

1: Reconstruction of Germany - Wikipedia

The reconstruction of Germany after World War II was a long process. Germany had suffered heavy losses during the war, both in lives and industrial power. 10 million Germans had been killed, roughly 10 percent of the population (see also World War II casualties).

Share via Email A close-up of a page from a ration book. However, was different, so different that it has been called Year Zero. The capacity for destruction had been so much greater than in the earlier war that much of Europe and Asia lay in ruins. And this time civilians had been the target as much as the military. The figures are hard to grasp: During the war, millions more had fled their homes or been forcibly moved to work in Germany or Japan or, in the case of the Soviet Union, because Stalin feared that they might be traitors. Now, in , another new word appeared, the DP, or "displaced person". There were millions of them, some voluntary refugees moving westward in the face of the advancing Red Army, others deported as undesirable minorities. The newly independent Czech state expelled nearly 3 million ethnic Germans in the years after , and Poland a further 1. Everywhere there were lost or orphaned children, , alone in Yugoslavia. Thousands of unwanted babies added to the misery. It is impossible to know how many women in Europe were raped by the Red Army soldiers, who saw them as part of the spoils of war, but in Germany alone some 2 million women had abortions every year between and . The allies did what they could to feed and house the refugees and to reunite families that had been forcibly torn apart, but the scale of the task and the obstacles were enormous. The majority of ports in Europe and many in Asia had been destroyed or badly damaged; bridges had been blown up; railway locomotives and rolling stock had vanished. Great cities such as Warsaw, Kiev, Tokyo and Berlin were piles of rubble and ash. Factories and workshops were in ruins, fields, forests and vineyards ripped to pieces. Millions of acres in north China were flooded after the Japanese destroyed the dykes. Many Europeans were surviving on less than 1,000 calories per day; in the Netherlands they were eating tulip bulbs. Britain had largely bankrupted itself fighting the war and France had been stripped bare by the Germans. They were struggling to look after their own peoples and deal with reincorporating their military into civilian society. The four horsemen of the apocalypse – pestilence, war, famine and death – so familiar during the middle ages, appeared again in the modern world. The once great powers of Japan and Germany looked as though they would never rise again. In retrospect, of course, it is easy to see that their peoples, highly educated and skilled, possessed the capacity to rebuild their shattered societies. And it may have been easier to build strong economies from scratch than the partially damaged ones of the victors. Two powers, so great that the new term "superpower" had to be coined for them, dominated the world in . The United States was both a military power and an economic one; the Soviet Union had only brute force and the intangible attraction of Marxist ideology to keep its own people down and manage its newly acquired empire in the heart of Europe. The great European empires, which had controlled so much of the world, from Africa to Asia, were on their last legs and soon to disappear in the face of their own weakness and rising nationalist movements. We should not view the war as being responsible for all of this, however; the rise of the US and the Soviet Union and the weakening of the European empires had been happening long before . The war acted as an accelerator. It also accelerated change in other ways: The world got atomic weapons but it also got atomic power. Under the stimulus of war, governments poured resources into developing new medicines and technologies. In many countries, social change also speeded up. The shared suffering and sacrifice of the war years strengthened the belief in most democracies that governments had an obligation to provide basic care for all citizens. When it was elected in the summer of , for example, the Labour government in Britain moved rapidly to establish the welfare state. The rights of women also took a huge step forward as their contribution to the war effort, and their share in the suffering, were recognised. In France and Italy, women finally got the vote. If class divisions in Europe and Asia did not disappear, the moral authority and prestige of the ruling classes had been severely undermined by their failure to prevent the war or the crimes that they had condoned before and during it. Established political orders – fascist, conservative, even democratic – came under challenge as peoples looked for new ideas and leaders. In Germany and Japan, democracy slowly took root. In China, people turned increasingly from

the corrupt and incompetent nationalists to the communists. While many Europeans, wearied by years of war and privation, gave up on politics altogether and faced the future with glum pessimism, others hoped that, at last, the time had come to build a new and better society. In western Europe, voters turned to social democratic parties such as the Labour party in Britain. In the east, the new communist regimes that were imposed by the triumphant Soviet Union were at first welcomed by many as the agents of change. The end of the war inevitably also brought a settling of scores. In many parts people took measures into their own hands. Collaborators were beaten, lynched or shot. Women who had fraternised with German soldiers had their heads shaved or worse. Governments sometimes followed suit, setting up special courts for those who had worked with the enemy and purging such bodies as the civil service and the police. The Soviets also tried to exact reparations from Germany and Japan; whole factories were dismantled down to the window frames and were carted off to the Soviet Union, where they frequently rotted away. Much of the revenge was to gain advantage in the postwar world. In China and eastern Europe the communists used the accusation of collaboration with the Japanese or the Nazis to eliminate their political and class enemies. German de-Nazification The allies instituted an ambitious programme of de-Nazification in Germany, later quietly abandoned as it became clear that German society would be unworkable if all former Nazis were forbidden to work. In both Germany and Japan, the victors set up special tribunals to try those responsible for crimes against peace, war crimes, and the catalogue of horrors that came increasingly to be known as "crimes against humanity". In Tokyo, leading Japanese generals and politicians, and at Nuremberg, senior Nazis those that had not committed suicide or escaped, stood in the dock before allied judges. The trials, inconclusive though they were, formed part of a larger attempt to root out the militaristic and chauvinistic attitudes that had helped to produce the war, and to build a new world order that would prevent such a catastrophe from ever happening again. Well before the war had ended, the allies had started planning for the peace. Among the western powers, the United States, by very much the dominant partner in the alliance, took the lead. In his Four Freedoms speech of January, President Roosevelt talked of a new and more just world, with freedom of speech and expression and of religion, and freedom from want and fear. In the Atlantic charter later that year, he and Churchill sketched out a world order based on such liberal principles as collective security, national self-determination, and free trade among nations. A host of other allies, some of them represented by governments in exile, signed on. The Soviet Union gave a qualified assent, although its leader Stalin had no intention of following what were to him alien principles. Roosevelt intended that the American vision should take solid institutional form. This time, Roosevelt was determined, the United States should join. The idea that there were universal standards to be upheld was present, no matter how imperfectly, in the war crimes trials, and was later reinforced by the establishment of the United Nations itself in 1945, the International Court of Justice in 1946 and Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 1948. Stalin was interested above all in security for his regime and for the Soviet Union, and that to him meant taking territory, from Poland and other neighbours, and establishing a ring of buffer states around Soviet borders. The grand alliance held together uneasily for the first months of the peace, but the strains were evident in their shared occupation of Germany, where increasingly the Soviet zone of occupation was moving in a communist direction and the western zones, under Britain, France and the United States, in a more capitalist and democratic one. By 1947, two very different German societies were emerging. Soviet pressure on its neighbours, from Norway in the north to Turkey and Iran in the south, along with Soviet spy rings and Soviet-inspired sabotage in western countries, further deepened western concerns. For their part, Soviet leaders looked on western talk of such democratic procedures as free elections in eastern Europe as Trojan horses designed to undermine their control of their buffer states, and regarded the Marshall plan, which funnelled American aid into Europe, as a cover for extending the grip of capitalism. Furthermore, their own Marxist-Leninist analysis of history told them that sooner or later the capitalist powers would turn on the Soviet Union. Both sides built military alliances and prepared for the new shooting war that many feared was bound to come. In 1949, the Soviet Union exploded its first atomic bomb, giving it parity, at least in that area, with the United States. That the cold war did not in the end turn into a hot one was thanks to that fact. The terrifying new power of atomic weapons was to lead to a standoff suitably known as *Mad as Hell* – Mutually Assured Destruction. The cold war overshadowed another momentous international change that came as a

