

Division and reunification of Germany

by Janek Mücksch and Janis Wiegand

A brief history...

- 1945: end of war; division of the German territory
- 1949: foundation of both German states
- 1961: construction of the Berlin wall
- 1989: fall of the wall
- 1990: reunification (attachment?) of both states



Border control

Protection of the border with:

- Barbed wire
- Wall(s)
- Firing order
- Flood light
- Dogs
- Electric fence



Source: Deutschlandradiokultur (2011)

Who is German?

- Before 1871: “everyone who speaks German”
- 1871: everyone with German parents (ius sanguinis)
- Special situation in Germany after 1949 (division of country, change of territory):
 - (1) Unless otherwise provided by a law, a German within the meaning of this Basic Law is a person who possesses German citizenship or who has been admitted to the territory of the German Reich within the boundaries of 31 December 1937 as a refugee or **expellee of German ethnic origin** or as the spouse or descendant of such person. -
Article 116 basic law-
 - *After 1945 12 million expellees were hosted on the remaining territory (8 millions in west/ 4 millions in east)*

German citizenship after WW II

- FRG and GDR both aiming a reunification
- Both did not divide between FRG/GDR nationality
- Until 1961: 3 million people were leaving the GDR towards the west
- GDR implemented own citizenship in 1968 (without recognition of the FRG)
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