

**Chapter 1 : Music in East Germany Â« The View East**

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During a long process of growth and social experimentation, Germany combined a vigorous and highly competitive capitalist economy with a social welfare system that, with some exceptions, has provided its citizens cradle-to-grave security. Rather, it provides these benefits via a complex network of national agencies and a large number of independent regional and local entities--some public, some quasi-public, and many private and voluntary. Many of these structures date from the nineteenth century, and some from much earlier. This legislation set the main principles that have guided the development of social policy in Germany to the present day: These insurance programs were developed from the bottom up. They first covered elements of the working class and then extended coverage to ever broader segments of the population and incorporated additional risks. Over time, these programs came to provide a wide net of entitlements to those individuals having a steady work history. By international standards, the German welfare system is comprehensive and generous. However, not everyone benefits equally. In the mid-1990s, the so-called safety net was deficient for the lower-income strata and the unemployed. It was also inadequate for persons needing what Germans term "social aid," that is, assistance in times of hardship. In 1994, for example, 4. Women are more at a disadvantage than any other social group. This fact stems from the bias of German social insurance programs in favor of a male breadwinner model; most women receive social and health protection by virtue of their dependent status as spouse. Hence, despite the existence of a comprehensive interlocking social net, women face inequalities in accruing benefits in their own right because of periods spent rearing children or caring for an elderly parent. This fact has meant that the complex and heterogeneous organizational and financial arrangements present in the former West Germany to deliver health and social services have had to be built up in the former East Germany, in many cases entirely from scratch. Ever since the nineteenth century, especially during periods of economic and social crisis, there has been a recurrent demand to shift from insurance-based programs to a universal flat-rate and tax-financed program in order to secure a minimum income for all. However, there has never been sufficient political support for eliminating insurance-based programs. In the postwar period, business groups and the Christian Democratic Union (Christlich Demokratische Union--CDU), with the exception of the left wing within the CDU, tended to support the continued segmentation of the labor force into separate insurance-based programs for various occupational groups. The great costs of unification have raised the possibility of ending the steady expansion of social welfare programs that had been going on for more than a century. The current conservative governing coalition has proposed reductions in benefits to finance unification. Other factors such as the increasingly competitive global economy and structural changes in the labor market have also raised questions about the continued affordability of German social policy. As a result, the government is increasingly listening to employers who insist that their share of employee benefit payments be reduced in order that German business remain competitive in a global economy. The integration of the two entirely different education systems that emerged after the division of the country has also raised many controversial issues. No consensus has emerged on whether Germany should adopt the unified school system found in the former East Germany or the heterogeneous three-tiered system of the former West Germany. Nor is there consensus on whether to increase the number of school years by one year for students in eastern Germany or to reduce the thirteen years of schooling in western Germany to twelve years.

**Chapter 2 : The East German Economy: The History of the Failure**

*East Germany, officially the German Democratic Republic (GDR; German: Deutsche Demokratische Republik [ˈdɔʏtʃə ˈdɛmokratɪʃe ˈdɔʏtʃə ˈʁepuˌbliːk], DDR) existed from to , the period when the eastern portion of Germany was a state that was part of the Eastern Bloc during the Cold War.*

Background Post-war Germany After the end of World War II in Europe , what remained of pre-war Germany west of the Oder-Neisse line was divided into four occupation zones as per the Potsdam Agreement , each one controlled by one of the four occupying Allied powers: Communists attempted to disrupt the elections of , preceding large losses therein, [21] while , Berliners demonstrated for the international airlift to continue. By a secret treaty, the Soviet Ministry of Foreign Affairs accorded the East German state administrative authority, but not autonomy. The Soviets permeated East German administrative, military and secret police structures and had full control. Continual economic growth starting in the s fuelled a year " economic miracle " "Wirtschaftswunder". Eastern Bloc emigration and defection and Eastern Bloc After the Soviet occupation of Eastern Europe at the end of World War II, the majority of those living in the newly acquired areas of the Eastern Bloc aspired to independence and wanted the Soviets to leave. Inner German border and Eastern Bloc emigration and defection By the early s, the Soviet approach to controlling national movement, restricting emigration, was emulated by most of the rest of the Eastern Bloc , including East Germany. Stalin agreed, calling the situation "intolerable". He advised the East Germans to build up their border defenses, telling them that "The demarcation line between East and West Germany should be considered a borderâ€”and not just any border, but a dangerous one The Germans will guard the line of defence with their lives. The border between the Western and Eastern sectors of Berlin, however, remained open, although traffic between the Soviet and the Western sectors was somewhat restricted. However, following the defection of large numbers of East Germans under this regime, the new East German state legally restricted virtually all travel to the West in Construction of a new railway bypassing West Berlin, the Berlin outer ring , commenced in Following the completion of the railway in , closing the border became a more practical proposition. See History of rail transport in Germany. Brain drain The emigrants tended to be young and well-educated, leading to the "brain drain" feared by officials in East Germany. Both from the moral standpoint as well as in terms of the interests of the whole German nation, leaving the GDR is an act of political and moral backwardness and depravity. Those who let themselves be recruited objectively serve West German Reaction and militarism, whether they know it or not. Is it not despicable when for the sake of a few alluring job offers or other false promises about a "guaranteed future" one leaves a country in which the seed for a new and more beautiful life is sprouting, and is already showing the first fruits, for the place that favours a new war and destruction? Is it not an act of political depravity when citizens, whether young people, workers, or members of the intelligentsia, leave and betray what our people have created through common labour in our republic to offer themselves to the American or British secret services or work for the West German factory owners, Junkers , or militarists? Does not leaving the land of progress for the morass of an historically outdated social order demonstrate political backwardness and blindness? The loss was disproportionately heavy among professionals: Neither of these advantages, however, proved particularly useful. Please help us clarify the article. There might be a discussion about this on the talk page. July Learn how and when to remove this template message In April , Khrushchev gained an impression that Kennedy is not very smart when he saw Washington supporting the failed invasion of Cuba by anti-communist exiles which were then left to their fate. Khrushchev decided to alarm rather than appease the president. He soon revealed his intention of signing the separate peace treaty with East Germany that would abolish allied rights in West Berlin. One of his intentions was therefore to get the whole of Berlin. However, this action had risks behind it. The risks that we are taking are justified. He showed the unpredictability of US policy. It was then decided to block the access to West Berlin from the East. That is when the construction of the wall started. East German construction workers building the Berlin Wall, 20 November It was the first time the colloquial term Mauer wall had been used in this context. This feeling of miscalculation and failure is admitted by Kennedy in the U. There Ulbricht signed the order to close

