

Civics Lesson in East Berlin (1988)

Abstract

In the GDR, civics lessons sought to convey information about the structure of the state, the rights and obligations of GDR citizens, and the ideology of Marxism-Leninism. In all of this, spelling out the superiority of the socialist over the capitalist system was paramount. In this photograph, a 10th-grade teacher at an East Berlin school explains the differences between the two systems to his students. The heading on the blackboard reads: “The GDR and the FRG—two states with different social orders.” For the GDR, he has listed the following: socialist state; socialist ownership of the means of production; rule of the working class in alliance with other working people. The list for the FRG reads: imperialist state; private-capitalist ownership of the means of production; rule of the monopolistic bourgeoisie.

Source



Source: Civics lesson in a class of the 10th high school in Berlin-Prenzlauer Berg. Topic: “The GDR and the FRG—two states with different social orders,” April 1988. Photo: Volker Döring.

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