

Buch: 1989 Mauerfall Berlin – Zufall oder Planung? (German edition)
Book: 1989 Fall of the Berlin Wall - Coincidence or Planning?
Author: Michael Wolski, self-published on Amazon 2019
<https://www.amazon.de/dp/1692046314> <https://www.1989mauerfall.berlin/>

Preface to the English edition

This is a working translation to provide information for international publishers.
The text has to be editorially revised for publication.

Suggested title of the English edition:

1989 Fall of the Berlin Wall - the starting shot for the dissolution of the Soviet Union

On November 9, 1989, shortly before midnight, the border crossings on the east side of the Berlin Wall were opened as if by magic. By the next morning, around 100,000 East Berliners streamed into West Berlin. Up to this point in time, private trips to the West were only possible in selected individual cases and for pensioners.

This day marks the beginning of the end of the German Democratic Republic, which was founded on October 7, 1949 and which could only survive for so long because of the building of the wall on August 13, 1961. The fall of the Wall heralded the end for the Soviet Union two years later.

On October 3, 1990 at the suggestion of the Soviet Union and the three western allies, i.e. USA, Great Britain and France, which had kept Germany militarily occupied since the end of WW II, the DDR was reunited with the Federal Republic of Germany (also founded in 1949).

In 2021, it will be 30th anniversary of the dissolution of the Soviet Union and its socialist influence in Europe. My book on the fall of the Berlin Wall should therefore also appear in Russia and some countries of the former Soviet Union and Eastern Bloc. Why?

So far, politicians and historians have not made any direct connection between the fall of the Berlin Wall and the collapse of the Soviet Union two years later.

Its narrative is based on the **correlation** of two events.

It speaks of a revolutionary situation in the Warsaw Pact states: the GDR, Poland, Hungary, CSSR, Romania and Bulgaria, which led to their communist regimes being replaced by democratic governments in free elections. The Soviet Union - the leading member of the Warsaw Pact - fell apart at the same time because it was economically and politically at an end.

Since I am establishing a connection between the fall of the Berlin Wall and the collapse of the Soviet Union for the first time, I am showing a **causality**. That is why I am retelling the story of the fall of the Berlin Wall and the end of the USSR as a cause and effect relationship.

The reader will understand how the fall of the Wall, initiated by the USSR itself, could trigger its collapse as well as that of the Warsaw Pact.

As early as 1986, the Soviet Foreign Minister Shevardnadze was concerned about the reunification of Germany. In 1987, in a meeting with Gorbachev and Shevardnadze, Honecker was categorically against their proposal to remove the wall. Publicly available information is used to show in detail how the fall of the Berlin Wall on November 9, 1989 was bloodless to pave the way for German reunification, as requested by the Soviet Union.

So far, the real events preceding the fall of the Berlin Wall have been kept secret by the West and the Russians for different reasons. Both officially speak of "peaceful revolutionaries" who built up such pressure on the street on November 9, 1989 that border guards in Berlin were forced to open the crossing points. More on this in the book.

However, since 2019, have been a growing pool of alternative voices that share different views:

- The well-known German political scientist and Russia specialist Dr. Alexander Rahr, in an interview with the newspaper of the Russian parliament <https://www.pnp.ru/politics/stena-rukhnula-no-sled-v-golovakh-ostalsya.html> held on November 8, 2019, gave this reason for the fall of the wall for the first time, and how it is reinterpreted by Western media: *"We all remember that the Berlin Wall collapsed due to Soviet perestroika, while Moscow exerted a certain pressure on the GDR leadership as part of the transformation and reforms."*

As a result of this pressure, East Germany opened its borders.

In modern Germany, the events of 1989 are celebrated as an unconditional victory for the West, which was so strong that it tore down the wall," said the expert. In his opinion, the West has to pat itself on the back with appreciation in this story, show its superiority, demonstrate the victory that actually did not exist."

