

# Archives Unbound: East Germany from Stalinization to the New Economic Policy, 1950-1963



## Archives Unbound

**Archives Unbound** answers the call within libraries and university departments to digitise small collections of primary source material. This new online resource digitises the most sought-after microfilm collections from Gale and Primary Source Media, capturing defining moments in history. Between 5,000 to 200,000 pages per title, these specialist collections act as small adjuncts to the large Gale digital collections making them an affordable option for libraries and departments.

### East Germany from Stalinization to the New Economic Policy, 1950-1963

Originally microfilmed as Records of the U.S. Department of State Relating to the Internal Affairs of East Germany, this digital collection provides an in-depth look into the creation of the East German state, living conditions and its people. Documents included in this collection are predominantly instructions to and dispatches from U.S. diplomatic and consular personnel regarding political, military, economic, social, industrial and other internal conditions and events in East Germany. An intuitive platform makes it all cross-searchable by subject or collection.



#### Features:

- Intuitive searches that deliver organised results
- Highlighted keywords to facilitate research
- Flexible and accessible for the 24-hour researcher
- Subject-specific collections support multidisciplinary research in history, political science, hard science, ethnic studies and more
- Active publishing schedule, with multiple collections added annually
- Highly targeted at 5,000 to 200,000 pages per collection

The German Democratic Republic (East Germany) came into existence on October 7, 1949, when the German Economic Commission formed a provisional government in the Soviet zone of occupied Germany. This move occurred in response to the action taken by the United States, Britain and France, which in 1948 had agreed to unite their respective occupation zones into a West German republic. The division of Germany and the founding of an East German state signified several historical reversals. They included:

- The postwar partition of Germany represented a return to the country's previous existence as a divided nation. As of 1945, Germans had been united in a single sovereign state for only the last seventy-four years.
- For at least 1,000 years Germans had expanded eastward, conquering territories previously controlled by Slavs and the Baltic peoples. As part of the settlement ending World War II, Germany lost territories to Poland and the Soviet Union that German rulers had controlled for centuries.
- The lines of economic, cultural, military and political influence had historically run from Germany to Eastern Europe and Russia. However, after World War II the Soviet Union imposed on East Germany a brand of Marxism-Leninism developed on Russian soil, the ruling Socialist Unity Party of Germany (Sozialistische Einheitspartei Deutschlands--SED), patterned itself after the Communist Party of the Soviet Union (CPSU), and East Germany adopted a governmental system modeled in most respects on that of the Soviet Union.

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This publication reproduces the State Department Decimal Files 762B, 862B and 962B from the General Records of the Department of State in the custody of the National Archives. These decimal classifications, defined below, present a comprehensive view of the internal affairs of the East German state. This view includes a wide-range of materials, including:

Special reports on political and military affairs

- Studies and statistics on socioeconomic matters
- Interviews and minutes of meetings with foreign government officials
- Court proceedings and other legal documents
- Reports and translations from foreign journals and newspapers
- Full texts of important letters, instructions and cables sent and received by U.S. diplomatic personnel
- Countless translations of high-level foreign government documents, including speeches, memoranda, official reports and transcripts of political meetings and assemblies

## State Department Decimal Filing System

From 1910 to 1963 the State Department used a decimal filing system to organize its Central Files. The complexity of the postwar world and the increasing involvement of the United States in international affairs had combined to make the original 1910 filing system, last updated in 1939, inadequate to meet the Department's growing needs. The decimal system from 1950 to January 1963 consisted of ten primary classifications numbered 0 through 9, each covering a broad subject area:

CLASS 0: Miscellaneous.

CLASS 1: Administration of the United States Government.

CLASS 2: Protection of Interests (Persons and Property).

CLASS 3: International Conferences, Congresses, Meetings and Organizations.

CLASS 4: International Trade and Commerce. Trade Relations. Customs Administration.

CLASS 5: International Informational and Educational Relations. Cultural Affairs. Psychological Warfare.

CLASS 6: International Political Relations. Bilateral Treaties.

CLASS 7: Internal Political and National Defense Affairs.

CLASS 8: Internal Economic, Industrial and Social Affairs.

CLASS 9: Other Internal Affairs--Communications. Transportation. Science.

Records Relating to the Internal Affairs of East Germany consists of documents contained in Classes 7, 8 and 9. Within these classes each subject is defined by a decimal file number, followed by the country number.

## Sources:

Burant, Stephen, ed. Country Studies, Federal Research Division, Library of Congress, 1987.

U.S. State Department, Foreign Relations of the United States, Dwight D. Eisenhower, 1952-1954, Volume VII: Germany and Austria

U.S. State Department, Foreign Relations of the United States, Dwight D. Eisenhower, 1955-1957, Volume XXVI: Central and Southeastern Europe

U.S. State Department, Foreign Relations of the United States, Dwight D. Eisenhower, 1958-1960, Volume IX: The Berlin Crisis, 1959-1960; Germany; Austria

U.S. State Department, Foreign Relations of the United States, John F. Kennedy, Volume XIV: Foreign Relations, 1961-1963, Berlin Crisis, 1961-1962