the border and erect a wall. Later, the initial barrier was built up into the Wall proper, the first concrete elements and large blocks being put in place on 17 August. Berlin soon went from being the easiest place to make an unauthorized crossing between East and West Germany to being the most difficult. West Berlin became an isolated exclave in a hostile land. Allied intelligence agencies had hypothesized about a wall to stop the flood of refugees, but the main candidate for its location was around the perimeter of the city. I see no reason why the Soviet Union should think it is to their advantage in any way to leave there that monument to communist failure. Thus they concluded that the possibility of a Soviet military conflict over Berlin had decreased. East Germans and others greeted such statements with skepticism, as most of the time, the border was only closed for citizens of East Germany traveling to the West, but not for residents of West Berlin travelling to the East. Most people believed that the Wall was mainly a means of preventing the citizens of East Germany from entering or fleeing to West Berlin. The interagency intelligence Berlin Watch Committee assessed that this intercept "might be the first step in a plan to close the border. Kennedy until noon on 13 August, while he was vacationing in his yacht off the Kennedy Compound in Hyannis Port, Massachusetts. However, he denounced the Berlin Wall, whose erection worsened the relations between the United States and the Soviet Union. Clay, was appointed by Kennedy as his special advisor and sent to Berlin with ambassadorial rank. He was immensely popular with the residents of West Berlin, and his appointment was an unambiguous sign that Kennedy would not compromise on the status of West Berlin. Clay and Vice President Lyndon B. Johnson arrived at Tempelhof Airport on the afternoon of Saturday, 19 August. On 16 August, Kennedy had given the order for them to be reinforced. Lead elements arranged in a column of vehicles and trailers carrying 1, men, divided into five march units left the Helmstedt-Marienborn checkpoint at East German police watched from beside trees next to the autobahn all the way along. Hartel and his brigade of 4, officers and men. By stemming the exodus of people from East Germany, the East German government was able to reassert its control over the country: The economy in the GDR began to grow. But, the Wall proved a public relations disaster for the communist bloc as a whole. Western powers portrayed it as a symbol of communist tyranny, particularly after East German border guards shot and killed would-be defectors. Such fatalities were later treated as acts of murder by the reunified Germany.

**Chapter 3 : The Key Word In "Democratic Socialism" Is "Socialism" | Zero Hedge**

*Harness economy for needs of the state Items are produced for the good of the community Social needs over personal needs.*

Consequently, the regimes in power attempted to monitor and control the music scene. Musicians were faced with high levels of censorship, while those who were unwilling to conform to state restrictions frequently became targets for harassment and repression. This article, by guest author James Shingler, considers the impact of popular music in the GDR during the 1950s and 1960s. By exploring the changing relationship between state authorities, musicians and music fans in the GDR during the latter decades of communist rule, James suggests that by the end of the 1960s the music scene had become an important platform for promoting reform and resistance. The official view promoted by the SED was that popular music was nothing more than a dangerous American cultural weapon designed to corrupt its young people, turning them away from socialist ideals. The cultural, economic and political freedoms expressed through Western popular music were of great concern to the Party, so as the Cold War developed throughout the 1950s and 1960s, the SED increasingly took a hard line towards popular music. However, the early 1960s saw a relaxation of the hard line policies that the SED had implemented in the 1950s and 1960s. Rather than outright repression, the official policy became one of attempted cooperation between the Party, musicians and fans. East German rock music developed its own distinctive style and grew rapidly throughout the 1960s. The SED actively encouraged musicians, so long as they were prepared to comply with the Party line, something which was policed by the requirement for a state-issued *Auftrittserlaubnis* performance permission to allow groups to play publicly. However, state policy remained restrictive and was frustrating to those artists who expressed themselves in a way that the SED disapproved of. Song lyrics would be examined by officials before artists were permitted to release their records on AMIGA. Failure to comply with official guidelines had far reaching consequences as illustrated by the case of the Klaus Renft Combo who were banned in 1965. On 22 September 1965, the band were summoned to the Ministry of Culture to perform in order to have their *Auftrittserlaubnis* renewed. In the aftermath of the hearing the band discovered that not only were they unable to perform concerts, but that the Ministry of Culture had reprinted the entire AMIGA catalogue so they could leave the band out. Two of his colleagues in the band, Gerulf Pannach and Christian Kunert, were less fortunate and were imprisoned until when West Germany bought their freedom. The Klaus Renft Combo, a successful East German rock band who were banned by the authorities in 1965. The 1960s marked a high point for indigenous popular music in the GDR with bands such as The Puhdys, City, Karat and Silly achieving widespread popularity. The Puhdys, an indigenous East German rock band, were widely tolerated by the authorities: Despite the popularity of these bands they received criticism from punk and dance fans who suspected that established rock musicians were too close to the powerful. The biggest GDR musicians thus found themselves stuck in the middle of conflict between the Party and young people. Punk Rock While more mainstream artists enjoyed relative success and freedom, the early 1970s also saw the emergence of a distinctive GDR punk rock scene, which was quickly dismissed by the SED and the FDJ as subversive and a dangerous phenomenon. Conversely, punk in the GDR adapted the sound and fashion of Western punk to the political, social and cultural environment that existed in East Germany at the time. The early 1970s saw the development of an underground punk rock movement in the GDR. However the authorities viewed punk music and fashion as subversive. East German punks remained on the outskirts of mainstream society; a Stasi report from 1971 estimated that there were around 1,000 punks and 10,000 sympathisers in the GDR. Mike Dennis, *The Stasi: Myth and Reality*, Pearson: Punk was primarily an underground movement; many bands performed concerts in their own garages and recorded and distributed their music on self made cassettes. However, as the movement grew, Stasi agents were increasingly able to infiltrate the punk scene. The SED associated punks with degeneracy, especially in their appearance, believing that their scruffy clothes and dyed hair portrayed an aggressive, provocative manner. A Mohican hairstyle was often sufficient for a punk to be hauled into custody by the police. The Stasi banned punk bands viewed as hostile toward the GDR. Members of the punk scene were also routinely recruited by the Stasi as *Inoffizieller Mitarbeiter* Unofficial Collaborators to report on

