

The Day after the Wall Came Down: Rally Outside Berlin's City Hall (November 10, 1989)

Abstract

On 10 November 1989, one day after the Wall was opened, the West Berlin Senate spontaneously organized a rally to celebrate the event. Chancellor Helmut Kohl (CDU) traveled to Berlin and spoke at the rally in front of Schöneberg Town Hall. He remembers the victims who lost their lives at the Wall and calls for patience and prudence when it comes to the next steps in German-German relations. The other speakers included Berlin's mayor, Walter Momper, former Chancellor Willy Brandt (both SPD), and foreign minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher (FDP). This clip from the news broadcast *Tagesschau* shows excerpts from Momper's, Brandt's and Kohl's speeches.

Source

/Momper: Our entire city and all its citizens will never forget this November 9, 1989. It was the moment we had been waiting for so long. For 28 years, since the Wall was built on August 13, 1961, we have longed and hoped for this day. We Germans are now the happiest people in the world. This chapter of history is being written by the people of the GDR themselves. We congratulate the citizens of the GDR on their peaceful and democratic revolution. Yesterday was not the day of reunification, but the day of reunion in our city.

/Brandt: It is certain that nothing in the other part of Germany will ever be the same again. The winds of change that have been blowing across Europe for some time now have not been able to pass Germany by. My conviction has always been that the concrete division and the division by barbed wire and a death strip stood against the tide of history. Berlin will live and the Wall will fall.

/Kohl: Anyone who, like those of us who have just come here from Warsaw, has experienced what the reform process in Hungary and Poland has made possible, knows that it is now important to find the path to a common future step by step. Because it is about our common future, it is about freedom for all of us and above all for our compatriots over there in the GDR, in all areas of their lives. [. . .] Clear the path so that the will of the people can be formed by the people and for the people.

Source: *Tagesschau*, November 10, 1989. [tagesschau.de](https://www.tagesschau.de/multimedia/video/video-ts-134792.html)
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tagesschau

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