

# The History of the Free German Youth

Dokument of Freie Deutsche Jugend



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 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, that have been made.

The excellent international solidarity, the small country GDR's hall mark from the beginning was enforced by the FDJ especially through International Friendship Brigades. They built up a hospital in Nicuaragua. 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 re armament and German armed forces implementation. Because of this fight the government of the FRG banned the FDJ on 6/26/1951. Many members 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 become disorganized, but its membership figure went down rapidly within two years. Since that time the membership figure of the FDJ is minor but steady. In 1994 young friends from West Germany joined our organisation and founded groups in some West German cities.



## The history of the Free German Youth

The government didn't oppose the FDJ by means of a ban but by the institution "Treuhand" (The FRG's privatisation agency). Already during World War II this authority acted usurpingly 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 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!

Our most important endeavour 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 German imperialism are the same. And only a split, unorganized, unaware youth can get 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 German imperialism.**

**Because: crisis, war and barbarism are not our future!**

### Statement of the FDJ to the 17th WFYS, December 2010 in Pretoria South Africa

The FDJ participate in the 17th WFYS in South Africa to warn the youth of the world about the danger of war that comes from German imperialism after the annexation of the GDR. It warns about the increasing danger of another world war due to the general crises of the capitalist system intensified by the current world economic crisis and its disastrous effects on the peoples, particularly on the peoples in the so-called third world, and the shifting of the burden of this crisis towards the respective countries by the imperialists. Predominantly, we denounce German imperialism here, and particularly, its barbarous role during apartheid.

We wish to learn more about the situation in the various countries and the struggles of the progressive youth. We are strongly interested in the heroic struggle for liberation of the South African people and the development towards the present. We would like to use this knowledge to challenge the nationalist warmongering of German imperialism and to follow up international solidarity with deeds.

We attach great importance to the meeting of the progressive youth of the world, particularly in this time, when the capitalist system proves to be unable to rule the world, in this time when the imperialists – in front of it German imperialism – arm themselves for the battle of the nations, in this time when fall into Barbarism or socialism stand to reason.

A world of peace, solidarity, and social transformation is within grasp, the immediate defeat of imperialism is urgent!



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