



## »»»» Our Mandate

The Stiftung zur Aufarbeitung der SED-Diktatur contributes, in cooperation with other institutions, to a complete reappraisal of the causes, history and impact of dictatorship in the SBZ (soviet zone of occupation) and the GDR. It aims to testify to the injustice of the SED-regime and its victims, to further the anti-totalitarian consensus within our society as well as to strengthen democracy and German Unity.

The foundation was established to serve the following aims:

- to promote and support projects focussing on investigations of GDR society; private archives and victim's organizations; scientific research and political education;
- to contribute to the maintenance, collection and documentation of materials concerning opposition to the SED-dictatorship;
- to provide psychological and legal assistance for victims of political persecution;
- to advance international cooperation on the reappraisal of dictatorships;
- to contribute with its own publications and events to public debate;
- to award prizes and scholarships.

## »»»» Contact

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Foundation directly accountable  
to the Federal Government

# Stiftung zur Aufarbeitung der SED-Diktatur

Government-funded organisation  
devoted to the examination and reappraisal  
of the Communist dictatorship  
in East Germany

STIFTUNG  
AUFARBEITUNG 



## »»»» About Us

Between 1992 and 1998 two Enquete commissions of the German Bundestag (parliament) investigated the history of the SED-dictatorship and its effects on German Unity. On the recommendation of the second commission of inquiry the German Bundestag enacted a law on the establishment of the Stiftung zur Aufarbeitung der SED-Diktatur on 5th June 1998, to initiate discussion about the second German dictatorship. The Foundation started its work in autumn 1998.

The foundation stands for an active and pluralistic discussion of the SED-dictatorship and its effects on the reunited Germany. It functions as a mediator and intermediary between research, politics, the media, and the public in relation to a reappraisal of the SED-dictatorship. The Foundation's library and archive provide documentary material to aid researchers.

## »»»» The Foundation

The **Stiftungsrat** (Board of Trustees), elected for a five-year term, is the head of the Foundation. It consists of MPs of the German Bundestag, members of the German and Berlin government, as well as persons committed to the challenges and questions involved in an investigation of the SED-dictatorship. The Chairman of the Stiftungsrat is **MP MARKUS MECKEL**. The Board of Trustees decides all fundamental questions concerning the Foundation's activities and functions.

The **Stiftungsvorstand** (Board of Directors), working on a honorary basis, guides the tasks of the Foundation. It consists of five members: **RAINER EPELMANN** (president), **PROF. DR. BERND FAULENBACH** (vice-president), **DORIS LIEBERMANN**, **GERD POPPE** and **DR. HERMANN RUDOLPH**. The Stiftungsvorstand is supported by three Advisory Teams.

The **Office of the Foundation** works on behalf of the Foundation's Board of Directors. It is responsible for all questions concerning the business of the Foundation, including the funding of projects and the provision of scholarships, as well as the organization of conferences and other events. It serves as a mediator between different organizations committed to the investigation and reappraisal of the SED-dictatorship and provides information about professional development.

## »»»» Guidelines for Grantseekers

The Foundation accepts requests for scholarships or project-funding from institutions, organizations and initiatives which contribute to an historical investigation of the SED-dictatorship. Its approval depends on the financial possibilities of the Foundation and whether the Foundation's interests and charter permit consideration of the request. A legal claim for funding does not exist. For further information and information about forms, instructions and deadlines for funding requests, applications for grants and current programs, please contact the Foundation's office.