PRESS RELEASE

DDR Museum publishes special edition of »Die heile Welt der Diktatur« for an international audience on the Day of German Unity

A special edition of the standard work »Die heile Welt der Diktatur« is being published by the DDR Museum on the Day of German Unity. Since its first publication in 1998, the book by historian Dr. Stefan Wolle has been one of the most widely read works on the everyday history of the GDR. The new English-language special edition now also gives an international audience impressive access to the reality of life in the GDR.

Dr. Wolle succeeds in addressing the apparent contradiction between everyday life in a seemingly caring society and the mechanisms of dictatorial rule. With wit, irony and narrative power, he describes how security and lack of freedom went hand in hand in the GDR. It is a balancing act between adaptation and control.

For this new edition, the renowned historian Dr. Ilko-Sascha Kowalczuk has been enlisted as the author of the epilogue. His perspective complements the work with a profound reflection on the significance of the dictatorship experience in international historical discourse.

With this edition, the DDR Museum once again underlines its claim to convey history in a lively and understandable way. Now this is also possible across language barriers.

Dr. Stefan Wolle
The Ideal World of Dictatorship
Daily Life and Party Rule in the GDR 1971–1989
DDR Museum Verlag
Translation: 2003 / 2019 by David Burnett
Photos: Harald Schmitt / Bundesstiftung Aufarbeitung (Foundation)
book/non-fiction book 13,5 × 21 cm | 464 pages | softcover
€20.00
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Dr. Stefan Wolle, born in 1950 in Halle (Saale), studied history at Humboldt University. From 1976 to 1989, he worked at the Academy of Sciences of the GDR. In 1989/90, he campaigned for the dissolution of the Stasi. He subsequently worked at Humboldt University and the Free University of Berlin. From 2006 to 2025, he was the academic director of the DDR Museum. He has published numerous books on GDR history.

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