

**REVOLUTION OF "THE TEN YEARS" FROM POLAND****Flavius-Cristian MĂRCĂU<sup>1</sup>****ABSTRACT:**

REVOLUTION IN POLAND REPRESENTS AN IMPORTANT EVENT IN THE HISTORY OF CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE HAS SINCE MANAGED A NEGOTIATION BETWEEN COMMUNIST LEADERS AND CIVIL SOCIETY WEATHER POSITIVE IMPACT FOR THE LATTER. POLAND WAS THE FIRST COUNTRY IN THE SOVIET BLOC WAS ABLE TO GENERATE A CURRENT DEMOCRATIZE AMONG COMMUNIST STATES. IN 1989, IT WAS STARTED THE DOMINO EFFECT THAT LED INEVITABLY TO THE COLLAPSE OF TOTALITARIAN REGIMES IN EASTERN AND CENTRAL EUROPE.

**KEYWORDS:** COMMUNIST , POLAND, LECH WALESZA, MARTIAL LAW, DECOMMUNIZATION

Poland can be considered a state historically interesting and powerful if we refer to the fact that he was able between 1610 and 1612 to set fire to Moscow twice and master Ukraine until the eighteenth century. However, a feature of the Polish state ferocity was that the party has shown a capability to make enemies everywhere, and when you face an enemy, confront each other. But the end result was not favorable since led to self-destruction, and in 1772, 1792 and 1795 was divided between Russia, Austria and Prussia. By the Treaty of Versailles (18 June 1919), Poland recognized as an independent state status, but only after a few years (1939), is divided for the last time. Regarding the communist regime (January 1947), he enjoyed coming to power through general elections but closely monitored by Russian troops - which we can discuss election may be questioned given that the result were made at *shadow of a tank*. On a funnier note, Stalin was right by the remark made it to the end of the Second World War, that "*socialism in Poland fits just as would fit a riding saddle on a cow*".<sup>2</sup>

As regards civil society struggle waged against the communist system, the Helsinki Final Act (1979), he stood as the inspirational basis for the Polish<sup>3</sup> intelligentsia. Following this, Adam Michnick creates the Workers' Defence Committee (Komitet Obrony Robotników - KOR) aimed to defend workers' labor union and developing a clandestine literature.<sup>4</sup>

In the fight against totalitarianism, KOR proved impressive and balanced aggression that would not leave room for concessions, so alongside it have been incurred and other

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<sup>2</sup> Florin Garz, *Renasterea Europei*, (Bucuresti: Odeon, 1999), pp. 179-181

<sup>3</sup> Following the Helsinki Final Act, the Polish intelligentsia was inspired on the creation of civil organizations.

<sup>4</sup> Regarding the clandestine literature developed by KOR, they give rise newspaper Robotnik (the worker), edited by Ian Litijnski

organizations: the civil rights movement and humanitarian, with the support base Catholic Church and League of Polish Independence, supported by the intelligence services of Bonn them. We note that this is the time to join the fight against the Church of Polish communism, under the guise of humanitarian organizations, but since 1957 the Catholic Church had obtained a concession from the regime under which he was entitled to carry out pastoral activity likely including Available own publications. Spring of 1981, is the point at which "Solidarity" under the influence of both internal and external factors, especially from the Vatican and the CIA, strongly triggers a mechanism that aims, well-defined, open political confrontation with the communist regime.<sup>5</sup>

As regards direct confrontation between the Communist Party and the Solidarity trade union, it breaks with the failed negotiation attempts between on the one hand Jaruzelski and Walesa and Josef GLEPP on the other.

A particularly important role (perhaps most importantly) the independent trade union played autocephalous "Solidarity" (Niezależny Samorządny Związek Zawodowy "Solidarność"), based on the grounds that it represented an important catalyst for what was to turn into a domino effect . He showed a hitherto unprecedented capability in the Soviet bloc, namely, demonstrated that the Communist Party lost power enjoyed before. It is the first civilian organization that was able to negotiate with a totalitarian regime, which was initially obtained through various pressures, greater freedom from the party, after reaching the trigger point of the democratization process in Poland.

