



# SOLIDARNOŚĆ



**Solidarność (Solidarity) is a Polish trade union .**



- ↳ founded in 1980 (Gdańsk Shipyard)
- ↳ leader : Lech Wałęsa
- ↳ 1st independent union
- ↳ 9.5 million members



**In the 1980s,** it was an anti-bureaucratic social movement, civil resistance to defend the causes of workers' rights and social change.

⇒ At the beginning, the government wanted to **destroy** the union. There was **repression**.

⇒ Finally, the government was forced to **negotiate**.

**1989** There was a round table : meeting between the government & the Solidarity leaders.



**1990** Wałęsa was elected President of Poland.



# LECH WAŁĘSA



He is a Polish politician, trade-union organizer, philanthropist and human-rights activist.

He was a charismatic leader.

- He co-founded **Solidarity (Solidarność)**, the Soviet bloc's first independent trade union,
- He won the **Nobel Peace Prize** in 1983.
- He was **President of Poland** from 1990 to 1995.

He presided over Poland's transformation from a communist to a post-communist state.

## 1970s...

Wałęsa was an **electrician** .

He organized **illegal strikes** in **1970** (over 30 workers died) at the **Gdańsk Shipyard** : workers protested because of the food prices.

Wałęsa was **persecuted** by the Communist authorities and **arrested** several times.

## 1980s...

In 1980 he was important in the **political negotiations** that led to the revolutionary **Gdańsk Agreement**.

He became a co-founder of the **Solidarity trade-union movement**.

## 1990s...

## FOR POLAND

- a **free-market economy**
- **free parliamentary elections (1991)**
- new foreign relations.
- entry into **NATO** in 1999
- entry in the **European Union ( 2004)**

