

**Jerzy Buzek from 1**

Wyborcza Solidarność, AWS) and co-author of the AWS's economic program. After the 1997 elections he was elected to the Sejm, the lower house of the Polish Parliament, and was soon appointed Prime Minister of Poland. In 1999 he became the chairman of the 1 (Ruch Społeczny AWS) and in 2001 he became the Chairman of the Solidarity Electoral Action coalition.

**Jerzy Buzek's government**

Between the years 1997–2001 he was the Prime Minister of Poland, first of the right-centrist (does not exist) AWS-UW coalition government until 2001, and then of the rightist AWS minority government. His cabinet's major achievements were four significant political and economic reforms: a new local government and administration division of Poland, reform of the pension system, reform of the educational system, and reform of the medical care system. AWS was defeated in the Polish parliamentary election, 2001. Buzek resigned as the chairman of AWS Social Movement, and was replaced by Mieczysław Janowski.

**Polish Member of the European Parliament**

On 13 June 2004, in the European Parliament election, 2004, Jerzy Buzek was elected a Member of the European Parliament (MEP) from the Silesian Voivodeship, basing his candidacy only on the popularity of his name and on direct contact with the voters. He received a record number of votes, 173,389 (22.14% of the total votes in the region). His current party affiliation is with the Platforma Obywatelska, the governing party in Poland, which is a member of the European People's Party.

In the 2004-2009 European Parliament, he was a member of the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy, an alternate member of the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety, a member of the Delegation to the EU-Ukraine Parliamentary Cooperation Committee, and an alternate delegate for the delegation for relations with the countries of Central America. He served as rapporteur on the EU's 7th Framework Programme for Research and Development, a multi-billion euro spending programme for the years 2007-2013.

On 7 June 2009, in the European Parliament election, 2009, Buzek was re-elected as a Member of the European Parliament from the Silesian Voivodeship constituency. Just as in the previous election, Buzek received a record number of votes in Poland: 393,117 (over 42% of the total votes in the district).

**President of the European Parliament**

On 14 July 2009, Buzek was elected President of the European Parliament with 555 votes, becoming the first person from the former Eastern Bloc to gain that position. He succeeded the German Christian Democrat MEP, Hans-Gert Pöttering. He has pledged to make human rights and the promotion of the Eastern partnership two of his priority during his term of office, which will last two and a half years until, due to a political deal, Social Democrat MEP Martin Schulz will take over. The start of his campaign to become President was marked by some controversy, after he said in a press conference that English, French, and Polish are "the most important languages" of the EU, though he later contended that he meant they are "among the best-known" languages. □

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**Your Taxes from 3**

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**Music News from 3**

in Warsaw on June 13-14. This jubilant grand opening, entitled "Vivarium" or "place of life," was a chance for concert-goers to visit the space, meet the orchestra, and hear a concert conducted by Artistic Director Krzysztof Penderecki. Repertoire for the concert included Beethoven's *Symphony No. 7 in A Major Op. 92* and Penderecki's *Agnus Dei*. Over the course of the two-day celebration, there were also 21 chamber performances by various members of the orchestra, a walk around the property with Warsaw expert Jarosław Zieliński, a set of multimedia presentations and many other inter-disciplinary attractions, as well as a presentation of musical toys created by young designer from the Lampo Group. All events were offered free of charge.

The building complex at Grochowska 272 was built in 1899 near Warsaw's cattle market, according to the project of Russian architect Vladimir Nikolaievich Pokrowski. In addition to the main building, the complex includes a blacksmith building and three smaller pavilions. Until 2003 the complex served as a veterinary school, and it has been included in the antiques registry since January 2008. The "Vivarium" inauguration was intended to offer this historic space back to the people of Warsaw, and to give them a taste of the excellent music-making that is to come.

The dedication of the headquarters coincides with the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Sinfonia Varsovia orchestra. They performed for the first time in April 1984 under baton of Sir Yehudi Menuhin, who said the following about working with this ensemble:

"Work with no other orchestra has given me as much satisfaction as my work, as conductor and soloist, with the Sinfonia Varsovia. I can say with full conviction that for many of years of working together with this orchestra, the many recordings we have made together, the numerous concerts we have played, spanning a vast repertoire of classical and contemporary music, it has always maintained the highest levels of performance.... Music is their way of life. Such an approach is a real delight for the audience."

[Source: [wiadomosci.wp.pl](http://wiadomosci.wp.pl), [www.sinfoniavarsovia.org](http://www.sinfoniavarsovia.org)] □

**Justyna Ball from 2**

Or those who when the regime was in power found a way to live comfortably. For those, it did not matter who was in control, all they knew was to side with the ones who were and provide for themselves and their close families. Jerzy Urban, publicist who later became government's spokesperson (now owner and editor of anti-clerical tabloid), openly admits it. He liked a comfortable lifestyle.

