

Preface

The photograph on the cover went around the world: hundreds of people dancing the night on the 9th of November 1989 on that wall, which since its construction on August 13th, 1961, had been the symbol of the Cold War and the division of Germany and the world into East and West. The opening of the Berlin Wall at 9th November 1989 was the result, and also the cause of profound changes in Germany and Europe as well as in the international system characterized since the end of the World War II by the East-West conflict. The fall of the Berlin Wall opened the way for the reunification of Germany, which had been divided since 1949 into two states. With the end of Germany's division, a transformation process started in the east and southeast European countries which culminated in the dissolution of the former Soviet Union.

Because of its geopolitical importance, we dedicate this edition of our journal "Panorama – Insights into Southeast Asian and European Affairs" to the 20th Anniversary of the opening and the fall of the Berlin Wall. In the first part, authors from Germany will analyze the consequences of this event for Germany, Europe and the international system. In a second part, authors from different countries and regions, will describe and evaluate the perception and consequences of the fall of the Berlin Wall from an "outsider's point of view". Those who celebrated the victory of a peaceful revolution against a dictatorial regime and danced on 9th of November 1989 at the top of the wall can be sure that they have been the protagonists of one of the unique moments that changed history.



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