

# The Annexation of the German Democratic Republic

Dokument of Freie Deutsche Jugend



The causes for the annexation of the German Democratic Republic (GDR) and its consequences for today are only explicable from a historical point of view. But how far do we have to look back: to the origins of capitalism in Germany? To two of the most prominent men that came up in these times, Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels? To the failed bourgeois revolution in 1848 that was beaten down by the bourgeoisie themselves, and whose winners smashed the first proletarian revolution – the commune in Paris? To World War I, started by German imperialists with the help of the social democracy? To the first proletarian revolution at the end of World War I which was then again smashed by the social democracy? To World War II that was again started by German imperialists with the help of the open terrorist dictatorship of the finance capital securing their power by committing the biggest crime on humanity ever?



Indeed, we have to start here. The first ones who were attacked by the fascist dictatorship, sent to prison, were murdered or had to go to exile were communists. Later on, it was all progressive forces that dared to resist the fascists. Those who survived helped to build up a new world after the war. The majority of the Germans had kept up with the crimes on behalf of the leading monopolies or had kept si-

lent. What should happen with the Germans when the war was ended? All nations that resisted the fascist barbarism agreed: Never again: Germans should come in to the position to repeat these crimes! German anti-fascists agreed: Never again: German imperialism is allowed to rise its head! “The womb is still fertile ...,” Bertolt Brecht once wrote. They were still there, the German war-mongers, the profiteers of the war, the German militarists and their companies. The Potsdam Agreement of the Allies in 1945 was ratified to render it impossible for German imperialism to rise its head again. A democratic Germany without fascists, without monopolies, and without militarists should originate. However, the capitalist allies and the capitalists of Germany agreed that it cannot be a socialist country like the Soviet Union, where the workers all this made possible, where they started to determine their own lives. The capitalist powers were anxious to lose power in case the German worker’s class might also be able to end the reign of capitalism and to determine their lives in socialism. This anxiety was greater than the anxiety of a new empowerment of German imperialism.

In contrast, in the Soviet occupied zone of Germany, such conditions were created to render the Potsdam Agreement possible: the expropriation of the big monopolies, the ban on mili-

## The annexation of the German Democratic Republic

tarist and fascist organizations, the punishment of the fascists. Fascist teachers, judges, officials were punished. The land property was socialized. The demanded antifascist-democratic Germany was built up here. The main goal was a unified antifascist-democratic Germany. Nevertheless, the capitalist allies feared their own ruin with a unified, socialist Germany. Thus, German monopolies, militarists and fascists in the western occupied zones did not undergo the same antifascist-democratic transformation. German imperialism quickly turned to found a new state, the Federal Republic of Germany (FRG). Fascist generals of the "Wehrmacht" built up a new army (Bundeswehr), former fascist officials established a secret service, the justice, and the police. Prominent Nazi-officials became ministers, secretary of state, and president. The German monopolists seized in the FRG's constitution (Grundgesetz) that the GDR and the "lost" eastern territories, like Poland and Czechoslovakia, will accede to the FRG,

when time is ripe. A department of the Ministry of Interior has been occupied with questions of annexation for decades. Revanchist organizations, who have advanced an annexation of the eastern territories, have been prided by high officials up to these days. The GDR, officially recognized by the UNO, had not been accepted officially by the FRG until its last day. The annexation of the GDR had been the permanent aim of German imperialism. An annexation of the "lost" territories in the Czech Republic and Poland have still been left open by German imperialism up to these days, even

though it is bound to respect borders by law.

During the 1960s-70s, the motto of the FRG-imperialists meant "transformation by approximation". The annexation of the GDR was still their aim, but it was well-disguised. It appeared not necessary to the GDR anymore – without open confrontation – to be watchful towards the imperialist states. The balance of powers established with weapons between the socialist and capitalist countries seemed suffi-



cient. Due to the general victory of revisionism in the socialist bloc, the GDR lost its vanguard to the revisionists, more specifically, the masses did not stem against them who diverged from them. All this in a wrong evaluation that there are no more class struggles in socialism and, therefore, there exists no step backwards to capitalism again. Class struggle in socialism? This would have been necessary. This, what is eroded inside, cannot exist ultimately, even if it keeps its smooth surface to all appearances. It collapses like it did in 1989. According to these interior contradictions, it is

difficult for many people to call the collapse annexation.

An annexation is defined as a violent, against international law appropriation (annexation) of a state territory, but also the abolition of a state's sovereignty through its complete, state incorporation. The fact that this could not have happened if the people of the GDR fought for the sovereignty of their state does not change its being an annexation. The GDR was to join



On October 2, 2010, we performed Brecht's "Rise and Fall of the City of Mahagonny" as a protest against the annexation of the GDR on the streets of Bremen. Lead from the front: the depiction of the German bourgeoisie. Hereafter, the FDJ with their slogans: "Those who suppress other peoples can't be free", "An annexation remains an annexation – even 20 years after"

the FRG on October 3, 1990, according to the FRG's constitutional article § 23. The government of both GDR and FRG acted here against their own treaties (Deutschlandvertrag 1954), against the constitution of the GDR, and against the international law. In the 'Deutschlandvertrag' (treaty over Germany) between FRG and the allies of 1954, it was declared that, in

case of a unification between FRG and GDR, there must be elections in both states, a constituent National Assembly, a new constitution, and the formation of a government representing both states. None of these claims were implemented in 1989.

