

# The Monday Demonstrations: The Key to Unlocking Borders, Elections, and Freedoms.

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Process Paper Word Count:500  
Website Word Count:1200

“Wir sind das Volk.” We are the people. This was chanted by protesters during the Monday Demonstrations in Leipzig, Germany, pleading with their government for freedom. The most important and successful protest, known as the Miracle of Leipzig, was a major factor to the fall of the Berlin Wall, the collapse of the German Democratic Republic, and eventually, German reunification, which is the migration of hundreds of thousands of people traveling to and from East Germany and West Germany and other European countries. Through their actions, the citizens of Leipzig loudly communicated their dissatisfaction with the GDR, but it wasn't just their government taking notice, other European countries living behind the Iron Curtain were inspired to action as well. The Monday Demonstrations are a series of protests that the citizens of Leipzig Germany organized to fight communism in East Germany that lead to the fall of the Berlin Wall. This topic is very important in history because the protests caused the collapse of a communist government, and freed hundreds of thousands of people stuck in East Germany. With the theme in mind this year, we knew we wanted to focus on certain protests that were important to History. So, when looking through historic protests of the world, we came across the Monday Demonstrations, interesting us due to just how impactful the citizens' communication was.

When first conducting early stages of research we gathered broad information, we tried to learn as much about the what, when, and where so later we could learn about the why and how. We went to our local library, and researched German News channels. We came across a protester who was at the Monday Demonstrations, Katrin Hattenhauer. We ended up interviewing Katrin and she gave us amazing, specific answers. She really helped us understand what it was like to be at the protest, and to be protesting. Our understanding and appreciation of the topic has grown a lot with our research. We have begun to understand the amount of danger the protesters were in.

We chose the website category because the topic had a lot of media, pictures, and we felt that the word limit best fit our needs. NHDWebCentral was new to both of us, so the beginning phases of website building were a learning experience. There were some challenges along the way, we lost one page of our website, also learning to adapt to NHDWebCentral under these different circumstances. But, as we were

faced with these problems, we also gained unique problem solving skills, and our knowledge of technology and teamwork have grown.

The Monday Demonstrations had many different ways of communication, from the protesters communicating with each other, to the protesters showing other countries around the world what fighting an unfair government can do. The communication throughout the entirety of the Monday Demonstrations not only helped bring down the Berlin Wall but also reunified Germany. Free elections, peace and unity, were all provided to a country that was in desperate need of it.

## Annotated Bibliography

### Primary

Hattenhauer, Katrin. Email Interview. 2020, December 1.

This interview not only gave us an inside look as to what it was like to live through such a historic and life altering event, but also to be one of the people who was the major influencers of the Monday Demonstrations. In the interview, Katrin described how the Saint Nikolai Church didn't want Politics to intervene with the prayer sessions. She also described the trigger element as to why the candle light visuals turned into the Monday Demonstrations. Lastly, she described the message she wanted to display for the protests, she thought of a Free country with Free people, and she described what that meant to her.

Deutsche Welle. "Germany Marks 30th Anniversary of Leipzig Protests." *DW.COM*, 12 Oct. 2019, [www.dw.com/en/germany-marks-30th-anniversary-of-leipzig-protests/av-50745555](http://www.dw.com/en/germany-marks-30th-anniversary-of-leipzig-protests/av-50745555).

This news broadcasting was a very helpful source because It gave us valuable information as to what the protests were like for the citizens of Leipzig. It follows two women in particular who were a mere age of 20 and 18. Kattrin Hattenhauer and Kathrin Mahler Walter who are both opposition activists were both arrested that night for rioters assembly. The women also describe why they wanted change in their country.

Deutsche Welle. "Secret Heroes: On the Rooftops of Leipzig: DW:" *DW.COM*, 1 Oct. 2014, [www.dw.com/en/secret-heroes-on-the-rooftops-of-leipzig/av-17969031](http://www.dw.com/en/secret-heroes-on-the-rooftops-of-leipzig/av-17969031).

This news broadcast shows us the story of a man who took a risk to film the protests in secret from the tower of church even though it was dangerous. He talks about how when he was at the protests in 1989, he could hear the people chanting from below him saying "We are the People." He also describes how the film he took of the protesters was a strong message, even strong enough to change the world.

Federal Republic of Germany, the German Democratic Republic, the French Republic, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America, "Treaty on the Final Settlement with Respect to Germany," *Making the History of 1989*, Item #290, <https://chnm.gmu.edu/1989/items/show/290> (accessed November 12 2020, 10:17 am).

This treaty helped us to understand what the terms of the Final Settlement with Respect to Germany were and how they were stated exactly. It showed us how the GDR(German Democratic Republic) and the FRG(Federal Republic of Germany) negotiated a deal to help reunify Germany in 1990.

Germany: Leipzig Recalls Historic 1989 Protest." *Youtube.com*, Euro News , 9 Oct. 2014, [www.youtube.com/watch?v=NJyEJzrABO4](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NJyEJzrABO4).

