“Monday Demonstration”: Demand for Unification (December 11, 1989)

Abstract

According to public opinion polls, after the fall of the Wall, an independent German Democratic Republic was initially favored not only by East German intellectuals but also by many East German citizens as well. But when East Germans compared their living conditions with those in the West, and when fears arose that the political system in the GDR would not undergo quick and fundamental change, there was a rapid shift in public opinion. The photograph shows demonstrators at a "Monday demonstration" in Leipzig on December 11, 1989 with posters demanding unification: "Wir wollen 1 neues Deutschland" [We demand 1 new Germany.]

Source

Source: Leipzig, Monday Demonstration, December 11, 1989. Photographer: Friedrich Gahlbeck. Allgemeiner Deutscher Nachrichtendienst - Zentralbild (Bild 183), Bundesarchiv, Bild 183-1989-1211-027, available from Wikimedia Commons, https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Bundesarchiv_Bild_183-1989-1211-027,_Leipzig,_Montagsdemonstration.jpg

Recommended Citation: “Monday Demonstration”: Demand for Unification (December 11, 1989), published in: German History in Documents and Images, <https://germanhistorydocs.org/en/a-new-germany-1990-2023/ghdi:image-3162> [November 18,

2026].