

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

This in-depth look into the creation of the East German state is based on dispatches from U.S. diplomatic and consular personnel regarding political, military, economic and other internal conditions and events

- Date Range: 1950-1963
- Content: 34,479 pages
- Source Library: U.S. National Archives

Historically, East Germany was the Soviet Union's most pliant and loyal ally in Eastern Europe. Until the Four Power Agreement on Berlin and the signing of the Basic Treaty by the two Germanies in the early 1970s, the noncommunist world treated West Germany as the "real" Germany and East Germany as an artificial state lacking international legitimacy.

The presence of West Germany made the ruling Socialist Union Part (SED) regime more dependent on the Soviet Union. Before the construction of the Berlin Wall, 2.5 million East German citizens had walked across the border to live in West Germany. A common language, family ties and access to West German media left the East Germans much less isolated from West European culture than were their counterparts in Eastern Europe.

East Germany from Stalinization to the New Economic Policy, 1950-1963 supports highly targeted research in socioeconomic, political and military disciplines. Rare sources include interviews and minutes of meetings with foreign officials, legal proceedings, memoranda, transcripts of political meetings and assemblies, reports and translations from foreign journals and newspapers, and countless translations of high-level foreign government documents.

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This collection includes pages arranged topically and chronologically on crucial subjects, including political parties, unrest and revolution, human rights, fiscal issues, labor, housing, public health, national defense, foreign policy, education, religion, natural resources and more.

The resource reproduces the State Department Central Decimal Files 762B, 862B and 962B from the General Records of the Department of State in the custody of the National Archives. These decimal files present a comprehensive view of the internal affairs of the East German state:

762B – Internal Political and National Defense Affairs

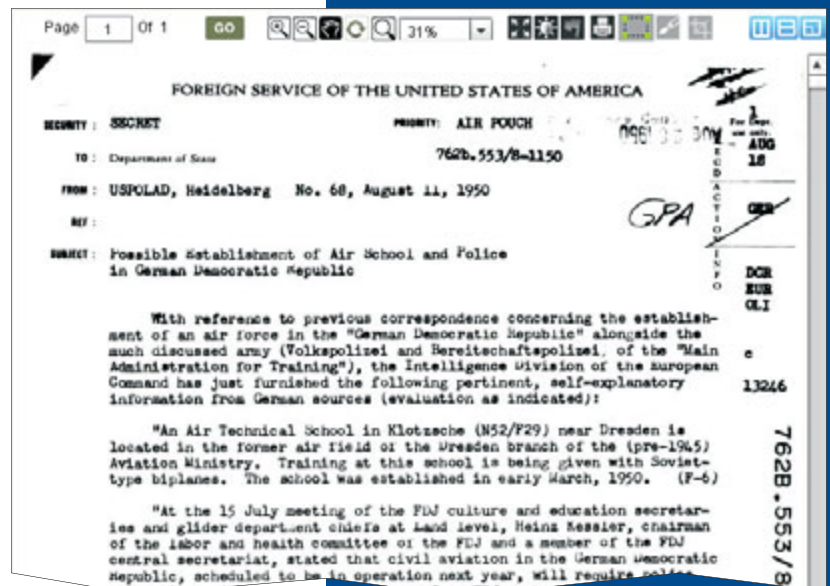
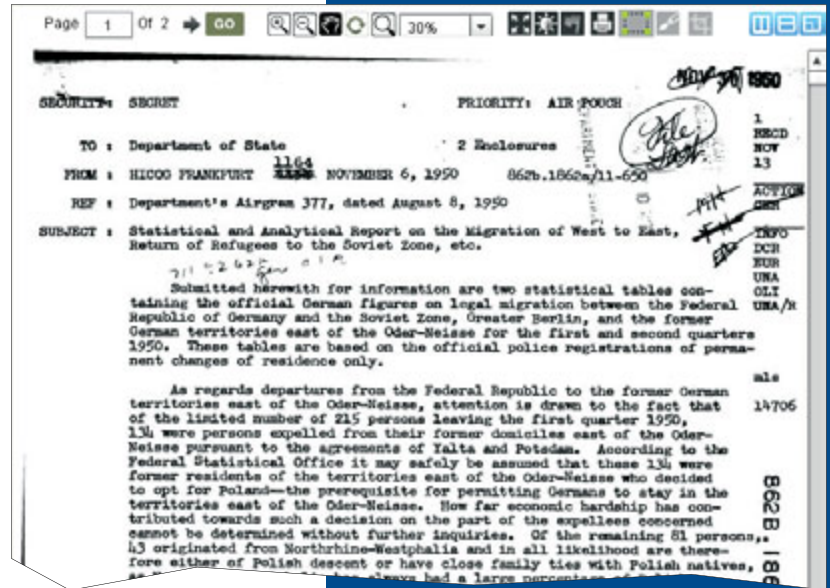
- Political affairs and conditions
- Branches of government
- National defense affairs

862B – Internal Economic, Industrial, and Social Affairs

- Economic conditions, such as cost of living, prices, housing, food, capital
- Labor conditions
- Financial matters, such as taxation, currency, banking, exchanges
- Immigration and emigration
- Industrial matters
- Agriculture
- Manufacturing
- Social matters, such as population, history, education, sports
- Public order and safety
- Public health
- Municipal government

962B – Communications, Transportation, Science

- Postal service
- Telephone and telegraph service
- Television
- Public press
- Air transportation
- Motor vehicles
- Merchant marine
- Physical sciences
- Medical sciences
- Electronics
- Engineering



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