

Institute of National Remembrance

<https://ipn.gov.pl/en/news/638,Opening-of-the-exhibition-quotCold-War-A-short-history-of-the-divided-world-quot.html>

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Opening of the exhibition "Cold War. A short history of the divided world" - Rostock (Germany), 17 December 2012

**Dokumentations- und Gedenkstätte
in der ehemaligen U-Haft der Stasi in Rostock/DuG**
Hermannstraße 34b | 18055 Rostock
(Eingang gegenüber Supermarkt)

Mo |
17.12.2012
19:00



DER
EINTRITT
IST FREI.

Ausstellungseröffnung

Der Kalte Krieg

Kurze Geschichte einer geteilten Welt

*Eine Ausstellung des Instituts für Nationales Gedenken
(IPN/Instytut Pamięci Narodowej/Polen)*

*Begrüßung **Dr. Volker Höffer**, Leiter der BStU-Außenstelle Rostock*

*Grußwort **Dr. Łukasz Kamiński**, Präsident des IPN*

*Einführung **Prof. Dr. Jerzy Eisler**, Direktor der IPN-Zweigstelle Warschau*



Der Bundesbeauftragte für die Unterlagen
des Staatssicherheitsdienstes der ehemaligen
Deutschen Demokratischen Republik

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(IPN/Instytut Pamięci Narodowej/Polen) | Bildszwaben: Westfäliner Kinder bauen eine Mauer, Foto:
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Hermannstraße 34b | 18055 Rostock
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**18.12.2012 –
02.02.2013**



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Kurze Geschichte einer geteilten Welt

*Eine Ausstellung des Instituts für Nationales Gedenken (Instytut Pamięci Narodowej/
Polen) | Öffnungszeiten: Di–Fr 09:00–17:00 | Sa 10:00–17:00 | So, Mo und
an Feiertagen geschlossen*



**Der Bundesbeauftragte für die Unterlagen
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On 17 December 2012 at the former Stasi prison, now the Political Museum in Rostock, the grand opening of the exhibition "Cold War. A brief history of the divided world " took place. The exhibition has been prepared by the Warsaw Branch of the Institute of National Remembrance. The ceremony was attended by Roland Jahn (Head of the BstU), Dr. Volker Höffer (Head of the BstU Branch in Rostock), Dr. Lukasz Kaminski (President of the Institute of National Remembrance), prof. Jerzy Eisler (Director of the Warsaw Branch of IPN), Slawomir Stepień (Assistant Director of the Warsaw Branch of IPN, co-author of the exhibition), Dariusz Gałaszewski (Warsaw Branch of IPN) and Dr. Pawel Sasanka (IPN Public Education Office, co-author of the exhibition).

The opening was accompanied by a lecture by Jerzy Eisler on the Cold War.

The presentation of the exhibition was a part of a series of presentations in Germany, this time at the invitation of Bundesbeauftragte für die Stasi-Unterlagen - "Gauck-Behörde" (the Branch of the so-called Gauck Institute) in Rostock. The presentation has been organized in collaboration with the Centre for Historical Research of the Polish Academy of Sciences in Berlin.

The exhibition in Rostock is open until 4 February 2013.

The exhibition "Cold War. Short History of Divided World" was prepared by Warsaw Branch Office of the Institute of National

Remembrance in relation to the 20th anniversary of reunification of Germany.

The exhibition is an invitation to go back to the near past, to the reality of conflict which dominated Europe for over five decades after the WWII, influenced lives of millions and shaped the modern world.

The totalitarian and multifaceted character of cold war confrontation left its mark on so many different areas of life that each attempt of showing it in one place and one time would surely leave one unsatisfied.

Taking the above into consideration, the authors proposed their own, naturally subjective point of view on the cold war, folding it up into a multiplot story. Those plots include events, phenomena with their various aspects and their main characters, significant for the course of events of the conflict – but often less familiar or even forgotten.

Cold war bore traces of true war, and the term “cold” should not be misleading. The war was often even too fiery, even though open military confrontations between the superpowers were occasional. Often the description of cold war boils down to a few expressions and notions. The most often recalled are: Berlin wall, arms race, the wars in Korea, Vietnam and Afghanistan, as well as Cuban crisis. But undoubtedly few people could place in this context such events as civil war in Greece, the Kitchen Debate between Nixon and Khrushchev, the attack of communist China on the Yijiangshan island belonging to Kuomintang, or Americans’ Invasion of Grenada.

We hope that the exhibition gives opportunity to recall numerous statements that were pronounced by politicians on both sides of the cold war barricade and remained for good in the history, e.g. the

speech by Winston Churchill in Fulton, with the words “an iron curtain”, the speech by John F. Kennedy in West Berlin, a year after Berlin Wall’s erection, or Leonid Brezhnev’s announcement of his doctrine (later called “Brezhnev Doctrine”).

The exhibition’s narrative is particularly strong due to photos. We tried to focus not only on the photos which are already icons of the cold war and the less familiar documentary photos, which complement the exhibition, but also on those that will be treasured in our minds and are thought-provoking. Therefore, the form of the presentation should be very favorable i.e. big, eye-catching, photo-enlargements, well arranged in space, accompanied by a few-sentence comments. Those who wish to learn more will find extensive information on several separate boards.

Thus, the exhibition’s subheading “Short History of Divided World” captures its core meaning and the authors’ intention – to reflect upon the conflict which for almost half a century had dominated the history of the world, and yet not to aspire to be comprehensive chronicle of the events.

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