other punks. In the mid s Frank Zappe, bass player in Leipzig based band Wutanfall was recruited by the Stasi as an Inoffizieller Mitarbeiter after a period of sustained pressure. The Stasi were so successful in infiltrating the punk scene that one punk band in Jena consisted entirely of Inoffizieller Mitarbeitern! The late s saw a shift in Party policy in relation to punk as certain groups, such as Die Skeptiker were professionalised by the State. The Beginning of the End By the late s, there were a number of different musical styles that were fashionable within the East German music scene. There were around professional groups in the GDR ranging from mainstream rock groups such as The Puhdys and Silly to the punk rock and heavy metal of Feeling B and Prinzip. However, East German music fans also had a healthy appetite for Western popular music. However, these records were only released in small numbers and were difficult to get hold of. Most music fans simply resorted to taping their favorite song directly off West German radio stations and exchanging them with their friends and other music fans. The summer of saw West Berlin host a series of open air concerts close to the Berlin Wall. On the other side of the Wall, thousands of East German fans tried to get as close to the Wall as possible to hear the music coming from the West. They were met with heavy resistance from the guards policing the border, which led to clashes between border guards and young East Germans. Realising that suppressing popular music in the aftermath of the riot would only inflame tensions, the SED attempted to win back the support of East German youths. The following year a series of concerts were organised in East Berlin, designed to counter performances from Michael Jackson and Pink Floyd that were taking place close to the Wall in the West. On 19 July , Bruce Springsteen performed the biggest rock concert in the history of the GDR in front of , people. Bruce Springsteen performing to large crowds in East Berlin in July In the same month, singer-songwriters Steffen Mensching and Hans-Eckardt Wenzel drafted a document dubbed the Rocker Resolution which was signed by a number of well known artists including Toni Krahl and Tamara Danz, lead singer of Silly. The state controlled media refused to publish the Resolution, so bands and artists were encouraged to read the declaration out at concerts and other public events to spread the message across the country. Rock in Late s East Germany , The fall of the Berlin Wall signaled the beginning of the end for the GDR and symbolized the start of the re-unification process that was completed on 3 October The concert was attended by an estimated , people, from both Western and Eastern Germany. During his final year of study James researched and wrote his history dissertation about the influence of Western popular music on youth culture in the GDR between and James is now planning to study for a MA in History at Swansea. For more information on this topic see: Dennis, Mike, *The Stasi: Myth and Reality*, London: Pearson Education Limited, Funder, Anna, *Stasiland*, London: Cambridge University Press, pp. University of California Press, Schulz, Hiltrud, *Ear to the Wall: Michigan State University* pp. Advertisements About the Author: More generally, Kelly is also interested in methodological approaches to life writing, personal narratives and oral testimonies; histories of imprisonment and forced labour and the history of crime on a more broadly comparative and transnational basis. A Few Recent Publications:

**Chapter 4 : Socialist Unity Party of Germany - Wikipedia**

*In , four years after the end of the War, the Socialist Unity Party of Germany (SED) proclaimed the foundation of the German Democratic Republic (GDR), also known as East Germany, in place of the Soviet Zone.*

It was also more democratic in this original sense than its neighbor, West Germany. It offered generous pensions, guaranteed employment, equality of the sexes and substantial wage equality, free healthcare and education, and a growing array of other free and virtually free goods and services. These conditions were largely responsible for the less attractive aspects of life in the GDR: These things produced what was best about the country. Ultimately, what the citizens of the GDR rebelled against was their comparative poverty. But this had nothing to do with socialism. East Germans were poorer than West Germans even before the Western powers divided Germany in the late s, and remain poorer today. A capitalist East Germany, forced to start at a lower level of economic development and to disgorge war reparation payments to the USSR, would not have become the social welfare consumer society West Germany became and East Germans aspired after, but would have been at least as worse off as the GDR was, and probably much worse off, and without the socialist attractions of economic security and greater equality. West Germans, then, owed many of their social welfare gains to the fact their neighbour to the east was socialist and not capitalist. The Allies agreed at the February Yalta conference that while Germany would be partitioned into British, US and Soviet occupation zones, the defeated Germany would be administered jointly. First, Germany would be demilitarized, so that it could not launch a third war of aggression against the Soviet Union. The United States wanted to revive Germany economically to ensure it would be available as a rich market capable of absorbing US exports and capital investment. The United States had remained on the sidelines through a good part of the war, largely avoiding the damage that ruined its rivals, while at the same time acting as armorer to the Allies. The United States intended to make post-war life as difficult as possible for the Soviet Union. There were a number of reasons for this, not least to prevent the USSR from becoming a model for other countries. A Germany paying reparations to the Soviets was clearly at odds with the goals of reviving Germany and holding the Soviet Union in check. The division of Germany began in , when the French decided to administer their zone separately. The burden would have to be borne by the Soviet occupation zone alone, which was smaller and less industrialized, and therefore less able to offer compensation. In , the informal division of Germany was formalized with the proclamation by the Western powers of a separate West German state, the FRG. The new state would be based on a constitution written by Washington and imposed on West Germans, without their ratification. The goal of the anti-Comintern pact was to oppose the Soviet Union and world communism. Moscow wanted Germany to remain unified, but demilitarized and neutral and committed to paying war reparations to help the USSR get back on its feet. As late as , the Soviets offered to dissolve the GDR in favour of free elections under international supervision, leading to the creation of a unified, unaligned, Germany. The proposal was, accordingly, rejected. The GDR comprised only one-third of German territory and had a population of 17 million. By comparison, the FRG comprised 63 million people and made up two-thirds of German territory. Per capita income was about 27 percent lower than in the West. The burden of paying war reparations to the Soviets now had to be borne solely by the GDR. And West Germany ceaselessly harassed and sabotaged its neighbor, refusing to recognize it as a sovereign state, regarding it instead as its own territory temporarily under Soviet occupation. Compared to the West, East Germany suffered greater losses in the war. When they pulled out at the end of June, , they brought back to the West more than 10, railway cars full of the newest and best equipment, patents, blueprints, and so on from the firm Carl Zeiss in Jena and the local plants of other top enterprises such as Siemens, Telefunken, BMW, Krupp, Junkers, and IG-Farben. And yet the Soviets were short changed on even this meagre sum. The effect was the virtual deindustrialization of the East. Moreover, the United States offered substantial aid to West Germany to help it rebuild, while the poorer Soviet Union, which had been devastated by the German invasion, lacked the resources to invest in the GDR. Rents, for example, were very low. As a consequence, there were no evictions and there was no homelessness. Education was free through university, and university students received