result of the second world war. Before much of the non-European world had been divided up among the great empires: Japan and Italy lost their empires as a result of defeat. Britain, France, and the Netherlands all saw their imperial possessions disappear in the years immediately after the war. The Soviet Union was not to lose its until the end of the cold war. Empires crumble The former imperial powers no longer had the financial and military capacity to hang on to their vast territories. Nor did their peoples want to pay the price of empire, whether in money or blood. Furthermore, where the empires had once dealt with divided or acquiescent peoples, they now increasingly faced assertive and, in some cases, well-armed nationalist movements. The defeat of European forces all over Asia also contributed to destroying the myth of European power. The United Nations grew from 51 nations in to by the end of the century. Because of the cold war, there was no comprehensive peace settlement after the second world war as there had been in Instead there were a number of separate agreements or ad hoc decisions. The Soviet Union seized back some bits of territory such as Bessarabia, which it had lost to Romania in The one major exception was Poland, as the joke had it "a country on wheels", which moved some miles to the west, losing some 69, sq metres to the Soviet Union and gaining slightly less from Germany in the west. In the east, Japan of course lost the conquests it had made since , but was also obliged to disgorge Korea and Formosa now Taiwan and the Pacific islands that it had gained decades earlier. Eventually the United States and Japan concluded a formal peace in Because of an outstanding dispute over some islands, the Soviet Union and its successor Russia have not yet signed a peace treaty ending the war with Japan. Remembering the war We have long since absorbed and dealt with the physical consequences of the second world war, but it still remains a very powerful set of memories. How societies remember and commemorate the past often says something about how they see themselves " and can be highly contentious. Particularly in divided societies, it is tempting to cling to comforting myths to help bring unity and to paper over deep and painful divisions. In the years immediately after , many societies chose to forget the war or remember it only in certain ways. Austria portrayed itself as the first victim of Nazism, conveniently ignoring the active support that so many Austrians had given the Nazi regime. In Italy, the fascist past was neglected in favour of the earlier periods of Italian history. For a long time, schools did not teach any history after the first world war.

2: Out of the Ashes: A New Look at Germany's Postwar Reconstruction - SPIEGEL ONLINE

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Russia Table of Contents The end of the common cause again exposed the underlying hostility between the capitalist countries and the Soviet Union. And the favorable position in which the Soviet Union finished World War II rapidly made it the prime postwar threat to world peace in the eyes of Western policy makers. The so-called Cold War that emerged from that situation featured Soviet domination of all of Eastern Europe, the development of nuclear weapons by the Soviet Union, and dangerous conflicts and near-conflicts in several areas of the world. To help rebuild the country, the Soviet government obtained limited credits from Britain and Sweden but refused assistance proposed by the United States under the economic aid program known as the Marshall Plan see Glossary. Instead, the Soviet Union compelled Soviet-occupied Eastern Europe to supply machinery and raw materials. Germany and former Nazi satellites including Finland made reparations to the Soviet Union. The Soviet people bore much of the cost of rebuilding because the reconstruction program emphasized heavy industry while neglecting agriculture and consumer goods. During the postwar reconstruction period, Stalin tightened domestic controls, justifying the repression by playing up the threat of war with the West. Many repatriated Soviet citizens who had lived abroad during the war, whether as prisoners of war, forced laborers, or defectors, were executed or sent to prison camps. The limited freedoms granted in wartime to the church and to collective farmers were revoked. The party tightened its admission standards and purged many who had become party members during the war. In Andrey Zhdanov, a close associate of Stalin, helped launch an ideological campaign designed to demonstrate the superiority of socialism over capitalism in all fields. This campaign, colloquially known as the Zhdanovshchina "era of Zhdanov" , attacked writers, composers, economists, historians, and scientists whose work allegedly manifested Western influence. Although Zhdanov died in , the cultural purge continued for several years afterward, stifling Soviet intellectual development. Another campaign, related to the Zhdanovshchina, lauded the real or purported achievements of past and present Russian inventors and scientists. In this intellectual climate, the genetic theories of biologist Trofim Lysenko, which were supposedly derived from Marxist principles but lacked a scientific foundation, were imposed upon Soviet science to the detriment of research and agricultural development. The antic cosmopolitan trends of these years adversely affected Jewish cultural and scientific figures in particular. In general, a pronounced sense of Russian nationalism, as opposed to socialist consciousness, pervaded Soviet society. Eager to consolidate influence over a number of countries adjacent to the Soviet Union, Stalin pursued an aggressive policy of intervention in the domestic affairs of these states, provoking strong Western reaction. The United States worked to contain Soviet expansion in this period of international relations that came to be known as the Cold War. Mindful of the numerous invasions of Russia and the Soviet Union from the West throughout history, Stalin sought to create a buffer zone of subservient East European countries, most of which the Red Army known as the Soviet army after had occupied in the course of the war. Taking advantage of its military occupation of these countries, the Soviet Union actively assisted local communist parties in coming to power. The Soviet Union initially maintained control behind the "Iron Curtain" a phrase coined by Churchill in a speech through the use of troops, security police, and the Soviet diplomatic service. Inequitable trade agreements with the East European countries permitted the Soviet Union access to valued resources. Soviet actions in Eastern Europe generated hostility among the Western states toward their former ally, but they could do nothing to halt consolidation of Soviet authority in that region short of going to war. However, the United States and its allies had greater success in halting Soviet expansion in areas where Soviet influence was more tenuous. British and American diplomatic support for Iran forced the Soviet Union to withdraw its troops from the northeastern part of that country in Soviet efforts to acquire territory from Turkey and to establish a communist government in Greece were stymied when the United States extended military and economic support to those countries under the Truman Doctrine, a policy articulated by President Harry S. Later that year, the United States introduced the Marshall