Now, the socialist bloc had been collapsed, the former peril called socialism became a toothless tiger, nevertheless, the capitalists had feared the danger of a power that people could develop when they are strong-willed. The people of the GDR were kept in leading-strings or

were dashed to the ground, but they feared the experiences they had made in 40 years of a socialist world. Therefore, it was not allowed to have a national referendum or a common constitution. The time bucket, where the people faltering for joy or licking wounds were not able to resist and to organize the struggle, was relatively short. This time bucket had to be used by the FRG government and it was used.

The parties and mass-organizations of the GDR – their political voice – was dispossessed and subordinated under the guardianship of an "independent Western German commission"; the wealth was ceded to the 'Treuhand' (trust). All officials in leading positions of the GDR were criminalized. The GDR-army (Nationale Volksarmee) was disarmed by leaders of the FRG-army (Bundeswehr) before October 3, 1990. Conscious that there could have been resistance. Moreover conscious that soldiers who had stood on the opposite side of their enemy for 40 years cannot simply be incorporated into the army of the enemy. Honorably in retrospect is that many of them did not want to be incorporated into the FRG-army.

### What happened to the property of the GDR citizens?

The FRG government employed the so-called 'Treuhandanstalt' (FRG's privatisation agency) to sell off the property of the GDR citizens. The so-called 'Treuhandanstalt' had already existed during Hitler-fascism. The 'Treuhandanstalt' was firstly founded in 1938, shortly after Program Night. Hundreds of thousands synagogues, houses and shops were destroyed by a German mob. But if that was not enough crime, the German fascists thought about making profit out of the destruction and

## The annexation of the German Democratic Republic

employed the 'Treuhandaanstalt'. It has mainly been used to divest a possible rivalry in future. However, GDR property here means not the private property of a citizen, but values that had been created collectively for 40 years. 8.500 factories, 20.000 small shops, 7.500 restaurants, 900 book shops, and 1.854 drugstores; additionally, schools, natatoria, gymnasia, road- and rail networks, libraries, public cultural houses, theatres, hospitals, outpatient clinics, etc. Everything that could be sold off, was sold off and made to profit by the 'Treuhand'. All in all, this sold off made 1.4 Trillion DM or 85.000 DM value per GDR citizen. Circa 95 % of these values went into the hands of FRG capitalists. In the end, 275 billion DM were debts of the 'Treuhand' that have to be paid by the workers of both FRG and annexed GDR via taxes. However, as an example, 263.073 factories were closed down in Saxonia (federal state) from 1990 till 1996. Of 6 million work places in 1989, 2.5 million were only existent in 1991. 4.115 million hectare of soil bought by the 'Treuhand' for 200 billion DM, directly went into the hands of private owners.

Even 20 years after the annexation of the GDR, the people of the annexed GDR are living under more worse conditions than the people of the FRG: they are still faced with a 50% higher unemployment rate. A generation of young people in the GDR grows up that will never have seen their parents go for work or themselves are unemployed. Those who work have an income that is 17% lower than the average income of the FRG. The low-pay sector is 50% higher in the annexed GDR than in the FRG. Part of those who have to file

for state benefits though they are working is 50%. In the annexed GDR, the private property is three times less than in the FRG. Many of the youngsters leave the annexed GDR and settle in the FRG or abroad – whole areas have become depopulated.

### Conclusion

That means also that capitalism is not able to exploit those countries, which produced in a higher socialized manner, as it is necessary for the capitalist way of production to create profit and wealth. To a certain extent, capitalism has to care for the mass of unemployed people, instead of exploiting them, which is also a sign for its rottenness of capitalism, imperialism. It is rotten and has to be ended at last.

What makes the capitalists sleepless nights in this crisis is that with the former socialist bloc millions of capitalist's gravediggers were conquered. Workers, peasants who had already begun to build up a socialist society. Although, the majority of these gravediggers does not see their potential today and has not started to struggle for their future yet. Nevertheless, the FDJ unwaveringly struggles against the annexation of the GDR in both annexed GDR and FRG.



October 3 – Unification Day. Chancellor Merkel on the highly secured town-square of Bremen addresses a speech to a chosen audience. All other assemblies were prohibited. Nonetheless, some members of the FDJ got to the town-square and opened up 7 umbrellas saying: GDR lives!



### Freie Deutsche Jugend

Karl-Liebknecht-Haus, Weydingerstraße 14-16, 10178 Berlin  
www.FDJ.de · International-intern@FDJ.de

