

East Germany: Memo

Cold War Discussion

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Introduction

Greeting ladies and gentlemen,

I would like to thank you all, for inviting Germany to this reunion to discuss the Cold War. Considering Germany's past and keeping the factors in mind such as geography, economy, human rights and technology will re-ensure that for Germany, the Cold War is over.

Geography

Our nation is the center hot spot of tension and drama between all nation. In the past, due to World War I, our country experienced great economic loss. It was hard to cope with destruction and depression. During the second world war, Germany was split into four zones between the United States, Great Britain, French, and Soviet control. As the United States, Great Britain and French governments started to differ from the Soviet, Germany was played like a toy doll. Germany was split into two divisions, West Germany was being controlled by the British, American and French governments; and our own East Germany was controlled by the Soviet government. East Germany was modeled after Stalinist Russia under Walter Ulbricht's rule. Ulbricht created a secret police known as

the Stasi to control the people. The Stasi were very strict and took away much of the freedom to create an equal society. As a result, people started to flee Eastern Germany towards the Western side. To assure our safety and people, we had to split Germany by creating the Berlin Wall. The Berlin Wall was originally to stop the East Germans from fleeing to West Germany since East Germans saw the democratic lifestyle better than communist lifestyle. Therefore, it also separated democracy of West Germany from communism of East Germany. Stalin ordered all accessible routes to be blocked from Berlin. This created a direct affect on the German economy by cutting off about 2,500,000 people from provisions. At one point, all supplies were exchanged between East and West Germany. Water among food and other items of necessity were cut off. People were starting to die of starvation. Therefore the Berlin Airlift started to supply food, fuel, and other supplies. As a strict government system continued to grow in East Germany, people became rebellious towards Ulbricht's rule. The Soviet government had to be called in to calm the people down. In the effort, about 40 people were killed and a thousand were arrested. In time, more people started to protest and eventually, the border of Berlin was opened for people to cross.

Economy

Comrades, as you might already be aware of what I might speak of today, and or those of you that don't know I am going to discuss the economic issues for East Germany. When I say "economic issues", and or the word "economy", I simply mean money problems and or anything regarding the increase or decreases of money in East Germany. So I am going to be very direct, forward whatever

you might wish to call it, today, the East German economic status was not in its best stability. Though you must not forget that in its past East Germany did have its remarkable ways of getting back up, and did still get up where they had originally once started. So let me start, yes East Germany did somewhat fall on its economic status, but I can ensure you very soon that they did rise back up. So, now I am going start off, starting with introducing what once was advanced cropping systems that will surely did help with some of the money issues going on. Already progresses were being done through this new system, 539 winters wheat's fields have grown on commercial farms. Not only is this helping the economy, but this system was also helping by increasing job for those who are unemployed farmers. Also with the help of the new fertilization methods they had come up with is really speeding up the process of the cropping systems. Though the unemployed had increased throughout the months, still there was a rhetoric increase in employment. This was all done by the help from the German Democratic Republic, or as I like to call it the (GDR). Although the GDR did have to pay substantial war reparations to the USSR, it is known to be the richest economy in the Eastern Bloc. Nonetheless it did not match the economic growth of West Germany. Emigration to the West was a significant problem — as many of the emigrants were young well-educated people, but they soon conquered this problem as well. This government was still trying to stop people leaving by fortifying its western borders. Next, let me introduce another type of organization that was playing a big role in Germany's economic concerns, this was known to be the Freier Deutscher Gewerk Shaftbund or shortly known as the (FDGB). The FDGB and GDR's was known to be the largest and most influential organization that went on for a century or so. Lastly, I want to discuss to you all about the East German Unification. The merger of the Germany's economies, was done on 18 May 1990, the two German states signed a treaty agreeing on

monetary, economic and social union. As you all may know the Germans came into force on 1 July 1990, with the Deutsche Mark replaced the East German mark as the official currency of East Germany. The Deutsche Mark had a very high reputation among the East Germans and was considered stable. While the GDR was transferring to its financial policy sovereignty to West Germany, the West started granted subsidies for the GDR budget and social security system. At the same time many West German laws were coming into force with GDR. This was creating a suitable framework for a political union by diminishing the huge gap between the two existing political, social, and economic systems.

Human Rights

Our great nation of Germany has greatly improved human rights over the years. Day by day we are moving forward and achieving our goals. Due to Germany's past, we have contained such fear in our hearts, expecting an attack any minute. The Cold War lasted for so long, and we are still rebuilding from the damage both physically and mentally.