stipends to cover living expenses. Healthcare was also free. Childcare was highly subsidized. Courtesy of Brendan Stone Differences in income levels were narrow, with higher wages paid to those working in particularly strenuous or dangerous occupations. Full gender equality was mandated by law and men and women were paid equally for the same work, long before gender equality was taken up as an issue in the West. There was no unemployment in the GDR. Rather than supporting systems of oppression and exploitation, as the advanced capitalist countries did in Africa, Latin America and Asia, the GDR assisted the people of the global South in their struggles against colonialism. The 17 million East Germans earn 30 percent more than their next richest partners, the Czechoslovaks, and not much less than the English. Also, consumer goods tended to be inferior compared to those available in West Germany. And there were travel restrictions. Skilled workers were prevented from travelling to the West. But at the same time, vacations were subsidized, and East Germans could travel throughout the socialist bloc. For one, the wealth differential could be attributed deceptively to the merits of capitalism versus socialism. East Germany was poorer, it was said, not because it unfairly bore the brunt of indemnifying the Soviets for their war losses, and not because it started on a lower rung, but because public ownership and central planning were inherently inefficient. The truth of the matter, however, was that East German socialism was more efficient than West German capitalism, producing faster growth rates, and was more responsive to the basic needs of its population. Marxist-Leninists were barred from working in the public service and frequently lost private sector jobs owing to their political views. The penalty for dissenting from the dominant political ideology in the West loss of income was more severe than in the East. The United States spends more on healthcare as a percentage of its GDP than all other countries, but US life expectancy and infant mortality results are worse than in many other countries which spend less but have more efficient public health insurance or socialized systems. This is due to the reality that healthcare is unequally distributed in the United States, with the wealthy in a position to buy the best healthcare in the world while tens of millions of low-income US citizens can afford no or only inadequate healthcare. By contrast, in most advanced capitalist countries everyone has access to basic though typically not comprehensive healthcare. In socialist Cuba, comprehensive healthcare is free to all. Wealth was far more evenly distributed in socialist countries than it was in capitalist countries. The mean Gini coefficient – a measure of income equality which runs from 0 perfect equality to 1 perfect inequality – was 0. Compared to all capitalist countries, socialist countries had higher life expectancies, lower levels of infant mortality, and higher levels of literacy. However, the comparison of all socialist countries with all capitalist countries is unfair, because the group of capitalist countries comprises many more countries unable to effectively meet the basic needs of their populations owing to their low level of economic development. Desperately poor Haiti, for example, is a capitalist country, while neighboring Cuba, richer and vastly more responsive to the needs of its citizens, is socialist. We would expect socialist countries to have done a better job at meeting the basic needs of their citizens, because they were richer, on average, than all capitalist countries together. Why were socialist countries, like the GDR, more efficient? Secondly, the economic surplus the citizens of socialist countries produced was channelled into making life better for everyone whereas in capitalist countries the economic surplus goes straight to shareholders, bondholders, landowners and bankers. This made socialism more democratic than capitalism in three ways: Capitalism, by contrast, produces inequality. Capitalist societies, on the other hand, defend and promote the interests of the minority that owns capital. By comparison, capitalist societies emphasize political and civil liberties, i. As will be discussed below, even when it came to political as distinct from social and economic democracy, the differences between East and West Germany were more illusory than real. Stanching the outward migration of skilled workers Despite the many advantages the GDR offered, it remained less affluent throughout its four decades compared to its capitalist neighbor to the west. Working-age, but not retired, East Germans were offered interest-free loans, access to scarce apartments, immediate citizenship and compensation for property left behind, to relocate to the West. East German citizens would be barred from entering West Germany without special permission, while West Germans would be prevented from freely entering the GDR. The latter restriction was needed to break up black market currency trading, and to inhibit espionage and sabotage carried out by West German agents. Many of the obstacles had existed for years, but until , Berlin – partitioned between the West and

East Germany remained free of physical barriers. By comparison, hundreds of Mexicans die every year trying to escape poor Mexico into the far wealthier United States. Those who were caught served prison sentences of one year. While in the 1950s, only retirees over the age of 65 were permitted to travel to the West, by the 1960s, East Germans 50 years of age or older were allowed to cross the border. Those with relatives in the FRG were also allowed to visit. By 1965, close to 1 million East Germans had visited the West. Virtually all of them returned. In 1961, over 99 percent of those who returned. In 1962, requests were turned down. Incidentally, people have fled and continue to flee, to richer countries also from poor capitalist countries. The comparative paucity and lower quality of consumer goods, and lower wages, were the product of a multitude of factors that conspired against the East German economy: By comparison, aid flows from Western countries were designed to profit Western corporations, banks and investors. What East Germany lacked in consumer goods and wages, it made up for in economic security. The regular economic crises of capitalist economies, with their rampant underemployment and joblessness, escalating poverty and growing homelessness, were absent in the GDR. The greater security of life for East Germans presented a challenge to the advanced capitalist countries. Intent on demonstrating that capitalism was superior to socialism, governments and businesses in the West were forced to meet the standards set by the socialist countries to secure the hearts and minds of their own working class. Generous social insurance, provisions against lay-offs and representation on industrial councils were conceded to West German workers. What the Stelco workers won through collective bargaining, the non-unionized Dofasco workers received as a sop to keep the union out. But once the union goes, the motivation to pay union wages and provide union benefits disappears. Likewise, with the demise of East Germany and the socialist bloc, the need to provide a robust social safety net in the advanced capitalist countries to secure the loyalty of the working class no longer existed. Hence, the GDR not only furnished its own citizens with economic security, but indirectly forced the advanced capitalist countries to make concessions to their own workers. It is no accident that the claw back of reforms and concessions granted by capitalist ruling classes during the Cold War has accelerated since the opening of the Berlin Wall. The collapse of the GDR and the socialist bloc has proved injurious to the interests of Western working populations in another way, as well. From the Bolshevik Revolution in 1917 to the opening of the Berlin Wall in 1989, the territory available to capitalist exploitation steadily diminished. The outcome of the rapid expansion of the pool of wage-labor worldwide for workers in the advanced capitalist countries has been a reduction in real wages and explosive growth in the number of permanent lay-offs as competition for jobs escalates. Going backward Since the opening of the Berlin Wall and the annexation of the GDR by the FRG in 1990, the former East Germany has been transformed from a rapidly industrializing country where everyone was guaranteed a job and access to a growing array of free and nearly free goods and services, to a de-industrialized backwater teeming with the unemployed where the population is being hollowed out by migration to the wealthier West.