Solidarity was born (September 1980 in Gdansk) as a type union federation and its first president was elected Lech Walesa (1981), but the Aces organization would not operate in a legal framework Due to pressure by Moscow on General Jaruzelski Wojciech that night 12 to December 13, 1981, establishes martial law on the entire territory of Poland. *"The failure of the Polish Government to implement the agreement properly Gdansk led to the extension of social unrest. In September 1981 triggered a general strike Solidarity and the new prime minister, Wojciech Jaruzelski, responded by imposing martial law. Solidarity buildings were besieged movement supporters were arrested and repressed demonstrations. At that time it was already a figure Walesa International. In 1981 he met with Pope John Paul II, who was of Polish origin, anti convinced. In December 1983 he received the Nobel Peace Prize."*<sup>6</sup>

Why say that Moscow has pushed for stopping union? First they were afraid that Poland will become a pluralistic, something unthinkable for the Communist Party and in the second there is a danger that such unions to appear in all states of the Soviet bloc. Moscow's actions were justified from the point of view of communist ideology, if we consider the positive trend of contamination, but considering how despicable action and trends of subjugation applied to the states by the Kremlin.

With the introduction of martial law, a large part of the Solidarity trade union leaders were caught and arrested, and the government of Poland was taken over by the Military Council of National Salvation which was composed of 21 generals and senior officers. An important aspect is that the detention of those arrested was not made as an extermination (practiced in the communist regime) but in different forms more *human*. For example, as recounted in the section dedicated to the Solidarity trade union, Lech Walesa was imprisoned in a house of the party.

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<sup>5</sup> Garz, *Renasterea Europe...*, p 186;

<sup>6</sup> [http://www.historia.ro/exclusiv\\_web/portret/articol/lech-walesa-erou-luptei-polonezilor-mpotriva-regimului-comunist](http://www.historia.ro/exclusiv_web/portret/articol/lech-walesa-erou-luptei-polonezilor-mpotriva-regimului-comunist), accessed on 16.06.2015

Instituted martial law of General Jaruzelski allowed to simultaneously hold the post of Defence Minister, Prime Minister and Chairman of the Military Council of National Salvation, acting in the interests of Moscow in support of totalitarianism in Poland.

We note that *Solidarity* was not the only organization to fight against the regime. In addition to this union they were done remarked: *Militant Solidarity* (founded in Wroclaw by KORN Morawiecki) and the *Legal Intervention Committee Wroclaw* (founded by Zbigniew Romaszewski activist and a role they had wives and Marek Ewa Jakubiec), *University of Christian Workers*. Note that each organization that operated in sight, was seconded by another conspiratorial role, or that meet Confederation for Independent Poland (KPN - illegal nationalist party) that seconded *Legality Protection Committee in Krakow* that encompassed lawyers and trade union activists and organization which operate in clandestine *Regional Committee strikers*, led by Marek Muszynski, *Second Regional Executive Committee* (established by Wladyslaw Frasinuk)<sup>7</sup>. It should be noted that the role of cover organizations regarded bearers to account for organizations that worked *underground* aggressive and a struggle against the communist regime in Poland.

Between 1984 (July) - 1986 (July to September) Jaruzelski issue decrees amnesty for all political prisoners, moreover, that Poland is the only communist state in which there is no political prisoner. Through these actions the communist leaders wanted leniency illusion development Cancellation symbol of repression and creating the image of a *tolerant Poles* should lead to the lifting of economic sanctions and diplomatic isolation termination. However, shortly after announcing the amnesty, Lech Walesa (2 October 1986) submit a letter to the State Council by wishing start dialogues on the need to achieve a union pluralism<sup>8</sup>. According to Jean-Francois Soulet<sup>9</sup>, the communist leader could not afford to refuse this call gesture given that Gorbachev had been announced by the fact that Poland was for Kremlin a kind of *test laboratory* on the reforms that were to be applied to the Soviet Union and of those related by Jacek Kuron<sup>10</sup>, within current evolutionary *Solidarity* movement that started from the need for the implementation of perestroika and transform the union into a powerful social force democratizing.

Jaruzelsky's team, headed by him, he tried to create the illusion of a toleration of *Solidarity* and what this price and therefore allow some moderation in terms of censorship, legislation on associations to guarantee freedom of expression, election of mayors by the population (if by that time, they were appointed by default, they will now be elected by the population) and in terms of economic enterprises is enhanced autonomy. As a result of decisions taken at management level, the team wanted the new guidelines to be passed by a popular referendum (30 November 1987), which proved to be a failure, perhaps because it was decided that the result it is calculated based on the number of enrolled and no votes.<sup>11</sup>

Regarding the role of the Catholic Church throughout this period, we can say that this was particularly important in view of the appearance that Josef GLEPP cooperated with authorities several times for different situations do not reach extremes.<sup>12</sup>

Mark Frankland, British journalist, stressed the important role of the book *Patriots Revolution* important role of the Church because various foreign secret services acted under

<sup>7</sup> Adrian Pop, *Origins and Patterns of Eastern European revolutions*, p. 222

