



POLISH PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC (PRL). FACTS AND MYTHS

Radosław Domke

THE MAGNIFICENT SEVEN



THE MAGNIFICENT SEVEN

Bolesław Bierut

Edward Ochab

Władysław Gomułka

Edward Gierek

Stanisław Kania

Wojciech Jaruzelski

BOLESŁAW BIERUT



EDWARD OCHAB



WŁADYSŁAW GOMUŁKA



EDWARD GIEREK – THE KISS OF FRIENDSHIP



STANISŁAW KANIA



WOJCIECH JARUZELSKI



MYTH NO. 1

1944-1989 – PRL

MYTH NO. 1

No.

In the years 1944-1952 there was the Republic of Poland.

The Constitution of July 1952 introduced the new name of the state, the Polish People's Republic/ the Polish Republic of People.

It is safest to use the term People's Poland for the entire period.

MYTH NO. 2

People's Poland was a totalitarian state.

MYTH NO. 2

Nothing similar.

Poland was an authoritarian state.

During the Stalinist period, it was closest to totalitarianism, but it was never fully achieved.

MYTH NO. 3

Poland was a communist country.

MYTH NO. 3

- What is communist?
- What is socialism?
- What is marxism?

MYTH NO. 3

We can't make it that simple.

Communism was never achieved in Poland.

The government in Poland is best described as *real socialism*, coined in the 1970s.

MYTH NO. 4

Poland was part of the Soviet empire and was completely dependent on the authorities in Moscow.

MYTH NO. 4

It's not even a myth anymore, it's just a lie.

During its forty-odd years of existence, the People's Republic of Poland repeatedly opposed the Soviet Union.

The strongest in 1956, when Soviet troops even moved against Warsaw. Then China supported us.

MYTH NO. 5

People's Poland was a poor and backward country.

MYTH NO. 5

People's Poland was modernizing with each decade. The apogee of development occurred during the decade of Edward Gierek's rule in the 1970s. Poland then had a huge army and merchant fleet. The Pole then flew into space. Passenger cars numbered in the millions. The houses had household appliances and television. Polish culture stood very high. You could travel almost all over Europe.

MYTH NO. 6

Everything was for talons (vouchers), and there were empty counters in the shops anyway.

MYTH NO. 6

Nothing could be further from the truth.

The post-war post-war card system existed only for a few years after the war and in all of devastated Europe.

Later, only money was used until the second half of the 1970s, when rationing of individual items began. The vouchers were, among others: for sugar and meat. Store supplies have also changed over the years. It was the best at the beginning of Edward Gierek's decade and the worst at the turn of the 1970s and 1980s, when it actually happened that only vinegar was available in stores.

MYTH NO. 7

There was no freedom of speech in Poland.

MYTH NO. 7

It's quite complicated. Officially, freedom of speech was constitutionally guaranteed, but de facto it was limited. The worst in this respect was during the Stalinist period, and the best during the "Solidarity carnival". Censorship was officially abolished only in 1990.



CONCLUSIONS

These are just selected myths and their demythologizations. The popularity of the so-called The Polish People's Republic in popular culture (cult comedies, board games, establishments styled for that period, etc.) and the direct accounts of our parents and grandparents mean that there are many more myths. The best weapon against this is to confront them with facts.

THANK YOU FOR ATTENTION

W PRLU



BLACK FRIDAY BYŁ CODZIENIE

memy.pl