

The Bloodless Implosion of East Germany in 1989 – the open and hidden driving forces

My motivation for a closer look: memoirs and interviews of former EGerman leaders reveal new insights

--- why did EGermany implode? Answers complex but pretty clear

--- why did EGermany implode without violence? Not clear, since force is very foundation of state

--- EGermany exists because of perceived Soviet military need

---- EGermany uses violence daily at border and internally

---- communists everywhere before, and again in June 1989 in China used massive violence against dissidents

Our task is to understand what happened from

1969 : cold war is very cold, Viet Nam war

to 20 years later

1989/90 : East Germany dissolves without violence

Session 1:

1. The geo-strategic situation of West- and East Germany, 1945-89: cold war and detente
2. Policies of the Soviet Union toward East Germany
3. Policies of West Germany and the United States toward East Germany and the Soviet Union

Session 2 :

4. The ever growing gap in living standards between East and West Germany
5. Everyday life in East Germany; political opposition and dissidents; the Stasi (secret police)

Session 3 :

6. 1989: Loss of fear, widespread open opposition, and fall of Berlin wall on November 9
7. Conclusion : the open and hidden driving forces leading to revolution without violence

