

## Soviet Sabotage

- 10 week period while Berlin was solely occupied by Russia
- Removed machinery from Berlin to Russia
  - 85% of Berlin's machinery taken
  - Machinery, telephone exchanges, buses, street cars
  - Almost everything not destroyed during bombing
- Immediately set up city government
  - Under an Appointed Magistrate
  - Main executive body was mostly Russian communists
  - Russians permeated the Berlin police force

## Berlin and World War II

- At the end of World War II, the Allied Powers—the United States, Great Britain, France, and the Soviet Union—divided Berlin, Germany into zones that each country was to occupy
- These were called occupation zones
- As the Allies merged their economic strength to repair the damage done to the city during two world wars, the Soviet Union split from them in an attempt to control all of Berlin by blockading three of the city's western zones

## Berlin Blockade

- The Berlin blockade was one of the first major international crises of the Cold War
- During the multinational occupation of post-World War II Germany, the Soviet Union blocked the Western Allies' railway, road, and canal access to the sectors of Berlin under Allied control
- Their aim was to force the western powers to allow the Soviet zone to start supplying Berlin with food, fuel, and aid thereby giving the Soviets practical control over the entire city

## Exodus from Germany

- Until 1961 East German citizens were allowed to travel to West Berlin
- People disliked economic situation
- Most productive communist country in eastern Europe
- Forced to work on collective, state-owned farms
- Private trade outlawed
- No private ownership of land
- Food shortages
- Supply shortages

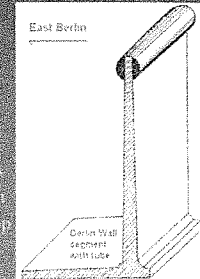
## Hours leading up to the building

- ◆ Saturday, August 12
- ◆ Under leadership of Erich Honecker
- ◆ Very Secretive
- ◆ Only about 20 top level leaders knew anything
- ◆ Officers were told they were "exercises"
- ◆ Made actions look like local police initiative
- ◆ Looked like crowd control
- ◆ 10,000 Person from line was People's Police and the Riot Police
- ◆ Assisted by militia known as Battle Groups of the Working Class



## Specifications of the Wall

- ◆ At first building of the wall
  - ◆ Barbed wire
  - ◆ Armed guards
- ◆ After final fortification of the wall
  - ◆ Dimensions
    - ◆ 107 km long
    - ◆ 4 m high at most locations
    - ◆ Concrete wall section with concrete tube placed on top
    - ◆ Lighted control area

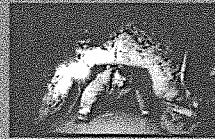


- ◆ On the East Berlin side was a lighted control area
- ◆ Anyone who reached this area were shot on sight, without warning
- ◆ This is where most people were caught
- ◆ Then moving away from the control area toward East Berlin was a deep trench to prevent vehicles from breaking through the wall
- ◆ In front of this was a patrol track that had attack dogs, bunkers, and guard towers
- ◆ Finally, there was a second, smaller wall
- ◆ In total the wall cut through 192 streets



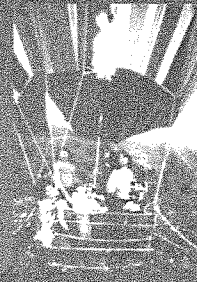
## Escape to Freedom!

- ◆ Large network
- ◆ Dug mostly by students
- ◆ First successful tunnel was dug in a grave yard
  - ◆ People brought flowers to mourn and dropped into the tunnel
- ◆ The most successful was in the basement of the house at 60 Westerstasse - 29 people were freed from here alone



## Flying over the wall

- ◆ Families of Wetzels and Sirlzycks secretly purchased many small amounts of nylon cloth
- ◆ Built a small hot air balloon
- ◆ Flew over the wall and landed in West Germany. Because of this purchase of light weight cloths were strictly controlled



## Climbing over the wall

- ◆ Many tried to climb over the wall
- ◆ The sale of twine and rope were outlawed
- ◆ Peter Fetcher, age 18, tried to climb over on August 17, 1962
- ◆ He was shot down and left to bleed to death
- ◆ At the beginning people tried to climb over the Wall or the fences, they jumped out of the houses which were in the border area or tunnels were build to escape