Plan for the economic recovery of other countries of Europe. The Soviet Union forbade the countries it dominated from taking part in the program, and the Marshall Plan contributed to a reduction of Soviet influence in the participating West European nations. Tensions between the United States and the Soviet Union became especially strained over the issue of Germany. At the Potsdam Conference of July-August , the Allied Powers confirmed their decision to divide Germany and the city of Berlin into zones of occupation with the eastern sectors placed under Soviet administration until such time as the Allies would permit Germany to establish a central government. Disagreements between the Soviet Union and the Western Allies soon arose over their respective occupation policies and the matter of reparations. Britain and the United States thereupon sponsored an airlift that kept the beleaguered sectors provisioned until the Soviet Union lifted the blockade in May . Following the Berlin blockade, the Western Allies and the Soviet Union divided Germany into two countries, one oriented to the West, the other to the East. The crisis also provided the catalyst for the Western countries in to form the North Atlantic Treaty Organization NATO--see Glossary , a collective security system under which conventional armies and nuclear weapons would offset Soviet forces. To avert the rise of other independent leaders, Stalin purged many of the chief communists in other East European states. Several months afterward, in , China and the Soviet Union concluded a mutual defense treaty against Japan and the United States. Hard negotiations over concessions and aid between the two communist countries served as an indication that China, with its independent party and enormous population, would not become a Soviet satellite, although for a time Sino-Soviet relations appeared particularly close. Elsewhere in Asia, the Soviet Union pursued a vigorous policy of support for national liberation movements, especially in Malaya and Indochina, which were still colonies of Britain and France, respectively. But forces from the United States and other members of the United Nations came to the aid of South Korea, leading China to intervene militarily on behalf of North Korea, probably at Soviet instigation. Although the Soviet Union avoided direct participation in the conflict, the Korean War motivated the United States to strengthen its military capability and to conclude a peace treaty and security pact with Japan. The Death of Stalin In the early s, Stalin, now an old man, apparently permitted his subordinates in the Politburo enlarged and renamed the Presidium in October greater powers within their respective spheres. Although the general secretary took a smaller part in the day-to-day administration of party affairs, he maintained his animosity toward potential enemies. In January , the party newspaper announced that a group of predominantly Jewish doctors had murdered high Soviet officials, including Zhdanov. When Stalin died in March , under circumstances that remain unclear, his inner circle, which for years had lived in dread of their leader, secretly rejoiced. During his quarter-century of dictatorial control, Stalin had overseen impressive development in the Soviet Union. From a comparatively backward agricultural society, the country had been transformed into a powerful industrial state.

3: Germany | Coldwarsites

As Germany's post-war economy revived, this led to further tensions between an increasingly prosperous and self-confident West Germany and the continued interference of the Allied powers, particularly the USA, who had their own Cold War agenda.

The territories east of the Oder-Neisse line , ceded to Poland and the Soviet Union, are shown as white as is the likewise detached Saar Protectorate. Berlin is the multinational area within the Soviet zone. Four occupation zones[edit] Further information: All Nazi land expansion from to was hence treated as automatically invalid. Expulsion and denazification[edit] The neutrality of this section is disputed. Relevant discussion may be found on the talk page. Please do not remove this message until conditions to do so are met. April Further information: It was also agreed at Potsdam that Poland would receive all former German lands east of the Oder-Neisse line , although the exact delimitation of the boundary was left to be resolved at an eventual Peace Conference. Under the wartime alliances of the United Kingdom with the Czechoslovak and Polish governments-in-exile, the British had agreed in July to support " . In roughly Approximately 6 million fled or were evacuated before the Red Army occupied the area. Of the remainder, around 2 million died during the war or in its aftermath 1. The Sudetenland territories, surrendered to Germany by the Munich Agreement , were returned to Czechoslovakia; these territories containing a further 3 million ethnic Germans. August , German children deported from the eastern areas of Germany taken over by Poland arrive in West Germany. The Potsdam Conference subsequently sanctioned the "orderly and humane" transfer to Germany of individuals regarded as "ethnic Germans" by authorities in Czechoslovakia, Poland, and Hungary. The Potsdam Agreement recognized that these expulsions were already underway and were putting a burden on authorities in the German Occupation Zones, including the re-defined Soviet Occupation Zone. Most of the Germans who were being expelled were from Czechoslovakia and Poland, which included most of the territory to the east of the Oder-Neisse Line. The Potsdam Declaration stated: Since the influx of a large number of Germans into Germany would increase the burden already resting on the occupying authorities, they consider that the Allied Control Council in Germany should in the first instance examine the problem with special regard to the question of the equitable distribution of these Germans among the several zones of occupation. They are accordingly instructing their respective representatives on the control council to report to their Governments as soon as possible the extent to which such persons have already entered Germany from Poland, Czechoslovakia, and Hungary, and to submit an estimate of the time and rate at which further transfers could be carried out, having regard to the present situation in Germany. The Czechoslovak Government, the Polish Provisional Government and the control council in Hungary are at the same time being informed of the above and are being requested meanwhile to suspend further expulsions pending the examination by the Governments concerned of the report from their representatives on the control council. Many of the ethnic Germans, who were primarily women and children, and especially those under the control of Polish and Czechoslovakian authorities, were severely mistreated before they were ultimately deported to Germany. Altogether, around 8 million ethnic German refugees and expellees from across Europe eventually settled in West Germany, with a further 3 million in East Germany. In West Germany these represented a major voting block ; maintaining a strong culture of grievance and victimhood against Soviet Power, pressing for a continued commitment to full German reunification, claiming compensation, pursuing the right of return to lost property in the East, and opposing any recognition of the postwar extension of Poland and the Soviet Union into former German lands. But for Adenauer, fostering and encouraging unrealistic demands and uncompromising expectations amongst the expellees would serve his "Policy of Strength" by which West Germany contrived to inhibit consideration of unification or a final Peace Treaty until the West was strong enough to face the Soviets on equal terms. Consequently, the Federal Republic in the s adopted much of the symbolism of expellee groups; especially in appropriating and subverting the terminology and imagery of the Holocaust ; applying this to post-war German experience instead. The intended governing body of Germany was called the Allied Control Council , consisting of the commanders-in-chief in Germany of the United

