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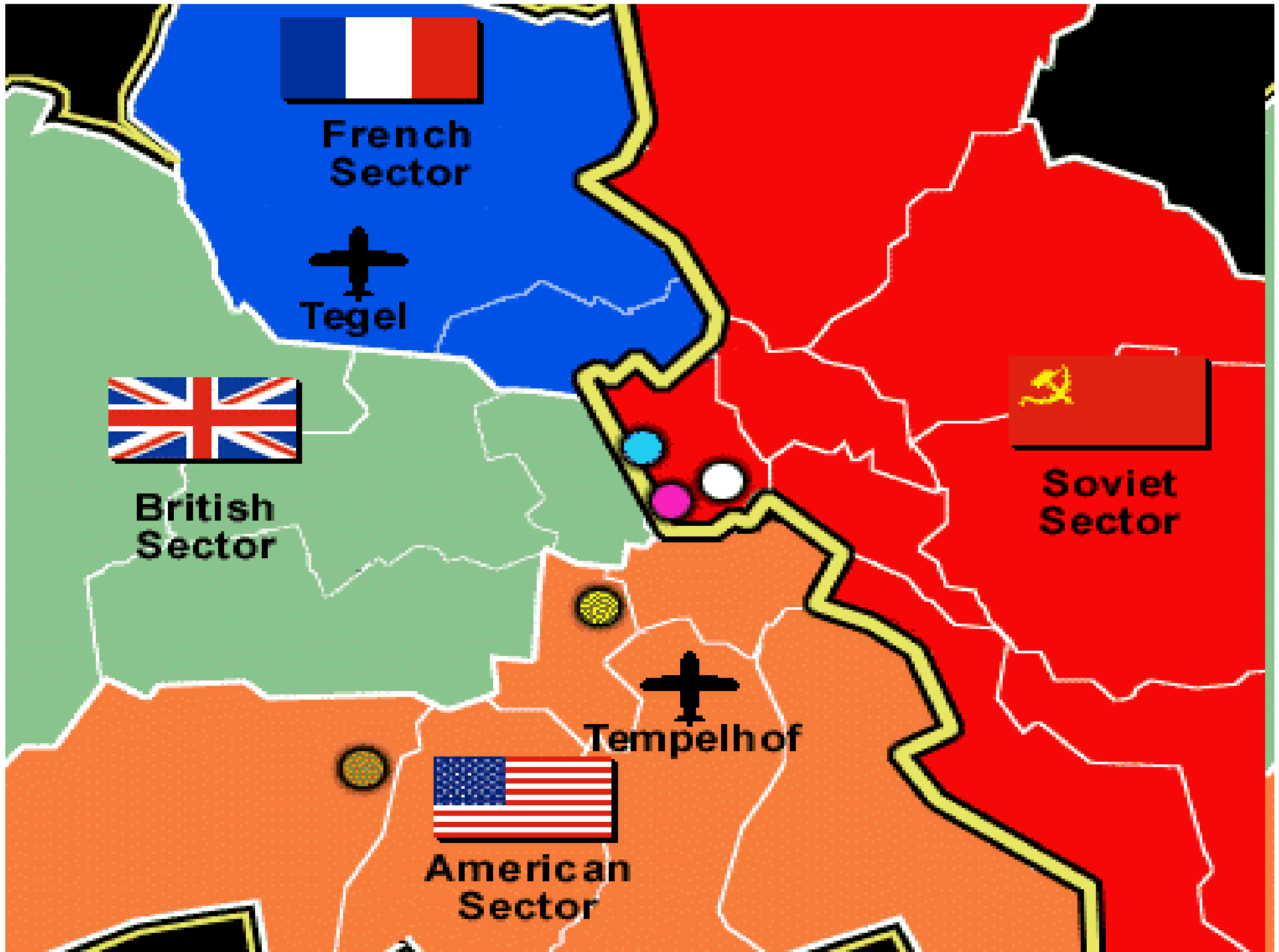
# The Berlin Wall

by Jordan Peters

Spring 2009

# Background

- Occupation Zones
- 1949- Separate Governments
  - Federal Republic of Germany (West Germany)
  - German Democratic Republic (East Germany)
- Berlin Blockade/ Berlin Airlift
  - 3 minutes
  - buffer zone
- Gap between East and West
  - rebuild the West
  - punish the East



