

I chose to research The Berlin Wall because of its significant role in shaping the tension between the Allies and Communists in the Cold War era. The Berlin Wall portrays how citizens' basic human rights were restricted and violated during the time the wall was up while also putting pressure on the respective governments to ensure the citizens were protected.

Initially, I aimed to conduct my research on European countries that were under corrupt communist rule, but I changed my research when I came across a photo gallery of the Berlin Wall. The Atlantic magazine holds an article with over 20 documented pictures of events that surrounded the Berlin Wall before and after its fall. This source deeply showcased how citizens of all kinds from the West and East were affected by the presence of the Berlin Wall. Seeing these documented photos inspired me to primarily focus my research on the citizens of Berlin during the time of the Berlin Wall because it showcased how differently citizens were affected when living under different ideologies. The photo gallery source additionally pushed me to find more of a variety of photo documents from various sources. Furthermore, I was able to conduct a crucial interview with Vejas Liulevicius – a professional historian at the University of Tennessee – to gain even further insight into the lives of citizens in Berlin during the Berlin Wall.

I structured my website so that each section goes in chronological order, from the first being the oldest to the last being the most recent. I minimized using any bright colors and kept my website primarily white, black, and grey to symbolize how dark and depressing times were during the Berlin Wall.

During the Cold War, the construction of the Berlin Wall in 1961 highlighted the clash between state-imposed responsibilities and individual rights. This physical and ideological barrier divided East and West Berlin, with the East German government justifying its actions as necessary to maintain political order and prevent mass emigration. The wall's destruction in 1989 signified the success of individual rights over inhumane state responsibilities and reinforced the push toward human rights and democratic values. The East German government primarily built the wall to dominate the control of their citizens and maintain their political stability. The Berlin Wall served as a symbol of division and conflict between two powerful ideologies. The eventual fall of the wall led to a push for a new change of hope throughout the European nations. The aftermath of the fall created new democratic ideologies throughout Europe.

The Berlin Wall symbolizes the tension between individual rights and state-imposed responsibilities during the Cold War. Its construction showed how corrupt governments prioritized control over human freedom, while its fall marked a victory for human rights and democratic ideals.