

Information Centre Berlin

BERLIN

EAST BERLIN



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Foreword



A trip across to East Berlin has become a must for almost all the younger visitors to our city. The fact that in October 1980 the German Democratic Republic drastically increased the minimum sum for compulsory exchange has had no apparent effect on this trend although, of course, it must be said that this development puts a considerable strain on the budget of a youngster.

Usually one spends an entire day in East Berlin and combines a visit to Alexanderplatz with a tour of the museums or sightseeing round the town.

When young people are later asked what impressed them most during their study trip to Berlin, by far the most frequent answer given is the visit to East Berlin.

The scope of this brochure has intentionally been extended beyond the sort of information one might expect to find in an ordinary travel guide for tourists.

Attention has also been given to the political and social structure of the German Democratic Republic in order to convey a better understanding of the living conditions of the people in the other part of our city. Of course, this information is by no means exhaustive. It is hoped that the facts and data featured in the following pages will help to promote a greater interest in the political situation now prevailing in the German Democratic Republic.

The enclosed folder, entitled "Berlin between the Brandenburg Gate and Alexanderplatz" - which, incidentally, you may take with you on your trip to East Berlin - gives you useful directions for your stroll through the centre of East Berlin. It also contains a number of tips which you should bear in mind when crossing over into that part of the city and also during your stay there.

Should you have any suggestions which might help to improve this brochure, please address them to:
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Ernst Luuk

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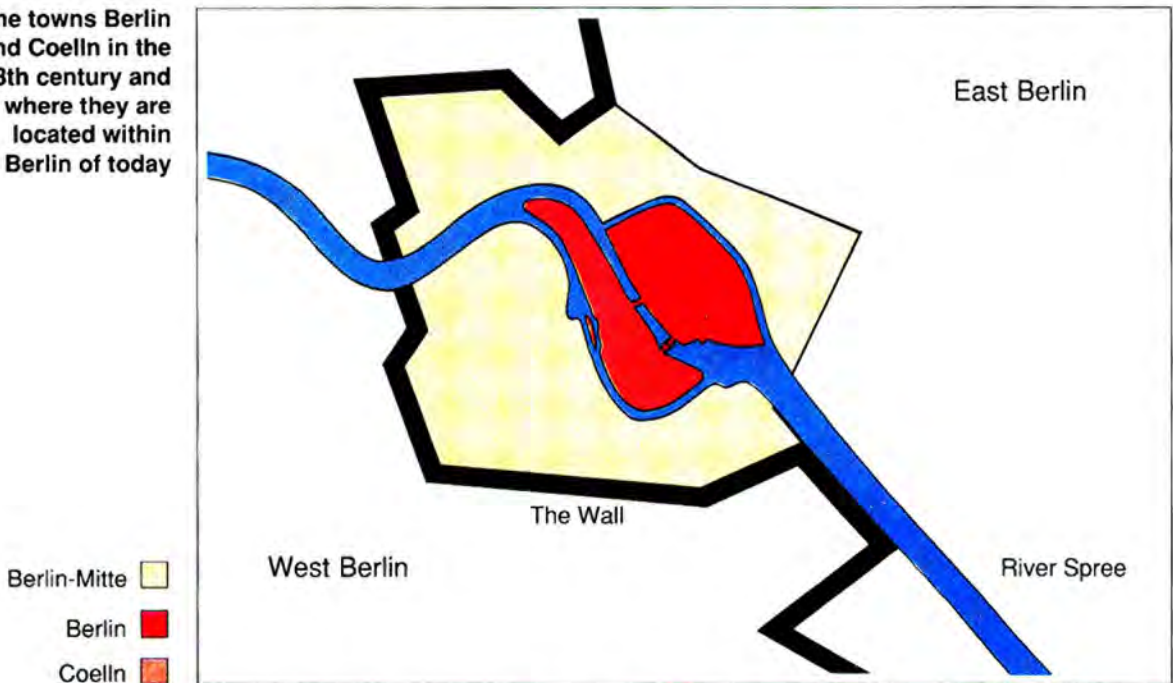
1. History and Status

From a town of merchants to Capital of the German Reich

The year 1987 marked the 750th anniversary of the first authenticated mention of the town in history. The adjoined towns of Berlin and Coelln can trace their origins back to the latter third of the 12th century. They grew out of what were originally merchant settlements, whereby the existence of Coelln was first documented in the year 1237, that of the slightly older Berlin a few years later in 1244. The original Berlin was established on either side of the river

merged under the name of Berlin. Following the death of the last member of the ruling Askanier family, the March of Brandenburg went through a long turbulent period until at the beginning of the 15th century the Hohenzollerns came to power in the March - which they were to rule continuously (along with the other territory which came under their power later) for the next 500 years from Berlin. In the mid 15th century the Hohenzollerns made Berlin their town of resi-

The towns Berlin and Coelln in the 13th century and where they are located within Berlin of today



Spree not far from where Marx-Engels-Platz is today. Not long after they had initially established themselves, the two towns, Coelln and Berlin, surrounded themselves with fortifications. A small section of this original wall can still be seen today in East Berlin's Littenstrasse. Favourably situated at the intersection of medieval trade routes as they were, the two towns soon began to flourish, and in the year 1307 they

dence and deprived the city of its erstwhile independence. A revolt in 1447/48 against the Hohenzollern takeover - this revolt is historically known as the "Berliner Unwillen" - was crushed. Thus the trading centre Berlin, which at the beginning of the 14th century had joined the Hanseatic League, became a city of civil servants and government administrators. The Thirty Years' War (1618/48) also left its mark on Berlin. As a result of

this war and a series of epidemics, the population was virtually halved from 12,000 to about 6,000. And so it was more than just tolerance and humanitarian reasons which prompted the Great Elector, who reigned from 1640 to 1688, to invite the Huguenots, Protestants living in France who were being persecuted because of their religious faith, to come and settle in the March of Brandenburg. Some 6,000 of a total of 15,000 French immigrants came to Berlin and had a marked influence on the town.

Frederick I, King in Prussia since 1701, merged the five towns, Berlin, Coelln, Friedrichswerder, Dorotheenstadt, and Friedrichstadt into a uniform community, the royal residence and capital Berlin in the year 1709. The number of inhabitants increased from a bare 10,000 in 1650 to 150,000 in 1789. By the year 1850 Berlin had almost 450,000 inhabitants, in other words 400,000 more than it had had 150 years earlier. During the course of the 18th century the town developed into an important centre for politics, business, and culture, and in this context took its place amongst the most important of Europe's cities. Frederick I had the town palace developed and extended by Andreas Schlüter, and from 1706 onwards by Eosander von Göthe. Work on the biggest of Berlin's buildings still remaining from Frederick I's time, the "Zeughaus" (Arsenal) in Lindenallee, which itself dates back to 1647, was started by Arnold Nering in 1695. Martin Grünberg took over until 1698, then Andreas Schlüter from 1698 till 1699. It was completed in 1706 by Jean de Bodt although the interior was not finished until 1730.

It was during Frederick II's reign

(1740-1786) that various representative buildings which even today characterize the city's profile were erected. As a sequel to the "Zeughaus" came the "Forum Fridericianum" - conceived as a uniform development of Opernplatz (today: Bebelplatz) - by Frederick II and Georg Wenzeslaus von Knobelsdorff in the year 1740. The Opera House was in fact built by Georg Wenzeslaus von Knobelsdorff between the years 1741/43, but the erection of the other buildings



The Friedrich-Wilhelms-University (since 1949 the Humboldt University) in the year 1830 from a print of F. Brohm

dragged on till 1780. Opposite the Opera House Georg Friedrich Boumann built the Royal Library between the years 1755-1780 according to the plans of Georg Christian Unger. What is today known as the Humboldt University (prior to 1949 the Friedrich-Wilhelms-University) was originally built as the town residence of Prince Heinrich over the period 1748-1766 by Johann Boumann using plans by Georg Wenzeslaus von Knobelsdorff and sketches by Friedrich II. It was also Johann Boumann who started work on the Roman Catholic St. Hedwig's Cathedral in 1747 - again following plans drawn up by Frederick II and von Knobelsdorff. This building was not completed until 1773. Five years after the death of Frederick II the Brandenburg Gate was completed in 1786 by Carl Gotthard Langhans. Like the thir-



Moses Mendelssohn



Gotthold Ephraim
Lessing



Friedrich Nicolai

teen other city gates, it was originally incorporated into the city wall, which itself was built in 1735. Literary salons, clubs, and societies were the intellectual focal points which helped Berlin become a cultural centre during the course of the latter third of the 18th century. The philosopher Moses Mendelssohn, the author Gotthold Ephraim Lessing, and the publisher Friedrich Nicolai were among those who gave the incentives and impulses which promoted Berlin to a city of enlightenment.

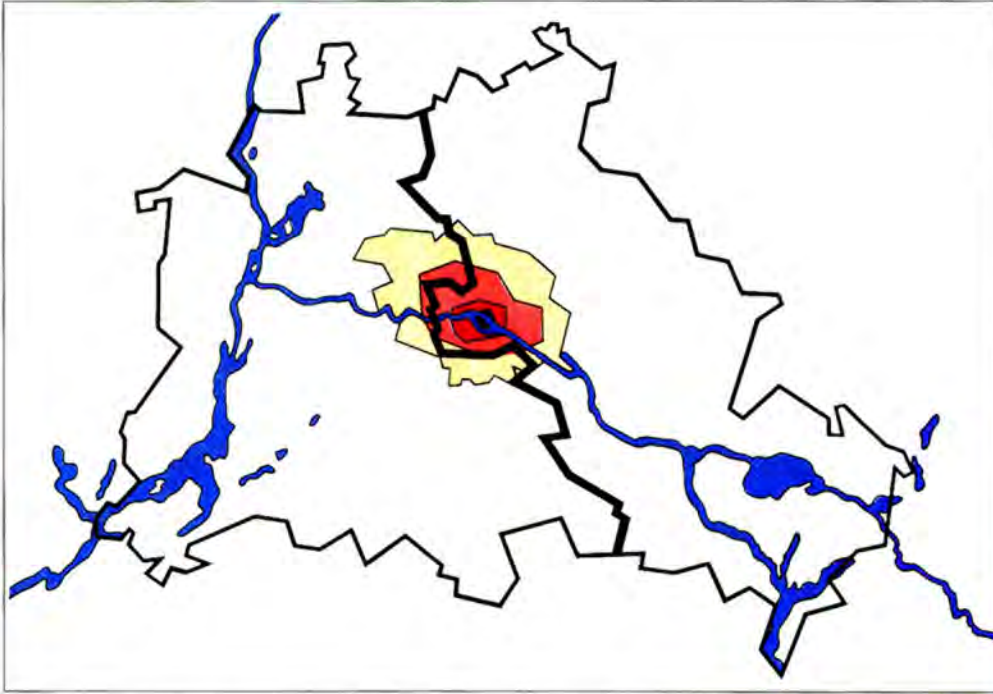
On 27th October 1806 Napoleon's troops occupied Berlin. Berlin then became the cockpit of a patriotic movement opposing foreign French rule and calling for a social renewal of Prussia. The Stein-Hardenberg Reforms of 1807-1817 (abolition of serfdom, municipal statutes, reformation of the army, educational reform) were a great help towards paving the way for the successful war of liberation of 1813-1815 and had a considerable influence upon the development of Berlin. The first municipal elections were held in April 1809 with all property-owning citizens being allowed to vote. In the year 1810 the capital city's university was founded, and this further strengthened Berlin's standing as a centre of intellectual life.

However, once victory over France had been secured, the Prussian King, Frederick William III (1797-1840), saw no further need to satisfy his subjects' expectations of further political emancipation. Indeed, he failed to keep an earlier promise of granting a constitution. March 1848 brought revolution to the streets of Berlin and wide areas of Germany. The middle classes were demanding more political power in keeping with their enhanced social importance. The "Märzgefallenen" - i.e.

those who were killed during the uprising - were buried in Friedrichshain cemetery, but not before the King, who was still on the defensive, had paid his last respects to them from outside his palace. Soon after, however, the King regained the upper hand and the revolution was crushed.

When Prussian Prime Minister, Otto von Bismarck united Germany with "iron and blood" in 1871, Berlin became capital of the Prussian-dominated German Reich. The town's population continued to increase in particular so because now numerous industrial enterprises were establishing themselves there, a development which benefited from the reparation money flowing into the country from France. By 1906 Berlin already had two million inhabitants. But it was not until after the defeat of the First World War, and the proclamation of the Weimar Republic - which despite its name still had Berlin as its capital - that structurally political consequences of the town's expansion were taken.

Berlin, as we know it from maps and city plans, first came into being in October 1920 as a result of a "territorial reform". This involved the six existing Berlin boroughs (Mitte, Prenzlauer Berg, Friedrichshain, Kreuzberg, Tiergarten, and Wedding) being merged with seven towns, 59 rural communities, and 27 estates to form "Greater Berlin". Spandau and Köpenick, both older than Berlin itself, were two of the seven towns involved. In order to make this town of 4 million inhabitants covering an area of over 860 square kilometres governable, it was divided into 20 boroughs. At this time Berlin was the biggest industrial city on the continent, the nerve centre of the North German railway network, home of the national press, and an intel-



From the island in the Spree to the metropolis of Berlin



lectual as well as cultural centre of world importance. Modern architects such as Martin Gropius, Hans Scharoun, Bruno Taut, Emil Fahrenkamp, Hans Poelzig, and Martin Wagner achieved urban architectural successes of lasting interest. In October 1923 the Berliner Rundfunk began regular broadcasting. Television made its world debut in Berlin in the year 1931. Bertolt Brecht had the greatest success of his career with the premiere of his "Threepenny Opera" at the "Theater am Schiffbauerdamm" back in 1926. In its new home built during the period 1903-1914, the Prussian State Library became the object of great admiration. Berlin's Friedrich-Wilhelms University had meanwhile also become famous, as had the

Charité as an excellent school for medicine. However, these positive aspects of the young republic, still burdened with the legacy of the Kaisers, were offset by a series of turbulent political events: the Spartakus Revolt, the Kapp Putsch, inflation, strikes, street and public house brawls involving the Communists, the Social-Democrats, the Nazis, and other political groups. The economic crisis - which had been becoming increasingly acute since 1929 - also affected Berlin through the closing of factories and the resultant mass unemployment (in December 1937 the town had 632,000 registered unemployed) and at the same time paved the way for the political radicalisation which was to follow.

Berlin under the Nazis



The Water Tower concentration camp

On 30th January 1933 President von Hindenburg appointed Adolf Hitler Chancellor. That same evening hordes of SA, SS, and Stahlhelm demonstrators made a torchlight procession through the Brandenburg Gate to the State Chancery at Wilhelmstrasse 77. The ban on demonstrations in the government quarter of the city was lifted for this Nazi propaganda display, yet opposing political parties were forbidden from holding counter-demonstrations. But the Nazi bid for power did not end on that 30th January. On the contrary, it had only just begun. Especially in Berlin - where the Nazis won less than a third of the votes in the last election to the Reichstag (parliament) - it would soon become evident to what extent the Nazis had succeeded in becoming masters of the streets, and in winning the struggle for power in Germany and Berlin, and finally in establishing a reign of terror. More or less as an immediate

follow-up to the massive police raid on the Communist party headquarters at Karl-Liebknecht-Haus in Bülowplatz (today: Rosa-Luxemburg-Platz) on 17th February 1933 - the police claimed to have found evidence of a planned coup d'état - came the Reichstag fire on 27th February 1933. This burning of the Reichstag (parliament building) led to large-scale action on the part of what Göring had described as "positively vetted" police and "auxiliary police" units comprising notorious thugs from the SA and SS. In accordance with previously prepared lists, hundreds of Communist party officials along with several Social-Democrats, trade unionists, and intellectuals were arrested and either flung into prison or taken to what were known as "wild" concentration camps set up by the SS and the SA - such as the "Keglerheim" which the SA had in Friedrichshain, or the water tower at the corner of Kolmarer Strasse and Knaack-

The public burning of the books by the Nazis



strasse in Prenzlauer Berg. Here the unfortunates were beaten up, tortured, and in many cases even murdered. On 10th May 1933 students wearing SA uniforms openly burned some 20,000 books by German authors of world renown in a "symbolic act" in the former Opernplatz directly opposite the university. This kind of cultural political terror helped to drive into exile great numbers of writers representing virtually everything worth reading in the nation's modern literature.

The SA committed a further major act of terror in the borough of Köpenick in June 1933. During the course of a large-scale raid they abducted well over 500 Communists, trade unionists, and Social-Democrats (including the parliamentarian Johannes Stelling) from their homes. The victims were taken to such places as the SA centres Demuth, Seidler, and Jägerheim, the Gladenbeck Villa in Friedrichshagen, the former Reichsbanner-Wassersportheim in Wendenschosstrasse, or the Köpenick District Court Prison. Here they were beaten and tortured in the most barbaric manner. In all, some 91 persons were murdered during the course of what became known as the "Köpenicker Blutwoche". The corpses - in some cases mutilated - were sewn into sacks by the SA and thrown into the river Dahme.

The 9th November 1938 saw the beginning of a new wave of terror directed against the Jewish citizens. Gangs of Nazis set fire to synagogues, demolished Jewish-owned shops, mistreated and abducted defenceless people. The synagogue in Oranienburger Strasse, the headquarters of the Jewish community, was amongst those set on fire. It was more or less completely destroyed during the war but the ruins still remain



The "New Synagogue" in Oranienburger Strasse

as an awful reminder. It is intended that the building should one day be restored to house a museum of Jewish history. Other centres where acts of terror were committed and literally thousands of people were murdered include the police headquarters in Alexanderplatz, Gestapo Headquarters in Prinz-Albrecht-Strasse, and the Oranienburg concentration camp (Sachsenhausen) outside the city gates. A total of 60,000 Berliners of Jewish faith were thrown into concentration camps and murdered. In the well-known Dorotheenstadt cemetery (Chausseestrasse 126) not only famous exiled authors are buried, but also resistance fighters murdered by the SS in the last days of the war. Some of these, including Klaus Bonhoeffer, Rüdiger Schleicher, Hans John, and Justus Perels, were buried in a collective grave.

Hunting down those who thought differently, banning and eliminating all democratic parties, organizations, and institutions, militarisation and rearmament, as well as persecuting and mur-



Memorial tablet on the "New Synagogue"

Tiergarten, the Soviet War Memorial, and Platz der Republik 1945



dering ordinary people signposted in Berlin the way which led Nazi Germany into the Second World War. The German army surrendered in Berlin-Karlshorst on 8th May 1945.

But as far as Berlin was concerned the war had already ended on the afternoon of 2nd May 1945. The war of aggression released by the Nazi state had brought Berlin to the verge of total destruction. 80,000 dead and more than 75 million cubic metres of rubble - in other words, a seventh of the total mass of rubble left by the war in Germany - was the legacy

of the "Thousand Year Reich" in Berlin. Scarcely a house remained intact in the city centre, historically and geographically focal point of the old capital of the German Reich.

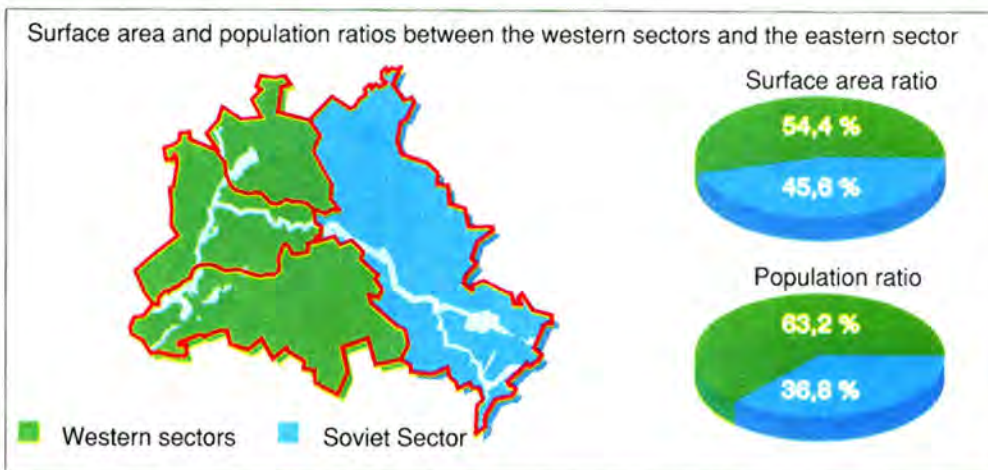
Berlin since 1945

Territorial status, Occupation Statute Principles, and Administration by the Four Powers

Even before the war had ended, the Allies were in agreement as to what was to happen to Germany after the war. In a protocol dated 12th September 1944 concerning the "Occupation Zones" in Germany and the Administration of Greater Berlin ("London Protocol") signed by the United States, Great Britain, and the Soviet Union, a division of Germany into three zones for the purpose of occupation was laid down whereby each of these zones was to be placed under the authority of one of the three Allied Powers. Berlin, however, was to be treated as a separate territory to be occupied jointly by the three Powers. For this purpose Berlin was understood to mean Greater Berlin as defined by a law dating back to the 27th April 1920 and this territory was to be divided into three occupation sectors. The London Agreement on this subject dated 14th November 1944 stipulated that the joint administration of Berlin would be the responsibility of an Inter-Allied Governing Authority (Allied Kommandatura Berlin). This in turn was to comprise the town commandants of the

three Powers. Later when France also entered into the agreement it was extended to four Powers. It was further decided that supreme authority in Germany would rest with the military Commanders-in-Chief. Together the Commanders-in-Chief sat on the Allied Control Council based in Berlin and were responsible for questions relevant to Germany as a whole. The Allied Control Council was also to assume responsibility for supervising the Allied Kommandatura Berlin. When it came to the splitting up of Berlin into sectors, the urban district (borough) boundaries established in April 1938 were taken as guidelines. Eight of these boroughs came under the control of the Soviet Union, namely Mitte, Prenzlauer Berg, Friedrichshain, Treptow, Köpenick, Lichtenberg, Weisensee, and Pankow. In terms of total areas, this meant a split between the western sectors and the Soviet sector in the ratio of 54,4 : 45,6; in terms of inhabitants it meant a ratio of 63,2 : 36,8.

