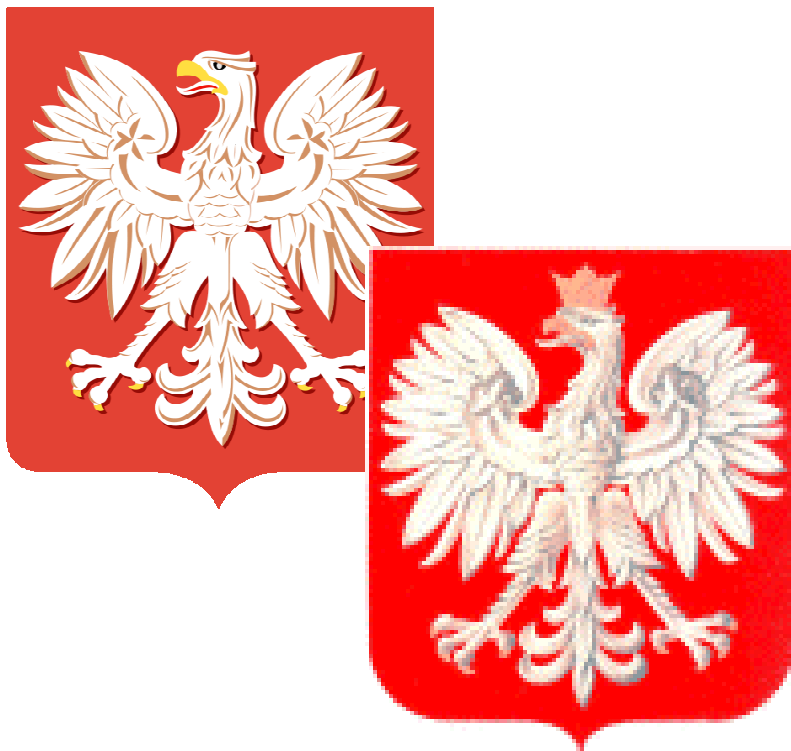


# **Poland after The Round Table**

## **The history of the independent Poland (1989 – 2007)**



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# Introduction:

In 1945, when the Red Army - theoretically – helped Poles to expel Germans from our country, Russians wanted to take Poland to the group of countries where communism was a regime system. In fact, they won with us in this game. The first uprising against communist authority has been in Poznań, on 28<sup>th</sup> June 1956. The next in different parts of the People's Republic of Poland in 1968, 1970, 1980 (when the "Solidarity" came into existence) and, in the end, in 1989. This year was crucial for the Polish history. The Round Table Agreement has started. It was an uncommon event because Poland was the first communist country where negotiations between communist authority and democratic opposition have begun. It was incredible! Poland was the country to negotiate without civil war! We should be proud of this event, of those times and those people, for example Mr President Lech Wałęsa, professor Bronisław Geremek, Jacek Kuroń, Adam Michnik, Tadeusz Mazowiecki (later – 1<sup>st</sup> prime minister in the independent Poland) and more and more people who were in the democratic opposition.

In this paper, I am going to write about the events after the Round Table Agreement in the Third Republic of Poland. I would like to describe only the most important events...



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## “Presidential Elections in 1990”

After general Wojciech Jaruzelski's dismissal, in Poland first after the Second World War democratic elections for a president have been. The first part of this, was on 25<sup>th</sup> November 1990 and the second on 9<sup>th</sup> December. There were 6 candidates for this position: Lech Wałęsa (“Solidarity”), Stanisław Tymiński (independent), Tadeusz Mazowiecki (independent), Włodzimierz Cimoszewicz (independent), Roman Bartoszcze (Polish People's Party) and Leszek Moczulski (Confederation of Independent Poland).

Janusz Korwin-Mikke and Kornel Morawiecki have not acquired indispensable votes – 100 000.

The frequency has amounted in the first part 60,6% and in the second part- 53,4%.

In the second part of the elections Lech Wałęsa and Stanisław Tymiński were. The winner was Lech Wałęsa (74,25%) and the loser was Stanisław Tymiński (25,75%).

The Presidential Election in 1990 resulted cancellation of international alliances and - in the internal politics – continuation of Balcerowicz's reforms in national economics. This time has begun the time of politic career of – for example – Lech Kaczyński, Jarosław Kaczyński, Mieczysław Wachowski and Piotr Kołodziejczyk. Because of the winning of Lech Wałęsa, “Solidarity” divided into two parties: liberal “Solidarity” and national-Catholic “S”. For the Polish left it was a serious returning: In December 1990, the Polish United Workers' Party was abolished and its place on the politic arena took up Social-democracy of Polish Republic. This party has gained popularity in Polish society.