**Chapter 5 : 'Revenge of the East'? How anger in the former GDR helped the AfD | World news | The Guardian**

*In the GDR, the ruling SED party, an amalgamation of the Eastern zone's SPD and KPD, with the latter having a monopoly on the leadership, the state framed its existing policies as socialist.*

Here are 10 fascinating nuggets of trivia to impress your friends! At the end of the Second World War, Germany was split into four militarily occupied zones: American, British and French in the west, and Soviet in the east. The original aim was to work together to help reconstruct Germany, but also to ensure that it could never again become a threat to world peace. But the Cold War soon got in the way of this. The German Democratic Republic GDR was formed by the Soviets on October 7th in the east, after the other three zones had already combined to form the Federal Republic of Germany a few months earlier. From until the fall of the Berlin Wall in November, these two states remained entirely separate, developing very different identities. After over 25 years of reunification, the GDR is a distant memory for many, but it still influences modern Germany. Here are some interesting facts about this very unique state: One in 90 East Germans worked unofficially for the secret police The people of the GDR were some of the most spied on in the world. But the trustworthiness of the BStU itself was questioned when WikiLeaks revealed in that it employed at least 79 former Stasi members. Ludovic Glucksman The East German government kept a close eye on the growth in the popularity of jeans in the early years. Dance halls banned the so-called "riveted pants", and children wearing them at school would be sent home! The state saw them as an expression of western capitalism, and of rebellion. Despite being a political statement, many would go to extraordinary measures to get their hands on a pair. They would either try to smuggle them in from the West through the post, or pay extortionate prices on the black market. Sensing a lost battle, the GDR started to produce their own jeans from These never really compared with western counterparts, as they were made from partially synthetic materials due to cotton shortages. These were sold in selected universities and companies, and even in the Ministry of State Security - to the Stasi! From the s the fence through the middle became a solid wall and remained so until Essentially little more than a lawn-mower with four doors, these cars were built extremely cheaply, and were renowned for being slow, noisy, and extremely polluting. The outside of the car was actually made out of plastic from recycled materials. And they could do mph in And yet, East Germans were determined to have one, despite production being way behind target. You had to have yourself put on a list and you had to wait for the car between 11 and 15 years," Johannes Drexler, a Trabant tour guide in Berlin, told Deutsche Welle. Children collected bottles, metal, paper, cans, even camera film, and they could earn some money from the debris in a collection centre. For a state so backward by, this was just one way in which they seemed quite modern! Communist brands are still available in your local store! DPA Even after a quarter of a century, some ex-communist brands remain on the shelves of German supermarkets! The first milk banks had been introduced in Germany after the First World War, to supply breast-milk for children who would not otherwise have access to it. From, any GDR city with a population over 50, had to have a bank by law. Donors were given extra food coupons as payment. By, the East had 62 milk banks, whereas the West had only With premature births being more likely to survive, demand was increasing. By, over, litres were being donated annually in the GDR, which was enough to fill the demand without artificial formula-milk. After reunification, they lost government support and all of them were shut down by But there has been a resurgence more recently and milk banks are back on the rise. The state introduced quotas and financial support to get women to work An East German woman trains to use a lathe. Seeing the patriarchy as a result of capitalism, they introduced quotas for working women in industry, as well as introducing comprehensive laws to protect working mothers, and to supply childcare. Even today, as the federal statistics office Destatis recently calculated, the gender pay gap is still significantly different in the two former states: Apart from the mattresses and sheets, everything in this hotel is authentic.

**Chapter 6 : East German By Design: The ABCs of Communist Consumer Culture - SPIEGEL ONLINE**

*The Socialist Unity Party of Germany (German: Sozialistische Einheitspartei Deutschlands, SED), established in April , was the governing Marxist-Leninist political party of the German Democratic Republic from the country's foundation in October until its dissolution after the Peaceful Revolution in*

