

From Gorbachev's Answers to questions during Press Conference concluding his visit to Germany in Bonn, June 15, 1989

Question: Do you believe it possible that at some point something would happen in both German states that the European identity and community could be confirmed in a single document?

Gorbachev: I think everything is possible. But history left this world to us after the well-known events, after the war. And history will have to decide how it will be in the future.

The essence of my answer to your question was as follows: the current situation in Europe was born of a certain time. These are the realities. The Helsinki process and other processes have been developing on the basis of those [realities]. Therefore, we owe the situation that we have now to a certain time. And we hope that the time will decide on its own, will give directions. Today we can state with satisfaction and welcome the fact that both in the federal Republic of Germany as well as in the German Democratic Republic there is an understanding of the need to do everything possible—and it is being done—in order to never again allow war to start from the German land.

Question: Many Western Germans believe that the Berlin Wall represents both a physical and a political barrier on the path of a rapprochement between our two countries. Do you believe that the common European home, to which you aspire, is possible while the Berlin Wall continues to exist?

Gorbachev: To focus on the Berlin Wall as the only obstacle on the path of building of the common European home is not a serious [argument]. We will have to solve many problems in the process of building the common European home in the interest of all the peoples, while taking into account their choice, their traditions, their history, while creating conditions for their equal, mutually advantageous cooperation. Nothing is permanent under the Moon. Let's hope that we are on the right path. The Wall appeared in a concrete situation, and it was not dictated by some evil design. The GDR decided then to use its sovereign rights. The Wall could disappear when the preconditions, which brought it about, cease to exist. I do not see a big problem here.

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