

Poland

Smart Card



Produced by the TRADOC Culture Center

550 Cibique Street, Suite 111 Fort Huachuca, Arizona 85613

Comm: (520) 538-5502

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Overview

Official: Republic of Poland (Informal: *Polsko*)

Area: 312,685 sq km

Capital: *Warszawa* (Warsaw)

Population: 39 million ('15 est.)
(about twice the size of GA, USA)



Literacy: 99.8%

Median Age: 39.9

Ethnicity: Polish 96.9%, Silesian 1.1%, German 0.2%,
Ukrainian 0.1%, other 1.7%

Language: Polish 98.2%, Silesian 1.4%, unspecified 2.4%

Religion: Catholic 87.2%, Orthodox 1.3%, Protestant 0.4% and other 0.4% (includes Jehovah's Witness, Buddhist, Hare Krishna, Gaudiya Vaishnavism, Muslim, Jewish, Mormon), unspecified 10.8% ('12 est.)

National Anthem: "*Mazurek Dąbrowskiego*" (Poland Is Not Yet Lost)

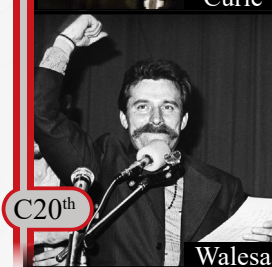
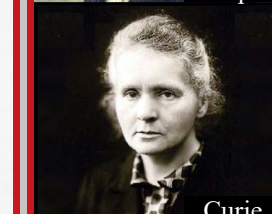
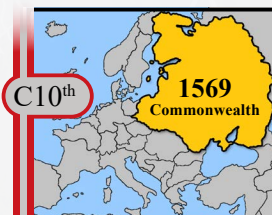
Major Urban Areas: *Warszawa* (1.72M); *Kraków* (760k)



Krakow

Brief Timeline

- Piast Dynasty Era begins - 940
- Christianity adopted - 966
- State formation - 1025
- Jagiellonian Dynasty begins - 1389
- Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth - 1569
- Partitioned by Prussia, Russia and Austria - 1772
- 1st constitution - 1791
- Independence - 1918
- Nazi Germany invades Poland (Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact) - 1939
- Communist rule - 1947
- Karol Wojtyla becomes Pope John Paul II - 1978
- Solidarity movement - 1980
- Transition to democracy - 1989
- Lech Walesa elected president - 1990
- Poland joins NATO - 1999
- Poland joins European Union - 2004



Government

"...obliged to bequeath to future generations all that is valuable from our over one thousand years' heritage..."
- preamble Polish Constitution 1997

The Republic of Poland is a parliamentary republic. It is a bicameral legislature consisting of the *Senat* (100 seats) and the *Sejm* (460 seats). The president holds a 5-year term and appoints the prime minister.

Because of Poland's beautiful and often brutal history, it has adopted a system of checks and balances within the government to ensure all freedoms within their 3rd Republic. With over 40 parties, Poland is often lead by a coalition government. Poles are well-informed and educated about their government and politics.

Polish news @ www.warsawvoice.pl



President Andrzej Duda

Wilanów Palace, Warsaw

Prime Minister Beata Szydło

Armed Forces

The primary mission of the armed forces is the defense of Polish territorial integrity and Polish interests abroad. The Armed Forces of Poland (*Sily Zbrojne Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej "SZ RP"*) or the informal *Wojsko Polskie* (WP) is composed of four branches:



SZ RP emblem

- *Wojska Ladowe* (Land Forces)
 - *Marynarka Wojenna* (Navy)
 - *Sily Powietrzne* (Air Force)
 - *Wojska Specjalne* (Special Forces)
- and commanded by the following:
- Commander-in-Chief: Pre. Duda
 - Minister of Defense: Antoni Macierewicz
 - Chief of Staff: General Broni Mieczysław Gocul



Minister of Defense



Active:	120k
Reserve:	515k
Military age:	18
Conscription:	No

Photo by: Silar CC 3.0

Military Culture

The military has experienced a radical transition in the past 20 years. The Soldier no longer serves the political party (communist state), but instead is an integral part of Polish society. The WP is a strong regional leader whose role on the world stage increases daily. Poland demonstrates this by supporting and participating in the NATO Partnership for Peace Program, joint training exercises and multiple missions to Africa and the Middle East. Polish military doctrine reflects the same defense posture as its Alliance partners. The Polish military continues to restructure and modernize its equipment.