States, the United Kingdom, France and the Soviet Union; who exercised supreme authority in their respective zones, while supposedly acting in concert on questions affecting the whole country. In actuality however, the French consistently blocked any progress towards re-establishing all-German governing institutions; substantially in pursuit of French aspirations for a dismembered Germany, but also as a response to the exclusion of France from the Yalta and Potsdam conferences. Berlin, which lay in the Soviet eastern sector, was also divided into four sectors with the Western sectors later becoming West Berlin and the Soviet sector becoming East Berlin, capital of East Germany. The swastika and other outward symbols of the Nazi regime were banned, and a Provisional Civil Ensign was established as a temporary German flag. It remained the official flag of the country necessary for reasons of international law until East Germany and West Germany see below were independently established in The United States, the United Kingdom, and the Soviet Union had agreed at Potsdam to a broad program of decentralization, treating Germany as a single economic unit with some central administrative departments. These plans never materialised, initially because France blocked any establishment of central administrative or political structures for Germany; and also as both the Soviet Union and France were intent on extracting as much material benefit as possible from their occupation zones in order to make good in part the enormous destruction caused by the German Wehrmacht; and the policy broke down completely in when the Russians blockaded West Berlin and the period known as the Cold War began. It was agreed at Potsdam that the leading members of the Nazi regime who had been captured should be put on trial accused of crimes against humanity, and this was one of the few points on which the four powers were able to agree. In order to secure the presence of the western allies in Berlin, the United States agreed to withdraw from Thuringia and Saxony in exchange for the division of Berlin into four sectors. The State Department and individual U. In June the prohibition against speaking with German children was loosened. In July troops were permitted to speak to German adults in certain circumstances. In September the entire policy was dropped. Only the ban on marriage between Americans and German or Austrian civilians remained in place. At the Potsdam conference, with the U. This included the destruction of all ship and aircraft manufacturing capability. Further, it was decided that civilian industries which might have a military potential, which in the modern era of "total war" included virtually all, were to be severely restricted. In order to achieve this, each type of industry was subsequently reviewed to see how many factories Germany required under these minimum level of industry requirements. Germany was to be reduced to the standard of life it had known at the height of the Great Depression Sources in the U. Byrnes made the famous speech Restatement of Policy on Germany, also known as the Stuttgart speech, where he amongst other things repudiated the Morgenthau plan-influenced policies and gave the West Germans hope for the future. The next improvement came in July, when after lobbying by the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and Generals Clay and Marshall, the Truman administration decided that economic recovery in Europe could not go forward without the reconstruction of the German industrial base on which it had previously been dependent. Truman rescinded on "national security grounds" [22] the punitive occupation directive JCS, which had directed the U. The final limitations on German industrial levels were lifted after the establishment of the European Coal and Steel Community in, though arms manufacture remained prohibited. French attempts to gain political control of or permanently internationalize the Ruhr were abandoned in with the West German agreement to pool its coal and steel resources in return for full political control over the Ruhr see European Coal and Steel Community. With French economic security guaranteed through access to Ruhr coal now permanently ensured France was satisfied. The French attempt to gain economic control over the Saar was temporarily even more successful. Byrnes stated the U. The Saar came under French administration in as the Saar Protectorate, but did return to Germany in January following a referendum, with economic reintegration with Germany occurring a few years later. Although not a party to the Potsdam conference where the policy of industrial disarmament had been set, as a member of the Allied Control Council France came to champion this policy since it ensured a weak Germany. In August the French parliament voted down the treaty that would have established the European Defense Community, a treaty they themselves had proposed in as a means to contain German revival. France instead focused on another treaty also under development. In May France had proposed the European Coal and Steel Community with the purpose of ensuring French economic security by perpetuating

access to German Ruhr coal, but also to show to the U. Dismantling in East Germany[edit] The Soviet Union engaged in a massive industrial dismantling campaign in its occupation zone, much more intensive than that carried out by the Western powers. While the Soviet powers soon realized that their actions alienated the German workforce from the Communist cause, they decided that the desperate economic situation within the Soviet Union took priority over alliance building. The allied leaders had agreed on paper to economic and political cooperation but the issue of reparations dealt an early blow to the prospect of a united Germany in This was the beginning of the formal split of Germany. Though the Marshall Plan is regarded as playing a key psychological role in the West German recovery, other factors were also significant. The Western Allies replied with a continuous airlift of supplies to the western half of the city. The Soviets ended the blockade after 11 months. Reparations to the U. German reparations for World War II The Allies confiscated intellectual property of great value, all German patents, both in Germany and abroad, and used them to strengthen their own industrial competitiveness by licensing them to Allied companies. John Gimbel comes to the conclusion, in his book "Science Technology and Reparations: Exploitation and Plunder in Postwar Germany", that the "intellectual reparations" taken by the U. Meanwhile, thousands of the best German scientists were being put to work in the U. During the war, Germans seized food supplies from occupied countries and forced millions of foreigners to work on German farms, in addition to food shipped from farms in eastern Germany. When this ended in , the German rationing system which stayed in place had much lower supplies of food. Army sent in large shipments of food to feed some 7. The Germans were not high on the priority list for international aid, which went to the victims of the Nazis. When the Vatican attempted to transmit food supplies from Chile to German infants, the U. State Department forbade it. Forced labor of Germans after World War II As agreed by the Allies at the Yalta conference Germans were used as forced labor as part of the reparations to be extracted. By it is estimated that ,[dubious " discuss] Germans both civilians and POWs were being used as forced labor by the U. German prisoners were for example forced to clear minefields in France and the Low Countries. By December it was estimated by French authorities that 2, German prisoners were being killed or injured each month in accidents.

4: reconstruction and cold war in germany | Download eBook pdf, epub, tuebl, mobi

The Cold War was an ideological war between the two world superpowers, the United States and the Soviet Union, beginning after World War Two. After the war, Germany was left defeated, and Britain and France were left drained and exhausted.

