

## Address given by John F. Kennedy: 'Ich bin ein Berliner' (Berlin, 26 June 1963)

**Source:** President John F. Kennedy at City Hall, West Berlin / John F. Kennedy.- Berlin: Voice of America (VOA), United States Information Agency (USIA) [Prod.], 26 juin 1963. National Archives Record and Administration (NARA), College Park. - SON (00:03:33, Montage, Son original). National Archives and Record Administration, College Park, 8601 Adelphi Road. COAL. NWDNM(s)-306-ENL-T-3906.

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[John F. Kennedy] Thank you. There are many people in the world who really don't understand, or say they don't, what is the great issue between the free world and the Communist world. Let them come to Berlin. There are some who say that communism is the wave of the future. Let them come to Berlin. And there are even a few who say that it is true that communism is an evil system, but it permits us to make economic progress. Lass' sie nach Berlin kommen. Let them come to Berlin.

Freedom has many difficulties and democracy is not perfect, but we have never had to put a wall up to keep our people in, to prevent them from leaving us.

While the wall is the most obvious and vivid demonstration of the failures of the Communist system, for all the world to see, we take no satisfaction in it, for it is, as your Mayor has said, an offence not only against history but an offence against humanity, separating families, dividing husbands and wives and brothers and sisters, and dividing a people who wish to be joined together.

Freedom is indivisible, and when one man is enslaved, all are not free

All free men, wherever they may live, are citizens of Berlin, and, therefore, as a free man, I take pride in the words "Ich bin ein Berliner."