WP two-finger salute, only used with hat

The US and Poland have enjoyed warm bilateral relations since 1989. Be aware that while Poland has modeled much of its modern Army after the US, including its rank structure, it has not fully embraced the more collaborative US Army relationship between officer and senior NCO.

God, Honor, and Homeland, the traditional battle-cry of the past, is still the motto of the professional army.

Non-Commissioned Ranks

- Private (Basic): *szeregowy* OR-1
- Private: *starszy szeregowy* OR-2
- Private First Class: *kapral* OR-3
- Specialist: *starszy kapral* OR-4
- Corporal: *plutonowy* OR-4
- Sergeant: *sierżant* OR-5
- Staff Sergeant: *starszy sierżant* OR-6
- Sergeant First Class: *młodszy chorąży* OR-7
- Master Sergeant: *chorąży* OR-8
- Sergeant Major (SGM): *starszy chorąży* OR-9
- Command SGM: *starszy chorąży sztabowy* OR-9



OR/OF Ranks: NATO maintains a standard rank scale to match to corresponding ranks used by other members.

Commissioned Ranks

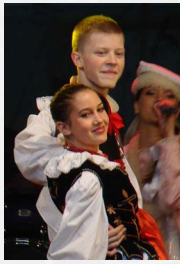
- 2nd Lieutenant: *podporucznik* OF-1
- 1st Lieutenant: *porucznik* OF-1
- Captain: *kapitan* OF-2
- Major: *major* OF-3
- Lieutenant Colonel: *podpułkownik* OF-4
- Colonel: *pułkownik* OF-5
- Brigadier General: *general brygady* OF-6
- Major General: *general dywizji* OF-7
- Lieutenant General: *general broni* OF-8
- General: *general* OF-9
- General of the Army: *marszałek Polski* OF-10



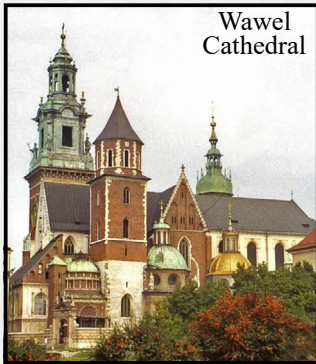
Polish Army @ www.polska.pl/en

The People

What makes a Pole Polish or *Polacy*? Speaking Polish, being a citizen of Poland, having ethnic Polish roots, being a Roman Catholic and/or identifying oneself with Polish traditions, or a combination of all of these? Yes! In exploring and learning more about the identity of Poles, consider:



- Polono-Slavic origins
- Catholicism
- Music & dance
- Politics
- Environment
- Polish language
- Art & literature
- Cuisine
- Sports & leisure
- History



Wawel Cathedral

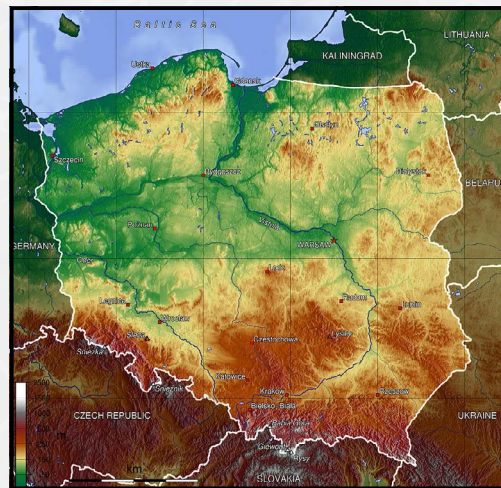
Given their history and ability to endure and overcome, *Polacy* associate themselves with democracy, freedom and tolerance, but above all, love for Poland.