<sup>8</sup> Pawel Machcewicz, *Poland 1986-1989: From Cooptation to Negotiated Revolution*, in Cold War International History Project Bulletin, Issue 12/13, Fall/Winter 2001, 94

<sup>9</sup> Jean-Francois Soulet, *Istoria comparata a statelor comuniste din 1945 pana in zilele noastre*, (Iasi: Polirom, 1998), 298

<sup>10</sup> Jacek Kuron, *Defeating totalitarianism* in Vladimir Tismaneanu (eds.) 1989. *The revolutions of the past and the future*, 217-218

<sup>11</sup> Soulet, *Istoria comparata a statelor comuniste din 1945 pana in zilele noastre...*, 298

<sup>12</sup> Garz, *Renasterea Europe...*, 186;

its umbrella to undermine the Polish communist regime, and Pope John Paul II, convinced anti-communist Polish origin He ensured the Catholic Church in Poland all the support they needed. An important aspect is that in 1987 received in audience Walesa is where the need would be in political pluralism, human rights, free association need, etc. Also in 1987 (September) George Bush visits Warsaw and talks with both Walesa and Jaruzelski. These meetings could understand that Walesa was perceived by the West as general replacement and one that will ensure the establishment of democracy in the state.

If the amnesty decrees issued in 1986, Poland gave signs of liberalization, soaring prices for consumer goods in early 1988 (February) generated a massive wave of strikes in the state, in early May that increased chaos in the economy. It was demonstrated once again the need to negotiate between the government and the opposition in order to establish the country's resuscitation measures. *"Statements made by Jacek Kuron Bronislaw Geremek and as well as that of one of his advisers Jaruzelski, Stanislaw Ciosek, advanced in late May and early June 1988, the idea of a coalition government with the participation of Solidarity, to materialize the idea << pact >> crisis. Objective necessity of such solutions has become even more evident under the new wave of strikes that shook Poland since mid-August 1988 under the slogan << >> There is no freedom without Solidarity".*<sup>13</sup>

Finally the power to understand that there is no other way but to negotiate with the opposition in order to establish measures to remove the country from deadlock, so start roundtable talks on February 6, 1989 between the Communists and the trade union *Solidarity*<sup>14</sup>. This event has taken on a particularly important significance since it is the first case in which the communist regime negotiated with any organization that has been resisted. We emphasize that it was time that the totalitarian regime has demonstrated that it is *clinically dead* and no longer able to react only try, through negotiation, to maintain position. In terms of understanding that event, it is a special symbolism that describes a framework that will succeed the Communist Party believes that maintaining a regime in Poland. The very impossibility of accepting bargaining counter denotes a union and a loss of legitimacy (which was maintained by force). For example, in 1987 a referendum was held on the new economic policy where the population voted against the government, and in 1988 the economy suffering a fall resulting in growing opposition to the communist government.

Presidential elections were held in November-December 1990 and were won by former *Solidarity* trade union leader Lech Walesa, but the parliamentary elections were delayed until October 1991, and the rate of participation in them was extremely low (about 43% ) and due to the fact that many were, according to Holmes<sup>15</sup>, already disappointed by the postcommunist regime. I have explained in previous chapters as scheduling of elections is necessary to take into account several aspects, one of which is the period from the fall of the old regime and to organize elections, because no-populated and already lost antitotalitarian momentum.

Lech Walesa remains a prominent figure towards democracy in Poland and the first democratic president after the fall of communism but one thing should be mentioned, namely that it has come at the rule after the first democratic elections in 1991, but it lost in 1995 to the former communist Alexandr Kwasiniwski.

In terms of experience roundtable, it had a strong impact in the Soviet bloc and was due demonstration that showed the inability of the communist regime could resist the pressure. *"Through a pact of elites and the mere fact of sharing common experiences and*

<sup>13</sup> Adrian Pop, *Originile si tipologia revolutiilor est-europene*, (Bucuresti: Ed. Enciclopedica, 2010), 225-226

<sup>14</sup> In the period 1988-1989, joined the union over a million new members coming from the ranks of Polish United Workers' Party.

<sup>15</sup> Leslie Holmes, *Postcomunismul*, (Iasi: Institutului European, 2004), 124

*effort to find negotiated solutions to the problems facing Polish society, the two sides - power and the moderate wing of the moderate opposition - approached one Furthermore, the foundation being placed Polish post-communist future political class ".<sup>16</sup>*

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<sup>16</sup> Adrian Pop, *Tentatia tranzitiei. O istorie a prabusirii comunismului in Europa de Est*, (Bucuresti: Corint, 2002), 215

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