

## The Human Rights Dictatorship

Ned Richardson-Little exposes the forgotten history of human rights in the German Democratic Republic, placing the history of the Cold War, Eastern European dissidents and the revolutions of 1989 in a new light. By demonstrating how even a communist dictatorship could imagine itself to be a champion of human rights, this book challenges popular narratives on the fall of the Berlin Wall and illustrates how notions of human rights evolved in the Cold War as they were re-imagined in East Germany by both dissidents and state officials. Ultimately, the fight for human rights in East Germany was part of a global battle in the post-war era over competing conceptions of what human rights meant. Nonetheless, the collapse of dictatorship in East Germany did not end this conflict, as citizens had to choose for themselves what kind of human rights would follow in its wake.

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*Socialism, Global Solidarity and  
Revolution in East Germany*

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Ned Richardson-Little

*University of Erfurt*



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In memory of  
a humanist  
Prof. Kurt Sittmann  
and  
a warrior-scholar  
Dr. Prince Kadar White

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## Acknowledgements

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# Abbreviations

BEK	Bund der Evangelischen Kirchen in der DDR
CDU	Christlich Demokratische Union Deutschlands
CSU	Christlich-Soziale Union (Bavaria)
FRG	Federal Republic of Germany
GDR	German Democratic Republic
GfM	Gesellschaft für Menschenrechte – Society for the Protection of Human Rights
ICCPR	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
IFM	Initiative für Frieden und Menschenrechte (Initiative for Peace and Human Rights)
KMR	DDR-Komitee für Menschenrechte (GDR-Committee for Human Rights, successor to KSM)
KPD	Kommunistische Partei Deutschlands (Communist Party of Germany)
KSM	Komitee zum Schutze der Menschenrechte (Committee for the Protection of Human Rights)
NATO	North Atlantic Treaty Organization
SDP	Sozialdemokratische Partei (Social Democratic Party, GDR)
SED	Sozialistische Einheitspartei Deutschlands (Socialist Unity Party)
SPD	Sozialdemokratische Partei Deutschlands (Social Democratic Party, FRG)
UDHR	Universal Declaration of Human Rights
USSR	Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
WCC	World Council of Churches

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