



***AFTER THE WALL - A WORLD UNITED***  
**PREMIERES MONDAY, JANUARY 17, 2011 AT 10 P.M. ET ON PBS**

**How a Unique Partnership Among Three Leaders Ended the Cold War**

*After the Wall - A World United* is the dramatic story of the events that unfolded in the months after the fall of the Berlin Wall, when the fate of two Germanys hung in the balance. A follow-up to *The Wall - A World Divided*, *After the Wall* re-visits the events of 1990, going behind the scenes of this unparalleled diplomatic effort to examine how the relationships among world leaders determined the outcome. Interviews with George Bush, Mikhail Gorbachev and Helmut Kohl offer unusual and intimate details about the inner workings of government at the highest levels. Also included is first-hand testimony from East German politicians who oversaw the abrupt and unexpected end of their 40-year-old experiment in socialism, as well as the stories of ordinary Germans who had to re-invent their lives and make their way in a new nation. *After The Wall - A World United* premieres on Monday, January 17, 2011 at 10 p.m. ET on PBS (check local listings).

*After the Wall* begins in the heady days following the celebrations as the wall came down in mid-November 1989. East Germans toured West Berlin as they guzzled champagne and visited the streets and shops they'd only known from TV. Hundreds of thousands opted to stay and try to make their way in the unfamiliar capitalist economy.



*Credit: Picture Alliance/Heinz Wieseler*

But the morning after would not be so easy. Events took on new urgency as the leaders of Europe and the United States realized the import of the next few months: would this be the peaceful end to the Cold War? Or would it open a new chapter of instability that might doom Gorbachev's era of reform and deepen the divide between east and west?

While the leaders of nations examined their options, ordinary Germans from both east and west were the ones most directly affected by this sea change in world events. For all its limitations, life in East Germany did offer economic security and stability; East Germans discovered the hard way that living behind the Iron Curtain had ill-prepared them to compete in a modern capitalist economy.

Perhaps the most potent pictures of how fast East Germany was changing in those early weeks of 1990 are images of East Berliners storming the headquarters of the *Stasi* – the dreaded secret police — in mid-January. Just three months earlier the *Stasi* were 90,000-strong, a state security apparatus second to none in its ruthlessness and ability to strike terror into the hearts of ordinary citizens. Inside the headquarters, East Germans were astonished to find *millions* of files on their private lives, and some had to face unpleasant truths about secret *Stasi* relationships with their own family members.

By February of 1990, East Germans were treated to a spectacle they hadn't seen in nearly 60 years—a wide-open political contest. As the leader of West Germany, Helmut Kohl, a conservative, represented something beyond politics to East Germans: food, security and material comforts. East German citizens had made do with a lower standard of living for 40 years. Now they had the chance to get the lifestyle they had seen on West German TV for decades.

Despite Kohl's popularity in the East, most citizens expected leftists to take the lead in the polls. Dissidents banded together to form parties of their own, expecting to bring their socialist ideals to the new government. On March 18, 1990, East Germans turned out to vote in their first election ever. Most expected the Social Democrats to prevail, but Helmut Kohl's conservative party pulled off an upset, indicating the strong desire of East Germans to unify the country as soon as possible.

As foreign ministers hammered out the details, one big roadblock remained. President Bush knew the real challenge was to convince Gorbachev that a new, united Germany should be free to choose whether it would be part of the NATO alliance or the Warsaw Pact. During a summit meeting, President Bush stated that Germany should have the right to choose its own alliances, and directly asked Gorbachev if he agreed. The entire summit was startled when Gorbachev answered yes.

Three months later, in October 1990, Germany was formally united, less than one year from when the wall came down. Just a little more than a year after that, Gorbachev was forced out of office as the Soviet Union crumbled. His reforms, including the loss of East Germany, had cost him his position. One of the final phone calls he made from the Kremlin was to his good friend, George Bush. The last head of the Soviet Union was calling to say good-bye to the President of the United States. The Cold War was indeed over.

### **About the Participants, in order of appearance**

**Condoleezza Rice**, Soviet Affairs Advisor to George H. W. Bush

**James Baker**, Secretary of State

**George H. W. Bush**, President of the United States, 1989 - 1993

**Mary Sarotte**, Professor of International Relations, University of Southern California  
**Strobe Talbott**, Foreign Policy Analyst  
**Mikhail Gorbachev**, General Secretary and President, USSR, 1985-1991  
**Horst Teltschik**, National Security Advisor to Helmut Kohl  
**Charles Powell**, Foreign Policy Advisor to Margaret Thatcher  
**Frank Stucke**, Cultural Historian, Free University of Berlin  
**Dieter Rosengarten**, Former East German  
**Kira von Moers**, Former West Berliner  
**Alex Schultz**, Former East German  
**Michael Mertes**, Aide to Helmut Kohl  
**Helmut Kohl**, German Chancellor, 1982 - 1998  
**Ulrike Poppe**, East German Dissident  
**Vera Lengsfeld**, East German Dissident  
**Marianne Birthler**, Federal Commissioner for *Stasi* Records  
**Karl-Heinz Paqué**, Economist  
**J. D. Bindenagel**, Deputy U. S. Ambassador to East Germany  
**Robert Zoellick**, State Department Advisor on Germany  
**Brent Scowcroft**, National Security Adviser, 1989-1993

#### **About the Filmmaker**

Eric Stange, executive producer and founder of Spy Pond Productions, is an award-winning independent documentary film producer, director and writer who specializes in history and science subjects. His work has been broadcast on PBS, The Discovery Channel and the BBC. Before becoming a filmmaker, he wrote about art and culture for The New York Times, The Boston Globe, The Atlantic Monthly and other publications. Stange has been the recipient of a Harvard University Charles Warren Fellowship in American History. He's on the board of Common-Place, a website devoted to early American history, and writes a column about media and history for *American Heritage* magazine.

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