

EMERGING NATIONS



N°61
July
2026

INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS MAGAZINE www.nations-emergentes.org

Poland, Geopolitical Rise



Poland, Geopolitical Rise

Located at the heart of the European continent, Poland has enjoyed a strategic geopolitical position for centuries. The country serves as a bridge between Western and Eastern Europe, acting as a space for circulation, trade, and influence. It is also strategically situated on the Baltic–Black Sea isthmus. However, this central position has made Poland a coveted territory for its powerful neighbors: Germany and Russia. Polish history has been profoundly shaped by this geographical vulnerability. At the end of the 18th century, Poland disappeared from the map of Europe following the three successive partitions carried out by Prussia, Austria, and Russia. The country was erased from the European map for 123 years. During this period, it nevertheless preserved a strong cultural and patriotic identity.⁽¹⁾ In the 20th century, Poland once again found itself caught between German and Russian ambitions. In 1939, the Molotov–Ribbentrop Pact between Nazi Germany and the Soviet Union led to the partition of the country into two distinct zones of occupation and influence. After the Second World War, Poland fell under

Soviet domination, becoming a satellite state of Moscow.⁽²⁾

The dismantling of the “Iron Curtain” and the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991 opened a new era. Poland regained its sovereignty and embarked on a profound economic and political transformation. In 2004, its accession to the European Union marked its return to the Western world. Thanks to European investments, economic modernization, and sustained growth, Poland became one of Central Europe’s leading emerging powers.⁽³⁾ From a geostrategic perspective, Poland long relied on the American security umbrella to guarantee its protection against Russia. The country joined the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) in 1999 and invested heavily in defense (4.7% of GDP) and in American military equipment, notably Lockheed Martin F-35 Lightning II fighter jets, Patriot missile systems, and Abrams tanks.⁽⁴⁾

However, recent international crises in the Middle East have prompted a shift in Polish strategic thinking. The redeployment by the United States of certain military assets from the Asian and European theaters toward the Middle East has raised questions among Polish elites regarding the reliability of the American security umbrella. In this context, Poland has become increasingly receptive to the French-backed concept of European

strategic autonomy. Without calling its alliance with Washington into question, Warsaw appears to understand European security can no longer rely solely on the United States. This development may mark a historic turning point: the emergence of a European defense framework in which Poland could become a key European pillar of NATO.

In his memoirs published in 1976, Jean Monnet wrote: “Europe will be forged in crises, and will be the sum of the solutions adopted for those crises.” He thus emphasized that periods of crisis can become opportunities to design effective responses and strengthen Europe’s resilience in the face of external shocks. It is precisely in this spirit that the ambitions of the new Poland take shape. ◉

Douraya Asgaraly

⁽¹⁾ P. Buhler. *Pologne, d’où vient son ambition géopolitique ? Planisphère*

⁽³⁾ <https://journalse.com/the-long-term-effects-of-polands-accession-to-the-european-union-a-literature-review/>

⁽⁴⁾ *Défense : la Pologne achète aux Etats-Unis des missiles d’une portée de 1.000 km*

EMERGING NATIONS

N°61 | July 2026

Association de loi 1901 | W931002897

ISSN : 2429-7461

Email: contact@nations-emergentes.org

web: www.nations-emergentes.org

• Publication Director •

Douraya Asgaraly

Tél.: (33) 6 16 63 45 19

Email: nationsememergentes2@gmail.com

• Editor-in-Chief •

Sri Damayanty Manullang

• Editorial Consultant •

Catherine Fournet Guérin

Professor of Geography - Sorbonne University
<https://laboratoire-mediations.sorbonne-universite.fr/membres/fournet-guerin-catherine/>

• Contributors to this publication: •

Jean-Sylvestre Mongrenier, Małgorzata Grąbczewska,
Michał Baranowski

• Graphic Designer •

Chantal Caraman,

Gwendal LE SCOUL, concept graphic

• Photo cover page •

Polish tourism office

Table of contents

EDITORIAL	3
POLAND, CULTURAL ASPECT	5
COUNTRY PROFILES	6
POLAND SEEN BY A SPECIALIST	8
FOCUS POLAND	12
EXPORTING TO POLAND : A PRACTICAL GUIDE	14