The paper describes the social and ideological movements through the period of time leading up to the fall of the Berlin wall and immediately afterwards. The social movement is highlighted in the 2003 release of the German film “Good Bye Lenin”. The main character Alex starts seeing the changes around him after the fall of the wall as the old GDR is quite literally ‘overrun’ by the West and its consumer goods industry.

The ideological movement comes alive in the 2006 film release of “The Life of Others”. The focus here is on the STASI and the main character Wiesler who makes the painful discovery that not everyone is doing what is in the best interest of the socialist ideology. Greed and distrust prevail in a system whose ideology dominates his professional life. Wiesler’s catharsis echoes the impending change of the GDR on a small scale but historically the film provides an insight into the slow mechanizations of change.

These two films establish a common ground for a change in a social economy and ideology. The fall of the wall became a necessary consequence of the decline of the system that no longer functioned, both socially and politically.