

Between East and West: Poland, 1980-1981

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*Hope is important.
Maybe more important than anything.*
(Adam Michnik)

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Abstract

The Second World War geopolitically divided the European continent into a democratic and free Western Europe and an oppressed and ideologically controlled Eastern Europe. The events of 1980-1981 have positioned Poland between East and West, considering the unfolding of the events (not a free protest, but not an immediate violent repression either), the emergence of an organized civil society based on the alliance between intellectuals, workers, and the church (far from the meaning of Western Europe, but unlike the homogenous, controlled society of Eastern Socialism), or the outcome (not a democratic regime, but not a Communist one-party system either).

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