

“Bei uns ist immer was los!”

OCTOBER 3—DAY OF GERMAN UNITY

WHAT IF GERMANY HAD NEVER BEEN REUNITED?

German reunification has been an expensive 25-year project that hasn't always gone according to plan. Jörg Luyken asks if things would have been better if the two states never united.



Despite joyous celebrations of the 25 year anniversary of the fall of the Berlin wall, and what is set to be a star-studded reunification day, the former German Democratic Republic (GDR) has been hitting the headlines over the past 11 months for all the wrong reasons.

Pegida, a fear-mongering, xenophobic protest movement from Dresden swept tens of thousands of people onto the streets. Neo-Nazis blockaded refugees homes and set them on fire. The trial of an east German terror cell which murdered migrants over a decade rumbles on in Munich.

But perhaps it's not so surprising that east Germans are unhappy. The population is aging and poorer than their western cousins.

The 'new states', as the former east is colloquially know, have been robbed of a middle class, which fled to the west in the 90s. Outside of hip east Berlin, green shoots of rejuvenation are hard to find.

Germany has also been making international headlines over the past year - and the results give serious pause for thought.
