

# Twenty Years On: Competing Memories of the GDR in Postunification German Culture (Studies in German Literature Linguistics and Culture)



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Twenty years after the dramatic events that led to the opening of the Berlin Wall and the collapse of the GDR, the subjective dimension of Germany's unification process is still far from being resolved. The nature of the East German state remains a matter of cultural as well as political controversy. This volume of new research by experts in East German Studies from Europe and the USA focuses on competing memories of the GDR and the ways they have evolved in literature, film, and the mass media since 1989. Taking as its point of departure the rapid supersession of first-hand awareness of the historical GDR by iconic visual images of the fall of the Wall, the volume then considers, first, the decade of bitter cultural conflict that followed, and then, the creation of the Berlin Republic and the emergence of a more complex and diverse 'textual memory' of the GDR. The volume as a whole shows the vitality of eastern German culture two decades after the demise of the GDR and the centrality of these ostensibly historical memory debates to the success of Germany's unification process. Contributors: Daniel Argèles, Stephen Brockmann, Frederik van Dam, Wolfgang Emmerich, Andrea Geier, Hilde Hoffmann, Astrid Köhler, Karen Leeder, Andrew Plowman, Gillian Pye, Renate Rechtien, Benjamin Robinson, Catherine Smale, Rosemary Stott, Dennis Tate, Arne de Winde, Hélène Yèche, Nadezda Zemaníková.

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