After the war, Germany was left defeated, and Britain and France were left drained and exhausted. The United States and the Soviet Union, though also drained, held considerable power, and both soon rose to superpower status. The two became rivals through "conflicting ideologies and mutual distrust"¹, and constantly competed for power. The Soviet Union wanted to spread Communism in Eastern Europe and create a "buffer zone" of friendly governments as defense against Germany. An "iron curtain" separated Europe. The post-war state of Germany was grim: After its unconditional surrender, Germany was divided into four zones of Allied military occupation: American, French, British, and Soviet. The old capital of Berlin was also divided into four zones, but Berlin itself remained inside of the Soviet zone. West Germany became a surprisingly stable western democracy. This was what brought the downfall of the Weimar Republic and the rise of the Nazi Party, after all. East Germany was established as a Stalin-style Socialist state. The East German government was formed into a centralized and dictatorial regime. Free speech and opinions against the regime were not tolerated, and artistic and intellectual programs were strongly controlled. The Allies were at the same time trying to be forgiving to the Germans for World War Two while also insuring that the Germans could never again begin the expansionism that had led to the two previous wars. The location of Germany as the gateway between East and West Europe made it the ideal place for these political struggles to occur. When Russia had tried to expand in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, they were checked by the rising power of the German state. This new annexation caused the powers in Europe to become unbalanced and Russia replaced Germany as the country that was getting too big. Contrary to their actions against rising powers in the past, England did not try to stop the Russian expansion. They did this because they thought it preferable to give Russia parts of Germany over giving them other territories that would allow Russia access to the Mediterranean. The Allies had many reasons for partitioning Germany. Overall, the purpose of dividing land up was to control Germany until a new government could be instated. France, America, England and Russia all had parts of Germany that were put temporarily under their control. While the Allies were still in occupation of the country, decisions were made by a council of the four powers. The representatives were then responsible for carrying out the decisions of the council in their allotted territory. There was a catch that the Russians exploited to thwart the other powers. According to the treaty, proposals to the council were only put into effect if there was a unanimous vote. The Russians could use this just like they used the U. The Russians had annoyed the other powers by using their veto power in the Security Council to veto every proposition that came before them. By exercising their right to arbitrarily veto any decision made regarding Germany, they could prevent any actions that were against their best interest. The Soviets then would be able to run Eastern Germany as they wished, because no proposition stopping them from doing so could be passed. The Marshall Plan and the Truman Doctrine In June , the Marshall Plan was put into effect in order to stop the Russians from influencing any of the weakened western powers. During the time the United States sent massive economic aid to Europe democracies to help rebuild. Billions of dollars were spent to help countries recover quickly and to reduce the influence of Communism. Russia refused the aid of the Marshall Plan and, as a result, East Germany was not completely rebuilt. This lack of reconstruction showed through even after the reunification. The German economy after reunification took a big hit, because it had to pay for all the reconstruction that the Communists never did. The Truman Doctrine, a plan to help states going through a struggle for freedom against their oppressors, was instituted in President Truman said, "I believe it must be the policy of the United States to support free peoples who are resisting attempted subjugation by armed minorities or by outside pressures. Germany was both under subjugation by an outside force and also under the power of the armed minority that the Russians would soon put into power in the form of the DDR Deutsches Demokratische Republik. At the same time the Russians instituted the DDR, which turned out to be

more of a regime than a government. The Berlin Crisis and the Berlin Airlift Due to horrible conditions in East Germany, its citizens had begun to cross over to West Germany and were allowed to proclaim themselves refugees. This caused labor shortages in East Germany and also the further degradation of an already failing East German economy. As East Germany got worse and worse, Russia became willing to take offensive measures to reclaim West Berlin. In December of 1948, Russia and the United States finally parted ways and the Western Powers began to meet about German business without the Russian ambassador present. On March 20, 1949, Russia declared that the Allied Control Council of Berlin no longer existed and voluntarily withdrew from all of their meetings. As a result, there were no government relations existing between Russia and the other Allies. The problems worsened when the Russians decided that they wanted all of Berlin under their control. There had been no previous treaties giving the Allies free access to West Berlin through Russian territory, so Russia exploited this situation and isolated Berlin from American soldiers and supplies. The Berlin Blockade began in mid 1948 as Russian forces surrounded West Berlin in an effort to make Allied soldiers there surrender from starvation. The Soviets sealed off railroads and highways to the Western sector of Berlin, effectively cutting it off from the Western Allied sector of Germany. In response to this, the Allies instituted the Berlin Airlift on June 21, 1948, in order to provide West Berlin with food and fuel. Cargo planes dropped food, fuel, and other supplies into West Germany 24 hours a day. Russia then went on to claim that Berlin was rightfully theirs and that the Western powers had control only of West Berlin because they had more votes when the partition was being made. Marshall answered this by declaring to the Russian government that all Allies had a right to be in Berlin and that the United States intended to stay. He then went on to cut off all passage of trains between East and West Germany. The conflict intensified when America secretly moved 60 long-range bombers into the British Isles. Russia saw that the Allies did not intend to surrender so they offered the citizens of West Berlin food on the condition that they came over to the Russian side. The West Berliners decided that they would rather starve than be under Russian authority. In May, 1949, Russia called off the failed blockade. They lost this confrontation for two reasons. First, the Russians had not yet acquired nuclear capabilities and therefore could not stage a larger offensive. Second, the Russians were in an extremely bad position in regard to foreign relations; " While the Berlin Airlift continuing month after month provided a tangible demonstration of western determination and competence. Reconciliation West Germany began their first big step toward making amends with France in March of 1950. They made a peace treaty with the French that ended the conflict that had been going on since the early 1930s. The peace treaty was a step toward assuring the Allies that there was no possibility of German expansion and the outbreak of another war, the only things the Allies required to guarantee Germany its autonomy. On May 9, 1950, France and Germany made a treaty that gave joint control of the steel and coal industry in Germany and France making it "not merely unthinkable, but materially impossible"3 to have a war between the two countries. As a result of these actions, West Germany became accepted again in European affairs. At about the same time as the treaty May 1950, the Korean War broke out, and Europe tensed for a Russian invasion into the West. This showed that some of the Allies were beginning to trust the Germans again. They thought if German got an army of any kind, they would immediately make an alliance with Russia and attack the French. On May 26, 1950, the occupation of West German was officially over according to the treaty, and West Germany was supposed to have its own government. The Allies would not let go of the country until they were absolutely sure that Germany would not return as a threat. This was to create an army that was composed of all these countries under the command of NATO. The French Assembly rejected this treaty for fear of the German army, and as a result, attempts to unify West Germany under its own authority were very temporarily dropped. The English, on October 3, 1950, made the last step that France needed to be assured that Germany was not a threat by declaring that they would maintain a military presence on mainland Europe. This gave France the security they wanted against a German invasion. France then consisted to end the occupation of West Germany and to admit it into the Brussels Treaty. West Germany was now a wholly independent state except for West Berlin. Tension Between the Superpowers Rises During the time elapsed between the first blockade and 1949, Russia had developed nuclear capabilities and they were ready to go after West Berlin again. In 1949, East Germany began to again block immigration to West Germany by establishing barbed wire fences and patrols along the whole border between

