

Black Market in the American Occupation Zone (1948)

Abstract

This clip is taken from the newsreel series “March of Time,” which was produced in the United States by Time, Inc. These newsreels were shown in movie theaters before a feature film and combined documentary footage with interviews and dramatizations. This clip from 1948 documents the rampant black market in the American occupation zone and describes the economic damage it does while not concealing the involvement of U.S. Army soldiers.

Source

/Every zone of Germany is plagued with the black market, an institution which absorbs so much of what little the U. S. zone produces that it has become a serious threat to economic recovery. American occupation soldiers are themselves the chief suppliers of cigarettes, long the favored medium of exchange.

/In Berlin, as well as in the American zone, the German police stage periodic raids. But though these raids have given German policemen a chance to express their aggressiveness and authority in roughening up their fellow countrymen, the raids have had little effect.

Source: “March of Time,” Vol. 13 No. 6, 1948. National Archives and Records Administration. NAID: 23820

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