

# The history of the Free German Youth (FDJ)

## Document of Free German Youth



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The FDJ was founded 1936 in Paris, 1938 in Prague and 1939 in Great Britain. It was founded by youths who had to flee from the Hitler-fascism and had to go into exile.

These young people were from different youth organisations: communist, socialist, socialdemocratic and christian. They agreed in one aim: The struggle against the Hitler-fascism in Germany, the fight for a antifascist democratic Germany, the fight against the war. They had realized that one reason for the fascism coming to power also had been their own fragmentation, their quarelling among themselves. That's why they joined: in the FDJ. Their banner became the rising sun, their clothes the workers' blue shirt, their greeting "friendship".

After the liberation 1945 groups of the FDJ were founded in Germany giving new orientation for german youths. The conditions for this purpose varied in the different occupation zones and so the FDJ evolved differently when two German states had been founded.

### In the GDR

The FDJ energetically contributed to the build-up of a antifascist, democratic state and became a mass organisation, in which the large majority of youths were organised and characterized by. When the first socialist state on german ground should be built up the young members of the FDJ were foremost involved. That was not a lip service, instead they took over responsibility and dourly worked day by day. From the People's Parliament to schools, everywhere the FDJ was present. The FDJ is jointly responsible for achieving successes, but also for the mistakes, having been made.

The excellent international solidarity the small country GDR stood out due to from the beginning was enforced by the FDJ especially through International Friendship Brigades. They built up a hospital in Nica-

ragua. They worked in Cuba and Algeria. They qualified workers in Mozambique, Angola and many other states, to list just few examples. They helped young nations to get independent from their former colonial, imperialistic powers.

Since 1948 the FDJ is a member of the WFDY. And twice the FDJ invited the youth of the world to the world festival of youth and students in Berlin, 1951 and 1973.

### In the Federal Republic of Germany

The FDJ fought against the rearmament and German armed forces implementation. Because of this fight the government of the FRG banned the FDJ on 6/26/1951. Many youths had to go to prison because of their fight for peace. Nevertheless the young members strove for their organisation even if they were assaulted by police. In 1952, during a peace demonstration the FDJ member Philipp Müller was shot by the police. Till today the ban on the FDJ is still in force.

### The FDJ after the annexation of the GDR

When the GDR was annexed its organisations were smashed almost completely. The FDJ didn't became disorganized but its membership figure went down rapidly within two years. Since that time the membership figure of the FDJ are minor but steady. In 1994 young friends from West Germany joined our organisation and founded groups in some West German cities.

The government didn't oppose the FDJ by means of a ban but by the institution "Treuhand". Already during world war II this authority acted as usurping other people's property all over the world. Nowadays the people's property of the GDR is plundered by this institution controlled by the government in order to hand this property to the capitalists in the FRG. In this way

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the factories were smashed, too. Also the organisations of the GDR were expropriated by the “Treuhand”. The FDJ should bear the costs only resulting from the change of system whereas before the FDJ had been expropriated. By this economic way the disorganisation should be achieved.

### We put up a fight against that!

Since some years we have to face trials. The German annexation-state says that it is forbidden to show our symbol (the rising up sun) because the FDJ was forbidden in the FRG in 1951. This is their means against us to perform as an organisation in public. To lead off the fight against those attacks is our duty: The ruling class has annexed the GDR – the FDJ was not forbidden in 1990 but officially admitted as a former organisation of the GDR. They can not ban us!

Our most important endeavour do we see in the association of the revolutionary youth. That endeavour was the assignment when the FDJ was founded and that it is till today.

Already twice the German imperialism was successful in contaminating the German youth with nationalistic and racist baiting and could get them into a world war for its purposes. Also today the efforts of the German imperialism are the same. And only a splitted, unorganized, unaware youth can be got caught in its clutches. Since the annexation of the GDR racism and nationalism increases, German soldiers are all over the world for the interests of the German capital, the state is converted from a bourgeois democracy into a fascist dictatorship, a world war is prepared, once again showing which one of the imperialistic bandits will be the superior one.

### We fight against that.

### We fight against the German imperialism.

Because:

Depression, war and barbarism

Are not our future!



1937 Paris: Journal of the FDJ in exile.



1951 Essen, Germany West: manifestation against remilitarization and in honor for our comrade Philipp Müller, who was murdered by West German police



1950 Berlin, East Germany: meeting from the FDJ. For unity, peace, national independence and a better life.



FDJ brigades of friendship in Angola in the 70s



Berlin, 1999: Manifestation against the war on Yugoslavia on the former border between FRG and annexed GDR. The FDJ put into question: “Was this frontier eliminated to be at war with other countries?”



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