# The Founding of the SED (April 21, 1946)

## Abstract

The Eastern SPD and the KPD merged to form the SED [*Sozialistische Einheitspartei Deutschlands* or Socialist Unity Party] at the Unification Party Congress in Berlin's Admiralpalast on April 21-22, 1946. Scholarly disputes about the nature of the SED's founding – and divergent interpretations of it as a "voluntary merger" or a "forced unification" – are almost as old as the party itself. Newer research utilizing sources that have become available since 1990 clearly demonstrates that the pressure and intimidation tactics of German and Soviet Communists played an essential role in the founding of the SED. Here, Wilhelm Pieck (KPD, left) and Otto Grotewohl (Eastern SPD) shake hands. Seated on the right: Walter Ulbricht.

## Source

Source: Unification Party Congress of the KPD and SPD to form the SED in Berlin's Admiralspalast on April 21-22, 1946: Wilhelm Pieck (KPD/left) and Otto Grotewohl (SPD/right) shaking hands. Seated on the right: Walter Ulbricht. Unknown photographer.
bpk-Bildagentur, image number 30009842. 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).

© bpk

Recommended Citation: The Founding of the SED (April 21, 1946), published in: German History in Documents and Images, <https://germanhistorydocs.org/en/occupation-and-the-emergence-of-two-states-1945-1961/ghdi:image-1022> [May 21, 2024].