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HISTORY: PAPER I

SOURCE MATERIAL FOR SECTION B AND SECTION C

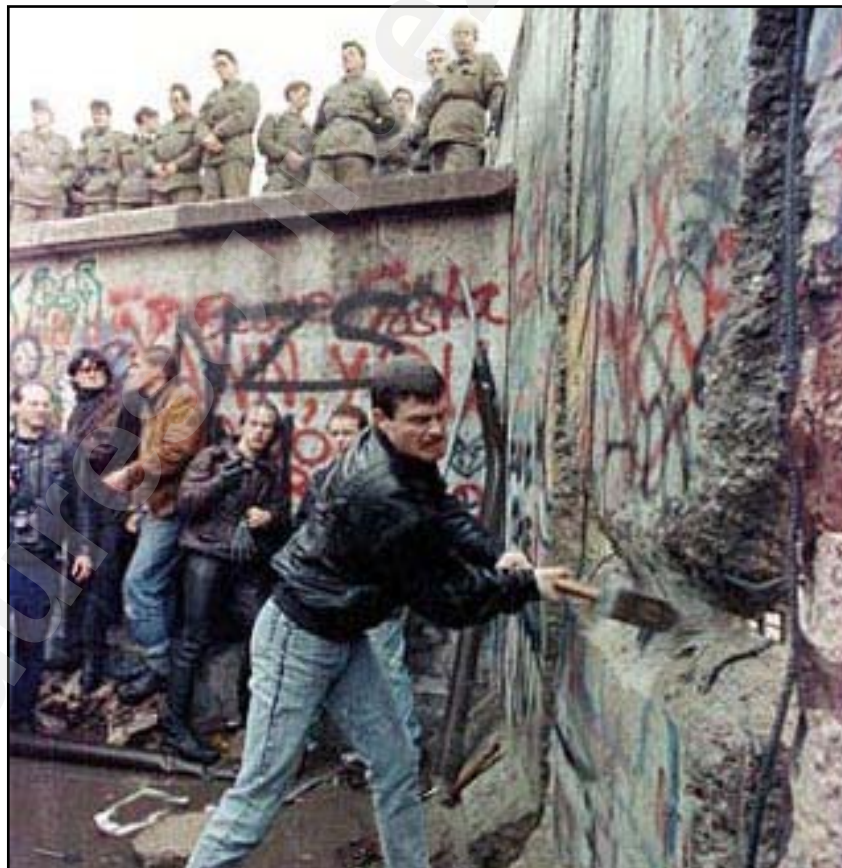
SOURCE A **An Englishman, Nicholas Wilmott, was living in West Berlin and witnessed the fall of the Berlin Wall in November 1989**

For most Berliners the idea of the Wall's fall was a dream for the future. For the younger Berliners the Wall was something they had grown up with. It had been there all our lives. Its menace, like that of a nuclear holocaust, was part of our lives. It didn't dominate my life but its grey asbestos foundations coloured my views, polarised my opinions and inhibited my freedom.

When the wall was opened the change was tremendous. The normally Spartan border and its corridor, once a lonely place of uniforms, gates and fences, were overflowing with jubilant East Germans. Wave after wave of creaking Trabant cars, themselves a symbol of East Germany's failure, crossed into the West. The city was transformed into one massive party. All barriers down, all prejudices and fear for the moment forgotten. Crowds of East Berliners bursting across the border bringing the underground railway system to a standstill. There were fireworks and music, raw energy and emotion surpassing anything I'd seen.

[From private letters written by Nicholas Wilmott, November 1989
in Phillips S, *The Cold War*, Heinemann, 2001]

SOURCE B **A demonstrator from West Berlin hammers away at the Berlin Wall in November 1989**



[Credit: Reuters International Press, photographer unknown]

SOURCE C An historian's view of the impact that the fall of the Berlin Wall had on the United States of America

Pictures of the Wall coming down were carried live on satellite television and seen around the world. Everywhere people were moved, often to tears, by the emotional scenes unfolding in Berlin. Except, perhaps, in the White House. Reporters and television camera crews were permitted into the Oval Office to record the president's reaction. President Bush sat at his desk, nervously twisting a pen in his hand, and rambled evasively. He said he was 'very pleased'. Asked why he did not seem more elated, Bush replied: 'I am not an emotional kind of guy.' He did not want, he said, 'to dance on the wall'. He feared that he might provoke resistance to Gorbachev in Moscow.

Americans were disappointed by their leader's lack of enthusiasm. Every president since Kennedy had called for the dismantling of the Berlin Wall. Polls showed that 90% of the public thought it 'exciting and encouraging'.

[From Isaacs J & Downing T, *The Cold War*, Bantam Press, 1998]

SOURCE D A German historian's view of the impact that the fall of the Berlin Wall had on Germany

Many East Germans had been raised in a system that planned their lives from cradle to grave and kept them walled up. They had little preparation for the rough, competitive world of capitalism, and few defences against the allure of glittering Western consumer goods. Their factories were no match for modern West German industries, and their East German marks weren't worth a lot. Most of them spent their fifty-five dollars' worth of West German 'welcome money' almost immediately.

Many years later, when West Germany was suffering from the enormous cost of reunification, many Germans wondered whether it had been the right thing to do, or whether it could have been done differently. But at the time, the hard fact was that West Germany had no choice but to absorb East Germany, and to absorb it quickly. With no wall in the way, the East Germans once again began migrating west at an alarming rate – 60 000 a month.