Needless to say, the last phases of the war did not mean that when hostilities finally ended, each of the victorious



Surface area and population ratios 1945

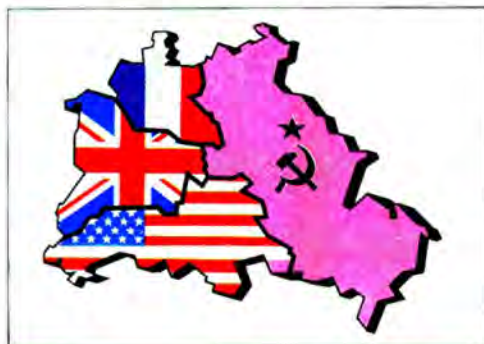
Powers stood exactly on the boundaries of the allotted territories. American and British units had in fact advanced quite far into the territory of the Soviet Occupation Zone, and Wismar, Magdeburg, and Leipzig, for example, were initially occupied by them. Indeed, they could easily have advanced much further eastwards had not the Supreme Commander of the English and American troops, General Eisenhower, called them to a halt. Advancing against the German Reich from the east, the Soviets captured Berlin on their own. On 2nd May 1945, some six days before the war ended in Europe, the "Town Commandant", Artillery General Weidling, surrendered to the Soviet army at Schulenburgring in Tempelhof. But even before the German capitulation, namely on the 28th April 1945, Colonel General Bersarin was appointed Commandant of Berlin by the Soviet military leadership. He assumed overall political and administrative authority in those parts of the town already in Soviet hands. Meanwhile a group of German communists - who had been in exile in Moscow - had already returned to Berlin before the hostilities had ended, and under the leadership of Walter Ulbricht they immediately set about re-establishing the Communist party and preparing the way for reorganizing local and district administrations. Walter Ulbricht's motto was "It must appear to be democratic, yet we must have everything firmly in our grip."

On 17th May 1945 the Soviet Military Administration in Germany (SMAD) appointed a municipal council under the leadership of the politically independent Arthur Werner. Also on this council were such respected personalities as the surgeon Ferdinand Sauerbruch, former

Reichsminister Andreas Hermes, and the architect Hans Scharoun. But nine of the twenty functions were taken over by Communists. Three of the Lord Mayor's deputies (including the first deputy) were members of the Communist party, as were the town councillors responsible for labour, municipal works, and education. But by far the most important office in this context, that of Personnel and Administration, was held by Arthur Pieck, son of the German Communist Party chairman and later president of the German Democratic Republic, Wilhelm Pieck.

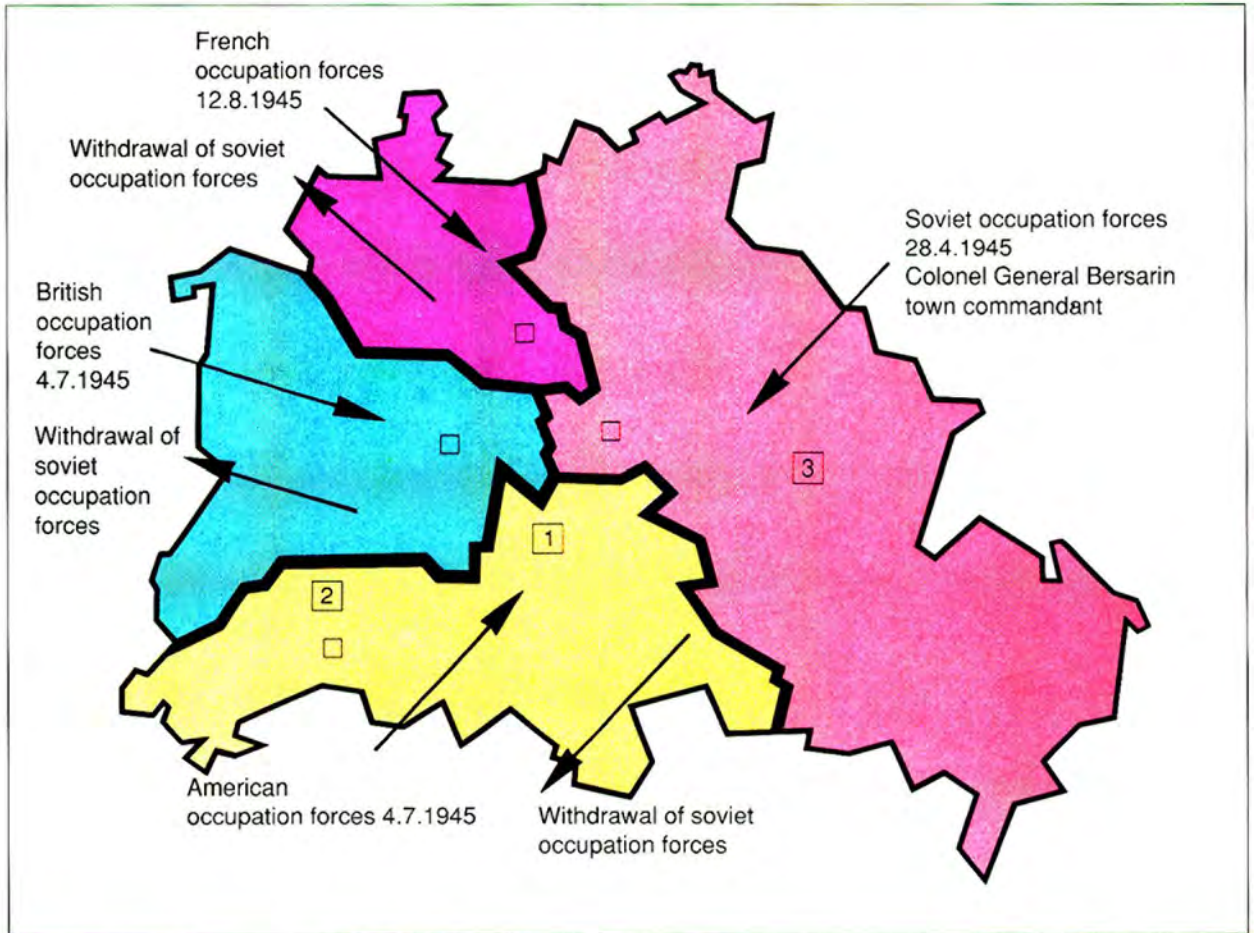
In July 1945 the Soviets withdrew their forces from the western sectors of Berlin in accordance with earlier agreements and these were duly taken over by the USA and Great Britain. Parallel to this Soviet withdrawal, the Western Powers vacated those parts of the Soviet Zone which they had initially captured. In August 1945 the French took over their sector in Berlin comprising the urban districts of Reinickendorf and Wedding.

For the time being, the Four Power presence made no alterations to the already appointed municipal administration. The newly created Allied Kommandatura even confirmed all decisions taken earlier by the Soviets for Berlin. However, it was not long before heated



arguments began behind the scenes about which direction the policy on Berlin should follow. This led to a situation whereby it was not uncommon for the military commanders in the individual

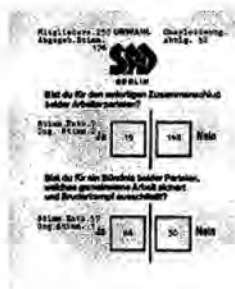
sectors to issue orders which were not recognized in any of the other sectors. This state of affairs was to change radically with the town councillor elections on 20th October 1946.



Berlin, city of four sectors 1945

- Soviet Sector
- American Sector
- French Sector
- British Sector
- Military headquarters in the sectors
- 1 Allied Control Council
- 2 Allied Kommandatura
- 3 SMAD, Soviet Military Administration in Germany

The poll of the Berlin Social Democratic Party (SPD) and the election to the Berlin Municipal Assembly



Ballot of the 1946 SPD poll, here showing results from a Charlottenburg division

Union of the KPD and SPD to form the Socialist Unity Party of Germany (SED)

Order No. 2 of the SMAD (Soviet Military Administration in Germany) of 10th June 1945, permitted anti-Fascist parties and trade unions to be organized and to become active in their zone of occupation. This order also applied to Berlin, which at this juncture was still administered by the Soviet Union alone. The day after the order was published, the Communist Party of Germany (KPD) was refounded, four days later, on 15th June 1945, the SPD followed suit. On 26th June 1945, the Christian Democratic Union of Germany (CDU) was founded, ten days later, on 5th July 1945, the Liberal-Democratic Party of Germany (LDPD) followed. In other words, all of the parties which were of significance for post-war Germany were founded or refounded in Soviet-occupied Berlin.

The party which today guides the fortunes of East Berlin and the GDR, the Socialist Unity Party (SED), also originated here. It was founded on 21st/22nd April 1946, in the Admiralspalast (Admiral Palace, across from the Friedrichstrasse Station) as a union of the KPD and the SPD. This fusion was by no means voluntary for a large sector of the SPD. The Communists and the Soviet Military Administration were in favour of the union because it was becoming apparent that the SPD was drawing more prospective voters than the KPD. The Berlin SPD, better protected by the four-power status of the city than the SPD party organizations in the five districts of the Soviet Zone of occupation, decided to make its approval dependent on the results of a poll of its members. This poll, scheduled for 31st March 1946, was, however, prohibited at short notice by the Soviets in their sector.

The Social Democrats were asked to

answer the following questions by checking YES or NO:

- Are you for the immediate union of the two workers' parties?
- Are you for an alliance of the two parties which would ensure common work and rule out fraternal strife?

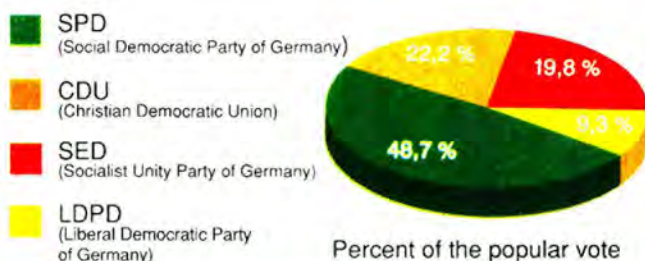


Of an approximate 33,000 Social Democrats in the western sectors eligible to vote, 23,755 participated in the poll. Although 14,763 (=62%) voted in favour of an alliance with the KPD, 19,529 (82.3%) cast their ballot against an immediate union. As it became clear that, under the leadership of the later GDR Prime Minister, Otto Grotewohl, the Central Committee of the SPD in the Eastern Zone and Berlin was continuing to work for the union, the Berlin SPD (all four sectors) elected a new executive committee on 7th April 1946. The union of the two parties to form the Socialist Unity Party of Germany (SED) took place without the participation of the official Berlin SPD, even though approximately one third of the former SPD

members joined the new party.

The Allied Kommandatura, which had to approve the formation of parties in Berlin, got into the stormiest confrontation of its history on this question. The dispute ended in a compromise: on 31st May 1946, both parties were approved in all sectors. The SED still exists today in the western sectors as the SEW (Socialist Unity Party of West Berlin), while the SPD in East Berlin decided to disband following the erection of the Berlin Wall. The elections to the Municipal Assembly on 20th October 1946 brought the party which claimed to represent both Communists and Social Democrats only 19.8% of the vote. This represented nearly 5% less than the KPD had won in the last free elections prior to the National Socialist take-over, which were held in Berlin in 1929. The SED thus became merely the third strongest party. The CDU, which won 22.2% of the vote, finished ahead of it. The clear-cut election winner was the

Election to the Municipal Assembly of Greater Berlin
on 20th October 1946
Poll: 92.3%



SPD, which won 48.7% of the vote. The LDPD received 9.3% of the vote.

The Greater Berlin Municipal Council voted in by this election comprised 11 Social Democrats (including the Lord Mayor), 3 Christian Democrats, 3 Liberals and 2 SED representatives. The SPD gained the mayorships in all eight districts of the Soviet Sector. The attempt on the part of the SED to become a decisive political factor in Berlin by means of democratic elections had failed.

Socialist Unity Party of Germany (SED)

The SED is the political force which sets the tone in all social areas of the GDR. Its decisions are binding for the Council of Ministers, the government. The SED currently has some 2.3 million members. On the lowest level, the party is basically structured in accordance with the principle of work groups. In each company in which at least three party members work, there is a base organization of the SED.

The centres of power and decision-making are the Politburo and the Secretariate of the Central Committee. The Secretariate at the end of 1987 consisted of ten secretaries and the General Secretary (=party chief), the Politburo had 22 full members and five candidates. All the secretaries of the Central Committee are members of the Politburo.

The Central Committee of the SED or its Secretariate makes the decisions involving appointments to all important positions in the GDR.



The End of the Four-Power Administration

*Prof. Ernst Reuter
(SPD)*

In Berlin after 1945 not only did differing great-power interests collide, but political contrasts also became apparent which had been masked during the period of the common struggle against National Socialist Germany. Coinciding with the election to the Municipal Assembly in October 1946, a provisional constitution issued by the Allies took effect. This stipulated on the one hand that "the ordinances and directives of the City Council (were) to be implemented in the entire territory of Greater Berlin", while at the same time specifying that the administration was subject "in its activities to the approval of the military government of the sector in question." The Soviet Union used this stipulation to disengage its sector step by step from the common administration of Berlin. Time and again this led to the deposition or non-recognition of duly elected mayors or town councillors. The clearest example of this came in April 1947 when the SPD voted out Mayor Ostrowski, whom it had elected to office, since behind the back of his party he had initiated negotiations with the SED on continuing the work of the Municipal Council. The Municipal Assembly elected as his successor the former Lord Mayor of Magdeburg, Ernst Reuter, who had until then been City Councillor for Transportation and Commerce. Reuter was a thorn in the side of the SED and the Soviet occupation force. He had earlier been a Communist and a government member of the Autonomous Socialist Soviet Republic of the Volga Germans in the Soviet Union, had then, however, turned away from the Soviet Union and Communism and become one of their most outspoken critics. The SED would nevertheless have been prepared to go along with



electing Reuter if at the same time the SPD had consented to establishing a common written working programme. The SED was concerned with re-establishing piece by piece the "united action front of the working class", which had collapsed as a result of the poll. The Social Democrats rejected this offer, Reuter was elected without the votes of the SED, which led to the Soviet representative in the Allied Kommandatura interposing his veto against Ernst Reuter, thus preventing him from exercising his official duties for lack of Allied confirmation. The Social Democrat Louise Schroeder then assumed office on behalf of Ernst Reuter.

The entire legal construction of Berlin as an independent territory belonging to no other zone of occupation, but surrounded by the Soviet Zone was based on the notion of an impending unification of Germany. As it gradually became apparent that this was not going to take

place in the foreseeable future, that indeed the Western Zones were developing not only into two different states, but into two antagonistic states as well, so Berlin became a problem. The Soviets for their part were interested in bringing all of Berlin under their control and not permitting it to become a disruptive factor for their new state. Consequently, they increased their pressure on the city and the Western Allies as the division of Germany began to take shape.

On 23rd February 1948, the USA, Great Britain and France convened a conference in London with the participation of the Benelux States to discuss questions of the national structure of Germany, the control of the Ruhr district, reparations and the inclusion of the

Western Zones in the Marshall Plan. This complex of questions was, in the opinion of the Soviet Union, part of the sphere of competence of the four main victorious powers. When the representatives of the Western Powers refused to provide the Soviet Union with information on the separate resolutions they had taken, the Soviet delegation took this occasion to pull out of the Control Council on 29th March 1948. The Control Council has not resumed work since then. On 16th June 1948 the Soviet representatives left the Allied Kommandatura for Berlin as well. But other than in the case of the Control Council, the Western Powers decided to continue work in the Kommandatura on a three-power basis.

Currency reform and Blockade

The "coupon mark" in the Soviet Sector



Even the implementation of a currency reform, which was in principle accepted by all sides, failed due to growing East-West disagreements. On 18th June 1948, the Western Allies thus initiated a currency reform in their own zones, abolishing the old Reichsmark and introducing the D-Mark. This measure did not take effect in Berlin since here all Four Powers had to make decisions on a common basis. The Soviet Union was pressured into taking action as a result of the currency reform in the Western Zones since the danger existed that money which had now become worthless in the West would flow into the Soviet Zone, where this currency was still legal tender. The USSR therefore initiated a currency reform for its territory on 23rd June 1948. Since the bank notes did not become available quickly enough, the old Reichsmark notes were transformed into new currency by means of stickers, for which reason the East marks were originally referred to as "coupon marks" or "sticker marks."

In a clear-cut infraction of the agreements on Berlin, the supreme commander of the Soviet zone of occupation in Germany decreed that the new money was also to be introduced in the whole of Berlin. At the same time, he put the Berlin city administration under the control of the German Economic Commission, a kind of central administration

created by the Soviet Union for its zone in 1947.

The Western Powers immediately rejected this act on 23rd June 1948, and then introduced the currency in circulation in the Western Zones (West mark) to the western sectors, although the new currency was provided with a special "B" stamp.



After the currency reform of 1948

Exchange office at the Zoo



Only on 20th March 1949, did the western currency become the sole legal tender in the western sectors. Until then, both currencies were officially recognized.

In the months between the currency reform and this decision, wages and salaries in West Berlin were paid at a



The D-Mark in the western sectors

rate of 75% in East marks and 25% in West marks. For the West Berliners who worked in East Berlin and the East Berliners who worked in West Berlin, there existed a complicated exchange mechanism designed to provide everyone with suitable quantities of these two essential currencies. Since the currency reform, possession and acceptance of West marks were prohibited in the eastern sector of Berlin. The East mark (officially: mark of the German Central Bank) was the sole legal tender. But even this could not put a stop to a widespread black market with the West mark.

The USSR used the disagreement over the currency reform as an occasion to attempt to gain control of Berlin. It imposed a blockade of Berlin by prohibiting all freight traffic to Berlin to pass through its zone by road, rail or water. The populace of the Soviet sector was supplied from the Soviet zone of occupation. Only by air could the West Berliners obtain food, heating materials and goods necessary to continue production from the Western Allies. Contrary to widespread scepticism even in the Western camp, the airlift set up by the Western Powers proved able to provide the populace with the goods necessary for everyday life. As early as late summer 1948, it became apparent to the Soviet Union that the Western Powers

would not be driven out of Berlin by the blockade. On the contrary, the blockade and airlift caused a change in the attitudes of the victorious Western Powers and the citizens of Berlin to one another. A feeling of being allied with one another against Soviet claims to power replaced a feeling of subordination caused by the capitulation.

Insofar as the Soviet Union recognized that it would be unable to extend its claim to all of Berlin, it became a matter of urgency for it to bring at least that part of Berlin (and Germany) where it was able to predominate into its orbit.



Exchange office in the Neukölln district

The division of the city

During the blockade, on 30th November 1948, the so-called city hall putsch took place by means of which a separate East Berlin city government was set up. This was preceded by months of confrontation over the question of the Berlin Municipal Council.

Since the Allied Kommandatura could only continue its work on a three-power basis, the Municipal Council and the Municipal Assembly were the only bodies able to guarantee the unity of the city. These bodies were located in the new city hall in the eastern sector in which today the Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the GDR has his seat of office.

In the summer of 1948, demonstra-

*SED demonstrators
in the Berlin city hall*



tions and scuffles again and again occurred outside the city hall and even in the Chamber of the Municipal Assembly; their objective was to disturb the orderly process of the assembly sessions. A petition by the head of the Municipal Assembly, Otto Suhr (SPD), to the Soviet Commandant of Berlin was rejected. It requested the establishment of an area around the Assembly building in which demonstrations were prohibited. Nor did the police intervene. In the Soviet sector, the police were still under the command of Paul Markgraf, a former Wehrmacht officer who had joined

the National Committee for a Free Germany while he was in Soviet captivity. Markgraf refused to accept instructions from the Municipal Council. So, in July 1948, he was suspended from service by Mayor Friedensburg and replaced by Johannes Stumm. He, however, was refused access to police headquarters, also in the Soviet Sector, and thus prevented from assuming his duties in this sector. Since the constant unrest made constructive work impossible, the President of the Assembly, on 6th September, moved the session of the Municipal Assembly to the student union building of the Technical University in the British Sector (and then later into the borough town hall of Schöneberg, in the American Sector). Several Municipal Council offices also had to be moved to the western sectors because the Soviets made it impossible for them to perform their duties.

About a week prior to the planned citywide elections, which, in accordance with the Provisional Constitution, had to be held every two years, the Deputy Leader of the Municipal Assembly, Ottomar Geschke (SED), convened by radio an "extraordinary session of the Municipal Assembly." Only the 26 SED delegates who had been boycotting the Municipal Assembly since it had been sitting in the British Sector accepted the invitation to the Admiralspalast on Friedrichstrasse. In addition, however, the SED mobilized its representatives as well as a great number of sympathizers. Thus, over 1,600 persons attended the assembly. This assembly, which was in no way representative or constitutional, declared that the existing Municipal Council had been dismissed from office and appointed Friedrich Ebert, the son of the first President of

Germany, new Lord Mayor. From 30th November 1948 on, there were two Municipal Councils, both of which claimed to be competent for all of Berlin ("Greater Berlin"), but whose authority extended only as far as the power of the allies supporting them. From 30th November 1948 on, both parts of the city followed their own course of development, although such tendencies had already existed previously.

