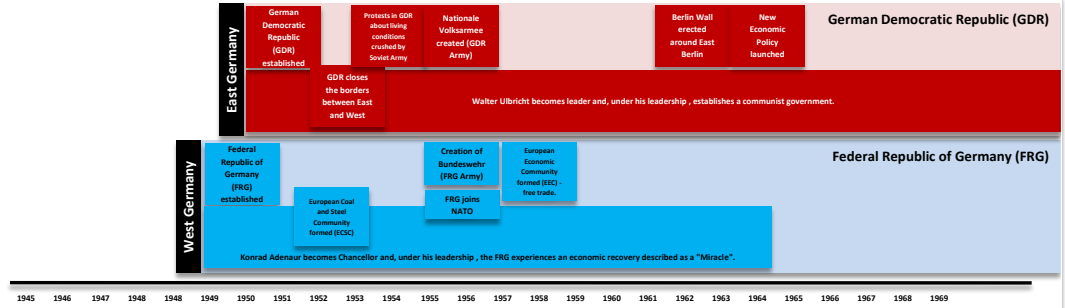


Knowledge Map: Germany 1945 - 1969

Summary:

This part of the course looks at the division of Germany into two separate countries: East and West Germany. It looks at the key personalities in this period as well as the key events but most importantly, it looks at the key differences between the two countries in terms of political outlook, living standards and control.



Federal Republic of Germany (FRG): West Germany

Established in 1949

Below is an outline of the principles on which the Federal Republic of Germany was created.

Key Knowledge

1	Allied Attitudes to Germany	The Allies of the US, France and Britain wanted to stop Germany plunging into another political crisis by restoring its economy. Learning the lessons from the Treaty of Versailles, they felt rebuilding the economy would lead to a more stable Germany in the future.
2	1949	Year in which the Federal Republic of Germany was created.
3	Government	The FRG was a democracy based on a federal structure. The new country was divided into eleven Lander (regions) which would be represented in a new Federal government in Bonn (its new capital). The government would have two houses: Bundestag (lower house) and a Bundesrat (upper house), and a President. The President could not declare a state of emergency or pass laws which was a significant change from the Weimar Constitution. The main political leader would be the Chancellor who would be elected by the Bundestag.
4	Main Political Parties	There were two main political parties in West Germany: the Christian Democrats and the Social Democrats. Throughout the 1950s and 1960s, the main political force would be the Christian Democrats.
5	Leader	From 1949 to 1963 the Chancellor of West Germany was Konrad Adenauer from the Christian Democrats.

Division of Germany in 1945



Two Germanies: West and East



German Democratic Republic (GDR): East Germany

Summary

Below is an outline of the principles on which the German Democratic Republic was created.

Key Knowledge

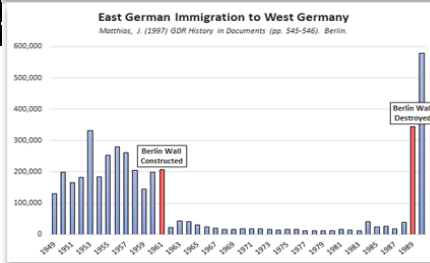
6	Soviet Attitudes to Germany	The Soviets took a very different view to the Allies on what to do with Germany. They wanted to punish Germany for all the deaths and destruction the USSR had experienced in the Second World War. Stalin's attitude was to extract as much from Germany as possible.
7	1950	The year in which the German Democratic Republic was created. This was against Stalin's original vision for Germany but events in the West had forced his hand.
8	Government	The GDR was a one-party communist state led by the Socialist Unity Party (SED). This party was made up of German communists of the previous German Communist Party imprisoned by the Nazis and released by the Allies. There was an East German Parliament called the Volkskammer, and regular elections were held but all won by the SED.
9	Main Political Parties	There was only one political party: the Socialist Unity Party (SED).
10	Leader	The first leader of East Germany was Walter Ulbricht, who would be leader from 1950 to 1971.

Key Differences Between West and East Germany

Summary

Below is a summary of the differences between West and East Germany in four key areas: Political, Economic, Social and International Status.

	West Germany	East Germany
11	Political West Germany was a free democracy. It held regular elections for two houses of Parliament: The Bundestag and the Bundesrat. It also allowed for the election of the President and the President could serve no longer than one term. The Chancellor was elected by the Bundesrat.	East Germany was a one-party communist state that was essentially a satellite of the Soviet Union. Elections took place but people could only vote for one party.
12	Economic West Germany experienced an "Economic Miracle" between the 1949 and 1969. It was the fastest growing economy in Western Europe during this period for a number of reasons. Firstly, it embraced Marshall Aid from the US and used it to support their economy. Secondly, the introduction of a new currency (Deutsche Mark) brought stability to the economy by ending inflation. During this period they experienced full employment and had very low inflation. Adenauer's economic policies had a huge impact on the revival of West Germany's economy.	The economy in East Germany struggled due to a number of reasons. Firstly, it had only one-third of the population of West Germany, and only 20% of the industrial output. Secondly, there were huge skills shortages due to the many people leaving the East for the more prosperous West. The government, led by Ulbricht, wanted rapid industrialisation and collectivisation of farms (like the USSR) but this was all very unpopular.
13	Social Living standards in the West were far higher than in the East. Due to the economic miracle experienced by the West, they were able to introduce a huge social welfare programme that gave support to the unemployed, sick, the young, and pensions for the old. Excellent relations with trade unions ensured a cooperative workforce and there were incredibly few strikes. High taxation of the wealthy enabled the government to build over 2 million needed homes. West Berlin was seen as a symbol of the success of capitalism.	Living conditions in the East were quite poor, especially compared to what was happening in the West. Ultimately, this led to huge protests from people and in 1953 these were heavily put down by Soviet forces. In fact, East Germany was a state which oppressed its people. Its Secret Police (the Stasi) had one on four people informing on its own citizens by the 1980s. The poor living conditions in the East saw many flee to West Berlin as a means to get to West Germany. The numbers reached such epidemic proportions that the GDR resorted to putting up a wall around its section of Berlin: the Berlin Wall.
14	International Status Much of West Germany's success was also down to its willingness and openness to cooperation with countries all over the world. By 1955, West Germany was part of NATO. The creation of the European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC) and the EEC (European Economic Community) saw West Germany play a prominent part in the creation of free trade across Europe.	East Germany was very restricted with whom it could cooperate with internationally. It was restricted to working with fellow Cominform countries. Essentially, its lack of cooperation with non-Soviet states meant its growth economically and politically was limited. In 1955, it became part of the Warsaw Pact.



Berlin Wall: 1961

Summary

Below is a summary of the reasons why the Berlin Wall was constructed by the German Democratic Republic in 1961. It would become the most obvious symbol of a divided Germany.

Berlin Wall

15	Berlin Wall (1961) In 1961, Berlin became physically divided when the Soviets erected a wooden fence around the Western section of Berlin. This would eventually be turned into a brick wall with a further interior wall that enclosed West Berlin. It would be manned and armed with lookout towers and areas that were even covered in land mines. The reason it was erected was to stop the migration of East Germans to West Germany through West Berlin.
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