

Germany 'faces east-west divide for decades'

Germany faces remaining divided for decades, even though they have been one nation since 1990. The west, rebuilt by the U.S. after World War II, is wealthy. The east, controlled by the Soviet Union after World War II, is still struggling.

By [Jeevan Vasagar](#), Berlin 6:45PM
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The regions that once made up East Germany have lost more than half a million people since East Germany and West Germany reunited in 1990. Thousands of East Germans migrated to the west to start a new life after the fall of the wall, the report says. Those left behind in the former East Germany are mainly older people.



The sudden collapse of communism hit East Germany hard. Thousands of jobs disappeared, because the old communist industries could not compete with the modern industry of West Germany. That meant thousands of younger East Germans moved west looking for work.



Many of those who left eastern Germany since the Wall came down were young adults who are now raising their children in the west. With so many young families leaving the east, many schools have closed and many neighborhoods are almost empty.

The report, by the Halle Institute for Economic Research, shows that the reunited German people still feel divided. Surveys show that easterners think west Germans are "arrogant" and interested mainly in money. Western Germans suspect the eastern Germans do not appreciate being free or getting help from the western German tax money.

Recent census figures show how bad the loss of young people is in eastern Germany. In the state of Saxony, nearly a quarter of the population is over 65.