- The General Secretary of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany (Communists), Egon Krenz, elected in October 1989, published this information for the first time in his book **We and the Russians - Relations between Berlin and Moscow in Autumn '89** in 2019 about his conversation with the Soviet ambassador on the morning on November 10, 1989, just a few hours after the border opened in Berlin. The ambassador said to him, referring to the Soviet secret services GRU and KGB: *"But please also consider that although I am the Soviet ambassador, there are other Soviet institutions in the GDR that I do not know about."* (Page 259)
- Dr. Peter-Michael Diestel, the last interior minister of the GDR, in an interview with Sputniknews.com on June 7, 2020, named the number of informal East German KGB employees in the GDR for the first time after the fall of the Berlin Wall. **...*"And the KGB also had 50,000 people in the GDR."***
- In 2019, Diestel writes in his book: **I was happy in the GDR. Nevertheless, I fight for unity** (page 211): *"Two generals from my immediate vicinity privately shared their personal views with me. I am so and so, have done so and so, **and am also an officer in the Soviet Army.** "You are not," I replied. "You are a general in the Interior Ministry of the GDR and I am your boss."*

Who was responsible for the fall of the wall? Peaceful revolutionaries or the Soviets?

The German edition of my book was published in September 2019, a few weeks before the 30th anniversary of the fall of the Wall. In my book, I describe for the first time how the Soviet Union put this pressure on the GDR on November 9, 1989.

On that day, the Soviet secret service KGB, with the help of its agents in the authorities of the GDR, took power over the media and the border regime and implemented the bloodless opening of the border through tricks and deception.

Since, for understandable reasons, I couldn't find a publisher in Germany for my book, I published it as a self-publisher on Amazon. I received rejection from alternative media, but also encouragement. You can find out more about this on my website.

Only one of about 30 daily newspapers contacted published a review. And yet the book sold well, even though there was a three-month corona standstill. The distribution took place like a samizdat in old socialist times.

Gorbachev was elected in March 1985 and he came up with the concept of perestroika and glasnost. What was meant by these concepts was interpreted differently in the East and the West.

Today we know that it also included the concept of withdrawal from the Yalta agreements, the abandonment of socialism/communism in the USSR and the socialist countries of the Warsaw Pact. It also included the introduction of market economy and privatization of national property by the Soviet leadership elite - if you were among the few initiated ones in East and West. More on this in the book.

To prevent speculation, I was not one of the insiders. But I had been an intimate observer at the East/West interface since 1986 as a liaison person for GDR foreign trade with a Fortune 500 US corporation. I took note of events that I could not explain at the time.

I had studied foreign trade at the University of Economics in Berlin-Karlshorst from 1970-74. There, I diligently learned how Lenin had invented the socialist foreign trade monopoly in 1918 and then monopolized foreign trade by the state.

As a side note, Karlshorst was the Berlin district where the generals of the German Wehrmacht signed the declaration of unconditional surrender on May 8, 1945. This East Berlin district had been firmly in Soviet hands since that time until 1994. The KGB residentura for the GDR with more than a thousand employees was located there, as was the office of the Metropolitan of the Russian Orthodox Church for Berlin and Central Europe. Many single-family homes had been seized and expropriated in 1945 and only Soviet military and KGB personnel and their families lived there. The Germans called it "Little Moscow".

The study of foreign trade was combined with a good training in Russian and English languages. Afterwards I worked in foreign trade. In summer 1985 I was looking for a new job and was offered a role as a sales and marketing employee in the to-be-established office of a Dow Jones listed US corporation in East Berlin. The office was managed by the US Corporations' Swiss subsidiary dealing with Eastern Europe. There were also offices in Warsaw and Budapest.

In order to make it easier to understand why I think differently from politicians and the media about the fall of the Wall, I would like to briefly inform the foreign reader about a special feature of the GDR which did not exist in this form compared to the Soviet Union and the other socialist countries with "Lenin's foreign trade monopoly".

Only 4 years after the founding of the GDR in 1949, there were "private" foreign trade companies that imported everything that Western companies were not allowed to supply under the CoCom regulations (Coordinating Committee on Multilateral Export Controls, founded by the USA in 1949). Some of these companies with their tentacles deep in the West also served as embargo breakers for the Soviet Union during the Cold War until 1989.

These structures developed very rapidly after the Wall was built on 13 August 1961, when a separate (closed-off) department was created in the GDR Ministry of Foreign Trade in 1966, which 25 years later in 1990, had some 3.000 employees in the GDR. In 1990, this department managed about 150 privately held limited liability companies or stock holding corporations and company holdings in the GDR and in Western countries.