This video shows clips of the protesters in the streets marching and all of the protesters chanting, it also has pictures of them from all different angles. The clips also have sound of their chants and it translates them to English.

## Secondary

Apple, R.W., Jr. "Clamor in the East: Little Change in Czechoslovakia; Maintaining Tight Control in Prague." *New York Times*, 14 Nov. 1989. Gale In Context: High School, [https://link.gale.com/apps/doc/A175799672/SUIC?u=grrl\\_remote&sid=SUIC&xid=636076d4](https://link.gale.com/apps/doc/A175799672/SUIC?u=grrl_remote&sid=SUIC&xid=636076d4). Accessed 30 Oct. 2020. Gale Document Number: GALE|A175799672

This article gives us a lot of information on where the demonstrations were. It also talks about how the demonstrations led to the Berlin Wall falling.

Bierbach, Mara. *Deutsche Welle*, 8 Oct. 2019, [www.dw.com/en/how-east-germans-peacefully-brought-the-gdr-regime-down/a-50743302](http://www.dw.com/en/how-east-germans-peacefully-brought-the-gdr-regime-down/a-50743302)

This mixed media post helped us to understand the process of the protests. The text helped to explain the historical side of the protests including dates and numbers, also why the protests remained only peaceful during the time.

Bornstein, Jerry. *The Wall Came Tumbling down: the Berlin Wall and the Fall of Communism*. Arch Cape Press (Random House), 1991.

This book provided many visuals as to what the protests were like. Also, it shows how the protesters impacted the fall of Communism in East Germany, and how and how that led to the fall of communism around Europe.

"A Guide to the United States' History of Recognition, Diplomatic, and Consular Relations, by Country, since 1776: East Germany (German Democratic Republic)." *U.S. Department of State*, U.S. Department of State, [history.state.gov/countries/german-democratic-republic](http://history.state.gov/countries/german-democratic-republic).

This website provided crucial facts to our research such as how the Soviet Union contributed to the division of Germany and the creation of the GDR. It also described the series of treaties needed to be signed in order to reunify Germany in 1990 such as the "German Reunification Treaty" and the "Treaty on the Final Settlement with Respect to Germany."

Kudascheff, Alexander. "Opinion: October 9, 1989, a Milestone for Freedom | DW | 09.10.2014." *DW.COM*, 9 Oct. 2014, [www.dw.com/en/opinion-october-9-1989-a-milestone-for-freedom/a-17983266](http://www.dw.com/en/opinion-october-9-1989-a-milestone-for-freedom/a-17983266). Accessed 6 Nov. 2020.

This website gave us more insight on what they wanted to get from the protests. also gives a lot of information on the dates that the important events happened like the 9th of October 1989 that was the day 70,000 people protested in the square.

Pfaff, Steven. "Collective identity and informal groups in revolutionary mobilization: East Germany in 1989." *Social Forces*, vol. 75, no. 1, 1996, p. 91+. Gale In Context: High School, [https://link.gale.com/apps/doc/A18832036/SUIC?u=grrl\\_remote&sid=SUIC&xid=d9a9c7c6](https://link.gale.com/apps/doc/A18832036/SUIC?u=grrl_remote&sid=SUIC&xid=d9a9c7c6). Accessed 30 Oct. 2020

This book gave us in depth description as to what the German Democratic Republic was. It also describes how East Germany was the cause for movement mobilization around Europe. The author also describes the church's involvement with the protests and how that impacted the outcome.

Schmemmann, Serge. "Upheaval in the East; Leipzig Marchers Tiptoe Around Reunification." *New York Times*, 19 Dec. 1989. *Gale In Context: High School*; [https://link.gale.com/apps/doc/A175806888/SUIC?u=grrl\\_remote&sid=SUIC&xid=5da1783b](https://link.gale.com/apps/doc/A175806888/SUIC?u=grrl_remote&sid=SUIC&xid=5da1783b). Accessed 30 Oct. 2020.

This article told us important details as to what the people who were protesting during the Monday Demonstrations wanted to get out of them, and what they said in order to get those demands. Another key fact this article shared is the number of people present at each protest, and how unity is their foremost goal.

Schmemmann, Serge. "100,000 Protest in Leipzig In Largest Rally in Decades." *New York Times*, 17 Oct. 1989. *Gale In Context: High School*; [https://link.gale.com/apps/doc/A175767583/SUIC?u=grrl\\_remote&sid=SUIC&xid=f132761c](https://link.gale.com/apps/doc/A175767583/SUIC?u=grrl_remote&sid=SUIC&xid=f132761c). Accessed 30 Oct. 2020. This article gave us background information about the Leipzig Protests, such as how many people protested, the police's reaction to the protest, and the message the protesters were wishing to convey through their actions.

Sindermann, Horst Sindermann. "Leipzig Monday Demonstrations." *Leipzig Monday Demonstrations*, [europeforvisitors.com/germany/leipzig/leipzig-monday-demonstrations-1989.htm](http://europeforvisitors.com/germany/leipzig/leipzig-monday-demonstrations-1989.htm).

