

## JOHN PAUL II'S SPEECHES IN POLAND, 1983: SOCIAL AND POLITICAL APPROACHES

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Received: August 17th, 2024

Accepted for publication: September 15th, 2024

**Abstract:** During Pope John Paul II's second visit to Poland in 1983, he addressed sensitive topics such as national sovereignty, human rights, and freedom, indirectly criticizing the communist regime and Soviet influence in Poland. The Pope's messages, though balanced in tone, were perceived as highly political, causing irritation in Moscow and surprise among Polish authorities. The Pontiff emphasized the importance of dialogue between the government and society, support for workers, and strengthening Poland's relations with the West. Additionally, the Pope encouraged the Polish Church to continue its mission, supporting both local communities and the persecuted. This study examines how John Paul II leveraged the full weight of his office, his personal history, and the admiration and hope of the Polish people to ensure that his second Polish pilgrimage was not only a meeting between the Holy Father and Polish Catholic believers but also an affirmation of truths that could not be hidden regarding Poland's internal situation. The content analysis of the papal speeches revealed a multitude of themes, with social and political issues drawing the most attention not only from Polish authorities but also from various diplomats accredited in Warsaw. This study has been constructed from the content of these speeches and the analyses of these diplomats.

**Keywords:** Pope John Paul II; Poland; human rights; Solidarity; Catholic Church

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