This department was called Commercial Coordination (Kommerzielle Koordinierung - KoKo).

Even in the Soviet Union and the countries of the Warsaw Pact, only a few insiders of the party and security departments broadly knew about KoKo.

This area was conceived, controlled and shielded by the Stasi as a "capitalist island" in the GDR. There was no official information about the special rights of this structure.

KoKo was officially run as a department of the Ministry of Foreign Trade. The aim was to earn hard currency. Without KoKo, the GDR would have probably disintegrated 15-20 years earlier, but then likely in a more violent fashion. Some division within KoKo operated in the grey areas of East-West trade, others were of a more official nature, such as liaison for international companies wanting to set up office in East Germany.

One of these companies of KoKo was the International Trade Center GmbH (IHZ) located at the East Berlin train station Friedrichstrasse.

In September 1985 the personnel manager of the IHZ - with whom I had studied together - told me in confidence that they had to find personnel for four suddenly newly arrived US companies as quickly as possible. But that was not very easy as these people had to be cleared to travel to the West.

Western travel clearance was rare, because the requirements were high and not everyone wanted it or was able to meet them (e.g. no private contacts with the West, loyalty to the GDR, ideological consistency, etc). And no company in the GDR who was licensed for foreign trade to the West was willing to give up these highly prized employees.

A few months later my student friend explained to me: Everything was "under Honecker's control". Planning for his state visit to Chancellor Kohl in Bonn in 1987, Honecker also wanted to be welcomed in Washington at the end of his career. Thus, representative offices of important US companies in the GDR fitted very well into the political landscape.

I asked why four US companies suddenly wanted to have offices in East Berlin in the autumn of 1985, with the express wish to employ East Berliners. They could have taken West Berliners (visas for West Berliners working in the IHZ offices in East Berlin were not a problem). The head of human resources said that the requirement had said: "GDR citizens with access to decision-makers in East Germany". To me it felt like a very flexible interpretation - everyone could imagine everything under it.

Also, East German employees were not cheaper from the company's point of view. The company paid a contract to the IHZ based on West Berlin wages in US Dollars, and the employees received their salaries according to the foreign trade wages in East German currency.

The party secretary once explained to me that it was the increased international importance of the GDR and the great economic opportunities that the US corporations had recognized and therefore wanted to establish an office in the capital of the GDR.

I kept silent. After all, all these US corporations had subsidiary branches in West Germany. But those were not allowed to have offices in the Soviet-occupied zone or later in the GDR due to Allied military law. Therefore, a representative office was only possible via other countries. But why did some corporations deliberately want to keep West German citizens out as employees? Maybe the American corporations didn't want to give West German intelligence any insights?

At the beginning of 1986, the rush of Western companies wanting to establish an office in East Berlin was so strong that KoKo planned another building next to the IHZ and quickly began construction. It was then completed in 1989, a few months before KoKo was dissolved due to the fall of the Berlin Wall. How does a Chinese proverb say? When the house is finished, death comes.

I started my job in April 1986. I wrote offers for my company's products, negotiated, and looked for goods for barter trade. I had received an unlimited service passport and was in West Berlin several times a week. Trips to further training or with purchasing delegations to the company in Switzerland or West Germany followed. Since KoKo had received customs sovereignty from the GDR government, I was able to "clear the border" via my GDR superior if necessary, so that vehicles could cross the border without customs checks. No matter if exit or entry, car or truck, East German or West German license plate.

Then the wall came down, as described in my book. And eight weeks after the fall of the wall in January 1990 came my awakening.

In mid-December 1989, my Swiss boss had ordered me to set up a full subsidiary in the GDR. A few weeks later he reversed that decision and informed me of the US HQ's decision at the beginning of January 1990: **Stop all activities to establish the company in East Berlin. There will be no more GDR, we will integrate our East German business into the West German subsidiary.**

The discussion about a unification of both German states had only just begun on January 24, 1990, but I had already learned two weeks before that there would be no more GDR.