Lech Wałęsa – the first Polish president who was chosen in democratic elections in the Third Republic of Poland. He was born on 29<sup>th</sup> September 1943 in Popowo. The worker of Gdańsk shipyard, winner of Nobel Peace Prize in 1983 and from 1990 to 1995 – the President.

## “First free parliamentary elections and events to 1997”

First free parliamentary elections in Poland after The Second World War took place on 27<sup>th</sup> October 1991. The frequency was low (only 43%). From 100 parties which have started in those elections, 29 got mandates. The winners were people from “S”, Democratic Union (12,31%). Next positions in ranking had: The Alliance of Democratic Left (11,98%), Catholic Election Party (8,73%), Polish People’s Party, The Confederation of Independent Poland and others. What was interesting: circa 3% of votes went to Polish Party of Beer’s Friends! They had 16 members in Parliament. Such varied organisations in our parliament were a big problem to make permanent majority to govern. After two months of negotiations coalition-government in which the Prime Minister was Jan Olszewski (Agreement Centrum) was created.

The Chairman of Sejm has become professor Wiesław Chrzanowski (Union Christian-National) and the Chairman of Senate – August Chelkowski (“Solidarity”).

Those elections finished the process of creating democratic authorities in Poland. They showed growing power of parties which were from the age of the People’s Republic of Poland: The Alliance of Democratic Left (In the past: Polish United Workers’ Party and Polish People’s Party – Polish: PSL).

The next presidential elections took place in 1995 in which the electoral campaign was extremely HOT. Two main candidates for this position – the president Lech Wałęsa and the representative of the Left – Aleksander Kwaśniewski. On TV debate a famous sentence from mouths of Wałęsa to Kwaśniewski was told: “I can give you only my foot – not hand”. Probably, this view could have decided that the winner has become A.Kwaśniewski. The remainder of votes which were given on them was minimal. Aleksander Kwaśniewski was in this time seen as a “cultural politician” in opposite to “cad Wałęsa”...

Aleksander Kwaśniewski in December 2005 has finished his second presidential cadence. After him, President Lech Kaczyński lives in Belweder Palace.



Aleksander Kwaśniewski (born on 15<sup>th</sup> November 1954 in Białogard). Polish politician, member of PUWP (1977-1990) and Social Democracy of Polish Republic, the minister in governments of Rakowski and Messner, the Polish President (1995-2005), The Man of the Year 1993 by “Wprost”. Founder of Organization in Defence of Democracy in May 2007.

## “ The Constitution”

The Constitution of the Republic of Poland is the most important law-certificate in Poland. It was approved on 2<sup>nd</sup> April 1997 by National Assembly and chosen by Poles in referendum from 25<sup>th</sup> May 1997. The Constitution came into force on 17<sup>th</sup> October 1997. It includes Preamble, 13 chapters and 243 articles.

It has been preparing since 1989 as a result of the down-fall of communism in Poland. The People's Republic of Poland's Constitution from 1952 has become outdated and not accepted by the Polish society.

The writing of this constitution were finished in the beginning of 1997. On 2<sup>nd</sup> April 1997, after long discussion, it has been voted by National Assembly (451 pros, 40 cons and 6 neutral votes).

On 25<sup>th</sup> May 1997 was the referendum in which Poles chose this document by 52,71% of all votes. The frequency was 42,86%.

On 16<sup>th</sup> July 1997, the President of Poland, Aleksander Kwaśniewski signed the text of constitution and told to print it in the Journal of Laws of the Republic of Poland.

On 17<sup>th</sup> October 1997, The Constitution of the Republic of Poland has become actual constitution. In the same time, some regulations from communist constitution from 22<sup>nd</sup> July 1952 have lost their legal-force.



It is the example page of our constitution.

## “Poland joins the NATO”

North Atlantic Treaty Organisation - it is the politic-military organisation which came into existence in result of signing The North Atlantic Treaty on 4<sup>th</sup> April 1949. This treaty was signed by 10 European countries: Belgium, France, Netherlands, Luxembourg, Great Britain, Denmark, Iceland, Norway, Portugal, Italy and USA and Canada. At the beginning, the purpose of NATO (by legal force of Washington’s Treaty) was military defence against the attacks of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

On 12<sup>th</sup> March 1999, after much of trying and making efforts by Polish diplomats, Poland has become a new member of North Atlantic Treaty Organisation. It was a very important decision because from that moment, our country became the stronger in military sense and more important in the world.

