

*CONTRIBUTORS OF POLISH HERITAGE  
TO  
SCIENCE ARTS AND  
FREEDOM*

*Pope John Paul II  
He Set In Motion A Non-Violent  
Revolution Of Conscience*



John Paul II's 1979 trip to Poland was the fulcrum of revolution which  
**led to the collapse of Communism in Europe**

After igniting a movement in his first visit as pope, John Paul II remained  
persistent, doing everything from writing tough correspondence to Soviet leader  
Leonid Brezhnev to offering public homilies that prayed for Solidarity

"It would have been impossible without the Pope"  
**Mikhail Gorbachev**

**Vaclav Havel, President of Czechoslovakia**, called the Pope's 1979 pilgrimage to  
Poland "**a miracle**" and credited John Paul II's contribution during the trip as  
being more important than anything Gorbachev or Reagan had done.

Solidarity has deep roots in Catholic Theology and Tradition. The key figure in  
putting the idea of "**Solidarity**" center-stage was, Pope John Paul II.

The Pope's second encyclical, *Laborem Exercens* – "On Human Work" (1981),  
includes 10 references to Solidarity

*THE END OF  
COMMUNISM  
IN EUROPE*



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*Lech Walesa  
It All Started In The Gdansk Shipyards*



The workers of the Gdańsk Shipyard staged a strike action on 14 August 1980 in  
support of fired worker Anna Walentynowicz, which became a **solidarity strike**  
in sympathy with other striking establishments

Lech Wałęsa and others formed a broad anti-Soviet social movement ranging  
from people associated with the Catholic Church to members of the anti-Soviet  
left. **Solidarity advocated non-violence in its members' activities**

The government attempted to destroy the union by imposing **martial law** in  
Poland, which lasted from December 1981 to July 1983 and was followed by  
several years of political repression, but in the end it was forced  
to negotiate with **Solidarity**

The round table talks between the government and the Solidarity-led opposition  
led to semi-free elections in 1989. By the end of August, a Solidarity-led  
coalition government was formed. In December 1990,  
**Wałęsa was elected President of Poland**

Six months later, the **Berlin Wall came crumbling down**

Lech Walesa was awarded the **Nobel Peace Prize** in 1983