Berlin Wall Notes…

The info:

* In 1945 Germany was left devastated and in need to rebuild
* The United States wants a democracy to rise from Adolf Hitler's dictatorship. To insure freedom, Allied military forces build a privately owned press free of government control in West Germany. People can read what they want and make up their own minds.
* The Soviet Union rebuilds its Berlin sector as a socialistic republic. The government controls all economic activity, including the media.
* In May 1945, the Soviets are the first Allies to enter Berlin. They immediately take over the city's only radio transmitter. The transmitter is in the British Sector, but the Soviets refuse to allow other Allies to use it.

Barriers rise:

* By early 1961, as many as 1,000 people a day flee East German communism for a better life in the capitalist west.
* On Aug. 13, 1961, the East German government throws up a 27-mile-long wall of barbed wire across the city, splitting East from West Berlin to "protect citizens from capitalism".
* Telephone lines and mail service between East and West Germany are cut. East Berliners can't even visit family members in the West.

Freedom:

* **Mikhail Gorbachev is the Soviet Union's agent of change. In 1988, he announces his policies of openness and reform, and encourages East Germany to follow suit.**
* **he East German press is largely silent about the political changes sweeping Eastern Europe in 1989.**
* **In September 1989, the border opens between Hungary and Austria. By the end of the month, 30,000 East Germans have fled to the West through this open door.**
* **For the first time in 35 years, citizens openly demonstrate against their government.On Oct. 9, 1989, East German radio announces the government willingness to discuss reform. But the radiocast is limited to Leipzig**
* **On Oct. 16, the ADN, the official communist news agency, reports more than 100,000 people marching in Leipzig.**
* **Communism is bankrupt.On the night of Nov. 9, 1989, East Germans give the order.After 28 years, the Berlin Wall falls.The gates are open. East Germans are free!**