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4-22-2020

## The Polish Question at Yalta, 1945: Public Opinion on the Polish Agreements

Christopher Maxim  
*Providence College*

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Maxim, Christopher, "The Polish Question at Yalta, 1945: Public Opinion on the Polish Agreements" (2020). *History & Classics Student Scholarship*. 16.  
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## Quick Points

Roosevelt did not need to worry about Polish sentiment because by the time of Yalta, he had already been re-elected. Over 90% of the Polish community voted for Roosevelt in 1944.

A common argument was that the Yalta agreement blatantly violated terms of the Atlantic Charter and the Big Three's decision did not represent the will of the Poles.

The general American public was ignorant about the Polish agreements, but the Polish community felt deeply betrayed by Roosevelt.

## The Polish Question at Yalta, 1945: Public Opinion on the Polish Agreements



**Poland was the central issue at the Yalta conference and the alliance deteriorated as a result of the agreements reached on Poland.**

*“President Roosevelt betrayed not only Poland, but the hundreds of Polish-Americans who trusted him to uphold the principles of freedom which have guided America from its earliest days.”*

Chicago Tribune, “F.D.R Betrayed all at Yalta, Poles Charge”

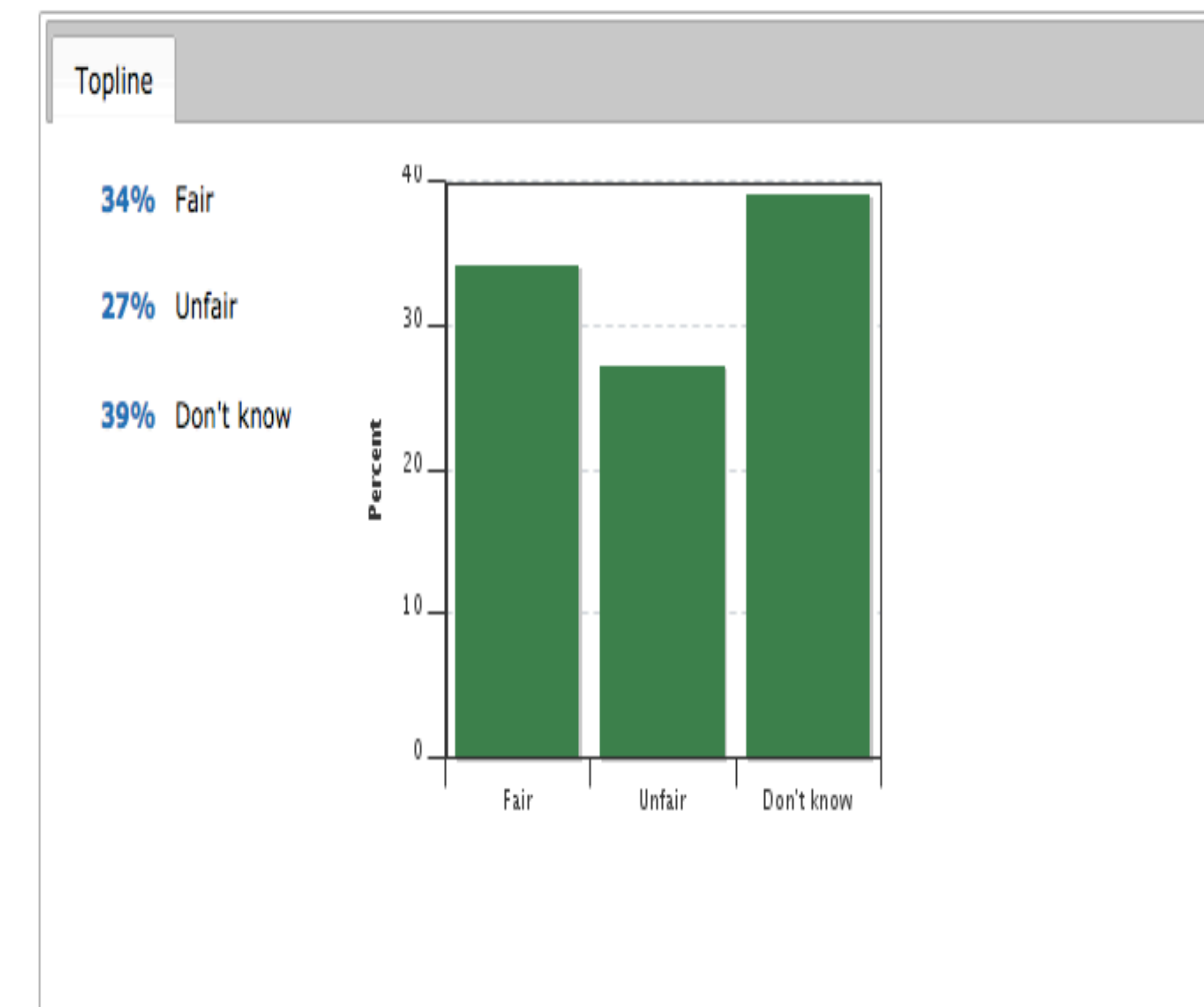
The West's alliance with Russia deteriorated as a direct result of Polish agreements and it is important to understand Western public sentiment revealed in newspapers and polling following the conference.

The poll on the right revealed that 80% of respondents did not know or answered incorrectly on which government would be recognized for Poland.

## Public Opinion

Do you think it (the Big Three agreement on Poland) was fair or unfair to Poland?

(Source: Office of Public Opinion Research Roosevelt Survey, Feb, 1945)



At the conference of the Big Three, an agreement was reached on the question of which government should be recognized for Poland. Do you happen to know which of these governments was agreed upon by the Big Three? If you don't happen to know, just say so....The Lublin government in Poland, now recognized by Russia. The exiled Polish government in London, recognized by the United States and Britain. A new Polish government to be made up of people from both of these governments and from other Polish groups.

(Source: Office of Public Opinion Research Roosevelt Survey, Feb, 1945)

