



Town twinning between France and the GDR (1959-1989)



Another research gap that the study attempted to fill was a comprehensive analysis of the role, influence and intentions of the states, the parties and civil society in France and in the GDR. The analysis of these actors made it possible to trace the political significance of partnerships and decision-making processes in the GDR and in France. A specific interest was placed on the past of French and East German mayors, who had experienced similar moments of resistance, deportation and persecution during the Second World War, because of their communist convictions. For the first time, this study examined the role and influence of the Ministry of State Security on town twinning projects. Although there are analyses of twinning arrangements between France and East German cities over the period of the 1990s, there has not yet been a study of changes and continuities during the period of German unification. Therefore, we analyzed how the collapse of the GDR and German unification affected the communal partnerships, their actors, and their goals.