

The Polish Success

Poland is the only European Union country not to have experienced economic recession during the recent global economic crisis. What are the sources of Poland's economic success? What lessons can be learned from Poland? What challenges will Poland face as it continues to grow? The goal of this session is to have a closer look at the Polish political and economic transformation from communist state-planned central economy to a successful decentralized free market economy.

John Abraham Godson was elected to become a Member of the Polish Parliament in 2010 after having been a member of the Łódź City council from 2007. John was born in Nigeria and received his first degree from Abia State University in 1992 in Agronomy. Following on from this he gained degrees in Human Resource Management and Development from Trinity College and Seminary in Newburgh, Indiana in 2003 and International relations from the Łódź Academy of International Studies 2008. John has also finished two doctorate studies; political science from the University of Warsaw in 2011 and Management from the University of Łódź in 2012. He was a senior lecturer at the Technical University of Szczecin (1993–97) and at Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznań and is the president of the African Institute in Poland. John is a former minister in the Polish Charismatic Church of God in Christ and is married with 4 children, living in the city of Łódź.

I. Short summary of Polish history

II. Yesterday and Today- Poland in pictures

III. Overview of the present state of the Polish economy

IV. Sources of the Polish economic success

V. The dark side of Polish economic and political transformation

VI. Challenges facing Poland as it continues to grow

VII. Summary

Suggested Readings:

How Poland Became Europe's Growth Champion: Insights from the Successful Post-Socialist Transition, Marcin Piatkowski, Brookings Institution. <http://www.brookings.edu/blogs/future-development/posts/2015/02/11-poland-post-socialist-transition-piatkowski>

Macroeconomic Analysis of Polish Economy, Ministry of treasury, Republic of Poland. <http://www.msp.gov.pl/en/polish-economy/macroeconomic-analysis/5975,Macroeconomic-Analysis-of-Polish-Economy.html>

Poland's economy can do even better, *The Economist*.

<http://www.economist.com/news/europe/21599063-oecd-recommends-more-reform-can-do-even-better>

Poland's new golden age; the second Jagiellonian age, *The Economist*.

<http://www.economist.com/news/special-report/21604684-first-time-half-millennium-poland-thriving-says-vendeline-von-bredow>

Six Markets to Watch: Poland, Mitchell A. Orenstein, *Foreign affairs*.

<http://www.foreignaffairs.com/print/137493>