

Berlin Street Scenes (1929)

Abstract

This footage, showing some of Berlin's best-known streets and monuments, comes from a piece of 1929 Nazi-party propaganda titled *Kampf um Berlin* [The Battle for Berlin], which attempted to highlight the city's moral and cultural decline after ten years as capital of the Weimar Republic. Without the shrill intertitles, however, the scenes themselves offer a visual record of Berlin's urban atmosphere in the late 1920s, including frames of the Tauentzien-Palast movie theater, the Komische Oper, the newly-erected radio tower, the Siegessäule [victory column], and the Reichstag, as well as scenes of street-corner buskers, working-class neighborhoods, sidewalk vendors, and food carts. Germans had long viewed Berlin as Germany's most permissive and progressive city—garnering it the nickname “Red Berlin”—and this reputation only solidified during the Weimar Republic. Here and in much of its propaganda, meanwhile, the National Socialists sought to depict the country's capital as the *least* German city for precisely those same reasons.

Source

Source: *Kampf um Berlin* (clip), prod. NSDAP Reichsleitung München, 1929. Bundesarchiv Filmarchiv, Filmwerk ID: 46492. <https://digitaler-lesesaal.bundesarchiv.de/video/46492/673750>

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