

The Berlin Wall

After World War II, Germany became a divided nation. Sections of Germany under the control of the United States, France, and Britain formed the Federal Republic of Germany (West Germany). The land controlled by the Soviet Union became the German Democratic Republic (East Germany). In no place was the country's division seen more clearly than in the city of Berlin, where a wall was built to separate the two nations.

The borders between East and West Germany were closed in 1952. However, because both nations claimed parts of Berlin, the border in the city was left open. However, in 1961 East Germany began blocking off East Berlin from West Berlin. People living in East Berlin were no longer permitted to cross over into West Berlin.

Prior to the building of the wall, East Berlin was a part of East Germany, and was under Communist control. Many of the people living in East Germany were unhappy with the conditions there. Rules restricted their freedoms. There were no such rules on the other side of the city. Thousands crossed over to the freedom and capitalism of West Berlin. The government of East Germany built the wall to stop this *exodus* to the West.

The Berlin Wall became a system of barriers. Over 96 miles (155.5 km) of barbed wire fence enclosed the city of West Berlin. A concrete wall was erected that stood over 11 feet (3.4 m) high. Security around the wall on the eastern side included watchdogs, patrol trucks, watchtowers, a second wall, and a trench to prevent vehicles from breaking through. Anyone caught between the two walls was shot without warning. Over 160 people who tried to escape were killed at the Berlin Wall, and another 200 were injured.

As the years went by, the leaders of East Berlin's Communist Party decided to allow some people to cross into West Berlin to visit relatives. Before long, hundreds of other East Berliners wanted to leave, too. In response to the growing pressure, the wall was torn down in 1989. This reunited East and West Berlin and paved the way for German reunification. Today, a painted red line marks where the wall once stood. A few sections of the Berlin Wall remain standing as a memorial.

Berlin Wall

Examine the photo of the Berlin Wall and describe the scene in two words:

A Cold War Crisis

- The Conflict in Berlin was called the _____.
- The _____ of Berlin was divided.

West Germany	East Germany
Prosperous, helped by _____, attracted people from the _____. Seen by the _____ as an infection in the heart of _____ East Germany	Much less prosperous, and under _____; wanted the people to pay for _____

What did Each Side Want?

West Germany	East Germany
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prevent _____ from gaining control of _____ • To see a _____, _____ Germany 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain control of _____ • Make the _____ recognize it as an _____ • Stop the flood of _____, especially the _____ and _____ Which were needed in East Germany

Raising the Wall

Berlin was divided, _____ ended between East and West Berlin, many _____ were split, many attempted to _____ to the _____ between _____, over 200 people died trying to cross the Berlin Wall.

Why was West Berlin more prosperous?

“Mr. Gorbachev, open this gate. Mr. Gorbachev, Mr. Gorbachev, tear down this wall!”

President _____ delivered an impassioned speech at the Brandenburg Gate near the Berlin Wall on _____. In his speech he challenged Mikhail Gorbachev (General Secretary of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union) to _____ the Berlin Wall as a _____ of his desire to increase the _____ of those living in _____.