Gorbachev's advisor Nikolay Portugalov gave the prelude to the start of the public discussion of German unity in an interview in the BILD newspaper on 24 January 1990. His comment: The Soviet Union will not oppose German unity, we will not intervene.

After the first free elections in East Germany in March 1990, the political course was set to "end of the GDR and annexation to the FRG". The introduction of the Deutsche Mark in East Germany ("monetary union") was already executed on 1 July 1990. By then we had already fully integrated our business into the West German subsidiary.

And ever since then I had been pondering: Had the Americans been informed by Gorbachev in 1985 about the real reasons for Perestroika? In the book I quote the CIA station chief in Bonn in 1990, who said at a conference in Berlin in 2004 that during all those years of the late Cold War they had been meeting regularly with KGB leaders in a neutral country. A Hungarian in exile had also written an article in 1985 about the planned withdrawal of the Russians from the Yalta regions in Eastern Europe. More about this in the book.

Is that why some important US companies had already queued up at KoKo in autumn 1985? Is that why they wanted GDR personnel? Because they were aware of upcoming events and did not want to leave their profitable business in the GDR to West German

companies alone? Was that ultimately the reason why a second building was built at the IHZ in Berlin from 1986?

Is the narrative of the "peaceful revolutionaries and ordinary citizens" still important today in order to hide the true story of the fall of the Wall and the subsequent collapse of the Soviet Union which occurred as collateral damage? In the next few months the archives of the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs will open after 30 years and will certainly announce interesting new facts.

Maybe we will also then hear the true story of the last years of the life of Vladimir Semyonovich Semyonov, who, in 1986 after finishing his term of office as Soviet ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary in Bonn, retired in Cologne/West-Germany according to the German Wikipedia.

In the Russian Wikipedia we only read that he retired in 1986 in the rank of Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary and died on 18.12.1992.

However, the English Wikipedia informs us that he lived in Cologne as Soviet special ambassador and adviser to foreign minister Shevardnadze from 1986 until his death in 1992.

Semyonov himself titled his book in 1992 **From Stalin to Gorbachev - Half a Century in Diplomatic Mission 1939-1991**. He had written the book for German readers. Will it also be published in Russia after the archives are opened?

In case you don't immediately remember who Semyonov was: At the beginning of his career an embassy counsellor who promoted the Sovietization of Lithuania in 1939/40, he was then embassy counsellor in Berlin. As early as 1940 he was already thinking about how the land reform (expropriation of the large farmers) in Germany should be structured, in case the Red Army should ever come to Germany.

In 1943, as Soviet embassy counsellor in Stockholm, opposition Germans from the Wehrmacht and Abwehr informed him of details of the planned battle at the Kursk Arc, which then enabled the Soviet Union to win this battle and use it politically against the Western Allies as the turning point of WW II – as leverage in the Yalta negotiations.

In 1945, thanks to the basic outlines of the land reform in Germany done years before and approved by Stalin in spring 1941, he was immediately able to begin to implement it administratively from June 1945 and to carry out the first expropriations in the Soviet Occupied Zone starting September 1945.

He was then political adviser to the Soviet military administration, the first Soviet ambassador to the GDR and in 1953, as High Commissioner in Germany, he was jointly responsible for the suppression of the uprising of 17 June 1953. After that, he was Deputy Foreign Minister until 1978. He was commissioned by Khrushchev in 1960 to plan the construction of the Berlin Wall. From 1978-1986 he was Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary in Bonn, the then capital of the Federal Republic of Germany.

A person with this biography spent his retirement in Cologne - as a retired Soviet ambassador during the Cold War with the "class enemy"? Why does Alexander Nikolayevich Afanasyev, a well-known collector of Russian fairy tales, come to my mind while reading this?

Were the two great powers the reason for the peaceful demise of the Berlin Wall? Had an agreement been reached to hand over the GDR without bloodshed on the basis of a covert operation? In order to conceal any suspicion in the USSR of having participated in the fall of the Wall, so that the working people would not have been irritated? Or the Soviet or GDR army would have staged a coup?

Three weeks after the ratification of the 2+4 Treaty of German Unity by the Soviet Union, from April 1991 until the end of 1997 I worked for the same US company in Moscow, travelled a lot in the country and met people who had served in the GDR and told me their story.