This website describes how the demonstrations brought the German Government's attention to the problems in the country. It also talks about how the protests were peaceful candle light demonstrations.

Stuchbery, Michael. "How a Leipzig Church Led to the Fall of the Berlin Wall." *TheLocal.de*, 10 Oct. 2020, [www.thelocal.de/20191010/how-a-leipzig-church-led-to-peaceful-revolution-and-the-fall-of-the-berlin-wall](http://www.thelocal.de/20191010/how-a-leipzig-church-led-to-peaceful-revolution-and-the-fall-of-the-berlin-wall).

Through this website, we got a lot of information on how the church was connected to the demonstrations, how the Monday Demonstrations actually branched out from small prayer sessions held at the church every Monday night. It also gave a lot of information on how the demonstrations eventually led to the fall of the Berlin Wall even though many people believe it was thought to be because of a bureaucratic accident.

Wieschollek, S. (n.d.). Media Information: Leipzig Region. Retrieved November 19, 2020, from <https://www.leipzig.travel/en/media/media-information/research-texts/research-text-detail/search-lyrics/infos//we-are-the-people-leipzig-and-the-peaceful-revolution/>

From this article, we learned a lot about the hope the protesters felt when they found out how many people showed up for the demonstrations. It also talked about where the protesters were marching and how the news felt about the protest.

“We are the People”: Peaceful Revolution in the GDR, 1989, *Youtube.com*, Moments of History, 21 March 2018, [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vVf8\\_ZxYLVU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vVf8_ZxYLVU)

This video described the worry of the protesters due to the events in China in the previous month before the Miracle of Leipzig, and the brutality from the soldiers also in Berlin weeks before. But, they say that although they thought that those events could reoccur, they knew that they needed to fight, even if they were going to try to be stopped again.

## Images for Illustration

Culture, G. (1990, October 3). [German Reunification]. Retrieved January 5, 2021, from <https://germanculture.com.ua/germany-history/german-reunification/>

In this image you see the aftermath of the reunification of East Germany and West Germany.

DW, News. “Katrin Hattenhauer; For a Free Country with Free People.” *DW News*, 4 Sept. 1989, [www.dw.com/en/how-east-germans-peacefully-brought-the-gdr-regime-down/a-50743302V](http://www.dw.com/en/how-east-germans-peacefully-brought-the-gdr-regime-down/a-50743302V)

This image shows Katrin Hattenhauer and others, protesting on September 4th.

Demonstration, Montags. *Launching the "Peaceful Revolution" of 1989*. 9 Oct. 1989, [europeforvisitors.com/germany/leipzig/leipzig-monday-demonstrations-1989.htm](http://europeforvisitors.com/germany/leipzig/leipzig-monday-demonstrations-1989.htm). Accessed 7 Jan. 2021.

This Picture shows a mass of people protesting on October 9, 1989.

Finger, E. (1989). [Protesters in the streets of Leipzig]. Retrieved 2021, from <https://voxeurop.eu/en/the-wall-fell-in-leipzig/>

This picture shows the Miracle of Leipzig and the Thousands of People Protesting.

Grubitzsch, Waltraud. 1989, [ghdi.ghi-dc.org/sub\\_image.cfm?image\\_id=3050](http://ghdi.ghi-dc.org/sub_image.cfm?image_id=3050). Accessed 14 Jan. 2021.

This picture shows the peaceful prayer sessions at the leipzig church.

Pike, John. “The Inner German Border .” *Globalsecurity.org*, 5 Apr. 2003, [www.globalsecurity.org/military/library/report/other/us-army\\_germany\\_1944-46\\_map3.htm](http://www.globalsecurity.org/military/library/report/other/us-army_germany_1944-46_map3.htm).

This Picture shows the course of the Berlin Wall Throughout Germany.

Rattay, W. (1989, November 9). [Bulldozer knocks down Berlin Wall]. Retrieved January 5, 2021, from <https://www.businessinsider.com/photos-from-the-fall-of-the-berlin-wall-2016-11#by-november-12-it-was-no-longer-only-small-hammers-being-used-to-deconstruct-the-wall-here-an-east-german-bulldozer-and-crane-knock-down-the-berlin-wall-at-potsdamer-platz-11>

This picture shows the destruction of the Berlin Wall in motion.

Universal History Archive. "Greater Berlin." HISTORY, 1948, [www.history.com/topics/cold-war/berlin-blockade](http://www.history.com/topics/cold-war/berlin-blockade).

This map outlines the post WW2 occupation zones of East and West Germany.

Unknown, "East Germany Protest," *Making the History of 1989*, Item #680, <https://chnm.gmu.edu/1989/items/show/680> (accessed November 12 2020, 10:09 am).

This image shows a street in Leipzig, Germany filled with people with signs, protesting.

Unknown, 2016, [www.do-i-know-you.com/copy-of-home](http://www.do-i-know-you.com/copy-of-home). Accessed 7 Jan. 2021.

This image shows a picture of Katrin Hattenhauer who is the person we interviewed.