

The Berlin Wall was erected in the night of August 13, 1961. It was a weekend and most Berliners slept while the East German government began to close the border.

Gift of History: The Berlin Wall

It was snowing. The snow came down in white sheets that went yellow in the street lights. At the end of the boulevard there was a monument to the wall. It was a great block of plain cement. On one side the back end of a big American car from the 1950s stood out in the circle of the street lights. There was a similar tail end coming out on the other side. The cars were covered with snow.

Check out more great articles on gift giving on our [Gift Blog](#)

- [Gifts](#)
- [Baby](#)
- [Chocolate](#)
- [Corporate](#)
- [Kids](#)
- [Sympathy](#)
- [Thank You](#)
- [Women](#)
- [Parenting](#)
- [Relationships](#)

We walked down the boulevard. At one end there was the ruined church and the new church stood next to it. They left it, she said, from the war. She didn't say, which war, because it was clear and everywhere you went the war was there even if no one spoke about it.

At the train depot you looked at the names of the stations and that was the war as well but no one spoke about it and it was as if you were in a crowded elevator but no one said anything.

Every day the news was about the wall. There were crowds at the wall and people coming and going, but no one knew what was happening.

I waited with her and she became impatient. We went for a drive. There is no speed limit on the freeways and she drove very fast. She drove fast but other cars went by us in a humming-blur. You heard the hum, like a massive, bloated wasp, angry and determined was coming at you, and then there was the elongated blur of a car going by you.

We are Germans, she said, smiling with wry humor, we don't know what to do, so we try to do everything



The history of the Berlin Wall originates from the end of World War II when Germany was split into four quarters to be overseen by the four world powers: the U.S., France, Great Britain, and the Soviet Union. Additionally divided into four was the city of Berlin--the formal capital of the Third Reich.

[AA Gifts and Baskets](#) provides gift bargains in all our articles and newsletters featured in topic categories:

New Gift Ideas

- [Wedding Gift Baskets](#)
- [Thank You Gift Baskets](#)
- [Sympathy Gift Baskets](#)
- [Housewarming Gifts](#)
- [Get Well Gifts](#)
- [Congratulatory Gifts](#)
- [Birthday Gift Baskets](#)
- [Baby Gift Baskets](#)
- [Anniversary Gift Baskets](#)
- [Kids Gift Ideas](#)
- [Gifts for Women](#)
- [Gifts for Men](#)
- [Candy Bouquets](#)
- [Chocolate Gifts](#)
- [Cheesecakes](#)
- [Gourmet Gifts](#)
- [Corporate Gift Baskets](#)
- [Coffee & Tea Baskets](#)
- [Spa Gift Baskets](#)
- [Golf Gift Baskets](#)
- [Popcorn Gift Tins](#)
- [Fruit & Nut Gifts](#)

perfectly.

We walked in the woods. It was bitterly cold. The ground was frozen. We walked down to a lake and the water was very still and sharply blue. We went to a restaurant that looked over the lake. We drank hot chocolate and spoke about nothing in particular. The waiters were gathering around the television behind the bar.

Thank You Gift Sampler



Our handsome sampler is brimming with flavor and value to express your gratitude. This basket delivers plenty to sample inside, including French Herb Cheese Dip, Harvest Crackers, Godiva Signature Cookies, Bavarian Dill Pretzels, Spanish Olives, Cheese Lover's Pub Mix, Cappuccino Wafer Rolls, Belgian Chocolate Petites, Dutch Gouda Cheese Biscuits, Smoked Salmon, Savory Beef Salami, Swiss Cheese, Savory Smoked Almonds, a Mixed Fruit Candy Tin, Toasted Praline Coffee, and assorted Ashby Teas.

Price: \$ 65.00

[Buy Now](#)

The next day she was up early, watching the news. She turned from station to station. Then she said, she couldn't wait any longer and that we should go see it for ourselves.

There were people everywhere and barricades and television crews. On top of the wall, a lone East German guard stood, forlornly, looking at everyone. He was wearing a forest green winter jumpsuit. In his hands he held an automatic rifle. He looked confused.

We walked down the length of the wall. She translated the graffiti. Far down the wall, away from the crowd, we passed two young boys. They had a small pick and they were taking turns hitting the wall. She spoke to them. They laughed and the one with the pick handed it to her and she thanked them.

She hit the wall and the metal echoed in the crisp winter air. She hammered out two pieces of the wall. She smiled and handed the pick back to the boys.

Here, she said, this is for you.

She handed me a piece of the wall.

A gift, she said, from history, to you.

