

1905

**Revolution in Russia
and Polish territory**



1914 28 July

The First World War, also known as the 'Great War'

1914 8 August

Poles active in combat during the First World War

1918

1916 5 November

Act of 5 November

1917

February and October

(Bolshevik) Revolutions in Russia

1918 11 November

Poland regains independence

1919

Fight for the borders of the state

1910



1920 12-25 August

Battle of Warsaw

The eastern border was determined by the Polish victory in the war with the Bolsheviks whose key battle – the Battle of Warsaw – took place in August 1920. It not only ended in a Polish victory, but it is said to have halted the march of the Bolsheviks to the west of Europe. Consequently, it is on the list of battles that changed the course of world history. The war ended on 18 March 1921 with the Treaty of Riga.

1921 17 March

The March Constitution

1924 1 April

Grabski's treasury and currency reform

1924 13 November

Władysław Reymont receives the Nobel Prize for Literature

1926 12-15 May

May coup d'état





1939 23 August

Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact

1939 September

On 1 September 1939,
Germany invaded Poland
which the USSR attacked on
17 September

1939

Poles fight on all fronts
of the Second World War

1940 April

Katyn massacre

Poland lost around 6 million citizens (including approx. 3 million of Polish Jews) in the war. Both occupiers primarily sought to annihilate the Polish intelligentsia once and for all. In the act of genocide at Katyn, the Russians murdered over 21,000 persons, mainly military and police officers, scientists, doctors and other members of the intelligentsia. Under German occupation, persons with higher education were sought out and condemned to death. Poland lost nearly 40% of its citizens with university education.

1943 19 April

Uprising in the Warsaw Ghetto

The German occupiers treated Polish Jews with particular cruelty. Hitler sought to exterminate the Jewish nation. Ghettos were set up where Jews were forced to live as were concentration camps where they were killed. Poland was the only European country where aiding Jews carried the death penalty for the helper and his family. The uprising in the Warsaw Ghetto (19 April 1943) was a great act of Jewish heroism, as it was doomed to fail from the start. The fighters preferred to die with arms in hand.

1944 1 August

Warsaw Uprising

1945 4-11 February

Yalta conference

1945 17 June

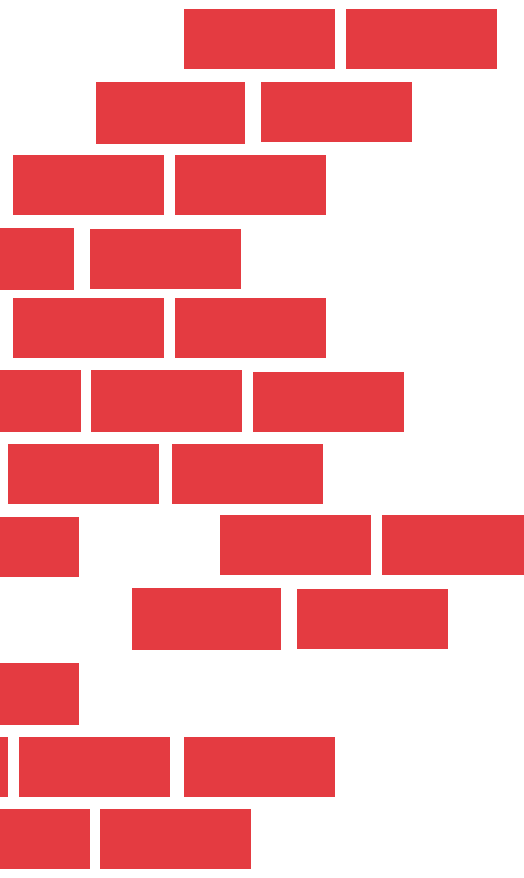
Trial of 16

1945

**Poles fight on all fronts
of the Second World War**

1940

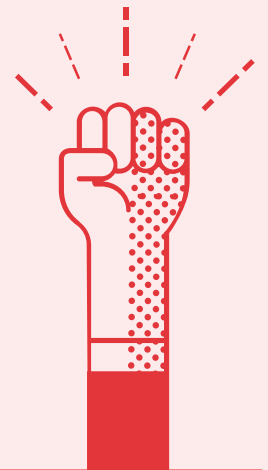
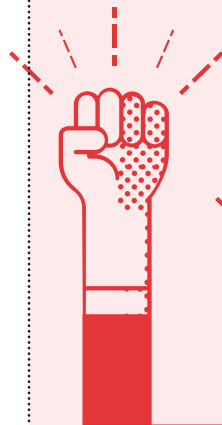




1955 14 May

Warsaw Pact established

ŻADAMY CHLEBA



1956 28 June

Poznań June



1966 3 May

Festive observance of the
millennial anniversary of
Poland's Christian baptism

1968 March

March 1968 events





1970 14 December

**Protests on the coast
(December'70)**

1976 25 June

**Workers on strike in Radom
and Ursus**

The year 1976 saw renewed workers' protests in Radom and Ursus with their brutal suppression by the militia. Many workers were detained or beaten. In the aftermath, a group of opposition activists decided to set up the Workers' Defence Committee, which became the basis of the Polish democratic opposition. Almost simultaneously, other opposition-based organisations appeared such as the Movement for the Defence of Human and Civic Rights and the Confederation of Independent Poland.



**Habemus
Papam!**



1978 16 October

**Cardinal Karol Wojtyła
becomes Pope, assuming the
name John Paul II**



1980 17 September

**Establishment of the
Independent Self-Governing
Trade Union 'Solidarność'**

1981 13 December

Martial law imposed

The 'Solidarność' festival and public joy over registration of the union led to Poles joining it in throngs. In September, it already had around 10 million members. The communists realised that they needed to disband 'Solidarność' in order to retain control. During the night of 12 to 13 December 1981, the First Secretary of the Central Committee of the PZPR, Gen. Jaruzelski, imposed martial law. For nearly two years, the communist authorities sowed terror among the population using the army, militia and ZOMO units.

1989

**Fall of communism
in Poland**



1991

Fall of communism
in Poland

1999 12 March

Poland, the Czech Republic
and Hungary become NATO
members

1990



NOW

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European Network Remembrance
and Solidarity

 EUROPEAN NETWORK
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