The integration of the eastern half of Berlin into the Soviet Occupation Zone, which was already governed and administered from East Berlin, was facilitated by this. But consideration on the part of the Western Allies nevertheless prevented an immediate fusion of the Soviet Sector with the Soviet Occupation Zone. The integration of East Berlin into the Occupation Zone or as from 1949 into the German Democratic Republic (GDR) took place and is taking place in small steps - but continuously. When on 7th October 1949, the "German People's Council", which was dominated by the SED, designated itself as the Provisional People's Chamber and proclaimed the German Democratic Republic, this took place in East Berlin, in the former Aviation Ministry of "Reichsmarschall" (Field-Marshal) Hermann Göring on Leipziger Strasse. A constitution, which had been proposed by the SED for the whole of Germany, was enacted. In Article 2, this constitution designated Berlin as the "Capital of the Republic." To be sure, East Berlin Mayor Ebert, himself one of the deputy presidents of the Provisional People's Chamber, emphasized that the Four-Power Administration of Berlin was "the legal foundation for the life of this city." The Provisional People's Chamber elected Wilhelm Pieck President of the

GDR (this office was abolished following his death) and Otto Grotewohl as Prime Minister. Pieck had both his private and his official residence in the East Berlin borough of Pankow in which Otto Grotewohl lived as well. This is the reason why "Pankow" became a synonym for "the GDR government".

It took until 1953 for the GDR to issue GDR identity cards to East Berliners. But there also continued to be clear-cut indications of the special status of East Berlin. Thus, for instance, an SPD party organization still existed in all the boroughs of East Berlin, although the Social Democrats there were unable to exercise any influence whatsoever since, following the instalment of the East Berlin "Magistrat" (Municipal Council) the borough offices had also been reorganized both politically and in terms of personnel. Nevertheless, two East Berlin Social Democrats were members of the Bundestag in Bonn until 1961 (elected by the Berlin House of Representatives). Only after the Wall had been erected did the SPD disband its East Berlin party organization, since there was reason to fear for the safety of its members.



*Disturbances
outside the New
Town House*

17th June 1953



*Demonstrators
marching to
Potsdamer Platz*

East Berlin made it into the international headlines in the connection with the events of 17th June 1953. The 17th June was not actually a Berlin event, it was an expression of a political crisis in the GDR.

The dissatisfaction above all with the political and economic system of the GDR erupted in protest demonstrations, strikes and unrest.

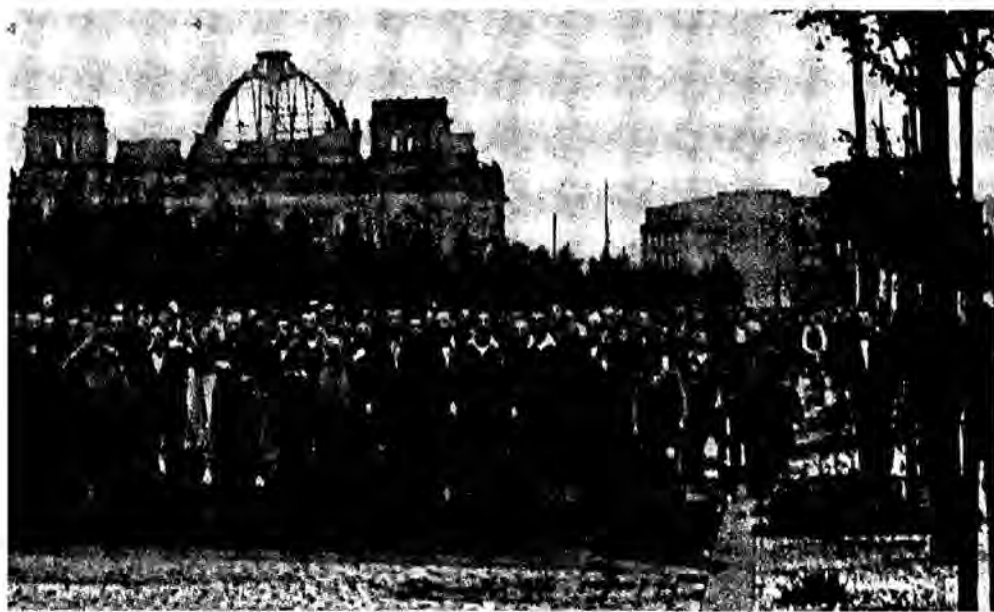
The occasion was a drastic increase of the work quotas in May 1953; a worker now had to produce between 10% and 30% more per day to earn the same wage. Since this was frequently not possible, the increase of the quotas had the practical effect of being a wage reduction.

Raising the work quotas was not undisputed within the party leadership and the government. Thus, for instance, an article in the SED organ "Neues Deutschland" (New Germany) on 14th June 1953, spoke of the "justified distrust of construction workers with regard

to party leadership and company management", of "horse trading" and "being taken for a ride with the quotas" and "sledgehammer methods".

Precisely this insecurity within the leadership, which was also caused by Stalin's death in March 1953, encouraged the workers not simply to accept the increased quotas. The construction workers from Stalin-Allee, who had resolved to send two delegates to GDR Prime Minister Otto Grotewohl to demand that the quotas be rescinded, feared for the safety of their delegates and accompanied them, since the union newspaper, "Tribüne", had on the same day published a harsh defence of the quota increase. On the way to the government ministries, the protest march grew from 300 to some 10,000 persons. When they arrived, they were met only by the Minister for Ore Mining and Metallurgy, Fritz Selbmann (SED), who was shouted down by the crowd.

The demands of the protesters - cer-



tainly spurred on by a feeling of strength - now went above and beyond the actual matter at hand and made reference to fundamental changes in the system and its leadership. Shouted choruses like those which follow bear testimony to this: "Pankow broke - new people - today", "Down with Gruntawohl and the Siberian goat" (the references were to Grotewohl and SED General Secretary Ulbricht), "Goatee, belly and specs are not what the people want" (that, too, went against Ulbricht) and "We want freedom, justice and bread, otherwise we'll see the bosses dead". Free elections were demanded. Calls were also made for a reunification of Germany. Long pent-up anger was now vented.

The GDR was pushing a build-up of heavy industry while at the same time neglecting the production of consumer goods, of which there was a great shortage (following the 17th June this policy was temporarily altered by the SED).

The Stalinist system of the Soviet

Union was resolutely taken over by the SED leadership in the GDR. This made the objectives of the "anti-Fascist democratic revolution" and the "creation of the foundations of Socialism" manifest. These catchwords had until now been associated with expropriations, persecutions, and bringing the political parties into line as well as with increasing political pressure.

The division of Germany was becoming more and more tangible, even though people had not accepted it or resigned to it.

The SED, which since 1952 had considerably stepped up the pressure on the population (repression against the church, cancellation of ration cards for self-employed persons and the members of their families, the start of agricultural collectivization), made far-reaching concessions to broad segments of the population within the framework of the so-called "New Course" passed by the Politburo on the 9th June and the Coun-

BEFEHL
des Militärkommandanten des sowjetischen Sektors von Berlin

Erklärung
des
Ausnahme-
zustandes
im sowjetischen Sektor von Berlin

Für die Herbeiführung einer freien öffentlichen Ordnung im sowjetischen Sektor von Berlin wird befohlen:

1. Ab 19 Uhr des 17. Juni 1953 wird im sowjetischen Sektor von Berlin der Ausnahmezustand verhängt.
2. Alle Demonstrationen, Versammlungen, Kundgebungen und sonstige Menschenansammlungen über 3 Personen werden auf Straßen und Plätzen wie auch in öffentlichen Gebäuden verboten.
3. Jeglicher Verkehr von Fußgängern und der Verkehr von Kraftfahrzeugen und Fahrzeugen wird von 9 Uhr abends bis 3 Uhr morgens verboten.
4. Diejenigen, die gegen diesen Befehl verstoßen, werden nach den Kriegsgesetzen bestraft.

Militärkommandant des sowjetischen Sektors von Berlin
Generalmajor Dibrowa

Berlin, den 17. Juni 1953



Soviet armoured scout cars on Unter den Linden in front of the university



Soviet tanks in Leipziger Strasse at the intersection of Wilhelmstrasse

Protesters throwing stones at Soviet tanks on Potsdamer Platz

Protesters set a kiosk ablaze on Potsdamer Platz

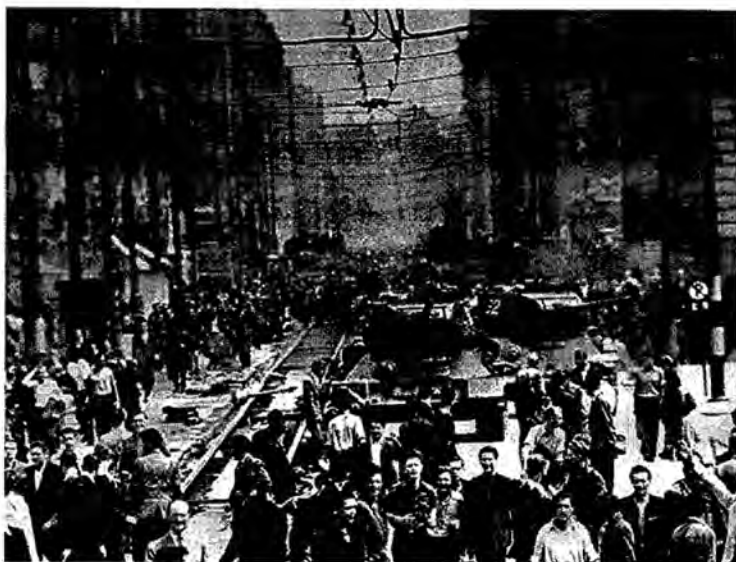




The turbulent crowd at Potsdamer platz

Columbus House in flames at Potsdamer Platz

Tanks on Leipziger Berlin



Soviet T 34s move against Potsdamer Platz from Leipziger Strasse

Soviet tanks in Leipziger Strasse towards Friedrichstrasse

cil of Ministers on the 11th June 1953 - but not to the workers. And seen in this light, it is not surprising that the 17th June was a worker uprising and that this uprising could not even be quelled by a rollback of the increased work quotas decided on by the party leadership and the government on the evening of 16th June.

The construction workers from Stalin-Allee called for a general strike for the following day, 17th June, to push through their demands. Their fellow-workers in the GDR received virtually no information on this strike, however, since the media were not open to them. RIAS ("Radio in the American Sector") in Berlin (West) did report at length on the events, but the use of the phrase "general strike" was prohibited by an order of the American headquarters.

That the West was not interested in inciting the inhabitants of the GDR is clearly demonstrated by a speech held by the then Minister for All-German Affairs, Jakob Kaiser (CDU), who on the evening of 16th June called on all GDR citizens via RIAS "not to be incited to commit rash acts either by need or by provocations".

The East Berlin spark had nevertheless led to a fire. Strikes involving some 300,000 to 400,000 workers took place in approximately 270 towns of the GDR on 17th June 1953.

Besides East Berlin, the centre of unrest was, above all, the central German industrial district around Bitterfeld, Halle, Merseburg, Leipzig. Around noon on 17th June, the Soviet military commander, Major General P.T. Dibrova, imposed martial law in East Berlin.

A few hours later, Soviet soldiers and tanks intervened in the events and by force of arms put an end to the at-

tempted uprising. The confrontation continued in some towns until the 18th or 19th June. According to official GDR information, 25 persons were killed and 378 injured in the disturbances. The actual number of victims is doubtless far higher. It is known that some 1,400 persons were sentenced to life imprisonment.

The USSR has thus restored a state of order in its Zone of Occupation and at the same time clearly demonstrated that it was not prepared to permit any change in the political and economic system of the GDR.

Moreover, the residents of the GDR had been forced to recognize that no help from the west could be expected in the event of an uprising within the Soviet sphere of influence.

Following the June uprising, further units of the so-called armed industrial militia groups, which had been brought



into being in the second half of 1952, were set up at a quickened pace. From 1959 on, the industrial militia groups were referred to as "Fighting Squads of the Working Class".

The living conditions in West and East Berlin developed further and further

Soviet tanks in Leipziger Strasse at the intersection of Mauerstrasse



apart. While the western part of the city recovered from the aftermath of the blockade, East Berlin shared the fate of the cities of the GDR. Until 1958, food was obtainable only with ration cards. The citizens of East Berlin were forced to buy additional food items in the State Retail Stores (so-called HO stores) at horrendous prices.

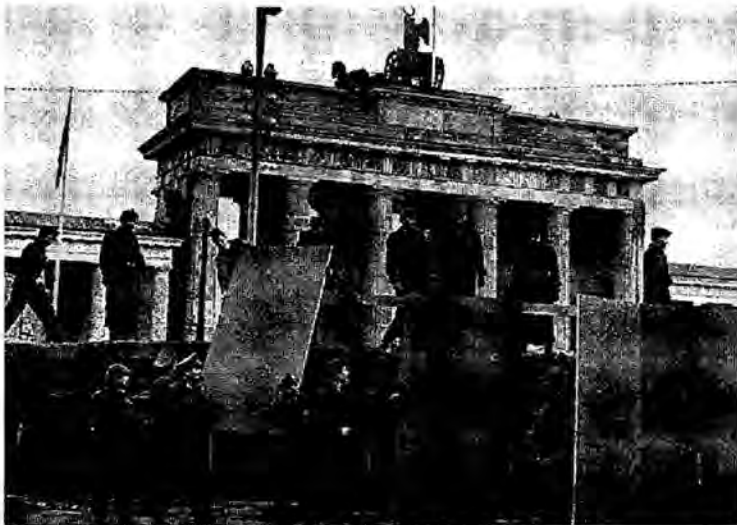
Fighting Squads of the Working Class

The "Fighting Squads of the Working Class" are an industrial militia directed by the Ministry for Internal Affairs; they consist exclusively of party members and persons loyal to the party line. Their main tasks are to quell internal unrest and to defend the nation in the case of war. The manpower basis of these militia groups are the state-owned companies and the government authorities. Training takes place after work.

The members of the militia groups swear to "fulfil the directives of the party as fighters of the working class", to "protect the achievements of Socialism with weapon in hand" and to risk their lives in doing this. The commanders receive their orders directly from the Central Committee of the SED. The militia groups are equipped with infantry and anti-tank weapons. The militia groups have ca. 500,000 "fighters" - as they are officially referred to - as members.



The sector boundary with East Berlin at the Brandenburg Gate (24.8.61)



Removing the screens following the erection of the wall (23.11.61)



The concrete wall being put up in front of the Brandenburg Gate (20.11.61)

When, in the early morning hours of 13th August 1961, the sector boundary between West and East Berlin as well as the zonal border between East Germany and West Berlin was being blocked off, a construction was in the making that even after more than 25 years still stands as a symbol for the name of Berlin and which determines the physical and mental situation of Berliners living on both sides of this monument in a divided Germany: "The Berlin Wall".

The official explanation given by the GDR for its construction is that "imperialistic actions" of the Federal Republic of Germany and the United States against East Germany were about to be undertaken and could only be avoided by building the wall. The credibility of such a statement may even amongst East Germans find few believers. This even more so as the wall, as can easily be seen, does not represent a barrier for military groups, merely for unarmed civilians.

The actual facts are evident. The German Democratic Republic (GDR), founded in 1949, did not succeed in convincing her citizens of the political advantages of the Socialist system. For various reasons, the economic conditions - which spells livelihood chances - were significantly worse than in West Germany. An aggravating fact was that East Germany pushed through the "political persuasive measures" with pressure from state exercised directives which induced a lot of people to flee to the West. Small wonder that right from the day of its founding (and even before) many people turned their backs on East Germany to settle in the West. 1959 was the year with the lowest influx of refugees, but even then more than 140,000

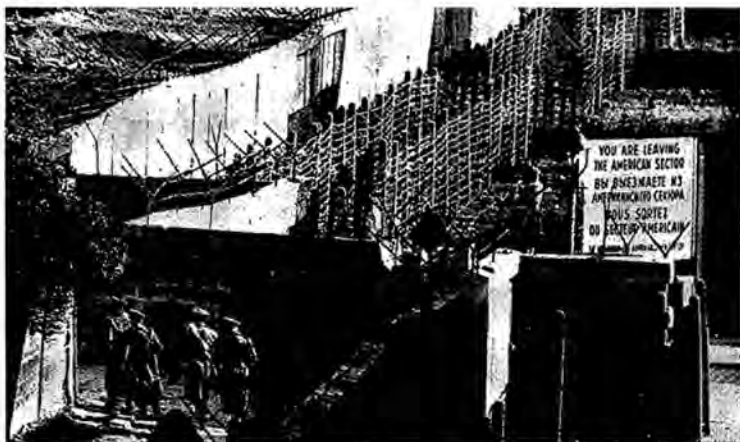
were counted. 1953 was the peak year with 330,000. All in all, between 1949 and 1961 nearly 2.7 million people fled the East. What made this exodus so embarrassing was - as seen from the GDR leaders' point of view - not only the fact that so many people left the first Socialist state on German soil, but that, of those fleeing, around 50 % were young people (aged under 25 years) and that these people were primarily qualified workers.

As early as 1952, the GDR closed its frontiers to the Federal Republic, albeit not to today's standard of perfection. The "loophole" that remained open was Berlin. GDR citizens, who wanted to leave their native soil at that time, did not need to run the risk of being caught at the internal German border. They were able to travel to East Berlin and from there they could either take the S-Bahn (city railway) or the underground or just simply walk over to West Berlin. Controls existed on the eastern border of Berlin (in other words between East Berlin and the GDR), but these could only prevent refugees from taking all their belongings with them; doing so would have been too conspicuous for the controllers. But the GDR police, the "Volkspolizei" (People's Police), could not intervene when GDR citizens wanted to go to "their capital" on errands, as they said, or to pay somebody a visit.

Also at the sector boundary inside Berlin were checkpoints manned by the Volkspolizei. They, however, never attempted to limit freedom of movement between the various sectors; they only tried to run to ground and arrest suspected fugitives or people who wanted to abuse the monetary system, i.e., racketeers profiting from the decline in



FD J brigade seconded for building the wall



View of the wall at the corner of Heidelberger Strasse and Wildenbruchstrasse



The wall going up on the Bernauer Strasse

*Transit visa scheme
from 19.12.1963 -
5.1.1964*

value of the East German mark vs. the West German mark. Those who wanted to flee from the GDR were free to do so in spite of the controls - a fact that can easily be proven by the great number of refugees.

The economic drainage of the country was becoming quite evident to the leaders of the GDR. The building of the Berlin Wall thus signified, so to speak, an "emergency brake" being pulled by them in order to be able to maintain their political and economic system.

During the weeks preceding the building of the wall, the "torrent of fugitives" kept drastically rising. The GDR was then leading a campaign to convert West Berlin into a "Free City". At the same time, border commuters, either living in East Berlin or the GDR but working in West Berlin, were put under enormous political pressure. At the time of the construction of the wall, that meant 52,000 people. It became more and more obvious that a basic change was at hand. Walter Ulbricht, on being questioned during a press conference in July 1961, if his concept of a "Free City of West Berlin" meant that the state frontier would be erected at the Brandenburger Tor, replied that nobody had the intention of building a wall. But this dementi gave people more cause for concern than calm. Starting from mid-July 1961, there was no workday with less than 1000 refugees.

During the night of 12th to 13th August 1961, "fighting squads of the working class" plus units of the People's Police, being commanded by the then Secretary of the Central Committee responsible for questions of security, Erich Honecker, and supported by the Nationale Volksarmee (National People's Army) and, in second line, backed by

*Opening the wall at
the bridge
Oberbaumbrücke for
the first transit visa
agreement at
Christmas 1963*

Ullstein-Sonderdienst

BZ
BERLINER **MORGENPOST**

Ab Donnerstag 13 Uhr:

Passierscheine

- Antrags-Stellen ab morgen von 13-18 Uhr geöffnet
- Besuche bis 5. Januar 1964 möglich
- Erlaubt bei: Eltern, Kindern, Großeltern, Enkeln, Geschwistern, Tanten, Onkeln, Nichten, Neffen und bei Ehepartnern
- Übergangsstellen: Für Fahrzeug- und Fußgänger-verkehr Chausseestraße, Invalidenstraße, Sonnenallee
- Nur für Fußgänger Oberbaumbrücke
- Für S-Bahnbenutzer Friedrichstraße
- Brandt: Keine Anerkennung der Zone ● Bundes-regierung und Alliierte stimmten zu





troops of the Soviet army, marched up to the sector boundary, blocked it and started to put up barricades (coils of barbed wire etc.). The next step was to start building a wall along the sector boundary.

On 13th August several incidents occurred on the boundary. The West Berliners, having been informed by radio of the beginning of the building of a wall, proceeded to the theatre of action on this workfree Sunday. They attacked the People's Police and "Betriebskampfgruppenangehörige" (approx.: members of the industrial fight squadron) both verbally and physically. West Berlin police had to push back the demonstrators. But the police and the fire brigade were by no means inactive at the wall. Safety blankets were rolled out for those who wanted to jump to freedom from their windows. Smoke bombs were thrown to screen those fleeing from the firing-line of the People's Police. It was mostly the young people who, in various ways, provided aid for the fugitives. Contrary to today, where assistance provided for refugees is mostly in the hands of profit-seeking criminals, these people were genuine idealists.

The Chairman of the State Council of the GDR and First Secretary of the Central Committee of the SED, Walter Ulbricht, boasted a few days later on TV that there had been fewer troubles while carrying out these measures than during a rock-and-roll concert in West Berlin.

