

## German Democratic Republic

Rice

Following the surrender of Nazis Germany in 1945, the area which would eventually be called the German Democratic Republic (GDR) was ceded to the Soviet Union. In 1946, the Socialist Unity Party (SED) was established as the sole party of the country. The SED would serve as the sole party of the GDR until its unification with the FRG in 1990. Prior to this merger, the SED changed its name to the SED-PDS during the December 15, 1989 through February 4, 1990 time period, however, the party was still the same single party which had governed the GDR for the last fifty years (Cahoon 2010, US Department of State 2010).

We consider GDR a newly independent state that seceded from Germany, and thus we do not code a SOLS change for the first new leader (Dumberry, 2007: 149).

During the 1954 to 1990 time period, no SOLS changes occurred since the GDR was a single party state. Accordingly, we code neither major nor minor SOLS change during the GDR's existence as a political unit.

## References

Cahoon, Ben. "Germany." <http://worldstatesmen.org/Germany.html> (June 13, 2010).

Dumberry, Patrick. 2007. *State Succession to International Responsibility*. Leiden, Netherlands: Kluwer Online.  
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