

COREY ROSS

The East German **DICTATORSHIP**



Problems and Perspectives
in the Interpretation of the GDR

East German Dictatorship

Jürgen Kocka



East German Dictatorship:

The East German Dictatorship Corey Ross, 2002 **Dictatorship as Experience** Konrad H. Jarausch, 1999-10-01 A decade after the collapse of communism this volume presents a historical reflection on the perplexing nature of the East German dictatorship In contrast to most political rhetoric it seeks to establish a middle ground between totalitarianism theory stressing the repressive features of the SED regime and apologetics of the socialist experiment emphasizing the normality of daily lives The book transcends the polarization of public debate by stressing the tensions and contradictions within the East German system that combined both aspects by using dictatorial means to achieve its emancipatory aims By analyzing a range of political social cultural and chronological topics the contributors sketch a differentiated picture of the GDR which emphasizes both its repressive and its welfare features The sixteen original essays especially written for this volume by historians from both east and west Germany represent the cutting edge of current research and suggest new theoretical perspectives They explore political social and cultural mechanisms of control as well as analyze their limits and discuss the mixture of dynamism and stagnation that was typical of the GDR **The East German Dictatorship** Corey Ross, 2002-03-29 When the Berlin Wall came down historians found themselves unexpectedly challenged to reassess the nature of the German Democratic Republic The period since the transformational changes of 1989 90 has seen feverish activity in the archives as historians have sought to deepen understanding of how the regime functioned and to move beyond earlier views inescapably conditioned by Cold War antagonisms No historical consensus has emerge and the controversy about the GDR is undiminished in part because of the continuing importance of interpretations of the GDR s history to German political culture The proliferation of published research has shifted the contours of debate and given rise to new issues not always in clear cut fashion This study of the East German dictatorship is the first detailed mapping of the area identifying key interpretational issues describing the evolution of different approaches to them and providing the author s own evaluation A wide range of themes is covered from state society relations to the role of opposition to the GDR s place in the longer sweep of German history and central aspects of the regime s foundation internal organization social and economic system collapse and after life receive close attention *Anatomy of a Dictatorship* Mary Fulbrook, 1995 *Anatomy of a Dictatorship* analyses the emergence in the 1980s of oppositional cultures in the communist German Democratic Republic This seemingly impregnable and stable dictatorship collapsed with startling speed in 1989 The People's State Mary Fulbrook, 2008-12-02 What was life really like for East Germans effectively imprisoned behind the Iron Curtain The headline stories of Cold War spies and surveillance by the secret police of political repression and corruption do not tell the whole story After the unification of Germany in 1990 many East Germans remembered their lives as interesting varied and full of educational career and leisure opportunities in many ways perfectly ordinary lives Using the rich resources of the newly opened GDR archives Mary Fulbrook investigates these conflicting narratives She explores the transformation of East

German society from the ruins of Hitler's Third Reich to a modernizing industrial state. She examines changing conceptions of normality within an authoritarian political system and provides extraordinary insights into the ways in which individuals perceived their rights and actively sought to shape their own lives. Replacing the simplistic black and white concept of totalitarianism by the notion of a participatory dictatorship, this book seeks to reinstate the East German people as actors in their own history.

Sites of the East German Dictatorship Hubertus Knabe, 2004

The Human Rights Dictatorship Ned Richardson-Little, 2020-04-23

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 reimagined 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.

Becoming East German Mary Fulbrook, Andrew I. Port, 2013-09-01

For roughly the first decade after the demise of the GDR, professional and popular interpretations of East German history concentrated primarily on forms of power and repression as well as on dissent and resistance to communist rule. Socio-cultural approaches have increasingly shown that a single-minded emphasis on repression and coercion fails to address a number of important historical issues, including those related to the subjective experiences of those who lived under communist regimes. With that in mind, the essays in this volume explore significant physical and psychological aspects of life in the GDR, such as health and diet, leisure and dining, memories of the Nazi past, as well as identity, sports, and experiences of everyday humiliation. Situating the GDR within a broader historical context, they open up new ways of interpreting life behind the Iron Curtain while providing a devastating critique of misleading mainstream scholarship which continues to portray the GDR in the restrictive terms of totalitarian theory.

Dictatorship and Demand Mark Landsman, 2005-03-31

An investigation into the politics of consumerism in East Germany during the years between the Berlin Blockade of 1948-49 and the building of the Berlin Wall in 1961, *Dictatorship and Demand* shows how the issue of consumption constituted a crucial battleground in the larger Cold War struggle. Based on research in recently opened East German state and party archives, this book depicts a regime caught between competing pressures. While East Germany's leaders followed a Soviet model which fetishized productivity in heavy industry and prioritized the production of capital goods over consumer goods, they nevertheless had to contend with the growing allure of consumer abundance in West Germany. The usual difficulties associated with satisfying consumer demand in a socialist economy acquired a uniquely heightened political urgency as millions of East Germans fled across the open border. A new vision of the East-West conflict emerges, one fought as much with washing machines, televisions,

