

***Goodbye Lenin!:* Vocabulary / Key terms**

die DDR (Deutsche Demokratische Republik)

GDR, the official name for the former East Germany.

die BRD (Bundesrepublik Deutschland)

FRG, the Federal Republic of Germany, the name for the former West Germany and the new united Germany.

die Wende

Turnaround, change. The term is widely used to refer to changes East Germany was undergoing during 1989-1990, when the film is set.

die (Wieder-)Vereinigung

(Re-) unification. Used to refer to the joining together of East and West Germany, which was officially achieved in November 1990.

die Einheit

Unity (of East and West in the newly unified Germany)

Ossis, Wessis

Easterners, Westerners. The terms were coined during the Wende and have been used to refer to people from East Germany (Ossis) and people from West Germany (Wessis).

die Aktuelle Kamera

The Topical Camera. Title of the daily East German TV news broadcast which was state-run and state-controlled.

der Trabant

One of two car makes produced in East Germany. It cost more than ten times the average monthly salary and had a waiting list of over ten years. It has since acquired a bit of a cult following. U2 used a Trabant on its *Achtung Baby* cover.

Sigmund Jähn

East German astronaut (Kosmonaut) and first German to fly into space in 1978, as member of the Russian Sojus 31 crew. In the mind of the boy Alex, he becomes a father substitute.

Erich Honecker

Head of the socialist East German government 1976-1989.

Lenin

Russian socialist revolutionary and politician. Headed the first Russian government after the 1917 October Revolution. The film shows his statue being carried away.

Karl Marx

German political thinker, philosopher and writer. Wrote *Das Kapital* in 1867 and many of his theories are still influential in today's political debates. The Kerners' flat is on Karl Marx Allee.

Ostalgie

A term that plays with the German words for East, Ost and nostalgia, Nostalgie. Describes the feeling of nostalgia for aspects of GDR life, everyday culture and products experienced by many East Germans. Manifests itself in the popularity of GDR memorabilia products.

Prosthetic memory

A term coined by Film scholar Lutz Koepnick, meaning that people nowadays often get their ideas about important moments in history from fictional films and TV programmes, not from factual books or eyewitnesses' accounts. Alerts us to the fact that all feature films or fictional TV programmes about history are only one of many possible representations or recreations of the past.

Dramaturgie

Dramaturgy. A term originally referring to the composition of plays, now also used in German to refer to the narrative structure of films.