

## AFTER THE BERLIN WALL

The history and meaning of the Berlin Wall remain controversial, even three decades after its fall. Drawing on an extensive range of archival sources and interviews, this book profiles key memory activists who have fought to commemorate the history of the Berlin Wall and examines their role in the creation of a new German national narrative. With victims, perpetrators, and heroes, the Berlin Wall has joined the Holocaust as an essential part of German collective memory. Key Wall anniversaries have become signposts marking German views of the past, its relevance to the present, and the complicated project of defining German national identity. Considering multiple German approaches to remembering the Wall via memorials, trials, public ceremonies, films, and music, this revelatory work also traces how global memory of the Wall has impacted German memory policy. It depicts the power and fragility of state-backed memory projects, and the potential of such projects to reconcile or divide.

HOPE M. HARRISON is Associate Professor of History and International Affairs at the George Washington University. The recipient of fellowships from Fulbright, the Wilson Center, and the American Academy in Berlin, she is the author of *Driving the Soviets up the Wall* (2003), which was awarded the 2004 Marshall Shulman Book Prize by the American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies, and was also published to wide acclaim in German translation. She has served on the National Security Council staff, currently serves on the board of three institutions in Berlin connected to the Cold War and the Berlin Wall, and has appeared on CNN, the History Channel, the BBC, and Deutschlandradio.

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# AFTER THE BERLIN WALL

Memory and the Making of the New Germany,  
1989 to the Present

HOPE M. HARRISON  
*The George Washington University*



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In Memory of Manfred Fischer,  
whose work to preserve the memory  
of the Berlin Wall remains an inspiration  
and  
For Mary G. Leferovich,  
whose love, generosity, and support  
as my aunt are unsurpassed

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## ABBREVIATIONS AND GERMAN TERMS

- Alltagsleben*, everyday life  
*Alternative für Deutschland (AfD)*, Alternative for Germany  
 ARD, First German Television  
*Aufarbeitung der Geschichte*, grappling with history  
*Beirat*, Advisory Board or Council  
*Berliner Mauer*, Berlin Wall  
*Brandenburger Tor*, Brandenburg Gate  
*Bundesbeauftragte für Kultur und Medien* (BKM), Federal Commission/er on Culture and Media (refers to both the institution and the person running it)  
*Bundesbeauftragte für Stasi Unterlagen* (BStU), Federal Commission/er for Stasi Records (refers to both the institution and the person running it)  
*Bundesgerichtshof* (BGH), Federal Court of Justice  
*Bundesstiftung zur Aufarbeitung der SED-Diktatur (Stiftung Aufarbeitung)*, Federal Foundation for Reappraising the SED Dictatorship  
*Bundestag*, Federal German Parliament  
*Bundeszentrale für politische Bildung* (BpB), Federal Agency for Political (or Civic) Education  
*Bündnis 90*, Alliance 90  
*Bürgerbüro*, Citizens' Office  
 Central Investigation Office for Governmental and Organized Criminality (ZERV)  
 Christian Democratic Union (CDU)  
 Christian Social Union (CSU)  
*Demokratische Aufbruch*, Democratic Awakening  
*Deutsches Historisches Museum* (DHM), German Historical Museum  
*Dominostein*, domino  
*Erinnerungskultur*, memory culture  
*Erinnerungspolitik*, memory policy  
 Federal Republic of Germany (FRG), West Germany, 1949–1990, or united Germany, 1990–present  
*Fenster des Gedenkens*, Window of Commemoration  
*Fest der Freiheit*, Festival of Freedom  
 Free Democratic Party (FDP)  
*Freie Deutsche Jugend* (FDJ), Free German Youth (GDR communist youth group)

- Freiheitsmahnmal*, Freedom Memorial  
*Freiheits- und Einheitsdenkmal*, Freedom and Unity Monument  
*Gedenkkonzept*, commemorative plan  
*Gedenkpolitik*, commemoration policy  
*Gedenkstätte*, memorial (generally refers to a site and the organization administering it)  
*Gedenkstätte Berliner Mauer* (GBM), Berlin Wall Memorial  
*Gedenkstättenkonzeption*, plan for memorials  
 German Democratic Republic (GDR), East Germany  
*Gesamtkonzept*, master plan  
*Geschichtspolitik*, history policy  
*Grenzer*, border soldier(s)  
*Grundgesetz*, Basic Law/constitution of FRG  
*Grüne*, the Green Party  
*Hinterlandmauer*, the rear part of the Berlin Wall, the first obstacle an East German would come to, as opposed to the forward Wall, the external part facing West Berlin  
*Kampfgruppe gegen Unmenschlichkeit* (KgU), Action Group against Inhumanity  
*Konzept*, plan  
*Kristallnacht*, Night of Broken Glass, November 9, 1938  
*Lernort*, site of learning  
*Lichtgrenze*, border of light  
*Die Linke*, the Left Party (successor to the SED and PDS)  
*Mahnmal*, memorial or monument (in the sense of warning or admonishing, not celebrating)  
*Mauer*, Wall  
*Mauergrundstücksgesetz*, law on property at the (former) Wall  
*Mauerweg*, Wall trail  
 National Defense Council of the GDR (NVR)  
*Nationale Volksarmee* (NVA), National People's Army of the GDR  
*Neue Bundesländer*, new federal states (the former GDR)  
 North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)  
*Ostalgie*, nostalgia for the East (the GDR)  
*Ostpolitik*, policy toward the East initiated by FRG Chancellor Willy Brandt  
 Party of Democratic Socialism (PDS), successor to SED and predecessor to the Left Party (*die Linke*)  
*Platz*, square  
*Politische Bildung*, Political (or Civic) Education  
*Radweg*, bicycle trail  
*Republikflucht*, flight from the Republic (trying to escape from the GDR)  
*Schiessbefehl*, order to shoot  
*Schreibtischtäter*, perpetrators who sit at desks issuing orders  
 SM-70, splinter mine, mounted on external fence along GDR border with FRG  
 Social Democratic Party (SPD)

## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND GERMAN TERMS

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- Sozialistische Einheitspartei Deutschland* (SED), Socialist Unity Party of (East) Germany  
*Staatskapelle*, Berlin State Orchestra  
*Stasi*, *Staatssicherheitsdienst*, the GDR's secret police  
*Stiftung Berliner Mauer* (SBM), Berlin Wall Foundation  
*Union der Opferverbände kommunistischer Gewaltherrschaft* (UOKG), Union of Victims' Associations of Communist Tyranny  
 United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)  
*Unrechtsstaat*, unjust state or state without rule of law  
*Verein*, association  
*Vergangenheitsbewältigung*, coming to terms with the past  
*Verharmlosung*, belittling or downplaying  
*Versöhnungsgemeinde*, Reconciliation Church Community  
*Versöhnungskapelle*, Chapel of Reconciliation  
*Versöhnungskirche*, Church of Reconciliation  
*Vertriebene*, expellees  
*Volkskammer*, East German Parliament  
*Volkspolizei*, VoPos (People's Police of GDR)  
 Warsaw Pact, Soviet bloc counterpart to NATO  
 ZDF, Second German Television

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