

“Bei uns ist immer was los!”

OCTOBER 3—DAY OF GERMAN UNITY

TIMELINE FROM FALL OF WALL TO GERMAN UNITY



Reunification

Following the peaceful overthrow of the East German regime in 1989, in the summer of 1990 negotiations about the reunification treaty commenced in Berlin. Eventually, on October 3, 1990, East Germany acceded to the territory of the Federal Republic of Germany.

The fact that East Germany acceded to West Germany on October 3, 1990, less than a year after the fall of the wall, is a testament to the strong leadership of the United States and its allies, the remarkable vision of the Soviet Leader Mikhail Gorbachev and the strong will of the German people to be reunited.

Twenty years later, the fall of the Berlin Wall on November 9, 1989 still resonates most deeply as the moment of German Unity. The images of happy people from East and West embracing and celebrating on and around the Berlin Wall that night seem to tell the whole story about the triumph over division and oppression and the German people's yearning to be united.

In fact, the fall of the wall raised more questions about German unity than answers. No one knew whether West Germany's allies and protectors would allow a reunited and fully sovereign Germany or whether the Soviet Union would tolerate a united Germany in NATO. For that matter, there was not a clear understanding of public opinion on the matter in East and West Germany, and everyone recognized that integrating East Germany's command economy with West Germany's social market system was fraught with challenges.

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