

PREFACE AND ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This volume is the final outcome of a cooperative effort between the Woodrow Wilson Center's Cold War International History Project and the German Historical Institute, Washington, DC, which led to a workshop in April 2010. The main credit for this common endeavor goes to Robert Gerald Livingston. He suggested an event on the history of the GDR's foreign intelligence service. Due to the often quite sensational nature of debates about espionage both among the public and in some scholarship, we decided after some internal discussion to integrate this topic into both the history of the Stasi and the history of the GDR. The workshop's program resulted from engaged discussions among the four conveners, Robert Gerald Livingston, Christian Ostermann, Mircea Munteanu (both from the Woodrow Wilson Center's Cold War International History Project), and the editor, as well as Benjamin B. Fischer. I am very grateful to the Woodrow Wilson Center, namely, to Christian Ostermann, for its co-sponsorship and generous hospitality and to my colleagues for their substantial contributions to making this event and this publication flowing from it a success.

Most of the contributions to this volume derived from the workshop itself, but several participants were not able to include their revised papers, and new articles had to be acquired to form this collection. This took some time, and I am very thankful for the patience of the contributors, whose commitment to this publication remained firm over such a long time period. I would like to express my gratitude to Hartmut Berghoff, the director of the GHI, who likewise backed this project from the beginning and supported its inclusion as a supplement of the *Bulletin of the GHI*. Without the GHI's financial support, this publication would not have been possible.

Thanks are also due to my highly esteemed colleagues at the GHI. Their professionalism was crucial to completing this project. Bryan Hart produced the cover, and David Lazar helped with his admired language skills. Above all, I owe a debt of gratitude to Patricia Sutcliffe, the editor of this supplement series. She not only improved all the articles and worked with the contributors, but she also resolutely and sensibly pushed the editor to do his work. Without this, this volume would not have been published. I would also like to again thank Gerry Livingston, who first interested me in the topic

and whose lengthy career and publication record testify to his passion and dedicated interest in German-American relations. It was and is a pleasure and a privilege to work with such colleagues in this distinguished academic environment.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge the more than fifty participants of a seminar on the history of the Stasi that I facilitated at the University of Münster in 2012/13. They taught me that the history of the Stasi is an important tool that helps Westerners not only understand the world of the former communist East but also perceive current threats in our (Western) world. The Stasi combated open society and liberal democracy — yet a small and idealistic opposition group was able to overcome this large organization and its criminal activities. It is my hope that this volume will help us all do our duty to defend the core of open and liberal society in Western democracies as well.

Uwe Spiekermann, editor

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