# Why the Wall was built

- Difference in living standards
- Immigration
  - 1949 to 1961- 2.6 million leave East Germany (total population 17 million)
- Danger to the Soviet system
  - control/ obedience



# The Wall

- Length around West Berlin 96 mi
- Border between East and West Berlin 27 mi
- Border between West Berlin and East Germany 69 mi
- Border through residential areas 23 mi
- Watch towers 302
- Height 13 ft
- Persons killed on the Berlin Wall 192
- Persons injured by shooting approx. 200

# The Wall

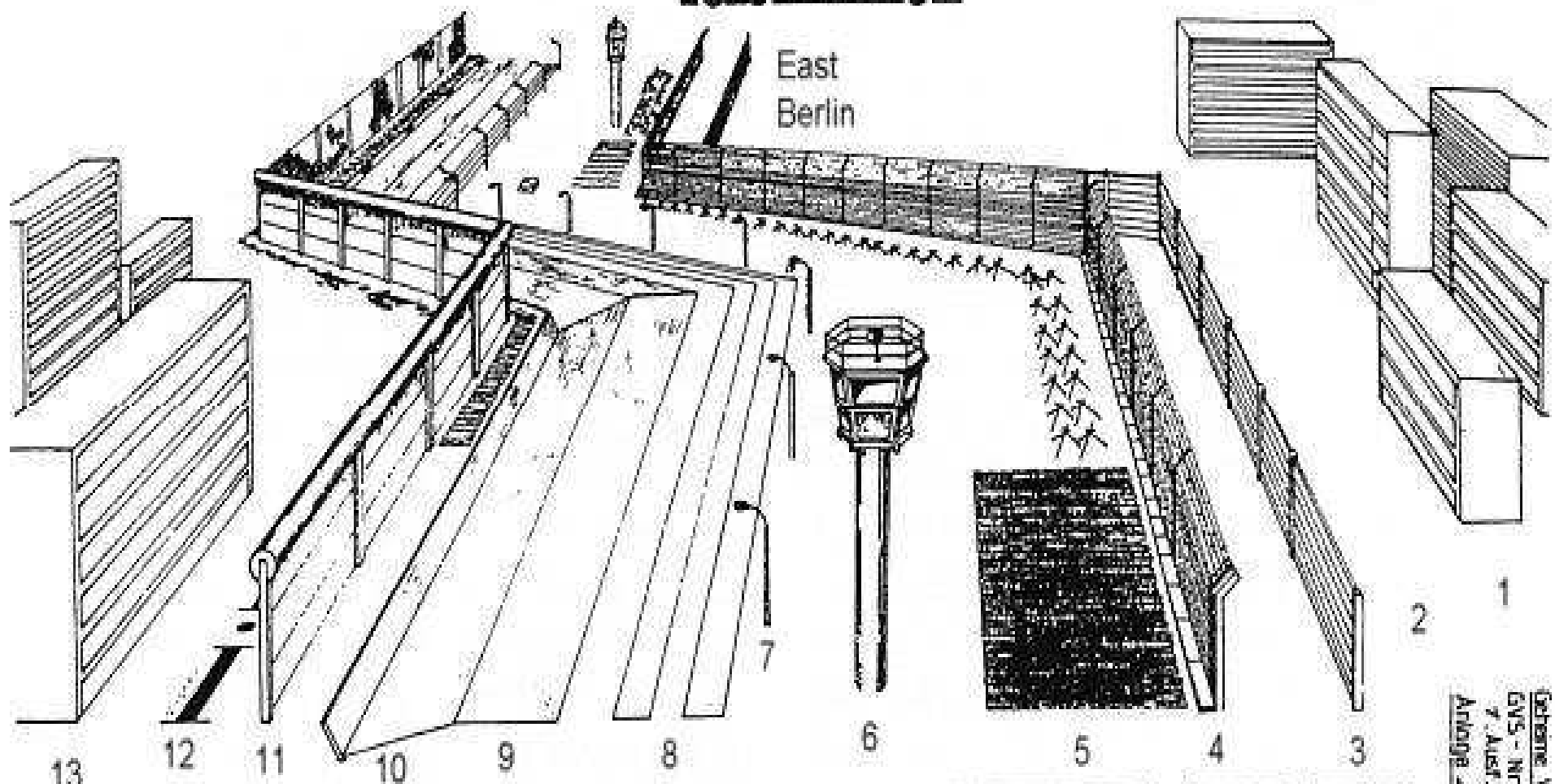
- August 13, 1961
  - barbed wire fence and guards
- Generations
- Checkpoint Charlie
  - standoff Oct 1961
- Artwork- West vs. East



