

Germany: In the shadow of the Wall

Two decades after the dramatic fall of the Berlin Wall, a deep divide remains between the two sides of reunified Germany. Two out of three people living in the east say they feel themselves second-class citizens



Population of Germany: 82,218,000

West: 65.66m

East: 16.55m

Jobless rate (August 2009)

West: 7.1%

East: 12.8%

Gross Domestic Product: \square 2,495 billion (2008)

West: \square 1,459bn

East: \square 1,036bn

Average earnings (Full-time employee in industry and services)

West: \square 43,310

East: \square 30,151

Living below the poverty line

West: 12.9%

East: 19.5%

Politics: Support in east for Chancellor Angela Merkel's **Christian Democrats** is same as that of Oskar Lafontaine's radical left **Die Linke Party**

National support: 35%

Support in east: 27%

Solidarity tax: Germans in west pay 5.5% tax towards unification.
Germany has spent \square 1,500bn to rebuild and modernize east since 1990

Sources: Bielefeld University, Infratest dimap, Statistisches Bundesamt Deutschland

Pictures: Getty Images

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