I saw Russia slam its face hard against the ground and now see how it struggles to get up again.

Moscow's planners of the fall of the Berlin Wall did not consider that this Berlin action would lead to the Soviet Union's demise. The reason for this lay in two contracts and their secret protocols with the German Reich from 1939.

On December 24, 1989 - only 6 weeks after the successful fall of the Berlin Wall - such contracts had to be declared invalid ab initio by the People's Deputies Congress in Moscow, before the USSR could give its consent to German unity in 1990.

Otherwise, Germany would have been able to reclaim the city of Königsberg, which Stalin incorporated into the USSR as Kaliningrad in 1946. Because a secret protocol of the friendship treaty from September 1939 (still valid in 1989) marked the exact border line between the German Reich and the Soviet Union. This border ran between the area of Königsberg and Lithuania, which in 1939 did not yet belong to the USSR.

The existence of these secret protocols had therefore been denied by the Soviet Union for almost 50 years. Very few officials knew the contents of the protocols.

During his visit to Bonn in June 1989, President Gorbachev confirmed its existence to Chancellor Kohl for the first time. Presumably, at the beginning of their activities in 1986, the planners of the fall of the Berlin Wall had no idea which "explosives" were in the archive and then "exploded" when the protocols were published.

With the declaration of invalidity in 1989, the protocols first became known to large parts of the public, and the Soviet Union officially admitted that the Baltic states of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, had been annexed by Stalin in consultation with Hitler.

This prompted the three Baltic Soviet republics to declare their independence from the Soviet Union in the spring of 1990. After the attempted coup against Gorbachev in August 1991, the republics were internationally recognized and accepted into the UN. Other Soviet republics followed.

On November 6, 1991, the eve of the anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution of 1917, Boris Yeltsin banned the Communist Party in the Russian Soviet Republic.

The USSR collapsed politically without a leader on December 25, 1991, the ideas of Marx, Engels and Lenin were buried in Europe, and the socialist experiment was over.

I hope you enjoy reading it.

Michael Wolski
Berlin, September 2020

Table of Contents

	Page
Preface	
Part I	
Press conference, fall of the Berlin wall and ten questions	
1. How did the Soviet Union manage and control the top officials in the GDR?	
2. What was the purpose of opening the western border of Hungary in the summer of 1989 in preparation for the fall of the Berlin Wall?	
3. Why was the fall of the Berlin Wall planned for November 9th?	
4. Why was the press conference scheduled for the evening?	
5. Why didn't the Central Committee meeting on November 9 finish around 6 p.m. as planned?	
6. Who was the key figure and what was on Schabowski's speech slip?	
7. Why didn't the border guards shoot? Why stamped they the photos in identity cards?	
8. Why was the broadcast van of a US television network stationed since November 7 on the West side of the Brandenburg Gate?	
9. Why didn't anyone wake Gorbachev up that evening?	
10. What did the fall of the Berlin Wall have to do with the German-Soviet Treaties of 1939?	
Part II	
Why the wall had to fall	
1. 1968, Brezhnev doctrine and increasing internal problems of the USSR and the Eastern Bloc	
2. 1983, report of a Washington KGB source of changes in US policy on Eastern Europe	
3. 1985, Gorbachev took office and prediction of the withdrawal of the Russians from Eastern Europe	
4. 1986, beginning of the "outsourcing" of the GDR and the Eastern bloc through the Soviet Union	
Part III	
Vladimir Semyonov	
Soviet Germany expert 1940-1991	

1. 1940-1961, German Reich, Sweden,
Soviet occupation zone (SBZ), GDR
2. 1978-1986, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
of the USSR in the Federal Republic of Germany
3. 1986-1991, special envoy of the USSR
with residence in Cologne/West Germany

Part IV

GDR 1985-1989 and the signs of the times

1. Reactions from the SED leadership
2. Gorbachev's reforms flushes US dollars in the coffers in East Berlin
3. Markus Wolf, Head of the Stasi Intelligence Department, retires rapidly.

Part V

Final

1. Vernon Walters, expert in regime changes, was appointed Ambassador Extraordinary
and Plenipotentiary of the USA to the Federal Republic of Germany
2. Semyonov and Walters - the gravedigger of the GDR?