(c) 2001 Heiko Burkhardt, Dailysoft.com

# Pionier- und signaltechnischer Ausbau der Staatsgrenze zu BERLIN-West

( gegenwärtig )



West  
Berlin

13	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1
Vorderes Sperrlement 162 km	Kfz Sperre 92 km	Kontroll- streifen 165km	Kolonnen- weg 172 km	Licht- trasse 177 km	Beobachtungs- türme u. Führungs- stellen 190 Stck.	Flächensperren 38000 Höcker sperre 19 km	Grenzsig- nolzoun 148 km	Hinterland- mauer 68 km				

Gebirge Vertriebsgesellschaft  
 GVS - Nr. : G 1691 B80  
 7. Aufl. : Blatt 77  
 Anlage 2

# Impact of the Wall

- 62 major roads
- Circulation of people- 500,000 daily
  - school children
  - subway network
  - 1958- bus, tram, and underground
- Bernauer Strasse apartments
- Economic impact on East Berlin



# Escaping to West Berlin

- Methods of escape
  - hiding under car hood
  - sewers
  - hot air ballons
- Peter Fechter
  - 18 years old
  - 50 minutes
- Rewards



# Why the wall came down

- Solidarity Movement- Poland
- Collapse of other East European Communist Dictatorships
  - economic stagnation
  - military spending
- Gorbachev- *Perestroika* and *Glasnost*
- Hungary opening border to Austria

November 9, 1989



# Reunification

- March 1990 elections
- July 1990
  - combine currency
  - Soviet permission
- October 3, 1990
- December 1990 all German elections

# Lasting Impact

- Changes in attitudes, changes in government
  - increase in luxury items, living standards
  - decrease in employment
- Coping with the past
  - Stasi records

# East Side Gallery

- “Where is the Wall?”
- 0.8 mi stretch of the Wall in Berlin
  - longest preserved section
  - white side now covered in murals
- Partial restoration in 2000
- \$3 million restoration for 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary
  - paid for by Berlin Senate, federal government and the European Union

ГОСПОДИ ! ПОМОГИ МНЕ ВЫЖИТЬ



СРЕДИ ЭТОЙ СМЕРТНОЙ ЛЮБВИ

ГОСНАЗ  
Владимир  
Путин

ОБАМА  
Барак

# Sources

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- [www.dailysoft.com/berlinwall](http://www.dailysoft.com/berlinwall)
- [www.newseum.org/berlinwall](http://www.newseum.org/berlinwall)
- [www.commonswikimedia.org](http://www.commonswikimedia.org)
- [www.bbc.com](http://www.bbc.com)
- The Rise and Fall of the Wall, DVD

# Questions?

- What do you think the importance of the Berlin Wall is today?
- What other walls are currently being built and how do they differ from the Berlin Wall?