In the background, one can see the Brandenburg Gate, the famous Brandenburg Gate at the Berlin Wall. They are called by the West Germans here, but by the East Germans in the former GDR. The Wall was erected on August 13, 1961, as a response to the fears of a possible military invasion from the West. The Wall was 5.3 miles long and 12 ft high, with barbed wire on top.

On November 9, 1989, the Wall was opened, bringing East and West Germany together. The government of the GDR announced that the Wall would be opened, and people began to celebrate. The Wall was torn down over the next few years, and today, it is a symbol of the reunification of Germany.
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on the consumer goods that are available in the West. The theme prevalent in the media blitz surrounding the imagery of East German emigrants to the West, and it drove the more significant
German citizens home, lamenting the devastation of the Cold War. By Saturday, November 11, crowds in thousands, who remained home, demonstrating in the streets of Leipzig, Dresden, and a dozen other cities for weeks before the storming of the Berlin Wall. "We are the Berlin Wall," they chanted, "We are the people! We're staying here!"

November 4 in East Berlin: not a single demonstration. We may never know the details of what happened, but we know it was bloody, not a window broken.

Interpreting the Reading

Directions: Use information from the reading to answer the following questions on a separate sheet of paper.

1. How did the people of East and West Berlin react to the wall coming down?
2. Why did Gorbachev end the Cold War?
3. Making Comparisons: How was the fall of the Berlin Wall similar to the fall of the Bastille? How were the events different?
4. Recognising Ideologies: An East Berliner said, "It's our Wall. It belongs to us." Explain his statement. Does the wall belong only to East Berliners? Who else might lay claim to it?