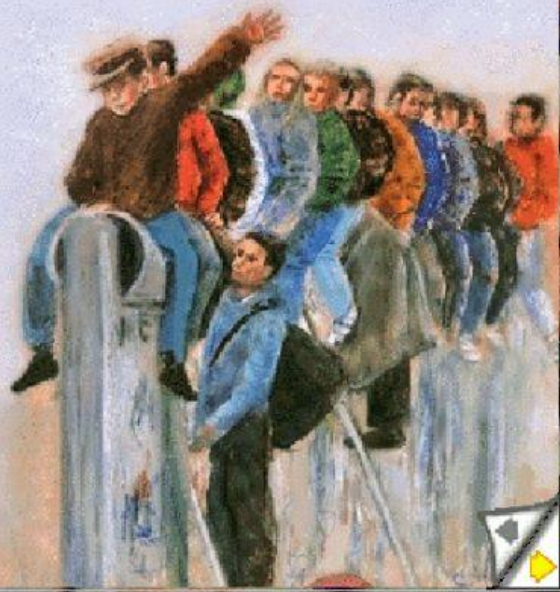


Berlin Wall, Germany

The Berlin Wall, constructed in 1961, became a physical part of an invisible **barrier** that had divided Eastern and Western Europe since 1945. At that time Winston Churchill, the leader of Great Britain, called this invisible barrier the "Iron Curtain" because he believed the Soviet Union wanted to divide countries and take them over. Joseph Stalin, the leader of the Soviet Union at that time, thought this invisible wall would protect his country from further **invasion**. Many people living in Europe grew **weary** of the walls that separated them from their neighbors. For years these people dreamed of the day when their voices of **protest** would lift the Iron Curtain and their hands would tear down the Berlin Wall. People throughout the world were amazed when the Berlin Wall finally did come down in 1989. Since then the borders of many Eastern European countries have opened, **reuniting** friends and families and neighbors.



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