East and West Germany. Berlin was the only spot open to immigration between the two countries. The Russians restricted access to West Berlin, except through two routes. The first route consisted of heavily guarded roads where Russian soldiers harassed travelers. The second consisted of three airlines; Russian fighter planes "buzzed" flights. Basically, these tactics were adopted to demonstrate to the Allies that they were helpless to stop any Russian movement. Russia at that time had the technology to prevent another airlift, so the Allies had no option of peacefully supplying West Berlin with food. What good would it do to send a few more thousand or indeed a few divisions into Europe with something like Soviet divisions in the area? The Allies had no alliances with the DDR in terms of established passages into Berlin, and so the Allies had no way to hold Berlin, but still refused to let it go. Russia and the Allies entered a stalemate. But, as May 27 got closer, Russia began to look for a way to back down and get out of the situation. Russia launched a flurry of new deadlines. On March 5, they declared that they were willing to delay the transition of power to the DDR. On March 9, they declared that they wanted to have all countries involved in the conflict withdraw their troops. They finally backed down completely on March 11, when they declared that they would allow free access to West Berlin for all travelers. And so, again, the Communists lost the cosmic game of chicken. The Berlin Wall In , Berlin, the last place through which immigrants could leave East Germany, was blocked off by the "infamous" Berlin Wall, at which more than 80 persons were shot while trying to escape East Germany on non-consecutive occasions. By November 9, , the people had begun to openly destroy the Wall and so Russia decided to take it down, allowing free immigration between the countries and also instigating the first of the movements to unify Germany.

5: Milestones: " - Office of the Historian

After , the U.S. Cold War agenda altered the implementation of policies initially designed to reorient Germany's economy and culture. Economically, the United States encouraged the reemergence of individuals and institutions that had dominated the German economy prior to World War II, albeit this time within a liberal international economic system.

Comment It was a curious procession that wound its way up the Fockeberg in the eastern German city of Leipzig in May. The participants pushed strange wheeled contraptions up the meter foot hill, climbed into them and shot back down again. The event was the 19th Prix de Tacot, an annual soap-box derby that sees daredevil teams race weird and wonderful vehicles to the delight of thousands of spectators. Perhaps more interesting, however, is the venue where the Prix de Tacot takes place. Rather, the hill was created entirely from rubble leftover after the bombing of Leipzig during World War II. It is a soap-box derby on the ruins of the Third Reich. There are similar man-made hillocks in many other German cities. The residents of Berlin lovingly named the piled-up remains of their destroyed houses, factories and churches "Monte Klamotte" "rag mountains". During the Cold War, the US military stationed gigantic listening devices on the hill to pick up radio and other transmissions from the other side of the Iron Curtain. Many years on, mountain bikers, para-gliders and snowboarders have claimed the hill as their own. The German Alpine Association has even set up a climbing wall there. Never before had so much been lost -- and, yet, never before were there so many new beginnings. Never before had an entire country been rebuilt. In West Germany alone, some million cubic meters 14 billion cubic feet of rubble was piled up after the war -- enough to build a wall two meters thick and seven meters high all the way around the western half of the divided country. This reconstruction phase lasted well into the s -- before the fall of the Berlin Wall and German reunification kicked off yet another wave of building. And even today, the process of constant self-renewal is far from being completed. A New Approach to Urban Planning The aim is to undo past mistakes made due to urgency and an obsession with modernization. A new aesthetic need is thrusting aside the principle of pure functionality that was spawned by necessity. And demographic change -- including an aging population, the flow of immigrants and thinning population densities in certain regions of eastern Germany -- calls for a new approach to urban planning. Urban planners are rethinking their ideas, and the radicalism of the early postwar era is being replaced by cautious renovation and, in some cases, rebuilding. Historical old cities are more popular than ever. It is perhaps not difficult to understand why. The architecture critic Wolfgang Peht posits that, if the rate of change is too great, the urge for the comforts of the past is all the greater. In addition, much of what was built during that initial, chaotic recovery phase after -- when the most important goal was just to clear all the rubble away and give people a roof over their heads -- was not completely successful from an architectural and city planning point of view. Things had to be done quickly, which rendered them more improvised than thought-out -- the desperate demand made mistakes easy to disregard. Sixteen million apartments existed before the war. Temporary accommodations were erected everywhere to try to mitigate the worst of the homelessness. Even so, many opted to camp out in their ruined homes for months. The influx of millions of refugees, those expelled from parts of Poland and the Czech Republic, and the displaced augmented the misery. Forward to the Past But how to quickly build the urgently needed housing? Should destroyed houses and prestigious buildings be rebuilt to look just like they were and in the same location? Or, since everything was destroyed anyway, should the cities take advantage of the opportunity to make a fresh start -- by, for example, broadening the narrow, winding alleys of historical city centers to make them more car-friendly or by providing inhabitants with modern housing surrounded by greenery? Absurd ideas were debated, such as the proposal to just abandon the ruins and rebuild the cities nearby. But not everything was destroyed. Under the rubble, there were still semi-intact electrical systems and sewage, water and gas pipelines. Across Germany, they formed associations to lobby for the preservation of their old towns -- and urban planners found themselves embroiled in a bitter debate over the right course of action. Those in favor of a new beginning warned that one-to-one reconstruction would be tantamount to ignoring that the war had ever happened. But those who advocated historical faithfulness, on the other hand, argued that it would be

downright ahistorical or even a type of repression to wipe out the traces of the past, which consisted of so much more than the 12 disastrous years of Nazi rule.

6: Russia - Reconstruction and Cold War

During the early Cold War, the KfW not only served as an agent for economic reconstruction but often filled the financial breach in U.S.-inspired Cold War initiatives. KfW policies followed the path set by American Cold War policies first as a major player in pushing West Germany's recovery and industrial contribution to Western defense and.

