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# When the Wall Came Down: The Berlin Wall and the Fall of Soviet Communism

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Schmemann, Serge. *When the Wall Came Down: The Berlin Wall and the Fall of Soviet Communism*. Houghton Mifflin, 2006. ISBN 0753459949. \$15.95. 128 p.

Reviewer: Gillian Streeter

Reading Level: Intermediate, Young Adult

Rating: Outstanding

Genre: Informational books;

Subject: Berlin Wall, Berlin, Germany, 1961-1989--History--Juvenile literature; Communism--Europe, Eastern--History--20th century--Juvenile literature; Germany--History--Unification, 1990--Juvenile literature; Books--Reviews;

This book is not only a complete overview of the Berlin Wall, its purpose, history and demise, but it is also an eye-witness account of the division of a nation. Schmemann, as a foreign correspondent in Berlin, witnessed the division of the country--and the world. He was present at the Berlin Wall's momentous destruction and covered the re-unification of Germany. The communist politics of other countries, such as the Soviet Union and the People's Republic of China, are also discussed. At the end of the book, an appendix of articles from the period of the wall's construction, existence, and elimination are presented to help readers more fully understand the time period and events associated with the Berlin Wall and the concept of the Iron Curtain. A timeline, source notes, and further reading bibliographies are also provided. Color photographs and diagrams complete the text's snapshot of the era.

Readers will find this a fascinating look at a pivotal piece of recent history that is not often focused on in such detail.