Silesia

The Land

Northern Poland has a long coast on the Baltic Sea. The country is largely dominated by low-lying rolling plains, except in the south where the *Tatras* form a watershed and natural border with Slovakia. The highest point is *Mt. Rysy* at 8,200 ft/2,500m. Poland's main rivers include the *Wisla*, the *Odra* and the *Warta*. The country has 3 main ports: *Gdansk*, *Gdynia* and *Szczecin* and a dense rail network. The climate is generally temperate with relatively cold winters and warm summers.



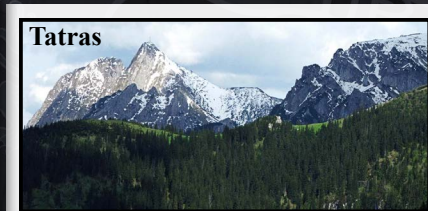
Port of Gdansk



Baltic Sea Coast



Warszawa (Warsaw)



Tatras

Cultural Considerations

- Polish people tend to very hospitable.
- There tends to be a strong sense of duty towards each other, especially family.
- Respect for women and elderly is important, especially in rural areas.
- While walking down the street, not everyone will look at you (not rude-just the way it is).
- Personal space bubble is similar to the US; this is not always true in lines at shopping centers and malls.
- Many people speak several languages (English, French, German and Russian) but are sometimes shy and modest about this.
- Loud behavior is considered rude in public places (unless sporting or similar event).
- Art, education, history, dance and music are highly valued.
- Catholic holidays and traditions shape much of their daily life, especially mass.
- Take an interest in Polish holidays, customs, sports, food and beverages!



Marzana effigy to honor spring



Soviet-era Palace of Culture & Science in Warsaw

Rapport Building

- Punctuality is valued; be on time.
- To build trust initially, be humble and courteous.
- A greeting, a handshake and direct eye contact is the norm when introduced.
- **Pan** or **pani** (Sir or Ma'am) is preferred initially, until you are told otherwise.
- Use hard facts, but know that there is an interest in your feelings.
- Verbal confrontations/disagreements are commonplace and generally not taken personally.
- Tendency towards low context and task-orientation.
- Negotiations are facilitated by solid rapport, collaboration, respect and honoring time.
- Humor plays a big role in communicating after the relationship is established.
- Sarcasm is generally used and understood, but it is important that you have familiarity with the situation and person before using it.



US/Poland meeting

Cultural Considerations and Rapport Building guidance provided by Polish Army counterparts.

Maybe you know...

- The national dish is **Bigos**, which consists of meat, sauerkraut, tomatoes and mushrooms.
- Beer is the national beverage.
- Norm for tipping is 10-15%.
- The drinking and smoking age is 18.
- Poland uses the metric system.
- 65% of households have internet.
- There is a preference for American movies, TV and music (use to build rapport).
- The Polish **Zloty** is the national currency signified by **Zł**; the international code is "PLN."
- Exchange rate US 1.00 = PLN 3.77.
- Public restrooms/water fountains are not always available.
- The police emergency number is 991.
- Poles love their national soccer team the **Biale Orly** or the "White Eagles."



Helpful Phrases

English	Polish
Hi.	Hej!/Cześć!
Good day.	Dzień dobry.
Good bye.	Do widzenia.
Please.	Proszę.
Thank you.	Dziękuję.
You're welcome.	Nie ma sprawy.
No, thanks.	Nie, dziękuję.
Excuse me/I'm sorry.	Przepraszam.
Nice to meet you.	Miło mi poznać.
How are you?	Jak się masz?
I'm fine and you?	Czuję się dobrze, a wy?
What is your name?	Jak sie nazywasz?
My name is...	Nazywam się ____.
I don't understand.	Nie rozumiem.
Yes/No	Tak/Nie
Where's the bathroom?	Gdzie jest toaleta/wc?



Scan the QR code for pronunciation and Polish language resources at the Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center (DLIFLC) on-line @ www.dliflc.edu