It goes without saying that in the very beginning, the barricades erected by the GDR were not so perfect that they offered no further possibility of escape. In spite of intensive and almost military preparations for the building of the wall, it proved to be impossible to rip apart a metropolis overnight. At several points

Outside the application office for transit visas in Schillerstrasse, Charlottenburg



Sonnenallee crossing-point, being checked by border guards of the GDR

*Escaping to
West Berlin in
Bernauer Strasse*

the sector boundary ran along the buildings' base line, which meant that if the inhabitants wanted to put a foot into the street, they moved from one sector into the other. In those cases where the houses were located on the East Berlin side, the apartment owners had their windows and doors facing the West walled up. While this was happening to the ground floors, people were jumping from the top storeys into the West. This was how the first fatalities occurred. It was during these days that the Bernauer Strasse in the district of Wedding obtained a dismal notoriety. At the beginning, hundreds of people succeeded in fleeing; they jumped over the coils of barbed wire, swam through the canals or the River Spree or crawled through underground utility shafts or dug tunnels. Not one of these people was willing to put up with the "inconveniences and perhaps rigours" which Ulbricht had admitted to in a speech 12 days after the construction of the wall.

At first, the building of the wall only prevented the transit from East to West Berlin. On producing their ID-cards, West Berliners were able to visit the eastern sector and to leave again. On the 22nd August, the GDR Ministry of the Interior decreed: "West Berlin citizens are only allowed to enter the capital of the GDR (the democratic Berlin) with a residence permit". These permits were to cost DM 1.- and to be issued by West Berlin branches of GDR travel agencies. The Berlin Senate immediately rejected these "new unlawful procedures of the Pankow masterminders" and for their part, immediately announced the introduction of active measures to "prevent personas non grata from entering West Berlin." The



Allied Kommandatura there and then prohibited the setting-up of offices for the allocation of these permits for visiting East Berlin. It was not until Christmas 1963 that West Berliners were able to enter the eastern part of the city again in order to visit their relatives. Complicated negotiations were necessary before an agreement could be reached by the Berlin Senate and the GDR for transit visas which permitted their holders to stay over there for a period of 18 days. More than 1.2 million such visits were made during this short period of time. This is not only proof of the West Berliners' interest in keeping up their contacts, but it also shows to what extent there exist strong family ties between the people in both parts of Berlin. During the sixties, three more transit visa agreements were concluded, the last one expiring on 5th June 1966. During the following 6 years - with the exception of

Was wurde beobachtet	Wann und von wem gemeldet
Stange Sold Drehschloß	
von G2 - Sp	3 Personen
" Sp - G2	2 Personen
" Sp - G2	3 Personen
" G2 - Sp	2 Personen
" Sp - G2	4 Zivilpersonen
mit Fahrrad u. Hund	G2 - Sp
gelaufrun mit Hund	Sp - G2
von Sp - G2	2 Personen
" Sp - G2	1 "
" G2 - Sp	2 "
" Sp - G2	2 "
" Sp - G2	2 "
" G2 - Sp	1 "
Sp - G2	2 "



Looking into East Berlin

Extract from a note-book of the border police of the Soviet sector

urgent family matters - for which cases a so-called "severity office" was created, visits were made impossible. Only after the enactment in 1972 of the Four-

Power-Agreement on Berlin was the way cleared for a durable regulation for visitors.

East Berlin is incorporated into the GDR

During the years following the building of the wall, the GDR left no stone unturned in attempting to integrate East Berlin more and more into the GDR.

Only after closing her borders could the GDR transform her "Nationale Volksarmee" (NVA, National People's Army), which had grown out of the "Kasernierte Volkspolizei" (People's Police quartered in barracks), into an army of compulsory military service.

If this had been done at an earlier stage, she would have had to fear that even young people would turn their backs on her in order to avoid conscription. When, in 1962, compulsory military service was introduced, it was also extended to East Berlin in spite of being a striking breach of the Allies' stipulations on demilitarization. On 23rd August 1962 the Soviet Ministry of Defence dissolved the city commandants' offices, to be taken over on the 24th August 1962 by a city commander-in-chief of the GDR's People's Army.

Although the GDR maintains that this institution also represents the military interests of the GDR vis-à-vis the city commandants of the three Western Allies, the "city commander of the capital of the GDR", as a successor of the Soviet city commandant, is of very little importance. Belonging to the "city commander's office" is the guards regiment "Wachregiment Friedrich Engels", which, amongst other tasks, provides the guard of honour for the monument to the victims of Fascism and militarism in East Berlin's street Unter den Linden.

The guards regiment "Feliks Dzierzynsk", which protects top officials, government buildings and provides the guard of honour when the GDR government receives official guests in East Berlin, belongs to the State Security

Service. As early as 1960, after the death of President Wilhelm Pieck, his office was abolished and instead a "Council of State" was created; the authority of the Council of State was extended to East Berlin. On 7th September 1961, this Council of State decreed that it would put East Berlin, as regards function, on equal footing with an administrative district of the GDR. This made it to all intents the 15th district of the GDR. This was also expressed in the fact that the respective decrees were published in the law book of the GDR, but not in the "Book of decrees for Greater Berlin". Up to autumn 1976 all other laws and decrees of the GDR (starting from 1968 only their titles), which were also meant to apply to East Berlin, were published in this book of law which roughly corresponded with the procedure of adopting Federal laws in Berlin (West). Then, on the grounds of a "shortage of paper" (Erich Honecker), the book of decrees for Greater Berlin was suspended and ever since that date the laws of the GDR have automatically entered into force. Since 1977, the word "Greater Berlin" has become obsolete from the East Berlin vocabulary. The city government calls itself: "Municipal Council of Berlin, Capital of the GDR".

When in 1968 the GDR's new constitution entered into vigour, "Berlin" was once again designated "capital", the referendum which sanctioned the new constitution also being held in East Berlin. Originally, the Berlin "representatives" in the People's Chamber, appointed by the Municipal Assembly - as distinct from the deputies elected from the 14 districts -, expressly had only a "counselling voice". Their seats were separated from those of the deputies. Gradually, they were integrated ever-



Memorial to the victims of Fascism on the street Unter den Linden

more into the political parties which form the full assembly of the "Volkskammer" (People's Chamber) until finally in the seventies no distinction was apparent between the Berlin "representatives" and the "deputies" during the sessions. Nevertheless, even as late as the beginning of the legislative period of 1972-1976, they were being given different identity cards from the deputies from the districts in the People's Chamber.

After the elections to the People's Chamber in October 1976, uniform identity cards were issued to all members of the supreme representative body of the people of the GDR. East Berliners took part unrestrictedly in the elections held in 1981 and 1986, thus bringing this development to a certain end.

The Four-Power-Agreement

The four foreign ministers signing the final protocol on 3.6.1972



In the course of the détente between East and West beginning at the end of the sixties, the Western Allies on the one hand and the Soviets on the other tried to defuse the Berlin powder-keg.

In order to find a contractual regulation for Berlin, the ambassadors of the Four Powers had been holding meetings since 1970 in the erstwhile Control Council Building in the West Berlin borough of Schöneberg. In 1971, the Four-Power-Agreement on Berlin was drafted. In 1972 it entered into force. At the beginning of the negotiations, the validity of this agreement for East Berlin was a point of controversy amongst the Allies. The Soviet Union tried to make it applicable solely to West Berlin; this would have implied that East Berlin would no longer have been a part of the Four Powers' responsibilities. The Western Allies rejected this proposal.

The basic legal questions were eliminated in favour of practical improvements. Instead of "Berlin" or "Greater Berlin" the terms of the treaty mention: "the relevant area" or "this area".

In the Four-Power-Agreement, the ambassadors also avoided referring to East Berlin as the "capital of the GDR", as the GDR had wanted. Instead of this, they agreed on a compromise in the text of the Agreement (II C), speaking of areas bordering the western sectors of Berlin as well as of "those areas of the German Democratic Republic which do not border on these sectors".

The negotiations of the ambassadors clearly underlined the fact that the Soviet Union and the Western Allies safeguarded rights and obligations in the entire city of Berlin. The Soviets abstained from challenging the rights of occupation of the Western Powers. The

American ambassador, Rush, declared: "In all the discussions we clearly gave the Soviet representatives to understand that we were speaking of Berlin in its entirety and that the Agreement applies to Berlin in its entirety; they can harbour no doubts with regards to our position."

Even after the conclusion of the Berlin Agreement of 1971, some special conditions apply to East Berlin which differentiate between the legal position of the half city and that of the 14 GDR districts.

The competence of all Four Powers for Berlin today can mainly be seen in the activity of the Air Security Council for the area of Berlin and also in the unchecked access of the Four Powers to all parts of the city, especially during their regular patrols.

A request in 1977 on behalf of the Soviet Union to the Western Allies to dispense in future with military patrols in East Berlin was rejected. Ever since, the presence of Soviet patrols in Berlin (West) has been noticeably boosted. This has been registered in the West with composure: the Western Allies as well as the Berlin Senate regarded this as confirming their interpretation that the Four-Power-Agreement continues to apply to Berlin as a whole.

The air space above Berlin (East and West) - in the so-called Berlin Control Zone - is subject to Allied control and can only be operated by aircraft belonging to the Allies.

When in the spring of 1968 the GDR no longer wished to recognize diplomatic ID-cards issued by its own Foreign Ministry, and when it required accredited diplomats to produce a national passport on going over to West Berlin, it was obliged (probably on Soviet bid-

ding) to exempt the Western Allies from these stipulations, and thus emphasized the Allies' special role for the whole of Berlin, impressively if unintentionally. A few weeks later, it rejected this measure, which had been rejected by all Western states and which had been designed to grant to the sector boundary an appearance of international legality.

The embassies of the Western Allies are located just like the other diplomatic representations in East Berlin, but they are called "to the GDR", in order to avoid recognizing East Berlin as a part of the GDR.



The Control Council Building

The Functions of a Capital

Palace of the Republic

When strolling through the borough Mitte (Town Centre), one notices that East Berlin exercises the practical functions of capital to the GDR as everywhere one sees government buildings of the GDR. This is particularly conspicuous at the Marx-Engels-Platz, the former Lustgarten (Pleasure Garden). On the site of the old town palace of the Prussian Kings - its remains were removed in 1950 - we find today the Palace of the Republic. It is not only the most important building for congresses and various events in the GDR, it is also the place where the Volkskammer (People's Chamber) meets.

State Council Building

On the front side of the square, the building of the State Council of the GDR is to be found. Incorporated into the facade of the building, which was constructed in the early sixties, is a portal of the old town palace together with the balcony from which Karl Liebknecht proclaimed the "Free Socialist Republic" on 9th November 1918. In spite of the fact that this proclamation remained inconsequential (the Social Democrat Philipp Scheidemann had shortly before proclaimed the "German Republic" from the Reichstag (Parliament) Building), it is for the GDR important in creating its individual tradition.

Red town hall

Not far from the State Council Building stands the House of the Central Committee of the SED, formerly the building of the German Reichsbank. Quite unmistakable on the facade is the emblem of the Socialist Unity Party. If one wanted to pinpoint political power, then one could say that the GDR is ruled from here.

Located between the house of the SED and the main street Unter den Linden and right opposite the Palace of the Republic, we find the Foreign Minis-



try of the GDR which also houses the Ministry for Universities and Colleges. The chairman of the Council of Ministers has his seat in Klosterstrasse; seen



of nine ministries has been housed in the former Ministry of Aviation of the Reich (now: "House of Ministries") which since the 40s has popularly been called "Palace Meier". (The Reichsminister for aviation and the supreme commander of the Luftwaffe (Air Force), Hermann Göring, had, at the beginning of the war, boasted that he wanted to be called "Meier" if any enemy plane succeeded in penetrating the German aerial space).

Inside the Palace of the Republic, known familiarly as the electric light shop

Of the 30 ministries of the GDR, 29 are located in Berlin (East); the "Ministry of National Defence" lies outside Berlin, in Strausberg. The headquarters of the aligned parties are also located right in the centre of the city. East Berlin itself is governed from the "Red Town Hall" at Alexanderplatz. The building, constructed in the sixties of the past century, was heavily damaged during the war. It was reconstructed between 1951 and 1956. Here, in 1870, the first session of the Municipal Assembly took place. Today it houses the East Berlin municipal parliament as well as the Municipal Council of East Berlin.

The People's Chamber with its seat in the Palace of the Republic



Seat of the CDU in East Berlin

For the first time, with the rudimentary treaty of 1972 relations between the Federal Republic of Germany and the GDR formalized. Each state recognizes the territorial integrity and the sovereignty of the other. Since for the Federal Republic of Germany, the GDR is not a foreign country and since there exist special ties between the two states, there is in East Berlin no embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany, but a "Permanent Representation"; this institution first took up work in 1974 in Hannoversche Strasse, north of the Friedrichstrasse railway station.

The Permanent Representation in the Hannoversche Strasse



from the Palace of the Republic, it is located behind the State Council Building and near the last surviving piece of the old town wall. An impressive number

Protocol between the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany and the Government of the German Democratic Republic on the creation of Permanent Representations.

The Government of the Federal Republic of Germany and the Government of the German Democratic Republic have, based on art. 8 of the agreement about fundamental relations dated 21st December 1972, agreed as follows:

1. The Permanent Representations will be opened on the coming into force of this Protocol.
2. The Representations will officially be denominated "Permanent Representation of the Federal Republic of Germany" or respectively "Permanent Representation of the German Democratic Republic". The directors will receive the official titles of "the Director of the Permanent Representation of the Federal Republic of Germany" or respectively "the Director of the Permanent Representation of the German Democratic Republic".
3. The Director of the Permanent Representation of the Federal Republic of Germany will be accredited to the Chairman of the State Council; the Director of the Permanent Representation of the German Democratic Republic will be accredited to the President of the Federal Republic of Germany.
4. The Permanent Representations, their members as well as their dependants and private domestic personnel are subject to the Vienna Convention of 18th April 1961.
5. The Permanent Representations will have among other duties the task of representing the interests of the delegating state in the host state, which includes affording help and assistance to individuals, as well as promoting and furthering normal neighbourly relations between the Federal Republic of Germany and the German Democratic Republic in political, economic and cultural as well as other fields.
6. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs will be competent for all matters concerning the Permanent Representation in the Federal Republic of Germany. The Federal Chancellery will be competent for the Permanent Representation of the German Democratic Republic.
7. The number of members of the Permanent Representations will be fixed on the basis of a mutual agreement.
8. This Protocol will enter into vigour at such date as will mutually be agreed upon.

Bonn, 14th March 1974

For the Government
of the
Federal Republic of Germany

Günter Gaus

For the Government
of the
German Democratic Republic

Kurt Nier

The Council of Ministers of the GDR

The Council of Ministers is the governing body of the German Democratic Republic and numbers the Lord Mayor of East Berlin and the Chairman of the State Planning Committee among its 45 members; of these, 29 are competent for economic affairs, as, for example, Minister for the Chemical Industry, Minister for Construction or President of the State Bank. The SED disposes of 41 government members, the remaining four parties of one each who also acts as "representative of the Chairman of the Council of Ministers".

The Council of Ministers elaborates, under the leadership of the SED on behalf of the People's Chamber of the GDR, the basic rights of the state's policies for interior and for foreign affairs; it directs the uniform execution of the state policies of the GDR. This means that the Council of Ministers does not determine the guidelines of policies, but that it duly fulfils the tasks as stipulated by the SED.

Aligned Parties

Other than the SED, there are four parties in the GDR:

- the Christian Democratic Union of Germany (CDU)
- the Liberal-Democratic Party of Germany (LDPD)
- the National-Democratic Party of Germany (NDPD) and the
- Democratic Peasant Party of Germany (DBD)

These parties are, however, not autonomous parties according to our understanding. They can mainly be described as "transmission-belts" for the policies of the SED which they try to support in various areas where the SED can only penetrate with difficulty.

As "aligned parties" together with the SED and the mass organizations represented in the People's Chamber, they form the "Democratic Block" and expressly acknowledge Socialism and the leading role of the SED in their statutes. They do, however, enjoy a certain, if tiny, saying.

Judged by their number of members, they are inferior to the SED, but they can still boast a membership of between 80,000 and 130,000.

State Council of the GDR

The State Council is a mouthpiece of the People's Chamber. It has 30 members (of whom 21 belong to the SED) and represents the GDR in international relations. Furthermore, it ratifies national and other international agreements. Further tasks of the State Council are to pass fundamental resolutions regarding questions of defence and security as well as to preside over the Supreme Court and the Attorney General.

The Chairman of the State Council, since 1976 Erich Honecker, nominates the diplomatic representatives of the GDR to other states and he accepts the credentials of ambassadors of foreign countries for the GDR.

Volkskammer (People's Chamber)

The Volkskammer is, according to Art. 48 of the constitution of the GDR, "the supreme authority of the German Democratic Republic". According to this article of the constitution, it takes decisions on basic matters of state policies. The objectives set for the development of the German Democratic Republic are stipulated by it by means of laws and firm resolutions and are binding for all.

An assessment of its importance should not leave unmentioned the fact that the basic lines of the GDR's policies are, in fact, laid down by the Politburo and, in given cases, by the Central Committee of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany. Controversies are not discussed in the Volkskammer, neither are accords on debates made there, nor do changing majorities exist nor government changes, based on coalitions, take place.

The 500 deputies are incorporated into 10 different political parties. The SED is the largest (with 127 seats), followed by the Free German Federation of Trade Unions (61 seats). The aligned parties have 52 seats each, the Free German Youth 37, the Democratic Women's Union of Germany 32. Furthermore, the Cultural Union of the GDR is represented by 21 and the Association of Mutual Assistance for Farmers with 14 deputies in the Volkskammer. Meetings are held two or three times a year.

The National People's Army of the GDR

In 1956, the Nationale Volksarmee (National People's Army of the GDR - NVA) had been formed from the Kasernierte Volkspolizei (People's Police quartered in barracks) and, in 1962, it was remodelled into a conscript army. In 1986, it disposed of 179,000 armed men.

The NVA is equipped with highly sophisticated Soviet weapons and thus superior to their "bethren armies" (of course, with the exception of the Russian army). They are, except for the Soviet army, considered to be the best equipped of all the armies of the Warsaw Pact, which it should be noted, is commanded by a marshal of the Soviet army. Military service is for 18 months.

The possibility of refusing military service on the grounds of religious principles does not exist. Instead, an unarmed military service can be carried out as "Bausoldat" ("Building soldier"). But those doing so are later subject to reprisals.



Changing the guard of the Friedrich Engels Guards Regiment in front of the Memorial for the victims of Fascism

State Security Service

The State Security Service is the name given to the organs of the Ministry of State Security

The responsibilities of this ministry, which is all but directly responsible to the leading committees of the SED, are foreign secret services, serving as bodyguards of state and party officials as well as taking care of the suppression of any opposing stir within their own land.

The "State Security" is, according to Western estimates, equipped with a working force of some 20,000 plus some 80,000 to 100,000 informers (moles), who inform on their colleagues, co-students or neighbours on a regular basis. These "secret cooperators" act either out of idealism, for monetary reasons or because they have been pressurized.

The guards regiment "Felix Dzierzynski", with some 7000 soldiers, is controlled by the ministry. The guards regiment represents the most important reservoir for fledgling personnel for the Ministry of State Security Service accomplished in this regiment is later on acknowledged as military service. Applicants are obliged to sign up for at least three years of service and are subject to close political examination. It can be assumed that all members of the guards regiment are also members of the SED.



Soldiers of the People's Army

2. East Berlin today

Functioning as a capital city means more in a centralist state than in a federal one. It is therefore not surprising that the movement of population from the GDR to East Berlin is steady. East Berlin, the seat of the government, the economic centre, the cultural metropolis, the city whose supplying is given priority over the rest of the republic, acts like a magnet for many GDR citizens. All the more so as a certain cosmopolitan characteristic, lacking in the towns of the "provinces", develops through the proximity, both in terms of space and spirit, to the West with its television channels and numerous German and foreign visitors.

*View from the
Interhotel "Stadt
Berlin"*

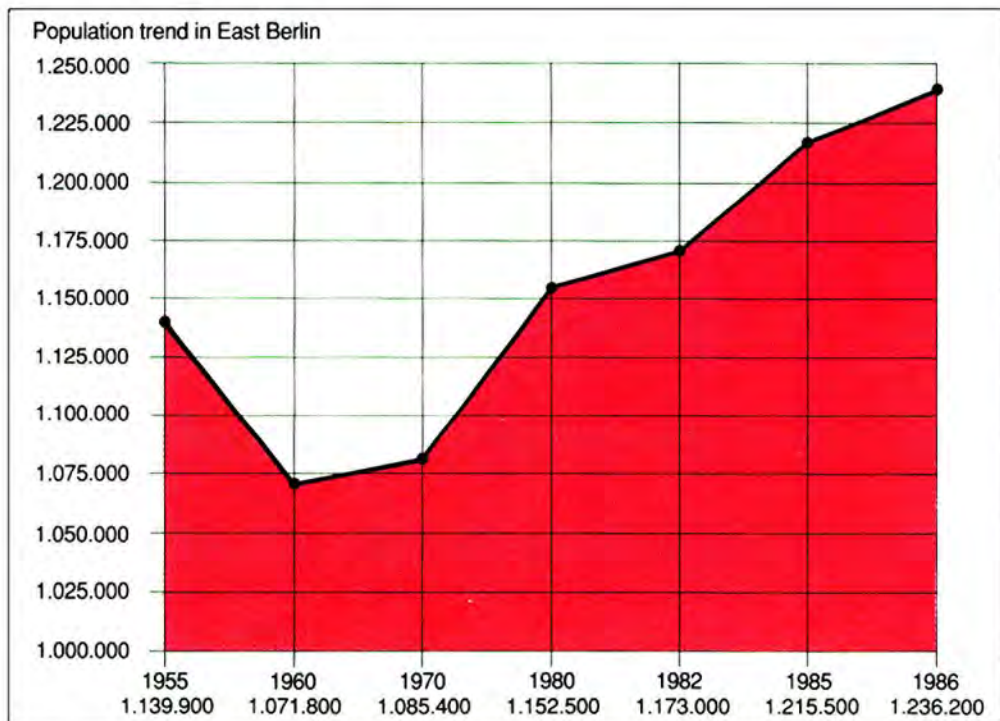


Population, age structure

At the end of 1986 East Berlin had a population of 1,236,248 of whom 653,216 were female. There are therefore 70,000 more women than men. 170,648 East Berliners were senior citizens, 229,053 were children under 15 years of age. 67.7 % of the population were of working age. This is the highest percentage rate in the whole of the GDR (Dresden had the lowest with 62.9 %). The population density in East Berlin was 3,068 persons per sq.km. in 1986 (city of Dresden: 2,300; city of Leipzig:

3,772; GDR average: 154). However, this also fluctuates to a high degree within East Berlin. The most densely populated borough is Prenzlauer Berg, where in 1986 14,819 people lived on one square kilometre. In Köpenick only 919 people lived on the same area.