Bernie Sanders of Vermont, who most likely would have been the Democratic Party candidate for president in had party insiders not rigged the process for Hillary Clinton. Democratic socialists also believe strongly in democracy and democratic principles. They are by no means proponents of authoritarian government systems many Americans associate socialism with. As we are unlikely to see an immediate end to capitalism tomorrow, DSA fights for reforms today that will weaken the power of corporations and increase the power of working people. She added in an afterthought, however, that she disagreed with the violent means used to put that system into place, as though the implementation of the communist state she so adored could be done any other way. We further can assume that employing an electoral process to vote socialist measures into place is going to make socialism work better than it has in the past, since the mechanics of socialism do not differ whether the socialist regime is installed via revolutionary violence or through the ballot box. If socialism is understood as a system in which workers and communities rather than bureaucrats, politicians, and well-connected entrepreneurs exercise effective democratic control over economic and political decision-making, it would appear that Venezuela is suffering not from too much socialism, but from too little. I believe that in a modern, moral, and wealthy society, no person in America should be too poor to live. What that means to me is health care as a human right, it means that every child no matter where you are born should have access to a college or trade-school education if they so choose it. I think that no person should be homeless if we have public structures or public policy to allow for people to have homes and food and lead a dignified life in the United States. Global economic integration has rendered obsolete both the social democratic solution of independent national economies sustaining a strong social welfare state and the Communist solution of state-owned national economies fostering social development. The globalization of capital requires a renewed vision and tactics. But the essence of the socialist vision “that people can freely and democratically control their community and society” remains central to the movement for radical democracy. The site goes on to claim falsely that poverty rates are increasing and that people around the world are poorer than they were a half-century ago. The country we knew as East Germany “famous for its wall preventing people from escaping over its borders” officially was named the German Democratic Republic, and so on. One cannot have such large-scale changes in direction of resources without creating economic dislocations. Voters in winner-take-all elections are no more adept at creating a vibrant or even functioning economy than central planners, and the idea that a popular vote for nearly everything economic would produce anything but chaos is laughable. They would set up a system that would be highly confiscatory and order things like single-payer medical care to be put into place. Voters in that country freely elected Hugo Chavez, who promised “and delivered “ a socialist regime in which government confiscated huge amounts of private property, nationalized the oil sector, and then spent the new windfall on things that socialists believe to be important. The view from socialists is that once a system of state ownership and control has been put into place, anything that would change those arrangements would be illegitimate, reactionary, and fought against at all costs. Indeed, nowhere in the entire DSA website can one find any mention that voters can and should be free to vote out socialism after it is established in a society. So-called democratic socialists, it seems, believe that once socialism is put into place, that any attempt to remove it is a crime against progress itself. However, would the followers of Sanders and Ocasio-Cortez be willing to put up with the relatively-low business taxes that exist in Denmark in order to ensure that private enterprise can produce enough wealth to fund the Danish welfare state? While much of the current call for socialism in the USA is coming from entrepreneurial billionaires, and especially those on the West Coast, there is no room for such people in Denmark. Trone is the billionaire wine distributor running as a Democrat in our Democrat-gerrymandered Western Maryland congressional district whose platform essentially is one of so-called democratic socialism. The fact is that the

society Trone wants to create would have no place for people like him who took an idea, purchased resources in the face of uncertainty, and built a thriving business, enabling him to become a billionaire. The demand for utter conformity is something that neither Sanders nor his inarticulate acolyte Ocasio-Cortez can explain away. The government response almost always is the same: Today, he and Ocasio-Cortez pretend that they peacefully can create that happy utopia where everyone is happy, and there is a coffee shop on every corner.

**Chapter 7 : Advice for GDR Agitators on Poland**

*October 7th is the anniversary of the GDR's formation. Here are 10 fascinating nuggets of trivia to impress your friends! At the end of the Second World War, Germany was split into four militarily.*

A declining class never leaves the stage of history voluntarily! Consistent with its nature, imperialism can never accept the existence of socialism. As long as imperialist states and forces exist, they will not stop trying to split and destroy the revolutionary movement through counterrevolution, to reverse the achievements of the working class and its allies, and above all to change the balance of power in their favor. How much tragedy and sacrificial struggle by the working class, how much horror, terror, and inhumanity of the class condemned to vanish is concealed behind the word counterrevolution? When for a brief historical moment the French proletariat seized power in , the French bourgeoisie and reactionary Prussian militarism drowned the Paris Commune in a terrible bloodbath. Immediately all the enemies of the proletariat, both domestically and internationally, took up the struggle. The Denikens and Koltschaks, the capitalist landlords and kulaks, supported by a counterrevolutionary army from 14 imperialist states, armed to the teeth, unleashed a terrible campaign of terror and civil war against the young Soviet power. When in the German working class began to shake the foundations of capitalism and the Junkers during the November Revolution by forming the Communist Party of Germany, counterrevolution struck back immediately. Karl Liebknecht and Rosa Luxemburg, the leaders of the revolution, were murdered. These are only a few of the murderous deeds of counterrevolution. Following the example of former colonial rulers, threats and sometimes grain blockades and economic blockades are used to suppress young national states and keep them subservient to imperialism. Export bans, economic embargoes, and economic sabotage were used by imperialist counterrevolution from the first day of the existence of socialist nations to the present day, ever attempting to disturb or throttle the economic development of socialist states. Let us remember also the luring away of thousands of specialists from the GDR before 13 August [the date of the Berlin Wall]. Even today, with the express approval and support of the Bonn government, criminals unscrupulously misuse the travel and transit regulations to endanger the life and health of GDR citizens. Today ideological diversion is the main form of counterrevolutionary attack on socialism. There are 9, radio stations and 14, television stations in the 5 leading imperialist nations alone. It works now with long range, differentiated plans with various divisions of responsibility and various representatives. In close cooperation with imperialist secret services, reactionary clerical forces have worked out a three-step plan for Poland: That is clear from the following facts: Counterrevolution with its many faces is secret and dangerous, and demands our greatest political and ideological watchfulness. Neither the policy of Cordon sanitaire i. Comrade Erich Honecker said clearly in his speech to party activists in Gera: The plans of domestic and international counterrevolution will not succeed in Poland, the GDR, or in any other socialist nation. Counterrevolution must realize that its bounds are west of the Elbe and Werra rivers. We communists in Rochlitz County give our word on that. My e-mail address is available on the FAQ page.

**Chapter 8 : East Germany - 10 things you never knew about the GDR - The Local**

*A State of Peace and Socialism by Erich Honecker Thirty-five years have passed since 7 October , the day when the German Democratic Republic was founded and a completely new chapter was opened in the history of our people.*

At the present time, the world accepts the economic status of the powerful German state as a normal part of the international order. Coincidentally, this time period was also the beginning of the Cold War and the ideological division of the world could not be any more noticeable than in the governing of the zones. The three western powers united their zones into a region simply known as Trizonia while the Soviet Union held onto its region in the eastern half of the nation. The division of Germany was an accidental result of the Cold War as the controlling world powers imposed their own economic and social ideals on their respective areas.