The row struck at the heart of culture-loving Germany, the country that coined the phrase Weltliteratur. Fires started by the Allied bombing of Frankfurt gutted the house Goethe was born in -- a mid-18th-century, three-story, half-timbered structure -- and it collapsed a few months later. The building had served as a Goethe museum since the 19th century; all of its historically valuable contents had been removed prior to its devastation. Hermann Hesse, who had received the Nobel Prize in literature in 1946, wrote: I must answer that with a wholehearted yes. Not surprisingly, they opposed reconstruction. The prominent critic Walter Dirks, by contrast, adopted a more argumentative point of view. It did not, however, mark a seminal moment in post-war Germany. Even before the Nazis came to power in 1933, many architects and urban planners had developed a weakness for modernism. Now, suddenly, they found themselves in the same camp as developers who thought the country needed a radical break from the past, both morally and politically. Paradoxically, they were joined by a whole host of architects who had had close links to the Nazi dictatorship. All the famous names were involved. Plans to redesign the country had been hatched even earlier. Konstanty Gutschow, an architect based in Hamburg, immediately set to work. He reasoned that sprawling "urban landscapes" to use the expression popular among his contemporary urban planners were harder to attack effectively from the air than densely packed older cities, which could be devastated with a single direct hit. His contacts, however, quickly ensured that he had work. Nazi-era architects helped each other land jobs and projects while keeping them out of the hands of former Nazi opponents. Free From Historical Ballast These architects were quick to pretend that they had absolutely nothing to do with the bombastic architecture of the Nazis and their megalomaniacal ideology. In West Germany, in particular, new machines and construction techniques transformed the traditionally leisurely pace of urban planning into a hasty, spectacular upheaval. The speed of change alone was impressive. Financially, it was only possible because the West needed the fledgling West Germany to be a bulwark against the Soviet Union. Money poured into the country via the Marshall Plan and other conduits. New roads, schools, hospitals and housing developments sprouted up all over West Germany. By the 1950s, an average of 100,000 apartments were being built annually -- the record was 150,000 in 1950. Between 1950 and 1955, 500,000 single-family homes were likewise constructed each year. In all, no fewer than 5 million. In communist East Germany, builders started churning out residential units at a rate of 100,000 a year beginning in 1950. It was a good time for architects, urban planners, entrepreneurs and communist building collectives. The task seemed endless and money was everywhere. The outcome, however, was less than impressive -- mass produced buildings that compare poorly with the prewar buildings which they replaced.

7: Reconstruction after WWII - The Cold War by Emma Brost on Prezi

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Instead of granting simple war loans, the U. The Allies created a reparations commission at the Yalta Conference of 4â€”11 February. The Soviet Union would receive half of that amount. Truman opposed Soviet efforts to collect reparations from current output until Germany exported enough to pay for imports to feed its labor force and fuel its industry. He was following the advice of Secretary of State James F. Byrnes, who was acting in accordance with his understanding of the negative impact of the reparations dispute on European reconstruction and world economic and social stabilization in the s, but was unaware that only U. Even before Potsdam, Soviet occupation forces had begun to dismantle and transport whole German industrial plants to Soviet territory. The Soviets also designated special factories to produce exclusively for them. Moreover, Moscow kept the services of four million German prisoners of war and demanded forced labor from those living in its occupation zone. It wished to reconstruct its own economy and to retard the reconstruction of Germany, both to stabilize itself and to prevent the stabilization of Germany. A destabilized Germany would remain militarily weak and the Soviet Union would become militarily strong. Moscow saw that large reparations taken quickly would facilitate both these objectives. During , they concluded that without surplus production, the western zones of Germany would become a vast relief camp dependent on U. Concerns about German postwar economic recovery had not stopped the United States from developing plans and organizations late in World War II for conducting industrial espionage and seizing useful patents in chemicals, machine tools, and other technologically advanced industries in Germany. Operation Petticoat and Operation Paperclip sought to acquire German equipment, scientific research, and technical information of both military and industrial value, not only in hopes of shortening the war against Japan, but also for postwar economic advantage. Britain and France conducted similar operations, no doubt justifying exploitation of German industry, science, and technology as legitimate reparations. British, French, and U. Also, defenders of the seizures later would point out that Germany looted French companies, practiced slave labor, expropriated possessions of concentration camp victims, and extracted tribute from the countries it occupied. Discord between the Allies over reparations contributed to starting the postwar Soviet-American Cold War. Consequently, Soviet Premier Joseph Stalin proposed that the Ruhr Valley industries be administered jointly by the Soviet Union and the three Western powers to secure reparations from the Western-controlled portions of Germany. The United States and Britain rejected this proposal, revealing the growing differences on matters of priorities to be observed in European reconstruction. After considering the matter, Stalin decided to reject the offer, largely because this would have required the Soviet Union to reveal the secrets of its economic capacity. Furthermore, the Marshall Plan would have meant priority for west European reconstruction over that of the Soviet Union, as well as that the east European countries would be linked economically to western Europe, functioning largely as raw material suppliers. Once the Soviet Union rejected participation in the Marshall Plan, the logic of its situation was to organize East Germany and other areas of Eastern Europe along lines allowing it to seize resources for its own reconstruction. Based on its experience with France in the controversy over German reparations following World War I, the United States must have expected that the Soviet Union would fail in its effort to achieve unilateral reconstruction based on reparations forcibly taken. Since France had no choice but to withdraw from the Ruhr in and accept U. But what had worked against France in â€” did not work against the Soviet Union in the Cold War period. The Soviet Union and France were two dissimilar political economies. Because it engaged in state trading and had long been denied supplies for its industry by the Western industrial states, the Soviet Union was in effect isolated from the major impact of the world market. Unlike France after World War I, it had made its unilateral system of reparations collection in East Germany and much of Eastern Europe a sufficient base for its own reconstruction and for its strategic, political, and economic control of Eastern Europe to the Elbe River. Acting on the same assumptions