Since 5<sup>th</sup> January 2004, the NATO’s General Secretary is Jaap de Hoop Scheffer. He is a Dutch politician, in the past – Chef of Foreign Affairs Department in the Dutch government.



## “Poland joins the European Union in May 2004”

On 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> June 2003, Poles in the referendum gave consent for their country to be a member of European Union. On 1<sup>st</sup> May 2004, the Leszek Miller's government formally ushered Poland to this organisation and on the next day, he handed in resignation.

On 13<sup>th</sup> June the same year the first elections to European Parliament were performed, in which the winner was Civic Platform (PO). Different parties which took seats in EP were: League of Polish Families (LPR), Law and Justice (PiS), Self-Defence of the Republic of Poland (SO RP), Democratic Left Alliance and Work's Union (SLD/UP), Union of Freedom (UW), Polish People's Party (PSL), Social Democracy of Poland (SdPI). Poland was given some important positions in this parliament; for example: vice-chairman – Jacek Saryusz-Wolski from PO and Janusz Onyszkiewicz from UW, Quaestor – Genowefa Grabowska from SdPI and president and vice-president of commissions (for example: President of Budget Commission has become Janusz Lewandowski [PO]). Bronisław Geremek (UW) could be the chairman of the European Parliament but he was defeated by Spanish - Josep Borell.

After finishing of Miller's government, the prime minister professor of economics Marek Belka – famous politician has become. He got a motion of confidence in the second voting.

The Pole which is very popular and famous in Brussels is Danuta Hübner. She is the Polish politician, former minister of European Affairs in the government of Leszek Miller. She was the first Polish commissioner in the EU of Regional Politics Affairs.

On 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2004 she was recommended by Sejm Commission of Foreign Affairs to be a Polish commissioner in Brussels. Her candidacy was very warmly evaluated by European partners which praise Mrs. Hübner for “better understanding of European interests” in comparing with prime minister Leszek Miller and minister Włodzimierz Cimoszewicz.

Since May 2004 Danuta Hübner has been the member of the European Commission by Pascal Lamy – French commissar of trade. In November 2004 she became a commissar of Regional Politics. The president of European Commission is José Manuel Barroso.

I think that joining the European Union by Poles is the best decision from many, many years. In my opinion, it is the wonderful chance for our country! We cannot lose it! It would be the end of Poland. We had to join EU if we want to be a strong country (in economic sense) and we are more respected in the world! I do not want to think what country we could be if in the referendum Poles would said Europe: NO! It would be the greatest Polish national tragedy!

In the end, I would like to announce that we should be proud of it that we are the members of this organisation and we shall love OUR European Union every day and every night... ALWAYS!

The European Union is our common motherland! (I cannot understand the imaginary defenders of the Polish independent which do not want to unite all Europe and Poland being in this process...)



Danuta Hübner.



José Manuel Barroso.

## “The end. Looking in the future...”

I would like to leave the topic of supposed “fourth republic of Poland”. I think that about this I could write a big book so I am not going to describe it...

I think that more important is talking about the development of Poland. Incredible helper in it is EURO 2012 which will be organised in Poland and Ukraine. I believe it will help our authority to build new – better – Polish Republic. What have I in mind? At first – a lot highways, new express-ways and improving of communication in the biggest Polish cities – Warsaw, Cracow, Wroclaw, Poznan... Secondary, lots of hotels, restaurants, department stores and many-many places and objects which show that Poland is well-developed country. We need better air-connections from our airports and railway-connections because tourists have the right to the best travelling in Poland! This situation will results in that they will leave more money in our fatherland. I do not see any losses which could be because of EURO 2012 in Poland...

What do I imagine my Poland in the 21<sup>st</sup> century? I imagine this country as a modern, respected in the world and being a good friend for citizens. I want a country with independent medias, good government and country where the most important is future – not past... I want the country which would be in a group of the strongest countries of European Union and which would be well-treated by all lands... I want Poland without radicalisms and absurd behaviours of politicians... I want Poles who would be united – not divided... but also variety in society... I want wealthy Poland and rich Poles... I want fatherland which would be wonderful... I know I am an idealist... But... cannot I have dreams?

