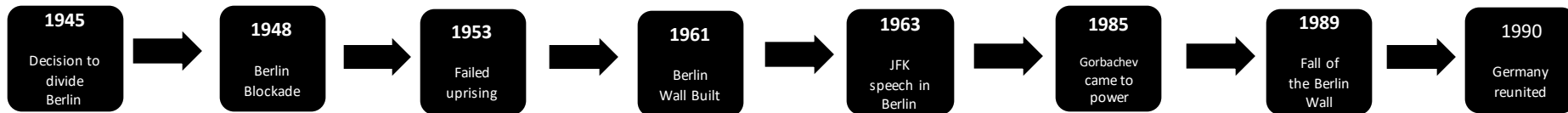


# How significant was the Cold War to the citizens of Berlin?



The Wall was not just, or not even, about Berlin. It was about imprisoning an entire country's population. Since reunification, surprisingly, Berlin's population has also declined, by around 45,000, despite the fact that it became the seat of government in 1991. And Berlin is broke. What used to be the Western sectors no longer receive the generous aid from the federal government that they enjoyed during the city's time as a protected capitalist island in the Communist sea. The same goes for East Berlin, which as capital of the GDR and the Workers' and Peasants' State's tourist showcase was also lavishly subsidised by East Bloc standards. Berlin still mirrors the nation's differences.

**Frederick Taylor, *The Berlin Wall* (2006)**



	Key Word	Definition
	Communism	A system based on equality, public ownership and state control
	Capitalism	A system based on private owners and individual freedom
	State	A nation and its government
	Cold War	Rivalry and hostility between two states, that stops short of military conflict
	Superpower	A country with great political and military power
	USSR	The Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
	Reparations	Provide payment to repair damage you have caused
	Deterrent	Something that discourages you from doing something
	Propaganda	Information (often biased) used to promote a political cause
	Blockade	Sealing off a place so that people and goods can not enter or leave
	Stasi	The internal security force of East Germany
	GDR	German Democratic Republic – the name given to East Germany
	FRG	Federal Republic of Germany – the name given to West Berlin

	Knowledge Milestones	Extra Knowledge	Expert Knowledge
	Communism is a system of government based on the ideas of Karl Marx	In 1917 Lenin overthrew the Russian government and set up the first communist dictatorship in Russia	Lenin's control of Russia was based on worker's councils which were called Soviets.
	The Cold War began after the Second World War between the superpowers USA and the USSR	By 1949 both superpowers had nuclear weapons. Because the consequences of nuclear were so serious the superpowers avoided direct conflict	Although the USSR and the USA did not fight each other directly, they did support opposing sides in other wars such as the Korean and Vietnam Wars
	After the Second World War, Germany was divided into 4 sectors, controlled by USSR, USA, Britain and France	The decision to divide Germany was confirmed at the Potsdam Conference in 1945. Because Berlin was such an important city, it was also divided	The division of Germany and Berlin into sectors was intended to be temporary. Joint decisions were supposed to be made but this didn't happen
	The rivalry between the superpowers played out in Germany and particularly in Berlin.	In 1948 Stalin cut off all access to West Berlin in the Berlin Blockade in a standoff with the West. 2.5 million West Berliners were left without supplies.	The West flew supplies into West Berlin in the Berlin Airlift. In total over 400 tons of food, coal and other supplies were delivered. The airlift lasted 11 months
	Berlin experienced a migration crisis as nearly 3 million East Germans fled to the West through Berlin	In 1961 Khrushchev ordered the building of the Berlin Wall. It was constructed overnight 12 <sup>th</sup> -13 <sup>th</sup> August and made it much harder to defect to the West	Kennedy said "A wall is a hell of a lot better than a war" and did not try to stop the building of the Berlin Wall.
	After Gorbachev became ruler of the USSR, protesters in East Germany began to demand reform.	Over 5,000 people managed to cross the wall 1961-1989. In 1989 protesters gathered in Berlin demanding "Tor auf" or "Open the gate". On 9 <sup>th</sup> November the gates were opened	Over 2,000,000 East Germans passed through the gates on 9 <sup>th</sup> November. They began demolishing it with hammers and pick axes. On 3 <sup>rd</sup> October 1990 Germany was reunified

If you want to find out more check out the following links or scan the QR codes on your phone or tablet.

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