East Berlin's population should increase by almost one third in the next 25 years. According to the most recent population prognoses from the East Berlin Institute for Sociology and Social Politics, a 29 per cent increase in the



population of East Berlin by the year 2011 is to be expected in contrast to other regions of the GDR where a decrease in the population must be reckoned with. If the prognoses are correct, the number of inhabitants in East Berlin will increase from 1.25 million at the end of 1986 to over 1.6 million in the period named. The population of East Berlin had already increased by about eleven per cent from 1971 to 1985. About 79 per cent of the overall increase of the East Berlin population is due to immigration during the prognosis period. The rest is the result of the expected increase in births. However, there will only be an insignificant change in the age structure: in the year 2011, 19 per cent of the population of East Berlin will be children under the age of 15, and 15.4 per cent will be senior citizens while

65.5 per cent will be of working age.

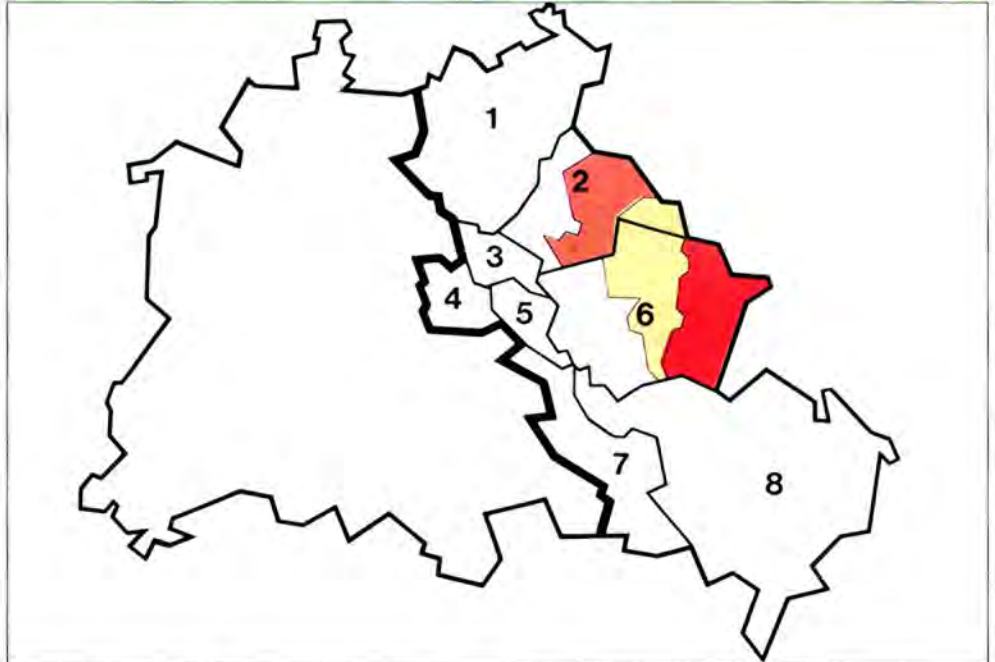
What is striking about the social structure of the working population of East Berlin is the high number of highly-qualified workers who have graduated from University. Every fourth immigrant has a University or Technical College degree. In this respect, East Berlin is well above the average of other GDR cities. Approximately one fifth of the research and development personnel of the GDR is concentrated there.

Municipal area, municipal boroughs, municipal administration

East Berlin's boroughs

- 1 Pankow
- 2 Weissensee
- 3 Prenzlauer Berg
- 4 Mitte
- 5 Friedrichshain
- 6 Lichtenberg
- 7 Treptow
- 8 Köpenick

- Hohenschönhausen
- Marzahn
- Hellersdorf



The boroughs of Lichtenberg and Weissensee were split up into three new local subdivisions, namely Marzahn, Hellersdorf and Hohenschönhausen so that - with the boroughs of Mitte (Centre), Pankow, Prenzlauer Berg, Friedrichshain, Treptow and Köpenick - there have been eleven local subdivisions since 1986 which have been uniformly referred to as municipal boroughs. East Berlin has an area (1985) of 403 square kilometres, 106 of which comprise forest and water. The greatest distance from East to West is 20 km and the greatest distance from North to South is 38 km.

The outer areas of East Berlin with an abundance of forest and lakes offer good recreation areas in the near vicinity. The main recreation area is situated within the city in the south-eastern forest-lake area around the Lake Müggelsee. A recreation zone stretches along the River Spree towards the city taking in existing forest areas and parks

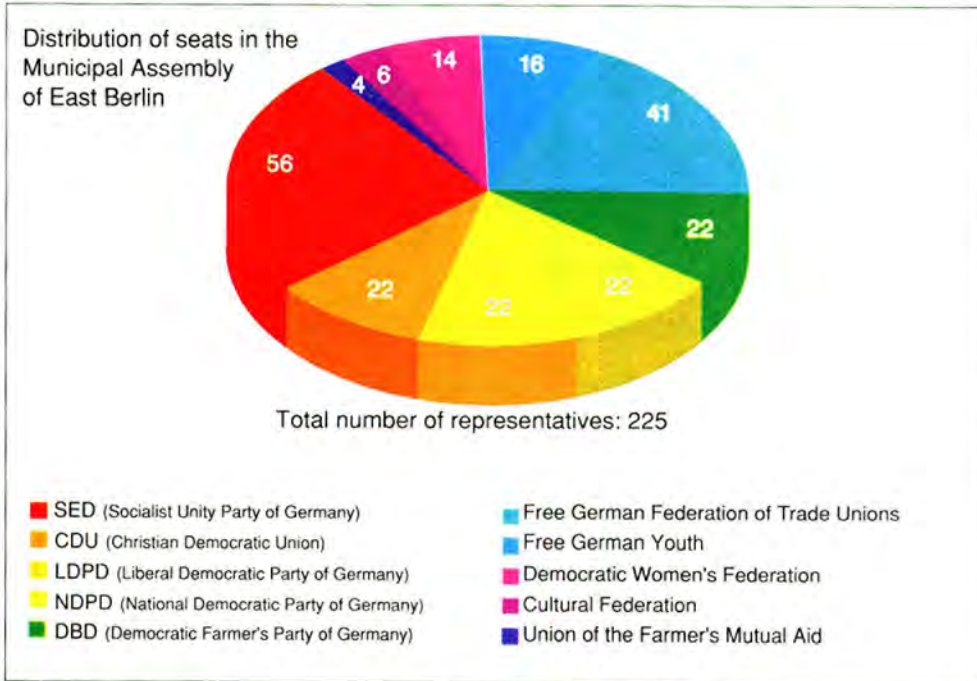
(e.g. the Treptow Park).

The Friedrichshain People's Park and the "Schönholzer Heide" in the borough of Pankow are two of the most significant parks.

A new public park, the Ernst-Thälmann-Park, is located in the borough of Prenzlauer Berg. The allotment gardens, which covered a total area of about 4,000 hectares in 1986, are also very widespread.

There is a borough assembly in each one of the boroughs to which between 90 and 225 deputies belong according to the number of inhabitants. The borough assembly appoints the borough council which, however, is not only accountable to the assembly but also to the municipal council. The borough council is chaired by the borough mayor.

The "Magistrat von Berlin, Hauptstadt der DDR" (The Municipal Council of Berlin, Capital of East Germany) consists of the Lord Mayor, who has also belonged to the Council of Ministers of



the GDR since 1976, the first representative of the Lord Mayor, a further eleven representatives, ten town councillors and the secretary of the municipal council. Every member of the municipal council, apart from the Lord Mayor and his first representative, is responsible for a particular area (e.g. "housing policy and housing industry"). Every departmental minister is assigned to one of the 16 permanent commissions consisting of town councillors and giving him recommendations. The relevant town council is accountable to this commission. In 1986 only three of the 24 members of the municipal council were women in 1986. However, one of these was the "First Representative of the Lord Mayor". Most of the municipal council members belong to the SED (Socialist Unity Party); the "aligned parties" each appoint a representative lord mayor.

The municipal council which is itself in turn subordinate to the Council of Minis-

ters of the GDR, is elected by the municipal assembly. 225 deputies are members, 56 of these are from the SED. Each of the other parties provides 22 members of the town parliament. In addition the Free German Federation of Trade Unions is represented with 41 deputies, the Free German Youth with 16, the Democratic Women's Union with 14, the Cultural Union with 6 and the Association of Mutual Assistance for Farmers with 4. The majority of the deputies of the "mass organizations" are at the same time SED members just as in the People's Chamber.

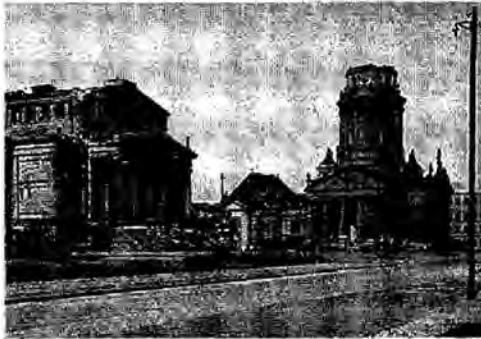
The election to the municipal assembly takes place in the same way as to the people's chamber. The last election took place in June 1986. The municipal assembly normally meets four times a year.

Cityscape, Building, Housing

*Platz der Akademie
(Academy Square)
in Berlin-Mitte, right
the French
Cathedral, left the
playhouse around
1925*



*Academy Square,
1951*



*Academy Square,
reconstruction 1983*



*Academy Square,
1987*



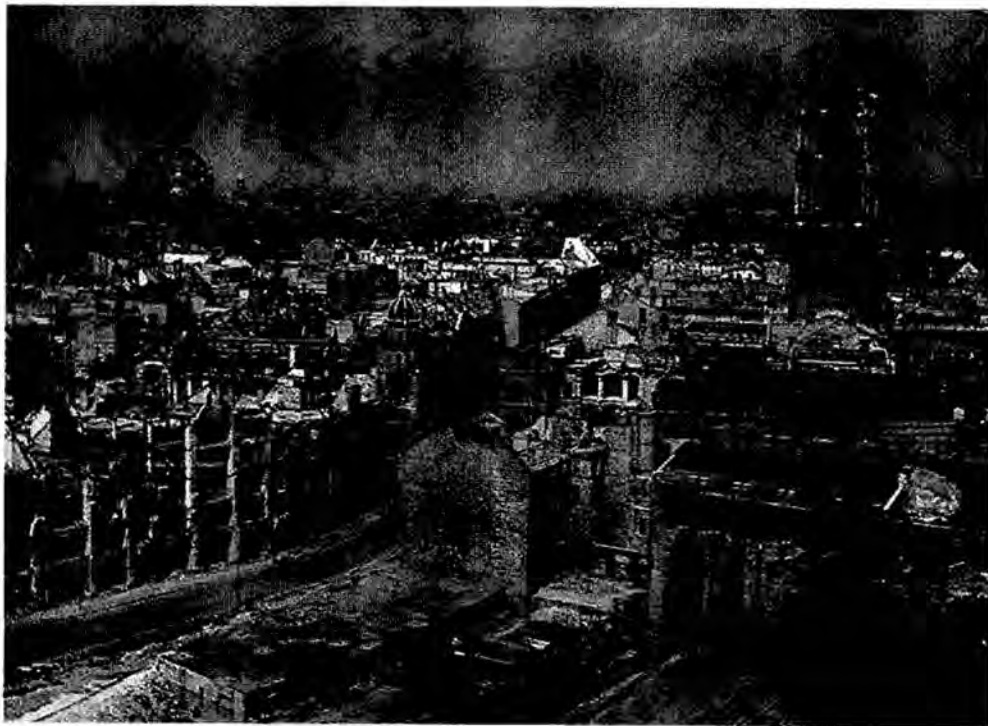
On the 3rd February 1976 the politburo of the SED adopted a resolution concerning the "Tasks of the Development of the Capital City of the GDR, Berlin", in which the "role of Berlin as political, economic and intellectual and cultural centre" is emphasized. The development of East Berlin was declared an "affair of the entire Republic" (SED Secretary-General, Honecker). The districts of the GDR were required to cooperate in the realization of the "great tasks". The work of construction and development carried out in East Berlin is in fact remarkable. The damage which had resulted from decades of neglect to the buildings was partly repaired.

The development of East Berlin had and has three points of emphasis:

1. the reconstruction of the old town centre in the borough Mitte,
2. the creation of new housing areas and
3. the repair of the old buildings at hand.

After many years of being in favour of completely modernizing the inner city area (e.g. Alexanderplatz, Palace of the Republic, Foreign Ministry) and after having sacrificed many historical buildings to this purpose (e.g. the damaged, but not altogether destroyed Town Palace), a change in thinking began in the 70s. The historical buildings were restored authentically even if this was not always easy. An excellent example of this is the reconstruction of the old Gendarmenmarkt (today: Platz der Akademie: Academy Square) with the Playhouse, the German and the French Cathedrals.

All three buildings were complete ruins with trees growing out of what was left of their roofs. Today the square is a place of interest which no tourist omits. The theatre is designed as a concert hall and offers musical entertainment of a



*The devastated
centre of the town
1945, right the Red
Town Hall*



*View over the centre
of East Berlin, 1987*

Ephraim-Palais high standard. The 750-Year Celebrations in East Berlin were opened here with a concert on New Year's Day in 1987 with the presence of representatives from the Western powers as well as the Permanent Representative of the Federal Republic of Germany.

The German Cathedral is to be used for national and international art exhibitions when reconstruction work has been completed. The French Church serves Protestant communities for religious purposes and the Huguenot Museum is located on the mezzanine floor. New dwelling houses were built opposite the French Cathedral.

Nikolaiviertel
St Nicholas Quarter
seen from
Mühlendamm

In the vicinity of this square, presently being reconstructed, is the 2.5 kilometre long main thoroughfare in the centre of Berlin, Friedrichstrasse, which is steeped in tradition. By the year 1990 about 3,000 apartments, 158 shops, 63 restaurants and further social facilities are to be built here.

Surrounding the "Nikolaikirche" (Church of St. Nicholas, also destroyed during the war) an old town quarter was developed for the 750-Year Celebrations. With its construction a further step was taken. For here was built not only that which had been there before the destruction, but also historical buildings which had been originally located elsewhere.

Inn
"Zum Paddenwirt"

The "Nikolaiviertel" constructed on 40,000 square metres between Marx-Engels-Forum and Mühlendamm, Spree and Red Town Hall, consists of new buildings - modelled on the style of Old Berlin town houses - with shops, pubs and buildings faithfully reconstructed down to historical details, such as the old court bower and the historical restaurant "Zum Nussbaum". The Ephraim-Palais of Veitel Ephraim, the



court jeweller and coin lessee of Frederick II, was also rebuilt - even if not at the original location. The original sections of the facade of this rococo building dating from the middle of the 18th century were returned from West to East Berlin within the framework of the cultural assets exchange in 1983.

Some of the total of 30 town houses from three centuries should recall significant literary figures, such as the Theodor Fontane Chemist's shop and the Lessinghaus at the Nikolai-kirchplatz. A total of 788 apartments, 22 restaurants and 30 shops are grouped around the St. Nicholas Church, which since 15th May 1987 has also been used as a branch of the East Berlin Museum of the March. The town houses have ceilings as high as 3.80 metres whereas the apartments at the Marx-Engels-Forum made of prefabricated panels have ceilings 2.80 metres high. The rents for the 36 to 82 square metre apartments correspond to the East Berlin rent standards for new buildings at 1.20 marks per square metre. The Protestant Church was pressed to restore the Berlin Cathedral, work for which it must itself actually raise the money (supported by West German donations). In return it was allowed to construct religious buildings in the new quarters.

In 1980 the equestrian statue of Frederick II, which had stood in Potsdam for over 30 years, was brought back almost exactly to its original place at Unter den Linden. When the Senate of Berlin returned the figures for the "Schlossbrücke" (today: Marx-Engels-Brücke) to East Berlin in 1981, they were accepted with gratitude and set up again.

The Schiller memorial, which was lo-

cated from 1871 to 1935 in front of the Playhouse built by Schinkel and stood in the Lietzenseepark in Charlottenburg from 1951 to 1986, was returned to its old location for the 750-Year Celebrations. The Museum Island is also to be "reconstructed" according to old plans over the next few years.

The expansion of the catering facilities in the city centre has not yet made the queues in front of the restaurants unnecessary, but has indeed shortened them.

The SED declared the building of apartments to be the core of their new social policy at their VIII Party Conference in 1971 in East Berlin and decided to solve the housing problem as a "social problem" by 1990. What was meant by this was not that in the year 1990 everyone would be able to have the apartment they would like, but that everyone was to have an appropriate (i.e. reasonable) apartment. At the end of 1986 there were in East Berlin 589,000 apartments. In the first years after the decision to solve the housing problem the GDR opted almost exclusively for new buildings of the industrially prefabricated type. In fact 1.69 million new apartments were built between 1971 and 1986 and a further 935,000 were redeveloped. Of these, 11.4 % of the new buildings and 9.6 % of the redeveloped apartments were accounted for in East Berlin, where 7.4 % of GDR citizens live. Construction workers from all over the Republic are employed in the construction of apartments in East Berlin. It is easy to understand that the resulting long absence of these workers from their homes in the districts of the GDR engenders not just enthusiasm.

Even now the standard of design of the apartments in East Berlin is higher



Equestrian statue of Frederick II

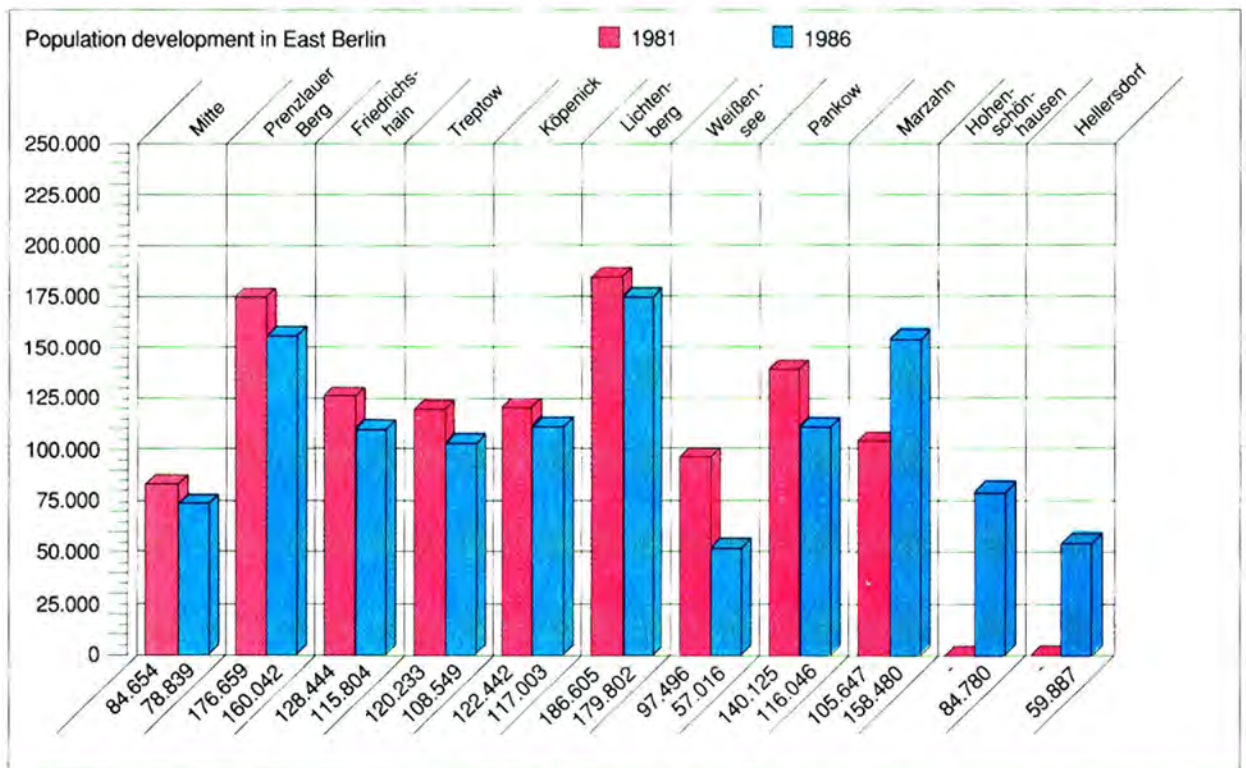


Schlossbrücke (Palace Bridge), now Marx-Engels-Brücke

than in the Republic. According to Erich Honecker's report at the XI Party Conference of the SED in 1986, which, however, is considered by western experts to be too positive, 84 % of East Berlin apartments had a bath or shower (GDR average: 74 %) in 1985 and 93 %

(Hohenschönhausen) and 150,000 (Hellersdorf) people are to live here in 1990. By the same year according to the plan, a total of 166,000 apartments, 117,000 of which will be new constructions, will be built in East Berlin.