that guided its policy toward Germany, the United States did not collect reparations from Japan. But the nations victimized by Japanese aggression in World War II demanded compensation immediately after the conflict ended. In Tokyo, the Far Eastern Commission began discussions on how to meet these demands in the fall of 1945. Early in 1946, President Truman named Edwin W. Pauley as special ambassador, with instructions to conduct a fact-finding mission for recommendations on Japanese payment of reparations. Japanese leaders criticized the plan as both unduly harsh and impractical. Many American officials in Tokyo and Washington shared his concern. Early in 1947, the United States adopted the containment policy. This would lead to implementation of the "reverse course" in U.S. Its objective was to create an economically powerful and friendly Japan that would be the cornerstone of a postwar U.S. The War Department first commissioned several reevaluations of the reparations and economic policy that resulted in a two-thirds reduction of the demands. During May 1948, the United States broke the stalemate by unilaterally terminating all demands for reparations payments. The Philippines strenuously objected, compelling Washington to include in the Japanese Peace Treaty an article providing that Japan negotiate and pay reparations in goods and services to any former victim of its aggression that demanded compensation. They pursued a successful strategy for establishing friendly and productive relations with its former imperial conquests that utilized reparations payments to help reopen East Asian markets and regain access to raw material sources in Southeast Asia. After regaining its sovereignty, Japan negotiated a series of agreements providing consumer goods and industrial equipment, often tied to economic assistance and loan programs, with the Philippines, Burma, Indonesia, and South Vietnam after the division of Vietnam in 1954. Controversy in Japan surrounding alleged government-business collusion in awarding reparations contracts prolonged the talks, but separate agreements finally were reached with all four countries. Cambodia and Laos accepted "free technical aid" rather than formal reparations. Under these agreements, recipient nations agreed to provide Japan with necessary raw materials. Japan did not pay reparations to China after World War II because of the outcome of the civil war in that country. This precluded negotiations regarding reparations with the Chinese communist government, and the Republic of China, in exile on Taiwan, could not make claims because that island had been part of the Japanese empire. In August 1990, Saddam Hussein launched an invasion of Kuwait. The United Nations then authorized the United States to organize military action to liberate Kuwait if Iraqi forces refused to withdraw. The Gulf War during January and February 1991 resulted in Iraq inflicting tremendous destruction on Kuwait, including its oil wells. Accordingly, Iraq was prohibited from selling oil until it met the cease-fire conditions. But Saddam increasingly engaged in defiance and deceit to avoid full compliance with the resolution. The UN inspectors ultimately left Iraq in protest and new U.S. The Gulf War showed the supremacy of international power over international law. Comment about this article, ask questions, or add new information about this topic:

8: History of Germany (1945-1990) - Wikipedia

reconstruction of postwar Germany. It is made possible by a analysis on the origins of the Cold War and American policy toward Germany after with the latest.

It was the intention that Germany should function as one country. This agreement was, however, unworkable in practice. The Allies represented two different systems: DDR was declared in 1949. The Communist regime nationalized all industry and property. Some other political parties were permitted but the Communist party held all power. Member of the Warsaw Pact. Strong armed forces and an extensive secret police East Germany was a member of the Warsaw Pact, the military-treaty organization of Communist states in Eastern Europe. East Germany had its own army, considered to be the most advanced among the Warsaw Pact countries given that it was at the Cold War frontline. The regime was supported by a strong and extensive secret police, the Ministry of State Security, popularly known as the Stasi. The exodus from East to West From the end of the Second World War on, a large number East Germans fled to the West due to political oppression and poor living standards. In the mids, the border was more or less closed between East and West Germany. Berlin was given special status as the former capital of Germany and was divided in four zones. Here it was still possible to cross the border until 1961, when the Berlin Wall was built. It is estimated that 4 million people fled East Germany between 1949 and 1961. A bloody uprising was suppressed by military force The most critical protest against the Communist regime came with the uprising of 1953. It started among Berlin workers because of economic and social problems. The protests spread until there were more than a million people on strike and demonstrating in towns and villages. The uprising was violently suppressed by Soviet troops together with East German army forces and police. Fifty people were killed and it is estimated that more than 10,000 were arrested. The end of the Communist regime Various economic and political circumstances were to change the situation in the East German state radically, including: The continuing decline in the East German economy since the end of the 1970s. The policies of perestroika openness in the society and glasnost reconstruction of the society introduced by Mikhail Gorbachev, the General Secretary of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, in the mids. A strong and increasing dissatisfaction with the Communist regime and the economic and social conditions which led to demonstrations at the end of the 1980s. The historical turning point came when Hungary opened its border with Austria in August 1989. It was now easy for East Germans to go to the West. It was also clear that Communist East Germany was only able to continue to exist behind strong, secure borders and walls. The Berlin Wall thus fell on November 9, 1989. One German country and one capital Following the Second World War, the remaining national territory of Germany was divided into four military occupation zones administrated by France, the United Kingdom, the United States and the Soviet Union. It was the intention, in the common agreement between the Allies that Germany should function as one country without borders between the zones. It was also decided that Berlin, as the capital with all national administrative functions, would be separately divided into four administrative zones but that it should function as one city. Berlin was located in the middle of the Soviet zone. This would not be a problem as the Allies were able to move freely anywhere. It was immediately clear following the war that the Soviet Union had simply occupied the countries in which their army was present when the war finished. Former independent countries were annexed to the Soviet Union. Battle ground of the Cold War. Historical events in Berlin During the Cold War period, Berlin was the scene for several historical events, including: The Berlin Blockade , a land-based blockade of West Berlin as a Soviet protest against Western efforts to integrate their zones into West Germany. The roads through the Soviet zone to Berlin were closed. The Allies responded with a massive airlift that delivered supplies to the two million inhabitants of West Berlin. The uprising of 1953 in East Germany. A strike by East Berlin workers due to serious national economic and social problems. The uprising was violently suppressed in Berlin with the help of Soviet tanks. The Berlin Crisis of 1961. The Soviet Union wanted to change the wartime agreement on Berlin with the overall purpose of preventing the many refugees that were attempting to move from East to West Berlin. This culminated in 1961 with Soviet and U.S. All military alternatives were prepared by the Allies and the Soviet Union, including the use of nuclear weapons. The construction of the Berlin Wall , which encircled

the Western zones, was part of the Berlin Crisis in 1961. The wall was constructed physically to stop the hundreds of thousands of fugitives that were fleeing each year from the eastern to the western sector. Many people died in the ensuing years, trying to get across the fortified wall area. The collapse of the Berlin Wall on November 9, 1989, is a significant historical event. Historical sites and museums.

9: The Intellectual Divide - SPIEGEL ONLINE

Germany's rebirth following the annihilation of World War II is nothing short of a miracle. But the country's reconstruction was not without controversy and it resulted in cities filled with.

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