Kolakowski's conscience is clear, as a self taught philosopher, at first a devout communist and after the sponsored trip to Moscow turned a "revisionist Marxist."

Or one could have a supposedly great past and then become loyal to the communist regime but when the tables were turned, tried to hide it. Just like in the case of Rajmund Kaczyński. A decorated AK soldier, an engineer, after the war he became a professor at the Warsaw Polytechnic and conducted lectures for members of the communist

party so they could receive a degree within just two years! (Would you consider him to be a communist collaborator?) He maintains a three level villa in the Zoliborz district and his twin sons become child actors. Surprisingly, his passing in 2005 while his son Lech was President (Mayor) of Warsaw, went unnoticed.

At the same time, attacks on Lech Wałęsa, one of only a few Polish icons, increased.

Andrzej Wajda ("Katyn") when backing up Wałęsa after another anti-Wałęsa book was published said: "They create new history, and since they do not have any heroic accomplishments in their past, they try to bury the real heroes." How is it going to help Poland?

**And the others are rubbing their hands...**

Lately, my keyboard did not have a chance to rest and collect dust. One after another, articles popped up saying things that needed to be corrected.

"Healing through Art," was an article about a play based on the life of Jan Karski, I responded to the sentence "... Poles who grew up hearing only one party's line" as ridiculous. As I said, if that was true, they wouldn't have fought Communism. The case may be quite the opposite, maybe it's our audience who does not know other than the Soviet version, because that's the one that has been fed to the foreign press for decades.

When it comes to Polish experiences under the Soviet regime, AMERICAN ELITES NEVER QUESTION ITS SOURCES. That's why there is a lot of Soviet anti-Polish propaganda on almost every level of education in the US. Not to be forgotten, Poland was "liberated" by one of the occupants, and the winner writes history.

Poles always had a well-organized underground system, either of resistance, aid or press, and the largest in Europe, regardless of German or Russian occupation, during or after the war. Also there was Radio Free Europe.

20 years after the war when invited to Poland for the opening of the History Institute, Elie Weisel, when asked by Władysław Bartoszewski, member of "Zegota" (Council of Aid for Jews) also a Polish survivor of Auschwitz, about what is being done in the US about research on Karski, Weisel had no clue who Karski was.

Karski by then was already a well-known professor at Georgetown University. Just because you did not hear about it does not mean it did not happen. 64 years post war, Karski only gets a few articles and a play.

No writers and their publishers are interested in changing or adding to this image. They are comfortable with it, and it fits their agenda.

No one from the elites in Poland demand The Museum of Communism, and no one in the US petitions for "The Museum of Victims of Communism."

**How quick they forget...**

From censored news from Poland, you may expect reports on "Hitler's Tree."

"The small town of Jasło became famous" when world agencies reported on an ongoing debate that allegedly the oak tree that obstructs traffic at town's main rotary was planted by Germans as tribute to Hitler on his birthday."

The point is who decides what information is being translated and reaches the foreign press agencies while other quite interesting news (for example: accomplishments of Poles in medicine) never make it. I would love to see their criteria for what makes good news and what is not worth translating.

If I apply the same logic as suggested to explain to me why some books on Poland's history are on shelves and some are not (there is simply no interest amongst the public I was told) so I assume that all that interests the American public when it comes to Poland is ...the Catholic

**Polish studies at Columbia from 4**

Chmielewski, was the first corporate donor to the project, contributing more than \$500,000. The credit union capped off the effort with an additional check for \$181,000.

"This is a truly historic and prideful day for Polonians and all Polish-Americans," said Chmielewski, who attended the ceremony in Warsaw. "Poland's visibility within the hallowed halls of U.S. academia will increase greatly. Furthermore, there will be heightened awareness of Poland's vast contributions to world culture."

Other major donors include the Warsaw Stock Exchange, led by Ludwik Sobolewski; The National Depository for Securities, headed by Elżbieta Pustola; ENEA, an energy conglomerate led by Paweł Mortas; Poland Energy Group, led by Tomasz Zadroga; the Special Economic Zones of Katowice, Warmia and Mazury, Pomorska and Kostrzyn-Strubicka, and the Małopolska Agency for Regional Development, with Piotr Wojaczek, acting on behalf of the regional zones; and the Bogdan Fiszer Silesia Capital Fund, led by Bogdan Fiszer. Antoni Chrościelewski coordinated fundraising efforts on behalf of the Polish Army Veterans Association.

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Mówimy po Polsku

church, gays, the Holocaust and Poland's alleged compliance. Oh, and Dyngus Day!

How many articles are dedicated to the Warsaw Uprising? Each year my local paper dedicates a sentence in "This year in history" section, the Warsaw Uprising is called "a revolt that failed" and never bothers to print the number of killed. The Soviets must be laughing...

I sometimes wonder...aside with the arms race, have we won? I mean, really, who won? □