



Conference

Falling Behind or Catching Up? The East German Economy in the Twentieth Century September 24 – 26, 2009

Conveners

Hartmut Berghoff and Uta Andrea Balbier (GHI)

Sponsored by



Program

Thursday, September 24

6:00 - 8:30 pm

Public Panel Discussion

A Culture of Decline? Politics, Economy, and Social Life in East Germany

In cooperation with AICGS

Moderators:

Hartmut Berghoff (GHI)/Jackson Janes (AICGS)

Panelists:

Gerhard A. Ritter, München; André Steiner, Potsdam
Michael Burda, Berlin; Holger C. Wolf, Washington

Please note: the panel discussion is held at: **Johns Hopkins SAIS, Bernstein-Offit Building
1717 Massachusetts Ave., NW; 5th Floor, Room 500; Washington, DC 20036** and followed by an exhibition opening and reception at the **American Institute for Contemporary German Studies (AICGS); 1755 Massachusetts Ave., NW; Suite 700; Washington, DC 20036**

Friday, September 25

8:30 - 9:00 am Breakfast at the GHI

9:00 - 9:15 am **Introduction**
Hartmut Berghoff/Uta A. Balbier

9:15 - 11:15 am **Panel I: The East German Economy before 1945**
Chair: Hartmut Berghoff (GHI)

Uwe Müller (Saarbrücken)

The Backwardness of the East and Attempts to Overcome It Prior to 1914

Rainer Karlsch (Berlin)

Autarky Projects and the Wartime Relocation of Industrial Plants in Central Germany and their Consequences

Jaap Sleifer (Amsterdam)

The East German Economy, 1936-1945

11:15 - 11:45 am Coffee break

11:45 am - 1:45 pm **Panel II: Creating the GDR's Economy**
Chair: Ines Prodöhl (GHI)

Burghard Ciesla (Berlin)

Soviet Influences on the Creation of the East German Economic System: From the Economic Disarmament to the Central Economic Planning, 1945 – 1949

Jeffrey Kopstein (Toronto)

Ulbricht's and Honecker's Volksstaat? The Common Economic History of Militarized Regimes

Margrit Grabas (Saarbrücken)

Socioeconomic and Institutional Consequences of the East German Crisis of June 17, 1953: The Formation and Consolidation of a GDR-Specific Regulatory Capacity of Socialist Industrialization During the European Postwar Boom

1:45 - 3:00 pm Lunch break

3:00 - 5:00 pm

Panel III: The Ulbricht Years

Chair: Christian Ostermann (Woodrow Wilson Center)

Jörg Rösler (Berlin)

The New Economic System and the GDR Economy

Silke Fengler (Wien)

The Influence of Path Dependencies on Microeconomic Innovation Activity in Centrally Planned Economies: The Case of VEB Filmfabrik Wolfen

Andrew I. Port (Detroit)

The Dark Side of Eigensinn

7:00 pm

Conference Dinner

Iron Gate Restaurant

1734 N St. NW

Washington, DC 20036

ph: 202-737-1370

Saturday, September 26

8:30 - 9:00 am

Breakfast at the GHI

9:00 - 9:45 am

Panel VI: Eastern Economy in Transformation and Perspectives for the 21st Century (part I)

Chair: Uta A. Balbier (GHI)

Michael Burda (Berlin)

The East German Economy on its Way into the Twenty-First Century

9:45 - 10:00 am

Coffee break

10:00 - 12:00 noon

Panel IV: The Honecker Years

Chair: Uwe Spiekermann (GHI)

André Steiner (Potsdam)

Economics of a Decline: The GDR in the 1970s and 1980s

Juliane Schütterle (Berlin)

The Doom of a Radiant Age: Future Prospects and Economic Decline of the Uranium Ore Mining Company "Wismut", 1971-89

Dolores L. Augustine (Jamaica, NY)

Werner Hartmann: A Businessman and Scientist under SED Rule

12:00 am - 1:00 pm

Lunch break

1:00 am - 3:00 pm

Panel V: External Factors

Chair: Martin Klimke (GHI)

Ray Stokes (Glasgow)

The GDR Economy and the Oil Crises

Ralf Ahrens (Jena)

Debt, Cooperation and Collapse: East German Foreign Trade in the Honecker Years

Sibylle Gausing (Tübingen)

Shifting Boundaries: The 'Domestic Trade' Between the two German States and its Connections to the EEC in the 1960s

3:00 - 3:30 pm

Coffee break

3:30 - 4:30 pm

Panel VI: Eastern Economy in Transformation and Perspectives for the 21st Century (part II)

Chair: Uta A. Balbier (GHI)

Gerhard A. Ritter (München)

The Social Policy of Unification and its Consequences for the Transformation of the Economy in the New Bundesländer

Holger C. Wolf (Washington)

German Economic Unification through the Lens of the Postwar Recovery

4:30 - 5:30 pm

Final Discussion