It is hoped that in the next few years



had a toilet inside the apartment (GDR average: 68 %).

Over the last few years entire new housing areas have sprung up which have in the meantime become separate municipal districts: Marzahn, Hohenschönhausen and Hellersdorf. While the development of the municipal district of Marzahn, established in 1979 and now with approximately 160,000 inhabitants is now more or less complete, both of the other two municipal districts, born in 1986, are growing literally every week. Approximately 120,000

the housing market will ease perceptibly; at the moment it is strained by further immigration, numerous new families but also the high divorce rate (in this respect East Berlin is at the top with a clear lead) and the poor conditions of many old apartments. Indeed every second East Berliner moved into a newly built or redeveloped apartment in the years between 1971 and 1985, but divorced couples must still wait an average of two years until one of the partners is allocated another apartment. Thus some couples live together divorced for

a longer time than married.

In all, approximately 85 % to 90 % of all buildings constructed in the GDR including East Berlin are prefabricated. The new housing areas are built practically exclusively in this way. Because of the standardized houses, newly created

ample, have developed historically and which typify something like home (the Berliners refer to this as "Kiez"). Even the state has realized that it does not make economic sense to build new housing areas and at the same time to let already existing ones decay. For this

Marzahn

New prefabricated housing



municipal districts appear even drearier than is generally the case in new housing areas.

Many people would like to have a "fully comfortable apartment", i.e. with bathroom, toilet and central heating, but would not like to move into one of these "ghettos". For this reason there is great interest in a redeveloped apartment in already existing residential areas which, like Prenzlauer Berg for ex-

ample, have developed historically and which typify something like home (the Berliners refer to this as "Kiez"). Even the state has realized that it does not make economic sense to build new housing areas and at the same time to let already existing ones decay. For this reason there is a lot being done in the old workers' housing areas of Prenzlauer Berg and Friedrichshain to modernize the already existing housing. Three stages can here be distinguished: the first involves connecting up a water supply, which by no means all East Berlin apartments have, installing an inside toilet as well as main drainage; the second category provides in addition a shower or a bath as well as a water-

The idyllic centre of Marzahn, in the background the new housing area

Filling in the gaps and modernizing old housing in Lottumstrasse

*View across
Prenzlauer Berg
towards Mitte*



*Courtyard in
Metzerstrasse*





heating system; the third category complements the first two by means of a modern heating system.

Individual empty sites of which according to the East Berlin chief architect there were still well over 10,000 in 1986, are being closed up with new prefabricated buildings. However, the buildings are being modified in such a way that they fit into the streetscape. The filling in of these gaps shows that it is entirely possible to erect prefabricated buildings which also fulfil aesthetic requirements. The rents are indeed more expensive in East Berlin than in other districts of the GDR, however they are extremely low by western standards (even taking into consideration the difference in income levels).

In East Berlin an apartment in a new building costs between 1 and 1.25 marks per month per sq m (GDR districts: 80 to 90 pfennigs). The rent for old buildings is still the same as in 1938. It is therefore no problem to be able to afford an apartment in East Berlin. The problem is, however, getting one.

Apartments are only allocated by the state or with state approval. The appropriate application must be made to the council of the municipal district. The size of the apartment which can be applied for and claimed depends on the size of the family. However, in East Berlin people are tending increasingly to take into account a probable expansion of families from the outset. Young married couples are given priority for housing. Unmarried couples cannot apply for a joint apartment. Of course they can live together in the apartment which one partner might already have, but they are not entitled to the larger living area available for two people. In allocating apartments people who have served the

Water-tower in Prenzlauer Berg



At the corner of Oderberger Strasse and Kastanienallee (view towards Wedding, in the background the Wall)

3. Boundary



The demarcation line around West Berlin is 165.7 km long. Approximately 45 km of this is the inner-city sector boundary, the remaining 120 km form the boundary between Berlin (West) and the GDR. The inner-city sector boundary is the only chance for GDR citizens to view their "border with the West". The GDR has set up a prohibited strip up to 5 km wide at the border between the Federal Republic of Germany and the German Democratic Republic as well as between the GDR and West Berlin, which the citizens of East Germany are only allowed to enter with special permission (even to visit relatives or for similar reasons).

For approximately 110 km the border around West Berlin does in fact consist of at least one wall or a barrier of concrete panels. The rest consists of metal meshwork fences. Behind the first wall, on top of which is a concrete pipe so that grappling hooks and hands can not get a hold, there is a check strip which even the members of the border troops may not normally enter. Occasionally this strip is completed by means of a trench or anti-tank devices ("Spanish horsemen") which are supposed to prevent lorries from breaking through. (During the first years when the wall only consisted of hollow blocks instead of concrete slabs sunk into the ground, this

method of escape played a significant role). Then there is the convoy road which is regularly patrolled on foot or by car. This is also the means for reaching the watchtowers, which have been set up within the visual range of one another. Occasionally there are also small bunkers in this area which are supposed to provide cover in cases of conflict. There are also dog-runs at various points. In front of the second wall placed along various sections farther east the border is also secured by a contact fence, which triggers an alarm when touched. Mines and automatic shooting devices, which have existed for a long time along the border between the Federal Republic of Germany and the GDR, have never been identified in Berlin.

The sector boundary is not marked by the wall, but in reality always runs a little in front of it. So, whoever goes right up to the wall from the West is legally in the eastern sector. Signs erected by the western side indicate the precise conditions.

The painting of the wall on the western side is considered to be a "violation of the border" by the GDR. Occasionally patrols are carried out by armed members of the GDR border troops along the western side of the wall - metal doors in it make the "exit" possible. Now and again the GDR border troops have turned back or even arrested people in the East Berlin area on the western side of the wall. Entering the supposed no-man's-land can therefore be dangerous. It is not the wall which marks the boundary but the signs in front of it.

There are currently (1988) eight checkpoints from West to East Berlin of which four may be used only by West Berliners (Chausseestrasse, Invalidenstrasse, Sonnenallee and the pedes-

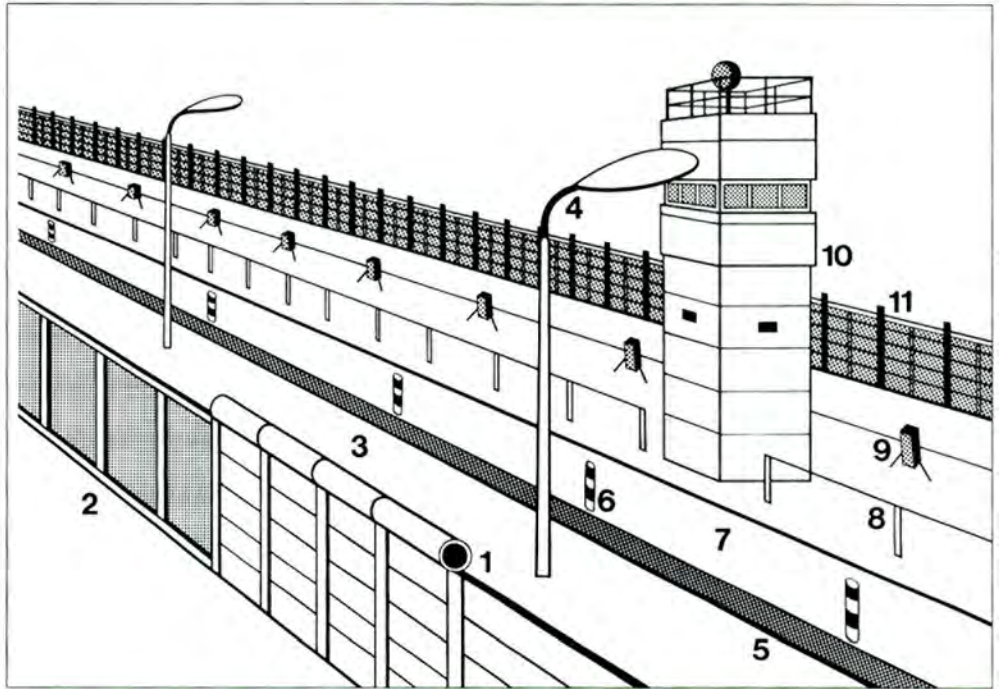
Sentry post at Sonnenallee (by Neukölln)



Door in the wall on Bethaniendamm

Diagrammatic drawing of the boundary defences

- 1 Wall of concrete plates with or without pipe
- 2 Metal meshwork fence
- 3 Check strip (KS)
- 4 Floodlighting system
- 5 Trench
- 6 Line limiting the farthest outpost of the sentry posts
- 7 Convoy road
- 8 Wire for the dog runs
- 9 Signalling device
- 10 Watchtower
- 11 Contact wire



Sector boundary crossings

trian checkpoint Oberbaumbrücke), a further one by West Germans and West Berliners (Bornholmer Strasse). Apart from this there is the checkpoint at Prinzenstrasse/Heinrich-Heine-Strasse which is available only for West Germans. Non-Germans can cross by road via Friedrichstrasse (Checkpoint Charlie). Non-Germans as well as West Germans and West Berliners have also the possibility of taking the underground (U-Bahn) or city railway (S-Bahn) to Friedrichstrasse station and entering East Berlin there.

Over 200,000 people have fled into the Federal Republic of Germany and to West Berlin since the wall was built (up until 1987). However, only about 39,000 of them were so-called defence breakers, i.e. people who overcame the border devices (4,975 of them to West Berlin).

Approximately 2,500 of these refugees were members of the armed forces, mostly border troops; over 560 of them fled to West Berlin. By far the majority of the refugees came during the first years when the border defences had not been perfected to the present extent.

In the 25 years of the Berlin Wall's existence at least 77 people have met their death there; 59 of them were shot, some drowned in the water where it forms the boundary, others died jumping from the houses. Many more than one hundred people were injured in shooting incidents at the Berlin border alone. There were at least a further 111 deaths at the border between the Federal Republic of Germany and the GDR up until 1987.

Border troops of the GDR

The border troops of the GDR do not form a part of the regular National People's Army, but are under control of the Ministry of National Defence. In 1986 they represented a force of 49,000 men. They are equipped with their own tanks and protective tanks. The border soldiers can be either draftees or - specially examined - voluntary soldiers who have been in the service for some time. The function of the border troops is to protect the state border of the German Democratic Republic from all violations. Their main task is to prevent citizens of the GDR from leaving their state illegally. The sentry posts and patrols of the border troops are made up so that no familiarity can develop between two border soldiers which could itself lead to this "illegal crossing of the border". Nevertheless about 2,500 of them have fled since 1961.

4. Contacts



The Four-Power-Agreement relating to Berlin, which was signed by the victorious powers of World War II in 1971 and which came into force in 1972, has considerably eased contacts between West and East Berlin. Since 1972 citizens of West Berlin have been able once again to enter East Berlin and the whole of the GDR. Five Offices for Matters of Visits and Travel have been set up in West Berlin. In these offices GDR officials take in applications. After two working days the applicants receive a "written authorization for the receipt of a visa", on production of which at a checkpoint they are issued with a visa. The costs of the issuing the visa (DM5) do not have to be borne by the visitor since these are cleared with the GDR by the Berlin Senate.

Persons who wish to travel to East Berlin or the GDR a number of times over a shorter period of time can apply for a "multiple authorization" at the visitors' office which permits the holder to enter the country a total of nine times and is valid for six months. Additional visits can be entered with immediate validity on this multiple authorization (in



everyday language: "niner card") in the Office for Matters of Visits and Travel. This cuts out the two day waiting period. But the citizens of West Berlin still have to exchange the obligatory minimum sum of money required by the GDR for all visitors from "non-Socialist countries".

The citizens of West Berlin were particularly affected by the drastic increase in the minimum exchange amount which was enforced by the GDR in 1980. Whereas for a visit to the GDR this was increased from DM13 to DM25, the sum was almost quadrupled for visits to East Berlin (from DM6.50 to DM25). This minimum exchange is above all then a burden if one is not travelling to Berlin as a tourist (hence not visiting restaurants there, or paying entrance fees, etc.), but is visiting relatives or friends.

Above all the inclusion of pensioners in the minimum exchange scheme represents a heavy burden on the agreement regarding visits, even if the minimum amount has once again been reduced from DM25 to DM15 following years of negotiations by the Federal



Barkas bus with GDR officials in front of the Kreuzberg visitors' office



Government. Alongside this partial removal in 1984 of the increase of the minimum exchange for all recipients of old age, disability or accident pensions, the opportunity for senior citizens and disabled to leave the GDR was extended so that they could visit friends (and not only relatives) in the Federal Republic of Germany and Berlin (West), and for 60 days (previously 30 days). In 1987 nearly 2 million West Berliners visited East Berlin and the GDR. However, in the years before the increase of the minimum exchange amount, this figure was over 3 million.

In the same period nearly 3.8 million visits were recorded of pensioners from the GDR in Berlin (West) and the Federal Republic of Germany. Similarly, the number of visits made on account of pressing family matters by inhabitants of the GDR who had not yet reached retirement age increased considerably in the last years. Whereas in 1985 only 60,000 inhabitants of the GDR under pensionable age travelled to the west, in 1987 the number had reached well over 1.2 million.

This shows that despite the setbacks

in the contacts between East and West, the atmosphere has become considerably friendlier since 1972. Commissioners of the Senate's Chancery and the East Berlin Foreign Ministry meet and discuss problems which arise for both sides from the visitors' agreement. The most important points raised here by the West Berlin side are refusals of admission to East Berlin and the GDR. East Berlin, for example, complains about violations of the law by visitors from the West (traffic regulations, exchange laws, etc.).

The increased willingness to discuss matters has made it possible to solve other problems. The Agreement in respect of Rescue Operations in the case of Accidents in Frontier Waters of 29.10.75 makes clear how politics and everyday human problems are here intermingled. At a number of points the Spree or the Landwehr Canal form the boundary between East and West Berlin. The river and canal still belong to East Berlin, the west bank to West Berlin. The boundary defences are on the east bank. Should any one fall from the West Berlin bank into the water and get into difficulties, than that person would be in East Berlin. In such cases, the GDR border troops had refused permission for anyone from the West to help, in other words to enter East Berlin territory.

In the years between 1966 and 1975 five children had to pay for this with their lives. Only then did it become possible to come to the above-mentioned agreement. Today, special telephones have been installed on the West Berlin banks of frontier waters. If someone falls into the water one of these telephones must be used. Only when the signal has been given is one allowed into the water to save the victim.



DER TAGESSPIEGEL

UNABHÄNGIG BERLINER MORGENZEITUNG



Nr. 104 / 11. JAHRGANG BERLIN, DIENSTAG, 12. MAI 1971 40 Pf. Ausgabe P. A 6622A

CDU-Vorstand schlägt Kohl als Kanzlerkandidaten vor

Einmütige Nominierung - CSU-Haltung unklar

VERGLEICHEN BEZUGSWEISE
M. Bonn, 12. Mai. Der CDU-Vorstand hat am Montag in Bonn einstimmig Konrad Adenauer als Kanzlerkandidaten für die Bundestagswahl im Herbst 1972 vorgeschlagen. Dies geschah auf dem 17. Parteitag der CDU in Bonn, bei dem auch die CSU-Delegationen anwesend waren. Die CSU-Fraktion hat sich bisher nicht geäußert.

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Kind an der Oberbaumbrücke ertrunken

Verhalten der DDR bei den Rettungsversuchen scharf verurteilt

GEWÄHRLEISTUNG DER DDR - BREIT BEFRIEDIGT UND VERÄNDERT
Die Bundesregierung hat die Rettung des Kindes an der Oberbaumbrücke in Ostberlin am Montag scharf verurteilt. Die DDR habe die Rettung des Kindes nicht versucht, sondern es ertrinken lassen.

Die Bundesregierung hat die Rettung des Kindes an der Oberbaumbrücke in Ostberlin am Montag scharf verurteilt. Die DDR habe die Rettung des Kindes nicht versucht, sondern es ertrinken lassen.

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Handelsschiff der USA

von Kambodscha aufgebracht

PRÄSIDENT FORD BEFiehlt FRETZKE - „DRAUFGESETZT KONGRESS“
Präsident Richard Nixon hat die Freisetzung des Handelsschiffs „USS Freedom“ von Kambodscha angeordnet. Die Freisetzung soll am Montag erfolgen.

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Unsere Meinung:

Risikolo

A. B. Der Staat, der in der Öffentlichkeit die Rolle des Risikolo spielt, ist ein Staat, der die Verantwortung für die Sicherheit der Bürger nicht übernimmt. Die DDR hat dies in der Vergangenheit mehrfach bewiesen.

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There are other areas of cooperation between West and East Berlin without any special contractual regulations. If children who have run away from home are picked up in East Berlin or the GDR (e.g. in a transit train), the GDR Government notifies the Senate. Through the offices of the Permanent Representation of the Federal Republic of Germany, which also represents West Berlin vis-à-vis the GDR, the return is agreed upon over one of the inner-city boundary crossings. Similar contacts exist in the events of death or serious illness of West Berliners staying in East Berlin or the GDR.

Another. This does not, however, prevent individual agreements between curators on both sides. Thus in 1981, on the occasion of the 200th birthday of the renowned Berlin master builder Karl Friedrich Schinkel, the Berlin Senate returned to East Berlin the figures for the Schlossbrücke, which had been designed by Schinkel and stored in West Berlin. Similarly, in 1983 the stones of the Ephraim-Palais, which had been torn down in the 30s, were transported to East Berlin (cf. here P. 52, P. 53).

One item, amongst others, which made its way from the East to the West was the archive of the Königlich-Preußische Porzellan-Manufaktur (Royal Prussian Porcelain Manufactory KPM). The quadriga on the Brandenburg Gate had already been handed over from West to East Berlin in 1958. The figure which now stands on top of



the well-known Berlin landmark is a replica made from the old cast, since the original was destroyed in the War. However, East Berlin did remove from the new version, as symbols of militarism, the Prussian eagle and Schinkel's Iron Cross, which had been inside and on top of the wreath held by the goddess of peace and victory.

Emergency telephone by the Spree near the bridge Oberbaumbrücke

In September 1982 the Federal Republic of Germany and the GDR agreed to protect the ecology by cleaning up the waterways which flow from surrounding areas into Berlin (West). To this end, the Federal Government helped to finance an enlargement of the sewage works on the city limits of East Berlin.

A contract concluded between two companies in the Federal Republic of Germany and the GDR planned the construction of a pipeline, through which natural gas has been brought from the USSR to Berlin (West) since 1985. In January 1988 an agreement was reached regarding the setting up of an electricity grid with the Federal Republic of Germany as supplier and the GDR as well as Berlin (West) from 1990/91 as receiver of electricity.

Closed underground and S-Bahn stations in East Berlin

When the Wall was built on 13th August 1961, the Berlin underground rail network was also divided. East Berlin closed the underground stations which lay in its territory on the lines passing through East Berlin from West Berlin (the present West Berlin lines 6 and 8), or blocked the underground lines at the sector boundaries (closure of the station Warschauer Brücke, previously terminus of the present West Berlin line 1; and of the old line A at the underground station Thälmannplatz, now Otto-Grothe-wohl-Strasse, closure of the underground station Potsdamer Platz). It was only at the station Friedrichstrasse,



*Summons to the
S-Bahn boycott.*

*The text reads:
Citizens of Berlin!
Even worse than this
monument is the use
of your fares -
perhaps for new
"peace" tanks. 17th
June - never forget!
Avoid the Soviet
Zone S-Bahn in free
Berlin, wherever
you can! You owe it -
to your brothers in
the East!*

BERLINER!

**Schlimmer noch
als dieses Denkmal**

**ist die Verwendung Eurer Fahrgelder -
vielleicht für Neue „Friedens“-Panzer**

**17. Juni - Denkt immer daran!
Meidet die Sowjetzone S-Bahn!**

im freiheitlichen Berlin

wo immer Ihr könnt!

Ihr seid es schuldig - Euern Brüdern im Osten!



which could only be entered and left after thorough controls, that the trains still stopped.

In 1987 the Berlin Senate paid almost DM6.0 million to the GDR for the use and upkeep of the two tunnels going north-south. The electricity for the underground system is not included in this price, it comes from the West. The underground stations on these lines in East Berlin are no longer accessible for East Berliners, although in the inner city one can still see the old entrances. Employees of the transport police stand on the platforms to prevent attempts to flee this way. Law and order rules in East Berlin, even in the underground. When the Walter-Ulbricht-Stadion to the north of the Oranienburger Tor was renamed the "Stadion der Weltjugend" (Stadium of World Youth) at the start of the 70s, the name of the underground

station was promptly changed - even though the citizens of East Berlin cannot see it and the citizens of West Berlin (on the Tegel - Alt-Mariendorf line) cannot get out there.

A particular problem of Berlin since the division of the city is the S-Bahn (metropolitan railway). Unlike the underground system, the whole of this system was run from one office, the Reichsbahndirektion (German State Railway Direction) Berlin in East Berlin under the supremacy of the Four Powers. Although the German State Railways operated the S-Bahn, they did not own it. The German Reich remained the owner according to an ordinance of the Allied Forces, who had confiscated the Reichsbahn's property and assets in 1945.

