

# Construction of the Oil Refinery in Schwedt (1962)

## Abstract

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A treaty signed in Moscow on December 18, 1959 resulted in the construction of a crude oil pipeline from the Soviet Union, through Poland, to Schwedt on the Oder River in the GDR. On November 11, 1960, the cornerstone was laid for a crude oil combine [*Kombinat*] in Schwedt. The 5,000-km long “Friendship” pipeline was dedicated on December 18, 1963, and the nationally-owned petroleum processing plant in Schwedt [*Volkseigener Betrieb* or VEB] became operational on April 1, 1964. In 1970, it was transformed into the Schwedt Petrochemical Combine (PCK). The PCK played a central role in the GDR’s energy economy: approximately four-fifths of oil imports from the Soviet Union flowed through the “Friendship” pipeline toward Schwedt. Moreover, the Schwedt combine accounted for three-fourths of the GDR’s total oil refining capacity. Refining petroleum products was the main source of valuta in the planned economy.

## Source

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Source: Construction of the Schwedt oil combine [*Kombinat*]. September 17, 1962. Photo: Horst E. Schulze.

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