

Walter Ulbricht and Leonid Brezhnev in Moscow (c. 1971)

Abstract

At the end of the 1960s, a self-confident Walter Ulbricht claimed that other socialist countries could take the GDR as an example. He also strove to create a larger playing field for himself in the area of German-German relations. Additionally, Ulbricht made a claim to greater autonomy vis-à-vis Leonid Brezhnev, who had replaced Nikita Khrushchev as General Secretary of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union in October 1964. This last move, in particular, was viewed critically in Moscow. When the GDR began to confront economic difficulties, the Soviets backed Erich Honecker in his successful attempt to unseat Ulbricht, who was eventually forced to step down on May 3, 1971. Photo by Herbert Fiebig.

Source



Source: Walter Ulbricht (2nd from right) and Leonid Brezhnev (3rd from right) under the stern gaze of Lenin (Moscow). Photo: Herbert Fiebig. Date: c. 1971.

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