In June 1980, Princeton University Press received for consideration a manuscript written by a Polish sociologist, Jadwiga Staniszskis, entitled "The Dialectics of the Socialist Society: Poland's Case." Subsequently the manuscript was sent to me for review and advice concerning its publishability. The book was, undoubtedly, extraordinarily difficult reading for an American not entirely preoccupied with the mysteries of Soviet and East-Central European politics. I admired the audacity of the Social Science Editor at the Press who had become sufficiently interested in the manuscript to initiate the review process, and I later learned that editors at the Press had been in touch with Staniszskis in 1978, when she was visiting the United States as an ACLS fellow, and again in 1980, when she was in this country as an Eisenhower Fellow, and had examined two earlier versions of the work.

Despite stylistic problems and the uneven quality of the translation, the manuscript I reviewed was fascinating. In my reader's report, I wrote: "Staniszkis's book is the best, most original, thought-provoking analysis of an East-Central European society and its politics that I have read in a long time. It goes beyond analyses derived from the totalitarian model approach and it is also more sophisticated than analyses using the interest group approach to study 'socialist' societies. The book is an attempt to describe and understand the authoritarian regime in Poland as a sort of corporatist society. As a sociologist of organi-
The revised manuscript, now entitled *Poland's Self-Limiting Revolution*, was returned to the Press in November 1981. In the meantime, the only genuine workers' revolution ever had taken place in Poland. As one of the six advisers called to the Gdańsk Shipyards during the August 1980 strike to advise the workers in their negotiations with the government, Jadwiga Staniszkwis became one of the revolution's important participants and most astute interpreters. Her manuscript grew, as it were, with the unfolding of events in Poland. The new manuscript was an original contribution rather than merely a revision of the earlier manuscript. The analysis continued to be original and thought-provoking, but the treatment—largely devoted to Polish society in 1980 and 1981—covers one of the most significant political phenomena in the history of postwar Europe.

The manuscript at this stage was also reviewed by Walter D. Connor and approved for publication by the Editorial Board of Princeton University Press in March 1982, in the knowledge
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that it might be difficult to work with the author during the considerable editorial revision required. The imposition of the state of war in Poland made it impossible to communicate with Staniszkis for the foreseeable future. At this stage I agreed to work with the Press to prepare her manuscript for publication.

Throughout the editorial process, I and Gail Filion, the Social Science Editor, who copyedited the manuscript, have striven to remain faithful to the author's original version. The problems of accurate interpretations were heightened by the roughness of the translation in some sections. As a result, we may occasionally have sacrificed readability in order to preserve phrasing that, while not idiomatic, seemed to express the author's intention adequately. Infrequent textual emendations are indicated by square brackets. The majority of our explanations are rendered in editorial footnotes, lettered rather than numbered to distinguish them from the author's own footnotes. In one or two instances we have removed parenthetical material from the text to the author's footnotes.

Sections of the manuscript had been composed at different times. Chapters VI, VII, and VIII constituted parts of the original version of the manuscript that were revised and incorporated into this new version. The other chapters were written as events occurred. A late-arriving epilogue is dated by the author "January 1982" one month after martial law was imposed on Poland. In order both to preserve the sense of immediacy the author felt as she wrote these chapters and to signal to the reader the development of the book, we have noted at the beginning of chapters the date on which we believe they were composed.

We have not communicated directly with Staniszkis since early in December 1981. Her last letter to Gail Filion urged us to proceed with the publication of her manuscript, making whatever editorial changes were necessary. Needless to say the text would be more intelligible if the author herself had had
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the opportunity to work on its final draft with the editors. The
imperfections are, in a way, a small casualty in the state of war
imposed by Communist rulers on Polish society.

JTG
New Haven
March 1983
POLAND’S SELF-LIMITING REVOLUTION