and high fashion as with political propaganda espionage and nuclear weapons Dictatorship and Demand deepens our understanding of the Cold War [Dictatorships and Authoritarianism in Modern German History](#) André Keil,2025-12-11 An exploration of the extent to which dictatorship and authoritarianism have been a dominant feature of modern German history since the 19th century [Divided Village: The Cold War in the German Borderlands](#) Jason B. Johnson,2017-05-18 Cover Title Copyright Contents List of figures Acknowledgements List of abbreviations Introduction Eerie 1 Calamity 1945 1952 2 Elimination 1952 3 Fighting mood 1952 1960 4 Admonition 1960 1961 5 Bleak 1961 1989 6 Ass of the world 1961 1989 Epilogue Dream Bibliography Index *Narratives in the Making* Anselma Gallinat,2016-11-01 Despite the three decades that have passed since the fall of the Berlin Wall the historical narrative of East Germany is hardly fixed in public memory as German society continues to grapple with the legacies of the Cold War This fascinating ethnography looks at two very different types of local institutions in one eastern German state that take divergent approaches to those legacies while publicly funded organizations reliably cast the GDR as a dictatorship a main regional newspaper offers a more ambivalent perspective colored by the experiences and concerns of its readers As author Anselma Gallinat shows such memory work initially undertaken after fundamental regime change inevitably shapes citizenship and democracy in the present

Perpetrators, Accomplices and Victims in Twentieth-Century Politics Anatoly M. Khazanov,Stanley Payne,2013-09-13 These studies examine the ways in which succeeding democratic regimes have dealt with or have ignored and in several cases sugar coated an authoritarian or totalitarian past from 1943 to the present They treat the relationship with democratization and the different ways in which collective memory is formed and dealt with or ignored and suppressed Previous books have examined only restricted sets of countries such as western or eastern Europe or Latin America The present volume treats a broader range of cases than any preceding account and also a much broader time span investigating diverse historical and cultural contexts and the role of national identity and nationalism studying the aftermath of both fascist and communist regimes in both Europe and Asia in an interdisciplinary framework while the conclusion provides a more complete comparative perspective than will be found in any other work The book will be of interest to historians and political scientists and to those interested in fascism communism legacies of war democratization collective memory and transitional justice This book was previously published as a special issue of *Totalitarian Movements and Political Religions*

Transnational Imaginations of Socialism Teresa Malice,2022-12-31 Town twinning refers to the postwar phenomenon of administrative exchange between analogous municipalities Cold War related research has mostly interpreted it as an instrument to pursue European integration or to solidify d tente from below However municipalities were not only administrative neutral actors but also bearers of political content This is particularly visible in the case of Italian towns located in the Western bloc guided by socialist oriented administrations and their twin counterparts in the German Democratic Republic This volume explores the connections initiated by such towns in the 1960s 1970s focusing on socialist

specific conceptions which fueled the policies implemented by red municipalities in managing local economies and social policies but also in maintaining a lively and interconnected transnational microsociability among grassroots activists Despite the increasing ideological divergences between Eastern and Western communists and between Italian democratic communists and the more dogmatic and repressive strictly pro Soviet ones in the GDR communication continued to flourish on the local level The book explores what still linked the two worlds together the bright side of socialism in this case a common symbolism related to the past practical exchanges in the present dimension and a shared future imagination and conception of the town on the basis of a socialist horizon built around welfare and services for citizens and workers

Antifascist Humanism and the Politics of Cultural Renewal in Germany Andreas Agocs,2017-07-14 Antifascism is usually described as either a political ideology of activists and intellectuals confronting the dictatorships of Hitler and Mussolini or as a cynical tool that justified the Stalinist expansion of communism in Europe Andreas Agocs widens our understanding of antifascism by placing it in the context of twentieth century movements of cultural renewal He explores the concept of antifascist humanism the attempt by communist and liberal intellectuals and artists to heal the divisions of Nazism by reviving the other Germany of classical Weimar This project took intellectual shape in German exile communities in Europe and Latin America during World War II and found its institutional embodiment in the Cultural League for Democratic Renewal in Soviet occupied Berlin in 1945 During the emerging Cold War antifascist humanism s uneasy blend of twentieth century mass politics and cultural nationalism became the focal point of new divisions in occupied Germany and the early German Democratic Republic This study traces German traditions of cultural renewal from their beginnings in antifascist activism to their failure in the emerging Cold War

State and Minorities in Communist East Germany Mike Dennis,Norman LaPorte,2011-08-01 Based on interviews and the voluminous materials in the archives of the SED the Stasi and central and regional authorities this volume focuses on several contrasting minorities Jehovah s Witnesses Jews guest workers from Vietnam and Mozambique football fans punks and skinheads and their interaction with state and party bodies during Erich Honecker s rule over the communist system It explores how they were able to resist persecution and surveillance by instruments of the state thus illustrating the limits on the power of the East German dictatorship and shedding light on the notion of authority as social practice

Plastics and Dictatorship in the German Democratic Republic Eli Rubin,2004

Socialist Laments Martha Sprigge,2021 The Ruin The Socialists Cemetery The Church Concentration Camp Memorials The Artists Cemetery

Civil Society and Dictatorship in Modern German History Jürgen

Kocka,2010-07-13 Brandeis University Press Historical Society of Israel

The PDS--a Symbol of Eastern German

Identity? Adrian Webb,2007 Noting both the historic distinctiveness of German capitalism and the contradictions within German communism this book concludes that the Partei des demokratischen Sozialismus PDS fused in Die Linke remains nourished by the particularism of eastern Germany

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