[From Schmemmann, *When the Wall Came Down*, Kingfisher, 2006]

SOURCE E A South African historian's view of the impact that the fall of the Berlin Wall had on South Africa

The dismantling of the Berlin Wall, which began on 9 November 1989, dramatically heralded the end of the Soviet Union's sway over Eastern Europe ... Communism as a political and economic system was rapidly beginning to disintegrate. These developments presented De Klerk with what he termed a 'God-sent opportunity'. The National Party could tell its constituency that without Soviet backing the ANC, with its ally the SA Communist Party, no longer constituted a major threat to stability and private ownership. He could also argue that communism was so discredited that the ANC would be compelled to accept the free market, property rights and other investment-friendly policies.

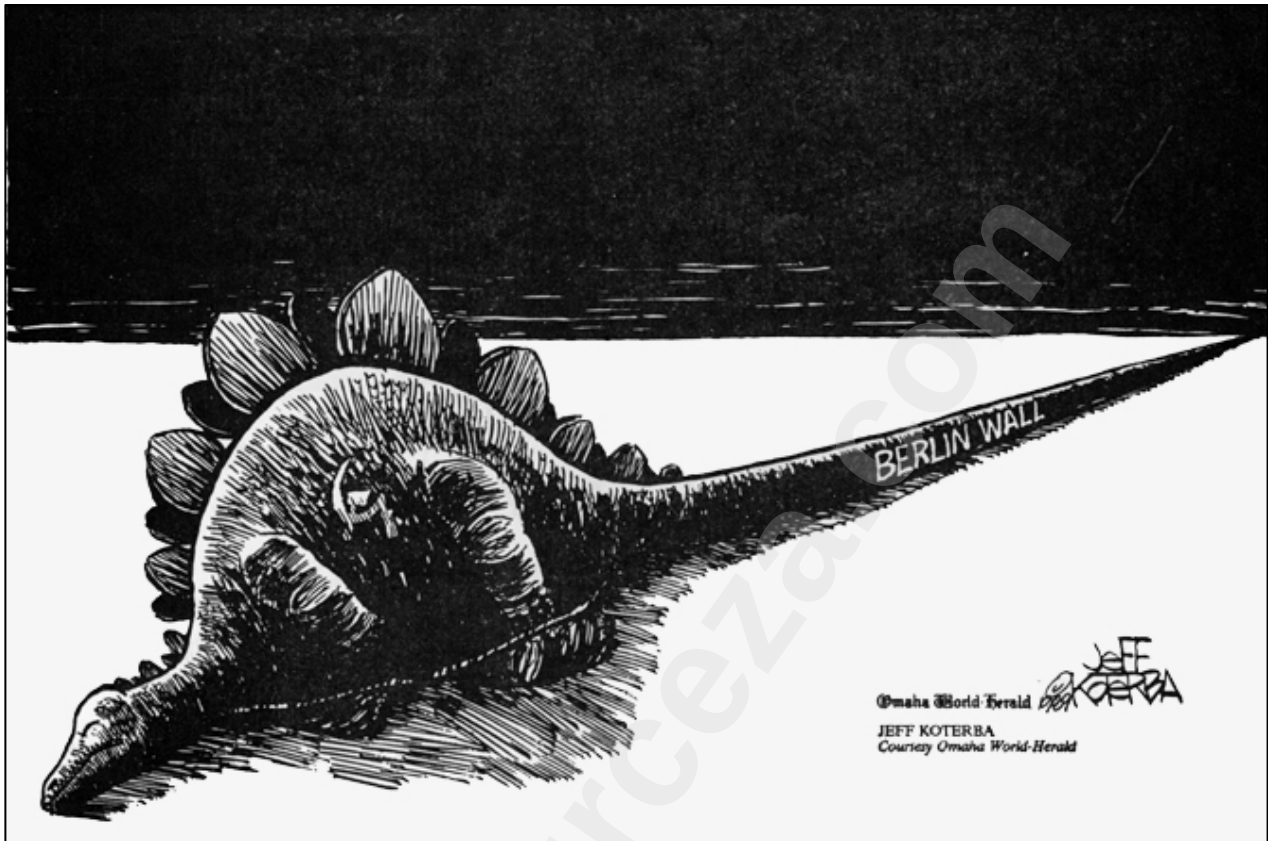
For the National Party government the fall of the Wall was a double-edged sword. Anti-communism had long been the main reason why Western governments accepted and even bolstered white rule in South Africa. But the disappearance of the communist threat and the ANC's retreat from nationalisation had made the South African government's anti-communism old-fashioned, and deprived it of its strongest argument for Western pressure to force the ANC to accept power-sharing.

In December 1989, he persuaded his cabinet to accept the need to unban the ANC, the Pan-Africanist Congress and other liberation movements, and to begin all-party negotiations for a new constitution without preconditions. On 2 February 1990 he announced this decision to a startled Parliament. Without the fall of the Wall, it is difficult to conceive of the ANC coming to power five years later.

[From Giliomee, H & Mbenga, B. *New History of South Africa*, Tafelberg, 2007]

SOURCE F

A political cartoon which appeared in the *Omaha World Herald* – an American newspaper – in November 1989



[From: <www.presidentialtimeline.org>]

SOURCE G

At the beginning of 1989 the Iron Curtain still divided Europe, as it had done for more than forty years. By the end of the year, the leaders of every eastern European nation except Bulgaria, which soon followed suit, had been ousted by popular uprisings; in every case the will of the people had prevailed and, except in Romania, hardly a drop of blood was spilt. With dizzying speed, the Soviet Union's European empire, the buffer zone ruthlessly built up by Stalin and maintained with brutal force when necessary by his successors, had imploded. Truly 1989 was an annus mirabilis (miracle year).

[From: Isaacs J & Downing T, *The Cold War*, Bantam Press, 1998]