

“Bei uns ist immer was los!”

OCTOBER 3—DAY OF GERMAN UNITY

TIMELINE FROM FALL OF WALL TO GERMAN UNITY

Alignment – The Deutschmark makes its debut in the East via the monetary, economic and social union



A young East German man shows off Deutschmarks he picked up on July 1, 1990, the day the currency union took effect.

East Berlin and Bonn are under extreme pressure. Every day 2,000 East Germans head for the West. The latter's capacity to absorb the resettlers from the GDR has long been exhausted. As people on the street chant: "If the D-Mark comes to us we'll stay, if it doesn't we'll go away!", the monetary, economic and social union comes into force in July. Overnight, the introduction of the Deutschmark results in a market economy officially stretching from the Elbe to the Oder. The GDR's state owned industry is to be privatized by the Treuhandanstalt (German privatization agency), which was formed under the Modrow government.

2 + 4 = 1 The victors of World War II agree to the reunification of Germany



July 21, 1990: Roger Waters performs the Pink Floyd rock-opera in a massive open-air spectacle where the wall once cut through Potsdamer Platz.

German unification requires the approval of the victors of World War II who never completely gave up their rights and responsibilities regarding Germany as a whole. The 2 + 4 Negotiations between the Foreign Ministers of the two Germanys, the United States, the Soviet Union, Great Britain and France have been searching for an agreement since May. In June the two German parliaments confirm the inviolability of Poland's western border. In July Helmut Kohl and Mikhail Gorbachev announce the Soviets' approval of Germany's NATO membership at a press conference. With the signing of the 2 + 4 Treaty on 12 September Germany regains its full sovereignty. The path to reunification is clear.