



LECH WAŁĘSA

He is a Polish politician and one of the most important people in Polish history. While working as an electrician in Lenin shipyard in Gdańsk he co-founded **"Solidarność"** – the first Independent Trade Union in the Soviet Block- and became its leader. He organized strikes in Gdańsk and was instrumental in political negotiations that led to the ground-breaking **Gdańsk Agreements**. He was persecuted and arrested many times for his political activity by Communist authorities. During the martial law in Poland in the years 1981- 1983 he was arrested once again. In 1983 he won the **Nobel Peace Prize**, which he couldn't personally take in Stockholm because of persecutions. Released from custody, he continued his activism and was prominent in the establishment of the 1989 **Round Table Agreement** that led to semi free parliamentary elections on the 4th of June 1989 and to a Solidarity-led government. He was **President of Poland** from 1990 to 1995. He was one of the crucial politicians that led to the fall of Communism in Poland.