After the Wall had been built in 1961 the S-Bahn network was divided rather



solution in January 1984. The BVG (Berlin Transport Authority) took over the running of the S-Bahn in Berlin (West) with immediate effect. It is only on the few hundred metres of the line between the Lehrter Stadtbahnhof and the S-Bahn Friedrichstrasse in East Berlin that the train is still driven by a driver from the Reichsbahn.

Trades union action against the use of the S-Bahn by citizens

In 1987 the Senate paid the Reichsbahn over DM6 million for the upkeep of the S-Bahn tunnel through East Berlin as well as the operation of the S-Bahn between Lehrter Stadtbahnhof and Friedrichstrasse. The "Fernbahn" (long distance railway) and the goods transport by rail in West Berlin are still run by the Reichsbahndirektion in East Berlin.

like that of the underground. The Reichsbahn did, however, continue to run the S-Bahn network in the western sectors. The West Berliners largely boycotted this means of transport to prevent the GDR from earning income. Because of the drastic reduction in number of passengers, the Reichsbahn on the other hand saw no financial possibility of modernizing the S-Bahn from the receipts through fares. At the end of the 70s, when the original idea behind the boycott had faded into the background, there were still only a small number of people who used the S-Bahn in West Berlin, mainly because it no longer in any way met the requirements of a modern means of transport.

In 1983 with the consent of the Allied Forces, negotiations began between representatives of the Berlin Senate and the Reichsbahn, which led to a



The emblems of the anniversary celebrations in Berlin (West) and Berlin (East)

The 750th Anniversary

On 17th January 1985 the Berlin Senate presented to the general public its first pamphlet detailing the programme for the 750th Anniversary celebrations.

The Committee of the German Democratic Republic for the 750th Anniversary of Berlin had assembled in Berlin (East) on 7th February 1985. The pamphlet published on this day contained a policy statement from the Chairman of the German Democratic Republic's Council of State, Erich Honecker. The programme for the 750th Anniversary celebrations in East Berlin was worked out in detail subsequent to this and completed in Spring 1986. From the very start it was clear that the focal point of the city's anniversary would be in the fields of city planning and architecture.

On 8th January 1987 the Governing Mayor Eberhard Diepgen considered the programme of celebrations in Berlin for the 750th Anniversary in a speech with the title "Berlin in the force-field of the East-West relations, perspectives of a divided city", and said amongst other things, the following:

"There are to be two celebrations. But in the consciousness of every Berliner there is only one birthday, one joint history, and one joint hope for the future.

Both celebration programmes do not on their own constitute the whole picture. Even divided celebrations can and should strengthen the perspective of the unity of the city and the nation. That is our goal for 1987.

The importance of the 750th anniversary will certainly not be shaped simply by numerous events, no matter how important these are for a cultural metropolis such as Berlin. And the importance of the 750th anniversary is not dependent on the answer to the question of whether the Governing Mayor will take part in events celebrating the 750th anniversary in East Berlin - and if so, which events.

It is more the future which stands at the heart of the 750th anniversary celebrations. We have the task of preparing Berlin to be a metropolis in the heart of Europe and as the capital of the German nation for the next century."

On 10th March 1987 the Governing Mayor invited the Chairman of the German Democratic Republic's Council of State and SED General Secretary Honecker to take part in the ceremony on 30th April 1987 which was to open officially the 750th anniversary celebrations in the western part of the city. In the letter, which was sent from the "Governing Mayor of Berlin" to Honecker in his capacity as "Chairman of the Committee of the German Democratic Republic for the 750th Anniversary of Berlin", Diepgen thanked Honecker for the invitation (which had already been sent in October 1986) to the GDR act of state on 23rd October 1987 in East Berlin on the occasion of the city's anniversary.

The return invitation to Honecker was worded as follows:

"Dear Mr. Chairman,

I should like to express my thanks for the invitation which has been sent to me to the event on 23rd October 1987. I value this - notwithstanding differing legal positions - as an expression of interest in co-operation for the approaching city

anniversary.

In my capacity as Chairman of the Berlin Senate's Commission for the Preparation and Execution of the City's Anniversary, I should like on my part to invite you to the opening of the festivities here on the occasion of the 750th anniversary of the city on 30th April at 11 a.m. in the International Congress Centre.

I should be most pleased if with respect to Berlin's anniversary a mutual participation in celebrations on both sides were to be possible.

*Yours faithfully,
Eberhard Diepgen"*

On 13th April 1987 Erich Honecker turned down the invitation. On 6th May the Governing Mayor Eberhard Diepgen declared that the invitation from Erich Honecker dated October 1986 had been "settled". He hereby reacted to a statement made by the GDR Ministry of Foreign Affairs on the same day, in which the speech given by the Governing Mayor at the opening of the 750th anniversary celebrations in the western part of the city on 30th April 1987 in the ICC was strongly criticized. Thus, within the scope of Berlin's 750th anniversary celebrations, there were no reciprocal visits by politicians from West and East Berlin.

Yet, thanks to this, Berlin became an international topic once again - even with the victorious powers. On an initiative of the American President Reagan, announced during his visit to Berlin in June 1987, the Western Allies have been negotiating with the Soviet Union as to how the Berlin situation can be further improved. In the main, this concerns the expansion of air traffic and Berlin, maybe even West and East Berlin together, as the location for international events. Whether these talks will bring results was something that at the beginning of 1988 could not be estimated.

It was "an important step forward" that Governing Mayor Diepgen designated the results of his meeting with Chairman of the GDR Council of State Honecker in East Berlin on 11th February 1988. On four points concrete agreements were reached:

*11th February 1988:
Visit of Governing
Mayor Diepgen in
East Berlin*

1. West Berliners are put on an equal footing with those citizens of the Federal Republic of Germany who, since 1984, have been able to stay overnight in the GDR within the framework of the "little border traffic".
2. A settlement was attained over open questions of exchange of territory.
3. Between Spandau and Nauen as between Zehlendorf and Koenigs-Wusterhausen contacts are to be taken up on a communal level.
4. The GDR will communicate the data of the emissions from the incineration plant for special refuse to be built at Schoeneiche near Berlin.

According to a bulletin by Diepgen, his talks with Honecker are to be continued.

5. Economy

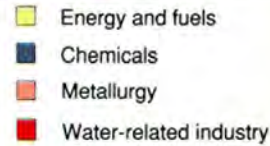
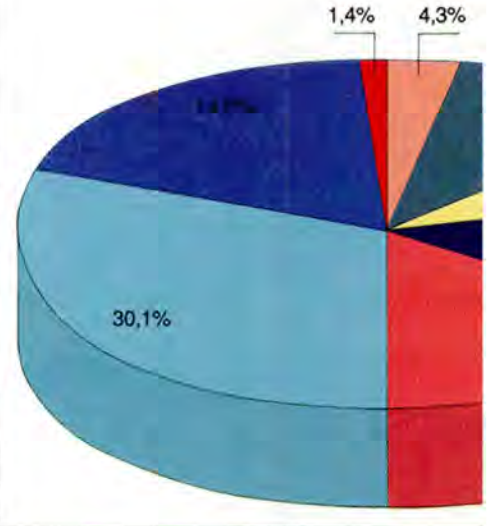
The fact that East Berlin carries out functions as capital of the GDR can also be seen in the employment pattern. Whereas in 1986 in the GDR an average 21.1% of persons employed were working in "non-productive sectors", the proportion of this sector amounted to 31.4% in East Berlin. In absolute figures this was 212,500 workers employed amongst others in educational services, the communal services sector or scientific institutions. Above all one becomes aware of the number of staff employed in administration here (there are no civil servants in the GDR).

Nevertheless it would be wrong to see East Berlin simply as an administrative city. It is the largest industrial city in the GDR, even if in 1986 only 25.2% of the working population were employed in industry (GDR average 37.7%). This still amounts to 170,800 people (of a total work force of 677,600 in East Berlin). Thus in East Berlin alone more people were employed in industry than in the districts Neubrandenburg and Schwerin together, and more than in the Frankfurt/Oder, Gera, Rostock, Potsdam and Suhl districts.

The largest branch of industry as in the western sectors is the electronics industry, whose image is not determined only by old Berlin factories (e.g. VEB Bergmann-Borsig or VEB Kabelwerk Oberspree, which formerly belonged to AEG), but also by new manufacturing plants (e.g. VEB Werk für Fernsehetelektronik, VEB Stern-Radio). In 1986 more than 30% of the total "gross industrial product" of East Berlin was generated in the areas electrical engineering/electronics/toolmaking.

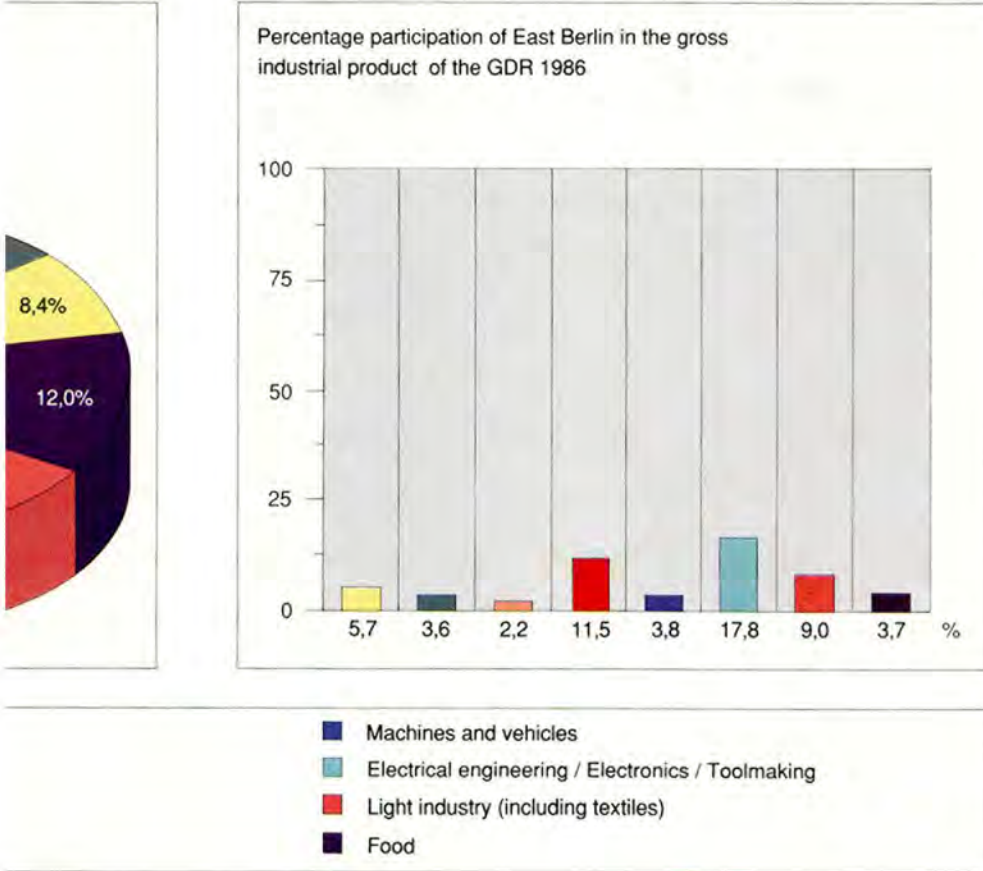
Second, with 16.3%, was light industry for the manufacture of consumer goods. This includes factories making

Percentages of various industries in the "gross industrial product" of East Berlin 1986



furniture (VEB Moebelkombinat Berlin) as well firms making wallpaper or clothes (e.g. VEB Kombinat Oberbekleidung Berlin). The third most important sector of the East Berlin industry, with a share of 14.8% (1986), is the construction of machines and vehicles. The VEB Berliner Werkzeugmaschinenfabrik Marzahn, which belongs to this sector, is an important manufacturer of industrial robots.

Another sector worth mentioning (1986: 12.5% of the gross industrial product) is the chemical industry in East Berlin (e.g. VEB Berlin Chemie, VEB Berliner Reifenwerk, Kosmetik-Kombinat Berlin). Sectors such as the building



material industry, metallurgy or water-related industry play no role in East Berlin. The food industry produced 12% of the gross industrial product in 1986.

The third largest sector after the non-producing and industrial sectors is trade, with respect to the number of persons employed. 104,300 persons were employed in this area in 1986; 2,900 of these were self-employed or family members helping a self-employed person.

There are still quite definitely private shops and restaurants in East Berlin. Even if they do not play an important role in the overall economy, as is clear from the numbers, they are still an important

integral part of the supply system for the population, and have even been increasingly promoted in the past few years. For example, every second breakfast roll in East Berlin is produced in a private bakery and more than 40% of all catering establishments are in private hands. In 1986 the retail trade turnover in East Berlin amounted to 12.3 billion marks, plus 1.2 billion marks restaurant turnover.

The retail trade and restaurant turnover per head of population in East Berlin amounted to 10,064 marks, 2,975 marks above the GDR average. Here East Berlin's better supply system becomes evident, but also its function as a

Mondays, 1 p.m. in front of the Centrum department store

shopping centre for inhabitants of the GDR districts and naturally tourists from other countries.

These matter-of-fact figures conceal a partially absurd and economically expensive cycle. East Berlin, the "capital" and "social centre of the country", is supplied preferentially with goods which are taken from other districts of the GDR. The GDR citizens, knowing of the wider range of goods, then travel from these areas to East Berlin to buy these goods. They thus bring back to their areas those goods which have previously been sent to East Berlin.

GDR tourists in East Berlin

In 1986 there were around 1,200 catering establishments in East Berlin, ranging from cafés to night clubs. Thus the network of catering in the "capital" is much denser than in other cities in the GDR. But one must also remember here that the restaurants are not only available to the citizens of East Berlin, but are also used by numerous visitors. It is all too often the good and inexpensive private restaurants outside the city centre that are fully booked out days or even weeks in advance. There is a system of price categories in catering which are determined by the State. Simple establishments are in the price group I, relatively good ones in III and IV, and the best in price group S (sometimes with surcharges).

Boutique in the Spittelmarkt

One problem for the catering supply system are the "closed days". A number of bars are closed on one or two days of the week (often Saturday and Sunday). The East Berlin Municipal Council has started an intensive campaign to do away with these closed days.

In 1986 there were 16,800 persons employed in craftsmen's trades in East Berlin (excluding the building trade) 4,100 of these were self-employed or





Restaurant "Zu den Arkaden" in the St Nicholas quarter

family members helping. In East Berlin, just as in the whole of the GDR, there is a great lack of craftsmen. Repairs often take weeks or even months. A considerable portion of craftsmen's services is provided after hours, and often for western money. Thus it is not surprising that craftsmen in the GDR are among the top earners.

An important branch of the economy in East Berlin is the transport system, which employed 73,000 persons (including post and telecommunications) in 1986.

The public transport system in East Berlin consists of the S-Bahn, which is operated by the Deutsche Reichsbahn, as well as the underground, trams and buses, which are the responsibility of the Berlin Transport Authority (BVB). The S-Bahn, which in 1987 in East Berlin extended over a network of lines covering 178 km, is the backbone of public transport. It is planned to expand this system in the coming years to include the new residential areas.

Kiosk



The cheapest means of transport in East Berlin are the trams. 198 million persons, more than half a million daily, used these in 1986 (S-Bahn: 169 million). The tramline network in East Berlin in 1987 extended over 455 km and will not be reduced, as is the case in western cities, but also expanded. Even the underground, whose two lines left in the hands of the (East Berlin) BVB since the building of the Wall have led a shadowy existence, carried 89 million passengers in 1986. The line from Alexanderplatz to the zoo is at present being extended into the new urban district of Hellersdorf.

Shops in the St Nicholas quarter



A further 137 million passengers were transported by the city buses of the BVB in 1986. The fare for a journey using the BVB is 20 pfennigs. Most of the S-

A tram

Taxi rank in the
Friedrichstrasse

Bahn lines within East Berlin can be used for this price too. Nevertheless, the proportion of "illegal passengers" amounts to around 15%, according to information provided by the East Berlin BVB.

In 1986 81% of a total of 828 taxis to the publicly owned Kombinat Berliner Verkehrsbetriebe, 154 taxis being privately owned. The number of taxis is totally insufficient, especially since the fares are relatively low. There are in East Berlin a number of illegal "taxi firms", i.e. private persons who drive others to their desired destinations with their private cars and are paid for this.

In 1986 the GDR Ministry of Transport issued a directive whereby private persons could also have a secondary occupation working as taxi drivers using their own cars. However, there are certain conditions attached to this permission. At the end of 1987, there were 651 spare-time taxidrivers making use of this possibility. Individual traffic also plays a large role in transportation in East Berlin. 385,000 vehicles were registered in East Berlin at the beginning of 1986, of which 249,000 were cars. The road network covers around 2,100 km.

Shipping is also important for goods

transportation, behind the Reichsbahn. The Osthafen (East Harbour) in East Berlin is the second largest inland harbour in the GDR (after Magdeburg). 13.6% of the total goods turnover in the inland harbours of the GDR passed through the Osthafen in 1986. In absolute figures this meant 2.87 million metric tons.

The airport "Berlin Schönefeld" is situated outside East Berlin in the Potsdam district. It is the GDR's main airport and is also used by western airline passengers, whom the airlines of the GDR (Interflug) and the East European countries try to win over with dumping prices. Thus a considerable proportion of the West Berlin airline holiday traffic and homeward-bound flights for the foreign workers use "Berlin Schönefeld". In 1986 almost 420,000 citizens from the west used the GDR airport, reaching it from West Berlin.

The number of telephone connections for citizens of East Berlin is insufficient. Although it is considerably better than the GDR average, it is by no means adequate, with 48.6 telephone connections (including telephone boxes) at the end of 1986 for every 100 citizens in East Berlin (GDR average: 22.6 per



Schönefeld Airport



Public telephone

hundred of population). It must be remembered here that the telephone connections for public administration and social institutions are included in these statistics. Thus it is by no means true that every second citizen of East Berlin has a telephone connection. The telephone system is decidedly susceptible to breakdowns. The waiting period for a telephone connection runs into years. Although a further 100,000 telephone connections are planned up to 1990, East Berlin will by then have 50,000 more new inhabitants solely through inland migration from the GDR districts, so that there will in the medium term be no change in the basic shortage. It is also incomprehensible why new hous-



Advertisement for the railways

ing areas are planned in such a way that only every second or third flat is provided with a telephone connection. A local call in East Berlin costs 20 pfennigs. It is also possible to call West Berlin directly, but this is counted as a foreign call.

Socialist competition



VEBs from the whole of the GDR in a building project for flats in East Berlin



VEB, Kombinat and PGH

"VEB" stands for "Volkseigener Betrieb" (People's Own Factory) and shows that the factory is corporately (thus practically state) owned. Private or cooperative factories no longer exist in the GDR, thus they are all VEB.

A Kombinat consists of a number of VEBs and is responsible for production in one sphere. It has a certain independence within the State's set plan but is nonetheless the responsibility of the current Minister of Industry.

Production cooperatives for small trades (PGH) are amalgamations of former self-employed craftsmen and their employees. The cooperative ownership is seen as a form of socialist ownership (alongside the "people's ownership" of the VEB). Thus it was that over a long period of time political pressure was exerted on the craftsmen to combine into these PGHs. However, as of 1976 private craftsmen have once again been given support since it was realized that through this the range of services can be considerably increased. In 1986 58.6% of craftsmen's services were provided by private firms, the remaining 41.4% by PGHs.

6. Standard of living, social services and health

A comparison of the standards of living of both parts of Berlin is complicated. Without doubt the supply of material goods is part of the standard of living, but life is not just consumption. How can one assess the non-material things: freedom of movement for example, or the possibility of reading the books of one's choice, or the feeling of not having to fear for one's job?

The average monthly income of the full-time white or blue-collar worker in the Socialist economy was around 1170 marks in 1986. Included in this figure are bonuses, social gratifications (like, for instance, a Christmas bonus) and state child allowances, but not the sick-benefit corresponding to our continuance of pay in the event of sickness. Deductions for taxes and social insurances are relatively low; so a white or blue-collar worker in the Socialist economy took home in 1986 a statistical average of around 1000 marks.

In the GDR the incomes are not broken down into districts, so we can draw no specific conclusions for East Berlin. It is, however, certain that in East Berlin the average income is higher than in the GDR as a whole, as all people working in East Berlin receive a "Berlin supplement" between 6 and 10%. In all probability the large number of relatively well-paid state functionaries has some effect on the statistical average for East Berlin.

In the GDR in 1986 more than 91% of women between the ages of 16 and 60 were working or in training. More than 334,000 women (nearly 81% of all female citizens of working age) were employed in 1986 in East Berlin. Female students, schoolgirls in the 11th and 12th grades and female trainees are not included in these figures. Thus,

when judging the actual income, one must take into account the household income, in other words the total earnings of all persons living in one household. The household income for workers' and employees' households in the GDR in 1985 amounted to a take-home pay of 1,746 marks. Here as well, there are no special data for East Berlin. Naturally, such statistical averages do not fully reflect the actual situation.

The prices in the GDR and East Berlin are determined by the state. What applies here is the maxim that the basic requirements (including rents) are inexpensive. Thus GDR citizens - generally speaking - have sufficient money. What is often lacking are the goods which they wish to buy with this money.

This is not only frustrating for the individual consumer, it is also dangerous for the GDR economy. If there is too much money in circulation with no material equivalent, then the citizens lose faith in their currency and this leads to a loss of financial incentive and distributive function. Almost certainly partly to absorb this "vagrant purchasing power", the GDR has set up special shops in which it is possible to buy high-quality GDR products which would otherwise be exported to the West, as well as Western products - though for a lot of money. There is a particularly dense network of these "Delikat" shops (for foods) and "Exquisit" shops (for other goods) in the city centre of East Berlin. They should not be confused with the "Intershops", in which it is possible to buy almost everything the heart desires in material goods, although these must be paid for with goods vouchers, which can only be bought for Western money. This Intershop system is also the reason why Western visitors are continually being

"Delikat" shops

approached on the street and invited to change money illegally - which is severely punished.

