**CiP Poland**

**Personality**

**Lech Wałęsa**

**Instructions:** Select a button for detailed information on Lech Wałęsa’s life and his contributions to Poland. Scroll through the timeline by clicking the arrows.

Note: The images are stored at: [\\Dliflc-fs\ce\CE\_TI\FAM\3\_web\_archive\CiP\poland\images\cip\_pol\_personality](file:///\\Dliflc-fs\ce\CE_TI\FAM\3_web_archive\CiP\poland\images\cip_pol_personality)

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **DATE** | **Label** | **Description** |
| **1** | **1943** | Birth | Lech Wałęsa is born on 29 September 1943 in a clay hut in the village of Popowo, between Warsaw and Gdańsk. |
| **2** | **1967** | Gdańsk | Wałęsa moves to Gdańsk, where he works as an electrician at the massive Lenin Shipyard, the largest shipbuilding site in the Eastern bloc. |
| **3** | **1970** | Riots | Workers at the Lenin Shipyard stage a strike after food prices are raised dramatically. Wałęsa is one of the instigators of the protest. |
| **4** | **1980** | Solidarity | Food price hikes spur Polish labor unrest. In Gdańsk, Wałęsa leads a strike that eventually results in Poland’s first free trade union—Solidarność (Solidarity). |
| **5** | **1981** | Arrest | As Solidarity’s membership increases, the Polish government succumbs to Soviet pressure and declares martial law. Wałęsa and other pro-democracy leaders are arrested. |
| **6** | **1983** | Nobel Prize | Eleven months after being released from custody, Wałęsa is awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. Wałęsa’s wife Danuta travels to Oslo to accept the prize. |
| **7** | **1989** | Elections | After the Polish government agrees to semi-free elections, Solidarity candidates win virtually all freely contested legislative seats. Solidarity’s leader becomes prime minister. |
| **8** | **1990** | Presidency | In the first direct elections for the Polish presidency, Wałęsa sweeps to victory. He becomes the Eastern bloc’s first noncommunist leader. |
| **9** | **1995** | Election Loss | After narrowly losing his reelection bid, Wałęsa leaves politics to focus on promoting democracy and a strong civil society in Poland and throughout the world.    <https://pl.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Plik:Lech_Wa%C5%82%C4%99sa,_%C5%81%C3%B3d%C5%BA_VIII_European_Economic_Forum,_October_2015_01.jpg> |

**References**

*Encyclopædia Britannica*, “Lech Wałęsa,” 25 September 2019, <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Lech-Walesa>