East Germany and the United States: A Non-Relationship?

Panel Discussion

Thursday, December 4, 2014
5:30 – 7:30 PM

German Historical Institute
1607 New Hampshire Ave NW
Washington DC 20009

The German Democratic Republic, East Germany, was not recognized by the United States until 1974, 25 years after its founding, and was always of minor importance in American foreign policy. On all matters relating to Berlin, Washington dealt with the Soviet Union. That continued even after West Germany’s Ostpolitik and establishment of formal relations between the two Germanies in the early 1970s made U.S. recognition of the G.D.R. unavoidable.

This panel discussion will bring together two former American ambassadors, Brandon Grove (chargé and then Deputy Chief of Mission in East Berlin 1974-1976) and Rozanne Ridgway (Ambassador 1983-1985), historian Hope M. Harrison (George Washington University), and Robert Gerald Livingston (GHI). Christian Ostermann (Woodrow Wilson Center) will moderate the discussion.

Program
5:30 PM Reception
6:00 PM Panel Discussion