We gave our citizens more rights, such as, passing the Abortion Reform. We have allowed this reform since 1943. This reform has legalized abortion for women who are in their first trimester of pregnancy and are carrying disabled or deformed fetuses. We have realized that at some situations, women go through difficulties while they are pregnant. For example, if you are pregnant with an abnormal child, you are allowed to have an abortion. There are some people who prefer to not have a child than to have an abnormal one, so we decided to give them their right to make their own decision.

Not only for disabled babies, but if a woman has gotten pregnant through a sexual crime, it is possible for her to have an abortion. Rape victims have been forced into certain situations and have become pregnant unwillingly. We understand their pain and they are allowed to get rid of their unwanted child. However, whatever the case may be, abortions are only allowed until the first 12 weeks of pregnancy, no later.

Along with these events, another improvement in Germany has been the promotion of gender equality. Women have been working very hard to show their capabilities and how much they can achieve. We have decided to give these women a chance and let them show us their abilities. Women are now given the opportunity to have better jobs than they did before, and are also getting good paychecks. Before, women were not allowed to have careers and children at the same time, but we have changed that now. Also, women are now able to work outside of the city. Before, women weren't able to have a good job, let alone go out of the city. Also, they are now allowed to file for a divorce without having to ask for their husband's permission first. There were many times when a woman had to ask permission from their husbands, but now there are many times where they don't have to do that anymore. Women are also humans and deserve better rights and more respect.

The civilians in Germany want a peaceful revolution, causing them to protest peacefully. These people have been promoting peace and are trying their best to prevent violence. These activists have been doing things such as peace prayers, guiding people in the right direction and showing them how to handle these difficult situations peacefully. Our nation is going through a great time now, improving many things that needed to be fixed. From all this, we have no fear anymore. We don't have problems with any other country, which is why we think the Cold War is over.

Technology

Now ladies and gentleman let's put our attention to the part whom may actually have controlled all of the cold war; Technology. Now you may think technology. Technology is not a factor at all. Or maybe not the first factor that came to mind. But think again, where would any of the sides stand if they had no electronic components. They would be nowhere. It was a way to make one side look weaker than the other. Now let's look at a movie called Good Bye Lenin directed by Wolfgang Becker, a movie about a young teen who is trying to stop time or make it seem like time stopped in order for his mother to be happy. In the first party of movie of the minutes a technological item was presented. It was "a giant colossus...a spaceship SOJUS 31", which was a huge advantage on making East Germany "better". Sigmund Jähn was the first German citizen to fly into space along with the spaceship SOJUS31. All of this was taken place in East Germany; now by East Germany telling the world that they have launched a spaceship into space makes West Germany seem as if they are in a good position in technology. It's making East Germany seem as if they have a higher advantage than the other side.

After a party of the Berlin wall was torn down Alex, the main character, mentions how in June 1990 the East German borders were useless. From what it looked like was that the borders didn't care much of who came in or who went out. All what Alex had to do was show some kind of ID from a far distance and that would be enough. You can clearly see that the borders don't have much interest in actually "protecting" East Germany from the outsider or in East Germany's case "protecting" them from

West Germany. Now, anyone remembers the Stasi. Let me refresh your memory the Stasi is the German police. It's been said that the Stasi was the most structural police in human history. It had been better than the Soviets. For example one officer would have about "186 inhabitants", which is pretty impressive.

Alright aside from the Stasi there was a major technological break for East Germany. Toshiba had a great contribution to East Germany by providing illegal advanced technology. That technology was used to make the memories of the computers longer lasting. Although East Germany may have had an advanced memory card provided by Toshiba, we sure had crappy cars. Our car was the Trabant and the Wartburg. They were made out of plastic, duopolistic. Which were like recycled material. Plastic our old cars were made out of plastic there was nothing to do about it but to go to our destinations with the 125 km. Wartburg and the Trabant. Which soon were recycled. Now today is a brighter day for Germany. After the Berlin wall was torn down in 1989 the Stasi officer were trying to get rid of any record they had. Now Germany is more out in the open with variety of different things like culture such as music, theatre, cinema and specially sports. Germany's technology has advanced now that both of the sides are together and working together has made a big change and its best for Germany to have two sides together than fighting each other.

Conclusion

The question if the Cold War is really over or not has still been a conversation starter. Many people have different opinions to this topic, but from our point of view, things are going great. Germany

is doing very well now and we have nothing against anyone. Since things are going so well, we think the Cold War is over.