

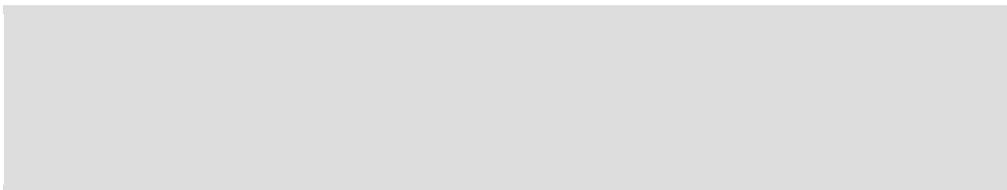
***INDIVIDUAL  
CHOICE OF POLES  
WHO INFLUENCED  
THE HISTORY OF  
EUROPE AND EVEN  
WORLD***

## Mieszko I (922 – 992)

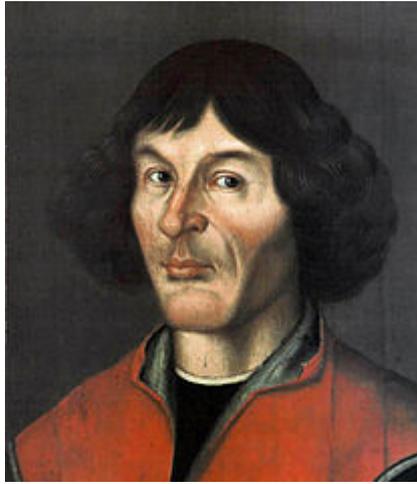


Prince from the ruling Piast family who united the Slavic tribes living within the area of contemporary Poland, regarded to be the originator of the state of Poland. Through his marriage with the Czech princess Dobrava, he was baptized and introduced his country to the sphere of the western Christian culture. His son Bolesław Chrobry was the first king of Poland.

Photo: Wikipedia



## Mikołaj Kopernik (1473- 1543)



*Mikołaj Kopernik*

Mikołaj Kopernik ( latin: Nicolaus Copernicus) was very educated, dealt with law, history, mathematics, military strategy, economy, medicine, astrology and astronomy. As an astronomer, Kopernik made one of the most important revolution in science – in his most famous work “De revolutionibus orbium coelestium” “he stopped the Sun and moved the Earth”.

Photo: Wikipedia

# Tadeusz Kościuszko (1746 – 1817)



Engineer specializing in military fortifications, commanding officer and general of Polish and American armies, the national hero of Poland and the United States. He took part in the American war for independence (1775- 1783) and Polish uprising against Russia (so called Kościuszko Insurrection). He was a very progressive, appealing for the abolition man – the money he got as a prize from the American government, Kościuszko spent on the liberation and education of black slaves in the newly-formed country.

Photo: Wikipedia

# Fryderyk Chopin ( 1810- 1849)



One of the best known composers in the world, regarded to be one of the most important musicians of the romantic period in the European culture and one of the most famous pianist of his times, often called “the poet of piano”. The very characteristic elements of his music are the deep expression and drawing from the stylistic exemplars of Polish folk music.

Photo: Wikipedia

## Henryk Sienkiewicz (1846-1916)



Very famous, great Polish writer and commentator. In 1905 he was awarded Nobel Prize in literature. His most famous novel “Quo vadis” was translated all over the world and it was made into films many times.

Photo: Wikipedia

# Władysław Stanisław Reymont

(1867- 1925)



Great Polish novelist and commentator, awarded Nobel Prize in literature in 1924 for his novel in four volumes titled “Peasants”.

Photo: Wikipedia

# Maria Salomea Skłodowska- Curie (1867- 1934)



One of the greatest and the most famous scientist (physicist and chemist) in the world, two-time laureate of Nobel Prize. For the first time she got the Prize in physics together with two other great scientists - her husband Pierre Curie and Henri Becquerel in 1903, and, for the second time, she got Nobel Prize in chemistry in 1911. Maria Skłodowska –Curie has been, so far, the only scientist awarded Nobel Prize in two different disciplines of knowledge and the only woman buried in Panteon in Paris.

Photo: Wikipedia

## Janusz Korczak (1878- 1942)



Doctor, officer of Polish army (military doctor), educator, writer, journalist, social and charity activist, precursor of theories in education based on the children's emancipation and the respect for their rights. Janusz Korczak (coming from polonized Jewish family) was an educator whose life was with a perfect agreement with the professional views he represented. During The Second World War he was closed in the ghetto in Warsaw by Hitlerites. In the ghetto he tried to do as he only could to help ill and orphaned Jewish children living in the terrible place. When Hitlerites started the liquidation of

ghettos and the transportation the Jewish children from ghettos to the concentration camp in Treblinka to murder them, Korczak ( although he could rescue his life) refused to leave his charges. He accompanied the children from the Warsaw ghetto to the concentration camp in Treblinka. The other workers of The House of Orphans in the ghetto did the same. Korczak, during the long and tragic journey caused that the children did not feel fear – he told them that they were going to the countryside to rest and play. The youngest children were carried by the unusual doctor and educator and this way he is presented in many monuments and plaques. Korczak is a patron of many actions and institutions dealing with education in Poland.

Photo: Wikipedia

# Irena Stanisława Sendlerowa ( 1910- 2008)



Her tree in Yad Vashem

Polish activist in social work and charity, soldier of Polish Resistance and unusual hero during The Second World War - she rescued about 2500 Jewish children from the ghetto in Warsaw (Nazi times), risking her own life every day. She was awarded the title and the medal Righteous Among the Nations – the most important civil distinction given by the State of Israel. Besides, the Jewish association “Children of Holocaust” funded the prize “For Improving the World” whose patron is Irena Sendlerowa . She always emphasized the need of equality and solidarity among people.

Photo: Wikipedia

## Czesław Miłosz (1911- 2004)



Polish lawyer and diplomat, poet, prose writer and translator. Between 1951- 1989 he was an émigré in France and in the USA, working as a professor of literature at Berkeley and Harvard Universities. Between 1951- 1980 publication of his works was forbidden for political reasons in Poland. Czesław Miłosz was awarded Nobel Prize in literature in 1980. His second very important prize was the title and the medal Righteous Among the Nations – the most important civil distinction given by the State of Israel. Photo:Wikipedia

# Wisława Szymborska (1923- 2012)



Polish poet, prose writer and translator, awarded Nobel Prize in literature in 1996 for her great poems.

Photo: Wikipedia

## Lech Wałęsa (born in 1943)



Polish politician, the first chairman of the Trade Union “Solidarność”, very active member of Polish democratic opposition in the communist times. After the democratic changes in Poland, in the period 1990- 1995 Wałęsa was the president of Poland. For his political activity, he was awarded Nobel Peace Prize in 1983. The Prize was picked up by his wife Danuta and his son Bogdan - Lech Wałęsa could not participate in the celebration because he was a political prisoner. In 1999 he was declared by the magazine “Time” to be one of the hundred most important people in the twentieth century. Photo: Wikipedia

## **Karol Wojtyła (1920- 2005)**



He was known as the pope Joannes Paulus II, chosen during the conclave in 1978. Before the position, he was Polish catholic bishop and cardinal, poet, polyglot, actor, playwright, educator and philosopher. In 2014 he was canonized. He is recognized to be one of the most influential person of the 20th century – his choice was very important for the democratic changes in Eastern Europe.

Photo: Wikipedia

## Donald Tusk (born in 1957)



Polish politician, opposition activist during the communist period, party leader and prime minister after the democratic changes in Poland. From 1st December 2014 the President of the European Council.

Photo: Wikipedia