Epilogue

List of abbreviations and people

Bibliography

Link list

List of the most important people in the GDR involved in the fall of the Berlin Wall.

<p>Erich Honecker</p>	<p>Erich Honecker (1912 Neunkirchen / Saar - 1994 in exile in Santiago de Chile). General Secretary of the SED from 1971-1989. March 1991 escape from the German judiciary to Moscow. The Soviet authorities expelled him a few days after the Communist Party of the Soviet Union was banned on November 8, 1991. Asylum in the Chilean embassy, then return to Berlin.</p> <p>His trial for the dead at the Wall was suspended in early 1993 because he was unable to stand trial, and Honecker travelled to his daughter in Chile, terminally ill.</p>
<p>Egon Krenz</p>	<p>Egon Krenz (1937 Kolberg). From 1964 to 1967 he attended the party college in Moscow. Member of the Central Committee of the SED since 1973 and Chairman of the youth organization of the GDR until 1983. Then he was member of the Politburo and responsible for security issues until 1989.</p> <p>On October 18, he replaced Erich Honecker as General Secretary of the SED, a position he held until December 3, 1989. Afterwards he was expelled from the party. In 1997, he was sentenced to 6.5 years in prison for the dead on the western border, of which he served almost four years in prison.</p> <p>He lives in his house with 36 m2 of floor space on the Baltic Sea.</p>

<p>Markus Wolf</p>	<p>Markus Wolf (1923 Hechingen - 2006 Berlin). Son of the Jewish-German writer Friedrich Wolf, who left fascist Germany with his parents and lived in Moscow since 1934. He attended the Comintern school there and, as a Soviet citizen in 1945, after the liberation of Berlin on May 8th, he became editor of the Berliner Rundfunk (radio). From 1949-1951, he was first councilor at the embassy of the GDR in Moscow and then, after returning to East Berlin, took over the management of the intelligence department of the Ministry for State Security (Stasi), which he headed until 1986.</p> <p>After learning in early 1986 that his mentor, Vladimir Semyonov, would move to Cologne in 1986, he immediately retired.</p> <p>After the reunification, he stood before court several times, having headed the GDR espionage for almost 35 years and placed thousands of spies in West German ministries, politics, and the armed forces. However, he was only in custody for a few days.</p> <p>He was the actual initiator of KoKo. As early as 1954 he founded the first "private" foreign trade companies under the wing of his main intelligence department. The bosses of these companies were initially Jews who were persecuted by the Nazis. Herschel Liebermann (aka Mischa Wischnewski) ran the company FC Gerlach Anstalt Vaduz, which was founded in 1954, until 1990. He fled to Israel in 1993, immediately received Israeli citizenship and could no longer be extradited. German prosecutors suspect him of having taken over DM 100 million, which the Federal Republic of Germany had claimed after German reunification.</p> <p>A short time later, all proceedings against Wolf were dropped.</p>
<p>Alexander Schalck-Golodkowski</p>	<p>Alexander Schalck-Golodkowski (1932 Berlin - 2015 Rottach-Egern, Bavaria) State Secretary in the Ministry of Foreign Trade and Head of Commercial Coordination (KoKo). Officer of the Ministry for State Security on a special mission (i.e. undercover), Honecker's advisor on German-German issues. In the crisis of 1983 (the GDR was facing insolvency), he obtained two loans of one billion DM each with the help of the Bavarian Prime Minister Franz-Josef-Strauss. In return, the GDR had to dismantle the self-shot machines on the western border.</p> <p>Schalck-Golodkowski was born in 1932 as the son of a former Russian Tsarist officer and a German Jew. His father ran the German armed forces language school in Berlin. Due to the race laws, the father divorced in 1938 and little Alexander was taken into the foster family of SS-Sturmbannführer Schalck. Hence the double name.</p> <p>At the beginning of December 1990, he fled to West Berlin and was placed in protective custody, where he reported to the authorities about his activities. It is rumored that he deposited important information from German-German politics - his memoirs - with two law firms and authorized them to publish them in the event that he had an accident.</p> <p>From 1993 until his death, he lived in a villa on the Bavarian Tegernsee, protected by police bodyguards.</p>