Apart from illegal exchanges, there are two possibilities open to GDR citizens for acquiring Western currencies (generally D-Mark): either it is sent (legally) by friends or relatives in the West, or else one works at a place where Western tourists pay in their own currencies, which one then keeps. Just think, for example, of waiters in inner-city restaurants in East Berlin. Because of East Berlin's geographical position it is easier to obtain "West marks" there than in the GDR, which obviously has a positive effect on the standard of living.

The citizens of East Berlin also profit in the same way as the rest of the GDR citizens from the state's social policy, which above all encourages the foundation of families. 9.0 marriages were contracted for each 1,000 head of the population in 1986 in East Berlin (GDR average: 8.3), but at the same time 4.2 marriages were dissolved per 1,000 head of population (GDR average: 3.2). 14.3 persons were born per 1,000 head of population in 1986 in East Berlin, 2.4 more than died in the same period (GDR: 13.4 per 1,000; 0.1 less than died). This development is almost certainly connected with the fact that the number of pensioners in East Berlin is lower than the average in the Republic (13.8% to 16.4%), and that the proportion of citizens of working age is correspondingly higher (67.7% to 65.0%). The percentage of children in East Berlin corresponds to the GDR average (18.5% to 18.6%).

Medical treatment in East Berlin is mostly provided by state doctor's surgeries, outpatient departments and hospitals. East Berlin is also the centre

Goods vouchers for the "Intershops"

of the GDR citizen's medical care. 123.3 hospital beds were available per 10,000 head of population in 1986 (GDR average: 101.8). One fifth of the total medical

research capacity of the GDR is concentrated in the best known hospital in East Berlin, the Charité, founded in 1710 as a house for victims of the plague. The Charité also contains one of the five heart centres in the GDR as well as one of the three neurosurgical centres. There is room for more than 1,100 patients in the newly built inpatients' house. A second neurosurgical centre is in the Buch Clinic way out to the north of East Berlin, which has served as a hospital since the turn of the century. Here is also housed the Central Institute for Heart and Circulation Research, which is the responsibility of the Akademie der Wissenschaften (Academy of Sciences). The kidney transplant centre for the GDR is in the Friedrichshain Hospital. This is the oldest municipal hospital (opened in 1874) and it now contains the central first-aid station.

Outpatient departments provide only outpatient treatment. They combine at least five specialist departments with a dental department and a chemist. Ambulatories are smaller medical units with at least two specialist and one dental department. Outpatient depart-

ments and ambulatories deal with a large proportion of daily medical treatment. There were 61 outpatient departments in East Berlin in 1986 (of which 20 were in firms) and 61 ambulatories (of which 27 were in firms).

In addition to these the East Berliners were also under the care of 234 state medical and 71 dental surgeries in 1986. Doctors and dentists in private practice are rare, and their numbers are decreasing since as a rule the setting up of new practices is no longer permitted by the GDR.

The density of doctors in East Berlin is greater than the average for the GDR. 236 East Berliners were treated by one doctor in 1986 (GDR: 425), 1,076 by one dentist (GDR: 1,364). However, these statistics do not differentiate between doctors who actually treat patients, and those who work in research or medical administration. In reality the differences in the density of doctors are probably not as extreme as would appear in the statistics.

Medical treatment is free for the patient. The costs are borne partly directly by the state, partly by social security.

The health service in the GDR: hospitals - here the well known Charité - outpatient departments, and few private practices.



Sociopolitical measures of the GDR

The GDR has a special interest in increasing her population. Therefore, she focuses her sociopolitical measures on young married couples and families. On getting married, couples up to 30 years of age can apply for an interest-free credit of 7,000 marks. This credit has to be repaid within eight years. As children result from the marriage, so the credit is reduced by increasing instalments. If the mother has regularly attended pre-natal examinations, she will receive 1,000 marks as family subsidy. All mothers are granted after the delivery a full year free from work, the so-called "baby year". Starting with the third child, this "baby year" is increased to eighteen months, which will also count towards her pension.

Should a child fall sick, one of the parents (usually the mother) will be granted unpaid leave to look after the child. Single fathers or mothers or parents with two or more children are paid for the time thus spent.

Child allowance amounts to 50 marks for the first child, 100 marks for the second, and 150 marks for the third child and more.

All students in the GDR receive an allowance of at least 200 marks, in East Berlin of 215 marks. Students of the 11th or 12th grade receive education allowances of 110 marks, or during 12th grade, 150 marks monthly.

Citizens without income or personal funds - and who cannot lay claim to a pension - receive social welfare amounting to 260 marks (singles), 420 marks (married couples) per month plus a living allowance of 30 to 45 marks monthly, depending on the number of people per household.

In 1986, 478 adults in East Berlin were living exclusively on social welfare, another 590 were granted partial subsidy or a living allowance.

In December 1986, the average old age pension in the GDR amounted to 378 marks.



Sport- and recreation center



The cultural park, Plänterwald



Celebrating in the back yard





The charcoal huts

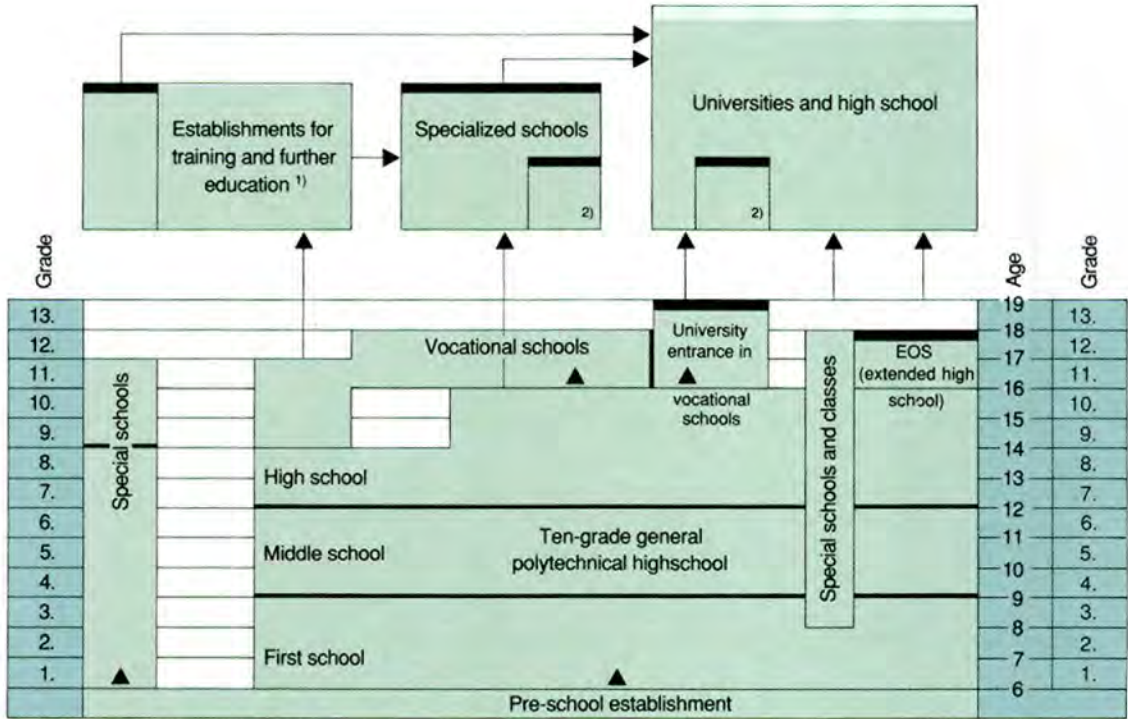


*The "Ketwurst":
the "East-Hotdog"*



*Horse-race course,
Karlsborst*

7. Youth and education



1) Academies and evening schools

2) Preliminary course to obtain final exam

The East German educational system

In 1986, there were 221,600 children (up to 14 years) living in East Berlin and 205,200 in the age group of 15 to 25 years. Nearly each child between three and six years old spends at least part of the day in a kindergarden (93.9%) of which there existed more than 650 in 1986.

From age 6 to 16, all children and teenagers attend the Technical High School (POS). The 322 POSs in East Berlin could boast a total of 136,450 pupils in 1986, an average of 21.7 children per class. Since generally both parents work, afternoon child care is of utmost importance. In 1986 82.1 % of all children in the first four grades in East Berlin were taken care of in the afternoons in a "Schulhort" (approx.: child care centre).

For the higher grades this task is seen to be by educational work-groups as well as the children's organization "Thälmann Pioneers".

After reaching the 10th grade, young East Berliners have to decide on their future; job-training (apprenticeship), final examination (graduation) or a combination of both are possible. But school-leavers are not free to choose. Although personal preferences are - as far as possible - taken into account by the state, "social requirements" are decisive. 85% of young people are directed into job-training programmes, another 5% to a job-training apprenticeship with final examination, and not quite 10% attend the Superior School, "Erweiterte Oberschule" (EOS), where,

after two years, they can sit for the final examination. The number of EOS-pupils is limited; their students represent an elite. Compared with the average proportion of EOS students coming from the GDR, one fifth more come from East Berlin. Even here the "capital" draws attention to itself.

School stress, especially at the EOS, is relatively high. In spite of the fact that each young person is given a place at the university or in an apprenticeship, the coveted "seats" are, even in East Berlin, scarce. Apart from school performance, "social activity" is a substantial part of the criteria for getting on. The student who does not participate in social activities, - that means those who do not actively partake in the "Freie Deutsche Jugend" (Free German Youth - FDJ), - has no chance whatsoever to be allowed to take the final examination. Part of the leisure time has to be devoted to the FDJ. Since job chances largely depend on taking part in the organization's activities, commitment to the organization is only conditionally voluntary.

On the other hand, it should not go unmentioned that the FDJ offers and

age. Part of their leisure time will be spent at the "Camp of work and recreation" where they will be employed part-time in productive work. Since Berlin is surrounded by orchards (the fruit from the River Havel), the students are frequently employed as fruit-pickers.

Apart from that, the youngsters' spare-time interests are the same as those of their counterparts from West Berlin; on top of the list are listening to music and dancing. Discos, such as can be found in West Berlin - which serve the sole purpose of dancing - are virtually unheard of in East Berlin. As a rule, a place that during the day serves as a café will be used at night as a disco. This, for the restaurants, does not mean a money-raking business; prices are fixed by the state and thus are downright low. This can also explain why an appeal by the Municipal Assembly of East Berlin to offer more dancing to the young raised hardly an echo. The Municipal Assembly aims at increasing the number of pubs offering dancing for young people from 110 (1986) to 136 within the coming years. This, however, should not be interpreted as if all these pubs offered daily dancing and music performances.

Discos will as a rule only admit as many people as there are seats. This results in dancing-parlours being half empty while outside people are queuing up - and this often for hours - to be admitted.

East Berlin youngsters satisfy their interest for modern music by listening to the radio or by copying tapes. For this they concentrate mainly on the radio stations "Sender Freies Berlin" (Radio Free Berlin) and "RIAS" (Radio in the American Sector). Young East Berliners are well informed about everything on the Western music scene. When the

Leisure home for young people in the GDR



organizes many things which are greatly enjoyed by the youngsters, more so as here they can meet with young people (both sexes) their own

rock concerts (Concert for Berlin) were performed in front of the Reichstag Building in West Berlin during Whitsun 1987, there were serious incidents. Thousands of young East Berliners who wanted to listen to the concerts had gathered around the Brandenburg Gate. Police and members of the State Security intervened. During the night of 9th June 1987, young people chanted: "Down with the Wall" and they kept call-

ing for Gorbachev in front of the Soviet embassy. Members of the GDR's State Security Forces arrested some 50 young people. Several of the arrested were badly beaten.

Since then, on several occasions in East Berlin it has come to unauthorized demonstrations on the part of young people, with the police and the state security services intervening against them.

Young people
at the "Alex"



Freie Deutsche Jugend (Free German Youth)

The Free German Youth, founded in 1946, represents the only legally admitted youth organization in the GDR. In 1985 it disposed of a membership of 2.3 million which represented nearly 75 % of the age group concerned - those aged between 14 and 25.

Tasks of the FDJ are the training of a generation that welcomes Socialism, the spreading of Marxism-Leninism, the creation of a civic consciousness as well as the drilling of all kinds of social patterns. Furthermore, the FDJ aims at giving support to young people in broadening their specialized knowledge and in contributing to their planning of a well-balanced leisure time. The FDJ is also the "fighting reserve of the Party". It is from their ranks that the young talent is picked for the Socialist Unity Party of Germany (SED).

The FDJ disposes of a closely knit web of grass root organizations (1985: 29,000), formed wherever at least three members work. Each school, each university and each plant disposes of this kind of grass root organization which often consists of several FDJ-groups of which there were more than 100,000 in 1985.

In order to keep up discipline and order during youth festivals and in discos, the FDJ has its own order groups which act as auxiliary police. Up to 98% of the children aged 6 to 13 years belong to the "Ernst Thälmann Pioneer organization".

8. Science and culture

East Berlin is the spiritual and scientific cultural centre of the GDR. A fifth of the total scientific potential of the republic is concentrated here. Apart from the Humboldt University, founded in 1810, with its main building on the street Unter den Linden, there are eight more colleges with a total of around 25,000 students. The Academy of Sciences, the Academy of Arts, the Academy of Social Sciences at the ZK (Central Committee) of the SED, the Academy of Educational Sciences, the Academy of Post-Graduate Medical Education as well as the Academy of Architecture of the GDR, these are all located in East Berlin. East Berliners have the use of nearly 550 libraries.

Seen within the frame of what is admissible in the GDR, the cultural choice on offer is relatively large. The German State Opera and the Comic Opera are well-known outside the GDR. The Friedrichstadtpalast is the only German revue theatre. In October 1984, the Playhouse at the Platz der Akademie was inaugurated as a concert hall.

All in all, East Berlin disposes of 24 theatres which were attended by 1.5 million patrons in 1986. The cabaret "Die Distel" (the Thistle) has its main house right opposite the Friedrichstrasse station. It often proves to be extremely difficult to come by tickets for the cabaret, the Friedrichstadtpalast and the Playhouse; not only difficult for tourists, but even for East Berliners. A large proportion of the tickets available are not sold at the box offices, but are handed out at factories and local authorities. White and blue-collar workers are urged to attend performances on a regular basis. Some plants and individual work-groups (brigades) often have to fulfil a "cultural plan".



The Humboldt University



The Friedrichstadtpalast

The 25 museums in East Berlin were, in 1986, visited by almost 3.7 million visitors, most of these supposed to be tourists (as in all cities). It must be pointed out that considerable shares of the old treasures of the Berlin museums are to be found in East Berlin and on its museum island right in the centre of the city. The most famous museum, but definitely not the only one worth visiting, is the Pergamon Museum.

There are nine daily newspapers in East Berlin, but only two of these are local ones, the "Berliner Zeitung" and "BZ am Abend", which is published in the afternoon. Both papers are mouthpieces of the SED, but it should be mentioned that the rest of the newspapers do not basically vary from these. They all move along the same political line and often



The cabaret "Die Distel" (the thistle)

The Old Museum

the articles are identical right down to their wording and their photos.

The newspapers, which besides the "Berliner Zeitung" and the "BZ am Abend" are published in Berlin, are the central mouthpieces of the parties (Neues Deutschland, SED; Neue Zeitung, CDU; Der Morgen, LDPD; National-Zeitung, NDPD; Bauern-Echo, DBD), as well as of the most important mass organizations, the Free German Trade Unions (Tribüne), and the Free German Youth (Junge Welt).

*The Anti-war
museum located at
St. Bartholomew's
Church*

The most popular weekly illustrated magazine is the "Wochenpost" which appears on Wednesdays and is often quickly sold out.

One of the GDR's radio stations (Berliner Rundfunk - Berlin Radio) takes a look at local events. Again and again, however, it can be determined that reports about East Berlin are treated very fully by all the media of the GDR, because particular consideration is meted out to the "Capital".

*The bazaar of
solidarity of
journalists at the
Alex (square)*

TV took up regular broadcasting in 1956. Since 1969, there has also been a second programme. And since the early seventies, transmissions have generally been in colour, using a system based on the French SECAM system, but by no means do all GDR citizens possess a colour TV set. Viewers in the West can receive the GDR programmes in colour only if they have a special extra device. In 1986, 99% of all GDR households had a radio and more than 94% a TV set. After Party Leader Erich Honecker had in 1971 admonished the television stations "to improve their programmes, to overcome a certain monotony, to take into account the need for good entertainment, and to make TV journalism more effective" (his own words in a speech to the VIII SED Rally,



only since then have radio and TV broadcasts become more attractive, more adapted to their media and more interesting. However, for the daily political transmissions, there still prevails a wearisome communiqué style, mixed with "Court Circular Reports" (as berated often, and not just by GDR intellectuals) over the public appearances of



Display of a newspaper kiosk



Queueing up in front of a book-store



Performance of a West German film at the cinema

leading state officials. On the other hand, in the entertainment programmes, the change has become much more evident. The GDR TV stations have bought numerous French, Italian, English and American movies and Western pop stars are hired. Researching listening and viewing habits has been found to be an important aid to creating a more effective programme and has been extended. Just as in the West, the growing popularity of television, which even in the GDR has become the most popular pastime, has injured the box-office. In 1959, there were 87 cinemas in East Berlin. In 1986 only 24 of these remained. Of these, 7 were first-performance cinemas.

But by no means are the GDR mass media the sole source of information for their citizens: broadcasts by Western radio and TV stations can be received by the majority of them. It is not prohibited to listen to Western broadcasting stations, but on the other hand, it is not welcome. During an interview in June 1974, Honecker declared that "dozens of Western radio stations" could be received; thus, he said, there was rather a deficit in information in the West.

9. Church

*The St. Hedwig's
cathedral*



Less than 40% of all East Germans belong to a Christian church and of this number 80% are Protestant. Traditionally East Berlin is Protestant. Membership of the Protestant church, however, only amounts to 7% of the population here, or in other words around 85,000 people. The Protestant church of Berlin-Brandenburg, with its seat in East Berlin, belongs to the confederation of Protestant churches of the GDR. West Berlin's protestant church belongs to the Evangelische Kirche in Deutschland (Protestant Church in Germany).

The Berlin diocese of the Roman Catholic Church comprises both parts of the city as well as some areas of the GDR. The Bishop of Berlin, Cardinal Meisner, has his seat of office in East Berlin but for thirty days every three months he may visit West Berlin, where he also holds office. Some 61,000 Catholics live in the eastern part of the city.

The relationship between church and state is not free from conflict, but it has greatly improved during the past years. It grows difficult for the church whenever, in the opinion of the state and the SED, it "intervenes" in political matters (for example, questions of peace and ecology). It is especially the Protestant Church that has been very committed to these issues for a long time.

In the last few years the state has permitted the church to rebuild church buildings and even put up new ones. In special cases, when dealing with "cultural monuments", the state even participates in financing the reconstruction. On the other hand, the state sometimes sells materials to the churches only for Western currencies.

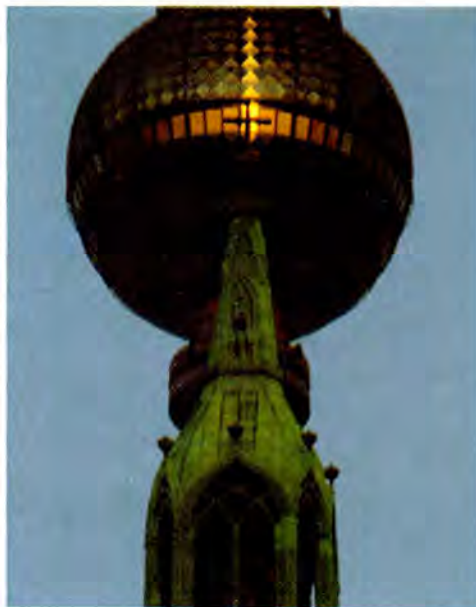
The "Theresien-Schule" in East Berlin, an extended high school with four classes (one each, starting from the 8th grade) and around 80 pupils, all girls, is

the only private school in the whole of East Berlin and the GDR. It belongs to the Catholic church. But both churches run a considerable number of kindergartens, homes for the mentally and physically handicapped, homes for the aged and nursing homes as well as hospitals in East Berlin and the GDR.



Protestant theology can be studied at the Humboldt University.

Also the GDR's largest Jewish community is to be found in East Berlin, but today it has only some 200 members. The synagogue in Rykestrasse in Prenzlauer Berg, with a seating capacity of 2,000, thoroughly restored in the seventies with state backing, holds regular services. Only since 1987, however, have the Jews in the GDR once



St. Mary's Church: spire above the tower and globe of the TV tower

again had their own rabbi with his offices in East Berlin. The synagogue in Oranienburger Strasse in the centre of the city, burned down by the Nazis and subsequently further devastated during the war, is to be rebuilt in the years to come and will be turned into a museum for the history of the Jews in Berlin.

There are three Jewish cemeteries in East Berlin, one of them in Weissensee being the largest in Europe, with more than 100,000 graves. The painter Max Liebermann is also buried in the Jewish cemetery on Prenzlauer Berg. The Jewish community in East Berlin maintains a home for the aged. There is also a kosher butcher's shop in Eberwalderstrasse in Prenzlauer Berg.

Berlin cathedral, as reflected by the Palace of the Republic

*Ancient facade in
Knaackstrasse*



Parade on 1st May



Delighting in Trabbi





Marx-Engels-Forum



Fighting group of the working class



Leipziger Strasse on "Labour Day"

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