

Water Pollution in North Rhine-Westphalia (1958)

Abstract

The layer of foam visible in this 1958 photograph of the Niers River in the heavily industrialized state of North Rhine-Westphalia makes clear that the negative effects of West Germany's postwar industrial reconstruction and the ecological downsides of the German "Economic Miracle" [*Wirtschaftswunder*] were already apparent in the 1950s. However, it took until the 1970s for the general public to recognize these problems and for politicians to react to them.

Source



Source: The Niers, a tributary of the Meuse, polluted by industrial wastewater, 1958. Image 2 of 2. Photo: Herbert Werner Gewande.

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Recommended Citation: Water Pollution in North Rhine-Westphalia (1958), published in: German History in Documents and Images,

<https://germanhistorydocs.org/en/two-germanies-1961-1989/ghdi:image-93> [April 17, 2024].