

A Family Returns from the Federal Republic to the GDR (1950s)

Abstract

In the 1950s and 1960s, there was also a migration movement from West to East – that is, one that ran opposite to the flow of East Germans out of the GDR. Of the half million people who moved from West to East, two-thirds were “returnees,” or former GDR citizens who decided to return home, and one-third were West Germans who were moving to the GDR. When questioned, the majority of the returnees indicated that they had returned for family reasons. Others, however, had returned after failing to meet the criteria for West Germany’s emergency admission procedure [*Notaufnahmeverfahren*], or they had left for economic reasons, such as unemployment and housing problems. In the end, however, only about 60 percent of these West-East migrants remained in the GDR; the rest returned to the West. After the Wall was built in 1961, West-East migration dropped dramatically.

Source



Source: A Family is returning to the GDR, after previously fleeing to the West. Photo: Jochen Moll. bpk-Bildagentur, image number 30029045. For rights inquiries, please contact Art Resource at requests@artres.com (North America) or bpk-Bildagentur at kontakt@bpk-bildagentur.de (for all other countries).

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Recommended Citation: A Family Returns from the Federal Republic to the GDR (1950s), published in: German History in Documents and Images, <<https://germanhistorydocs.org/en/occupation-and-the-emergence-of-two-states-1945-1961/ghdi:image-2563>> [May 17, 2024].