**History** The history of the two German states can be divided into five time periods. The first began in the years directly following World War II and continued until the recognition of the two states as distinct governments in 1949. During this time, the governments of the United States, United Kingdom and France controlled the western half of Germany. These nations were constantly backing the region with financial support including the heralded Marshall Plan of 1948, which supplied massive amounts of aid to western European nations. Fulbrook 14 The governments also dismantled any current socialist reforms and unions as well as aided the right wing government to consolidate their power. Fulbrook 15 At the same time, the Soviet Union was stripping the land of the eastern half of Germany for what it considered to be reparations for the damage caused by the German armies during the war. They were also beginning to implement Soviet style reforms in the region including a land reform in that effectively broke up large estates and the nationalization of industry in 1948. Fulbrook 14 Many Germans were not deeply involved in the political arena and were simply trying to reestablish their lives after the war. For this reason, they may have been more susceptible to the increased role of other nations in their own governments. Berlin remained an international city and was divided in a similar fashion as the rest of the nation. As the economy of West Germany recovered, the governing powers introduced the new currency "the deutsch mark". Fearful of the new currency and the invasion of capitalist ideas, Josef Stalin closed the borders to Berlin in 1948 and forced the United States to airlift in the commodities needed in the western half of the city. Stalin, citing the repair of roads as his ostensible reason for closing the region, ended the blockade after the success of the airlift. This event would foreshadow the events that would occur only a decade later. The second period of post war German history occurred between 1949 and 1961. This was the time after the creation of the two separate nations but before the building of the Berlin Wall. In the West, Konrad Adenauer came into power and was a supporter of the western world. Fulbrook 18 In the east, communist Walter Ulbricht maintained control and implemented programs to assume full control of the many communist factions including the removal of the upper house of parliament and the abolition of the leaders of the regional governments. Fulbrook 19 It was during this time that central planning of heavy industry and the collectivization of agriculture experienced their first declines. This economic downturn resulted in an exodus of skilled workers into West Berlin. Fulbrook 19 The governments remained separated by their ideological differences and would receive sovereignty in 1955. West Germany was a member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and the European Economic Community, which promoted economic cooperation on the continent. Fulbrook 19 West Germany refused to recognize the existence of the GDR stated in the Hallstein Doctrine and the two states drifted into further isolation from one another. Fulbrook 20 The next period was the decade from 1961 until 1989. In the East, there was a definitive change in the domestic atmosphere, as a physical wall had closed the nations off from the rest of the world. It was a society based on militarization and repression including the use of border guards and the State Security Police or Stasi. Fulbrook 39 The government established a full communist political system emphasizing nationalization of industry and property, labor reform, centralization of power and the formidable role of the Socialist party SED. Fulbrook 21 In the West, the economy continued to grow along with their similarities to other western European nations. Fulbrook 22 To the east of the Wall, Honecker made the GDR the most successful nation in the communist bloc and continued the use of five-year plans and communist economic systems. In 1971 he made an unprecedented visit to

West Germany. Fulbrook 23 Political activism was on the rise especially among environmental groups along with an air of conservatism in the west and instability in the east. In , Mikhail Gorbachev rose to power and installed his programs of openness in the bloc. A month later, he announced permission for unlimited travel out of East Germany. Fulbrook 24 The strong binds of communism were quickly unraveling. The currency was officially united in the summer of and the country was officially unified in October of that year. Fulbrook 25 The divided country of Germany had finally been reestablished after 40 years II. There were watchtowers and about people arrested attempting to cross. Berlin Wall Online The most famous was Checkpoint Charlie, a crossing point maintained by the United States, which provided some East German residents with some of their only looks into the western world. The wall stood from until The wall was also in many ways a psychological as well as a political and social boundary. The social differences between the people living their lives on either side were much larger than the short distance of land that separated them. It has been a common description to say that crossing that arbitrary line was like driving from black and white into Technicolor. After the wall fell, the social stigma attached to it became even more obvious. These people had been separated for forty years and some of the younger generations had not even know what it was like to live any other way. The older generations were astounded by the changes that had taken place and felt isolated by their inability to catch up. It stands as an icon of the Cold War world and the alienation of two states which would soon become one nation. The FRG was always economically on the upswing, upholding a capitalist market economy. It was also aided by the financial assets of the Marshall Plan and the migration of skilled labor from the East before the Berlin Wall. Schnitzer 53 The FRG also focused much of its energy on obtaining a role in the collective economy of the European continent. West Germany followed a policy of codetermination after , which gave workers a recognized voice in the structure of industry. In , this was followed by the introduction of work councils, allowing more even further communication between employees and employers. Schnitzer 50 There was one union per industry to decrease the amount of infighting and increase the bargaining power of the unions. An example of this was the German Trade Union Federation. Schnitzer 50 The West remained capitalist throughout its entire existence with varying amounts of state power in the economy as a response to world conditions. For example, there was more state control of the economy during the oil crisis of to Schnitzer 51 The economy of the GDR, on the other hand, was a perfect example of the Soviet command and control type. They utilized central planning, state control of the financial markets as well as a tendency to stress quantity over quality. Schnitzer 52 As was mentioned, they initiated massive land reforms in , effectively breaking down large estates. Schnitzer 52 The land had lost most of its industrial capability after the Soviet Union had stripped it of its primary machinery after the war. Schnitzer 52 However, it came too little and too late. Labor was organized into one large union called the Free German Trade Union that was essentially a mouthpiece for the ruling SED party and had little power to change the working environment. Schnitzer 53 This region had less industrial and natural resources to use for growth from the onset. Schnitzer 47 In the FRG, private citizens controlled the bulk of the industry and market forces determined the prices. Schnitzer 35 Agriculture amounted for a small sector of the economy and they imported most of their foodstuffs. Schnitzer 39 The fiscal system was controlled on three levels by the local, state and national governments and they invested heavily in the economy as well as set the taxation rate to support the public sector. Schnitzer Unlike the GDR, there was little economic planning. Schnitzer 48 The banking system was controlled on the national level by the Deutsches Bundesbank. Schnitzer The bank was considerably independent from the national government, with a structural system similar to the Federal Reserve Bank in the United States. Meanwhile, smaller banks were usually independently owned. The unemployment rate averaged around one percent for the first three decades of the nations existence Schnitzer The average wage and national income were almost double that of the GDR. Schnitzer In the East, the allocation of resources was a result of the government-planned economy. Industry was maintained by either state or semi state owned institutions, cooperatives, or by private companies with strong governmental oversight. Schnitzer The economy was dominated by their remaining industrial sector, which accounted for some sixty percent of their Gross National Product, and large agricultural sector. Schnitzer Instead of a reliance on the market economy similar to the FRG, East Germany depended two, five and seven year plans for economic growth submitted by

