



“The Berlin Wall and the Fall of Communism in Europe, 1989-2009: Myths and Realities”

Undergraduate Essay Contest

The essay contest is in conjunction with University of Pittsburgh events to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall. The contest is sponsored by the Center for Russian and East European Studies and the European Union Center of Excellence and European Studies Center.

Deadline for Submission: Friday, October 2, 2009

First Prize: \$300.00 Second Prize: \$200.00 Third Prize: \$100.00

Winners of the contest will be announced at the end of the Berlin Wall symposium on Thursday, November 5, 2009, 12-5 p.m. in 4130 Posvar Hall.

Please see contest rules on reverse.

Questions about the contest may be addressed to:

Gina Peirce, REES – gbpeirce@pitt.edu or Steve Lund, EUCE/ESC – slund@pitt.edu

The rules of the contest:

- 1) The essay must address the theme of “The Berlin Wall and the Fall of Communism in Europe, 1989-2009: Myths and Realities.”
- 2) The essay is to be a minimum of 3 pages to a maximum of 5 pages, double-spaced, single-sided. Must use 12 pt font with one-inch margins at the top, sides, and bottom.
- 3) **Four copies of the essays must be submitted no later than 4:30 p.m. on Friday, October 2, 2009.** Essays are to be placed in an envelope marked “Berlin Wall Essay Contest” at the reception desk for the University Center for International Studies, 4400 Wesley W. Posvar Hall, or envelopes may be addressed to Timothy Thompson, Associate Director, EUCE/ESC, 4200 Posvar Hall. No electronic submissions will be accepted.
- 4) A faculty committee will judge the essays. Judging will be based on the following:
 - a. Does the essay approach the contest theme with relevance and originality?
 - b. Does the essay reflect an understanding of the historical, political, economic, cultural, and/or other key implications of the fall of communism in Europe and its aftermath?
 - c. Are the central point(s) of the essay clearly stated and supported with relevant evidence?
 - d. Is the essay clearly written, well organized, and free of grammatical, spelling or other mechanical errors?

Recommended Information Resources for Students Preparing Essays for the Contest

“**Making the History of 1989**,” George Mason University Center for History and New Media
<http://chnm.gmu.edu/1989/> (The Introductory Essay is a good overview of the 1989 events.)

Articles by Timothy Garton Ash from 1989-1990:

“**Eastern Europe: The Year of Truth**,” www.nybooks.com/articles/3730

“**The Revolution of the Magic Lantern**,” www.nybooks.com/articles/3763

“**The German Revolution**,” www.nybooks.com/articles/3784

“**Revolution in Hungary and Poland**,” www.nybooks.com/articles/3920

“**After the Wall**,” Article by *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* editor David Schribman (2009):
www.post-gazette.com/pg/09144/972068-372.stm#ixzz0GR42XPJ1&B

“**Berlin Wall as a Piece of History: Too-Good Riddance?**” Article by Craig Whitlock, *Washington Post* (2009):
www.washingtonpost.com/wpdyn/content/article/2009/05/11/AR2009051103472.html

EurHistXX – a network of European historians working on “Nostalgia for Communism”

<http://www.eurhistxx.de/site/40208601/default.aspx>

German Historical Institute, Washington D.C. – A good resource for post-1989:

http://germanhistorydocs.ghi-dc.org/sub_docs.cfm?section_id=16

Open Society Archives (OSA) digitalized archival documents:

http://www.osaarchivum.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=821&Itemid=872 <=en