

# 5HD450 Chapters in History of the Cold War

## 3. German question and European integration.



EVROPSKÁ UNIE  
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# German area

- No independent state, no law system
- British, American, and French zones in the West, Soviet zone in the East
- About  $\frac{3}{4}$  of previous Germany (Third Reich), 10% loss of population
- Industrial production 50 – 60% of the level before the war, industrial companies, infrastructure, houses destroyed / damaged
- War payments – total of 20 bln. USD, 50% for the USSR, forced labor, property, copyright confiscation, etc.



# Potsdam Conference – German unification

- July – August 1945
- Big Three
- German question
  - Unitary state in the future divided into 4 occupation zones
  - Demilitarization of the economy
  - Denazification of the area
  - Democratization
  - Decentralization (decartelization of the economy)
  - Right for self-determination and creation of own state
  - Prosecution of war criminals
  - Peaceful expulsions of Germans from Poland, Czechoslovakia, Hungary
  - Reparations / Shift in borders
  - Structure of German economy



# Partial integration of Germany

- **Efforts at inter-zone coordination** x obstacles by the Soviets and French, deliveries of industrial reparations to Soviet zone
- **1946 United States restated their policy toward Germany** – German unity, independency, and strong economy
- **January 1947 – formation of Bizone** – coordination of policies in British and American zones
- **First half of 1948 – decision about** simultaneous reindustrialization, rebuilding of German economy, extension of Marshall Plan for Germany, federal system of government
- **June 1948 – currency reform** – new Deutsche Mark (instead debased Reichsmark) – protest of USSR
- **April 1949 – formation of Trizone**
- **May 1949 – formation of Federal Republic of Germany (West Germany)**



# Division of Germany

- **Soviets established their own administration** of the whole area
- **1946 Soviets stopped deliveries** of agricultural goods
- **Americans stopped shipping** dismantled industrial goods
- **Obstructions of Soviets** in administrative work of all zones
- **January 1948 – Soviets stopping** British and American trains in order to check passengers identities, later restrictions and requests for Soviet permission
- **April 1948 – Gatow Air Disaster**
- **June 1948 – May 1949 – Berlin Blockade – First Berlin Crisis**
- **October 1949 – creation of German Democratic Republic**
- 1952 Stalin repeatedly proposed a plan to unify East and West Germany if the unified state stayed out of Western military alliances

# Berlin Blockade

- Molotov: “What happens to Berlin, happens to Germany; what happens to Germany, happens to Europe.”
- General Clay: “... We are convinced that our remaining in Berlin is essential to our prestige in Germany and in Europe. Whether for good or bad, it has become a symbol of the American intent.”
- **No formal agreement** about an access to West Berlin through Soviet zone
- **No food, materials, supplies, energy for West Berlin**
- **Berlin airlift at Tempelhof Airport** – over 200,000 flights over a year, almost 9,000 tones of supplies each day
- Americans sent three B-59 aircraft groups to former American zone
- Soviets attempted to disrupt Berlin municipal elections – real political division of West and East Berlin
- **Great demonstrations of Berliners, elections loss for communists**
- After not gaining anything, Soviets finally stopped the blockade





# The role of Germany in European integration

- **A peaceful Europe (with American support) = economic + political cooperation**
- **One of the reasons for integration** – to prevent another war with Germany – economic integration of Germany is crucial, it must be “bound” with close economic (political) links
- **Iniciated, supported by Americans**
  - Free trade and multinationality as core values – Marshall Plan
  - Push for coordinated policy (OEEC)
  - Strong West–European economy only based on German economy
  - Strong West–European allies in order to contain communism
- 1951 European Coal and Steel Community – Germany as a founding member
- 1957 Treaty of Rome – creation of the European Economic Community – Germany as a founding member



# Readings & videos

- Documentaries

BBC The Cold War – Berlin

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G-qu7Qs8410>

The Cold War - From War to Cold, Containment

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HpYCplyBknl>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7vdXLkWUjrU>

- Cold War History Videos

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wVqziNV7dGY> 😊

- <http://www.history.com/topics/cold-war/cold-war-history/videos>

- <http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/worldwars/coldwar/>

- Specialized Resources / Collections / Cold War Files

- <https://www.wilsoncenter.org/program/cold-war-international-history-project>

- <http://digitalarchive.wilsoncenter.org/collections>

- [http://news.bbc.co.uk/onthisday/hi/themes/world\\_politics/cold\\_war/default.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/onthisday/hi/themes/world_politics/cold_war/default.stm)

- <https://web.archive.org/web/20080411004848/http://www.coldwarfiles.org/index.cfm?thisunit=0&fuseaction=events.list>

- <http://www.avclub.com/special/cold-war/timeline>



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