





Solidarność (Solidarity) is a Polish trade union .



- 📞 founded in 1980 (Gdańsk Shipyard)
- 📞 leader : Lech Wałęsa
- 📞 1st independent union



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.

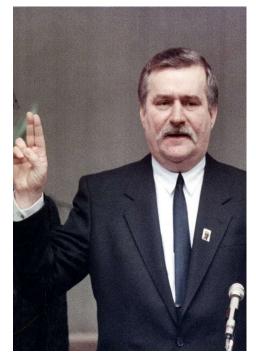
> Finally, the government was forced to negotiate.

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)

