than on an average level (46%), and only 6% admitted that they were living well, i.e. had certain freedom in managing their budget. From then on until 2008, the standard of living was gradually improving. In the following years - from 2009 to 2013 - the effects of the global financial and economic crisis were felt in Poland: the GDP growth rate varied, the increase in consumer spending slowed down, while the unemployment rate increased. At that time, declarations on household budgets, despite some fluctuations from year to year, did not change clearly. From 2014 to 2019, along with the improvement in the socio-economic situation, there was a systematic improvement in the assessment of how money was managed in households.

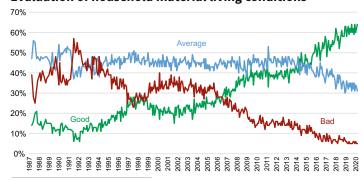
How would you describe your household's financial situation?



According to data from March 2020, 64% of respondents rated the material conditions of their household as good. Nearly a third thought they were average (neither good nor bad, 31%), and only a few (5%) described them as bad.

The assessments of material conditions, despite some variation from month to month, have been steadily improving since roughly half of the last decade. Since August 2006, more people have been satisfied with material conditions than dissatisfied, and for about five years positive ratings have outweighed not only negatives but also average opinions.

Evaluation of household material living conditions



More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: "Material Living Conditions before the Epidemic", April 2020. Fieldwork for national sample: April 2020, N=875. The random sample is representative for adult population of Poland.

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