

LECH WAŁĘSA

First leader of NSZZ "Solidarność"

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- Lech Wałęsa was born on September 29th, 1943 in the village of Popowo near Włocławek.
- In 1967, he started working at the Gdańsk Shipyard named after Lenin, where he was elected as the chairman of the Founding Committee of Free Trade Unions.
- On August 14th, 1980, during a strike at the Gdańsk Shipyard, he was elected as the leader of the strike committee, which led to the creation of Solidarity.
- In 1983, he was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for his fight for workers' rights and his struggle against the communist system in Poland.





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- In 1989, as a result of the Round Table talks, Lech Wałęsa obtained legal recognition of Solidarity, and in 1990, he was elected as the President of Poland.
- As President, he introduced reforms that enabled Poland to transition to a free-market economy and a multi-party system.
- In 1995, he lost the presidential election, conceding to Aleksander Kwaśniewski.
- In the 1990s, he became involved in politics, establishing political parties and running for office.
- In 2000, he was accused of collaboration with the communist-era secret police, which caused a lot of controversy.



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- In 2006, Lech Wałęsa endorsed Jarosław Kaczyński in the presidential election, which also met with criticism.
- Wałęsa is the author of several books, including his autobiography „A Way of Hope” and „The World of Truth”.
- In 2011, he was honored with the title of Honorary Citizen of Gdańsk.
- In 2013, Lech Wałęsa was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest civilian award given by the President of the United States.
- Lech Wałęsa is considered one of the most important politicians in the history of Poland and a symbol of the struggle against communism in Eastern Europe