the government. They were usually written and administered by the State Planning Commission. Schnitzer These plans usually established the volume and distribution of national income, investment, industrial production, retail trade and expected increases during the upcoming set time period of labor productivity and the income of the population. There were also plans developed for the financial planning of the monetary and banking system. These plans were then sent on to the ministries of each industry for implementation. Schnitzer All enterprises within the GDR were responsible for submitting an annual operating plan, which was developed in the framework of the national plans. Schnitzer There was a high amount of bureaucracy and plans were passed between sectors and ministries without ever being successfully implemented. With the beginning of the aforementioned New Economic System, the focus became placed primarily on the construction of development of primary industries and capital goods. No attention was paid to the increase in consumer goods, which resulted in the unhappiness of the people and the scarcity of the commodities. Schnitzer In the labor market, profit was the main criteria for performance and a portion of any profits were distributed to the workers as bonuses. However, these bonuses were offset by the high levels of levies placed on all sectors of the economy which resulted in the lowering of wages. Most of the expenditure of the government in the public sector was for social services or education. Schnitzer The state budget was essentially a plan for the whole economy and financial planning was based on the estimated levels of output for each year as a result of the output levels of the year before. The banking system was planned by the Ministry of Finance and expectations were handed down to the central bank or Staatsbank on topics such as currency emission standards, the refinancing of other banks, and the needed preparations for other banks to maintain national plan. Schnitzer There were certain specialized bank for each sector of the economy as well including the Industrial and Commercial Bank and the Agricultural Bank. Schnitzer The two separate economic systems of divided Germany differ by their procedures of implementation, allocation and treatment of labor. Schnitzer In the FRG, they already had a strong foundation of industrialization to build off of before the division of the nation. The Allies also took extreme measures to break down cartels and monopolies, ostensibly to break down the capabilities of any future war-making machine. Schnitzer 55 This continuing trend of preserving the rights of competition among the firms in the FRG helped to establish a busy and growth oriented market, if only in some cases for businessmen to preserve their own livelihood. This also increased competition among smaller firms and provided for employment concentration in the larger firms. Schnitzer 56 A reliance on larger firms, although it could deter economic growth, made the West German state a powerful economic icon through its encouragement of extreme capitalism and competition. Schnitzer The state was never involved in ownership and the prevalent industries were the chemical, electro technical, machinery and automobiles.

**Chapter 9 : Socialism's contradictions in "the other Germany" and the Third World " People's**

*East Germany's Minister for Education, its First Lady Margot Honecker, assessed the post-war beginnings of the young German Democratic Republic (the GDR, or East Germany) writing in her memoir.*

July 11, They were supported in the Eastern zone of postwar Germany by the authorities of Soviet occupation. At the time this photo was taken in June , there were about students from that country studying at the school. The key condition was to build the unity of the working class. Without the union of all these patriotic forces into the National Front the mobilization of men and women for a new democratic beginning, to impose basic democratic reforms in the economy and the state, and, therefore, the construction of socialism, would not have been possible. Ambrose states and historian Taylor Branch repeats, how amid the U. This might reveal why the president dragged his feet so long to federalize National Guard troops to integrate a few Black students into an Arkansas high school. The national flower of the United States is the white woman. Could this be the same world Mrs. Quinn Slobodian is an associate professor of history at Wellesley College, but it seems to have taken a few years and a story of its own for his anthology to be published in the United States. I imagine Comrades of Color: It treats the global South in general and Africa in particular without any duplicity or reservation, unlike our war-hero, anti-Black president. Hence, it was published in the UK initially. Struggle, in this sense of the word, is not to evoke those beautiful partisan art-deco posters from anti-Franco Spain or Soviet war imagery. A GDR poster c. This is to say, that the marriage lasted, for better or worse, richer or poorer "until the house burned down in the catastrophe of Until the annulment, tiny East Germany strived to make its mark as an international player in building a socialist community. This did not jibe at all with Mozambican attitudes about women or their opposition even to the distribution of condoms. But how to deal with Davis was also a tightrope walk. The GDR had other motivations than just solidarity. Each was eager to prove to the Western world and to the United Nations it was further away from the Third Reich than its opposite. Neither was admitted to the United Nations until the early s because of that history and until then, West Germany was doubling down in its campaign to keep the GDR from being recognized at all. West Germany had to wear its anti-communism on its sleeve and prove to its masters it was on the right side. The piece hearkens back to Dickens or to Upstairs Downstairs in describing East Germany and differs sharply from the image the state sought to project. Tensions between the Mozambican students and East Germans erupted when their different value systems met headlong in local bars and discos, fueled by alcohol. Vietnamese workers trying to pick up East German women were often confronted and beaten up by East German men. As Schaefer writes, by the late s, the GDR had developed an extensive guest-worker program for Vietnamese, Mozambican, and Cuban nationals. This was seen by East German elites as a win-win. But guest-worker pay was much lower than that of their German counterparts, and these workers were increasingly used for more and more tasks to advance the GDR in comparison with its counterpart in the West. This fostered resentment among some East Germans who began to see these workers as depressing their own wages and stealing their jobs, while they had to endure deprivations. Verber writes of a street brawl in between 50 Mozambican students, who had jumped the fence of the School of Friendship to confront over East German youth. The racial tensions boiling beneath the surface flowed over with the demise of the USSR and the socialist bloc and are painful to recall. Many were mystified to see the appearance of hateful forces that were reminders of another Germany of the s. But other forces were unleashed after No longer faced with the pressures of a Soviet model, U. Bill Clinton dismantled the welfare system, sending more children into poverty than Ronald Reagan had. The prison population skyrocketed. So it is only in this context that the racist violence that emerged post-GDR seems logical. On the other hand, studying these interactions between the GDR and the global South, as Slobodian has done broadly in this anthology, has current resonance. But we need your help. While our content is free for readers something we are proud of it takes money " a lot of it " to produce and cover the stories you see in our pages. Only you, our readers and supporters, can keep us going. Only you can make sure we keep the news that matters free of paywalls and advertisements.