COLD WAR CARD 6

PRESIDENT REAGAN AND THE COLD WAR

Remarks on East-West Relations at the Brandenburg Gate in West Berlin | June 12, 1987

Background:

In June, 1987, in the middle of his arms negotiations with General Secretary Gorbachev, President Reagan visited Berlin, the city at the center of the East-West divide at the time. The wall which was erected by the communist government of East Berlin in the post

World War II period not only symbolized but clearly and tangibly revealed the differences between Eastern and Western Europe.

These differences were highlighted in President Reagan's speech.

Quotes:

Please see a complete copy of the "Brandenburg Gate Speech" in the attached supplemental materials.

Questions:

- When was the city of Berlin divided?
- In what country is Berlin located?
- Write a list of the words President Reagan uses to describe the West. Write another list of the words President Reagan uses to describe the East. Compare the two lists.
- Who is the audience for this speech? Which groups of people is President Reagan addressing? How do you know this?
- Write down your favorite two sentences from this speech. Why did you pick these two sentences?

Research:

- What was the Marshall Plan? Did the Eastern European governments take advantage of the Marshall Plan? Why or why not?
- Is Berlin still divided today? Explain.
- Why do you think this speech remains famous today as a turning point in the Cold War?

Activities:

Imagine it is June 13, 1987 and you have just heard President Reagan deliver his "Remarks at the Brandenburg Gate." Take on the role of one of the following people:

- an East German
- a United States citizen
- a West German
- a citizen of the Soviet Union

Write a diary entry describing the speech and your reactions to it from the point of view of the character you chose.

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