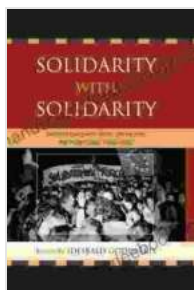


# Western European Trade Unions and the Polish Crisis 1980-1982: The Harvard Cold War Studies Book Series

The Polish crisis of 1980-1982 was a watershed moment in the history of the Cold War. The rise of the Solidarity trade union movement in Poland challenged the authority of the communist government and sparked a wave of unrest that spread throughout Eastern Europe. Western European trade unions played a key role in supporting Solidarity and in helping to bring about the end of the communist regime in Poland.



## Solidarity with Solidarity: Western European Trade Unions and the Polish Crisis, 1980–1982 (The Harvard Cold War Studies Book) by Colin Delany

★★★★☆ 4.3 out of 5

Language : English  
File size : 1924 KB  
Text-to-Speech : Enabled  
Screen Reader : Supported  
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
Word Wise : Enabled  
Print length : 322 pages



This book examines the role of Western European trade unions in the Polish crisis. It draws on archival research and interviews with key participants to provide a detailed account of the events of 1980-1982. The book also analyzes the impact of the Polish crisis on Western Europe and on the Cold War as a whole.

## **The Rise of Solidarity**

The Solidarity trade union movement emerged in Poland in the summer of 1980. The movement was founded by a group of shipyard workers in Gdansk who were protesting against the government's economic policies. Solidarity quickly spread to other factories and workplaces throughout Poland, and by the end of the year it had become the largest independent trade union in the country.

Solidarity's demands went beyond economic issues. The union also called for political reforms, including the right to free speech and assembly. The government's response to Solidarity was initially repressive. The government declared martial law in December 1981 and cracked down on the union. However, Solidarity remained a potent force, and it continued to challenge the government until the communist regime collapsed in 1989.

## **The Role of Western European Trade Unions**

Western European trade unions played a key role in supporting Solidarity. The unions provided financial assistance to Solidarity and helped to organize international campaigns in support of the movement. The unions also lobbied their governments to take a strong stand against the Polish government.

The support of Western European trade unions was essential to Solidarity's success. The unions helped to keep the movement alive during the difficult years of martial law, and they helped to put pressure on the Polish government to negotiate with Solidarity.

## **The Impact of the Polish Crisis**

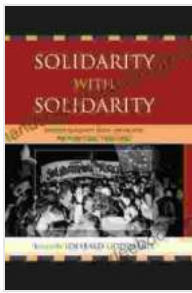
The Polish crisis had a profound impact on Western Europe. The crisis showed that the communist regime in Poland was not as strong as it seemed, and it raised hopes that the Cold War could be ended peacefully. The crisis also led to a new wave of support for trade unions in Western Europe.

The Polish crisis was a turning point in the history of the Cold War. It helped to bring about the end of the communist regime in Poland and it inspired other movements for democracy throughout Eastern Europe. The crisis also showed that Western European trade unions could play a key role in promoting democracy and human rights.

The Polish crisis of 1980-1982 was a major event in the history of the Cold War. The crisis showed that the communist regime in Poland was not as strong as it seemed, and it raised hopes that the Cold War could be ended peacefully. Western European trade unions played a key role in supporting Solidarity and in helping to bring about the end of the communist regime in Poland.

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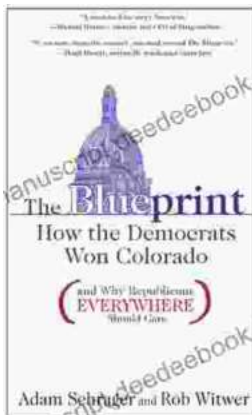
This book is a valuable resource for anyone interested in the history of the Cold War, the history of Poland, or the role of trade unions in promoting democracy and human rights.



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