

Honor Guard in Front of the Memorial to the Victims of Fascism and Militarism (Neue Wache) (c. 1983)

Abstract

The Neue Wache, or New Guard House, which had been severely damaged in World War II, underwent a thorough reconstruction beginning in the mid-1950s. In May 1960, it was rededicated as a “Memorial to the Victims of Fascism and Militarism.” The recasting of the memorial was part of the GDR’s attempt to portray itself as the legitimate heir to Germany’s antifascist movement. Starting on May 1, 1962, an honor guard from the guard regiment “Friedrich Engels” of National People’s Army [*Nationale Volksarmee* or NVA] was posted in front of the memorial. On the GDR’s 20th anniversary in 1969, an eternal flame was lit inside the building and two urns were buried there—one for an unknown resistance fighter and another for an unknown soldier. Thus, the Neue Wache came to symbolize both the GDR’s claim to antifascist renewal and the increasing militarization of East German society.

Source



Source: Honor guard in front of the Memorial to the Victims of Fascism and Militarism (Neue Wache), Unter den Linden. Date: c. 1983. Location: East Berlin. Photo: Gerhard Kiesling. bpk-Bildagentur, image number 00047952. 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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