

1. Title: "Critical Literary Reactions Towards German Reunification"
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6. Abstract of paper

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In the German Democratic Republic, the flowering of talent and the awakening of a public conscience on the part of writers might have been as remarkable as it was in the Federal Republic of Germany had it not been for the political conditions under which creative artists had to work. The state-imposed censorship had the general result of discouraging the kind of social and political criticism that marked the literary production of West Germany, while at the same time imposing upon the literature of the GDR a new form of narrow provincialism.

In my presentation I shall discuss authors Friedrich Christian Delius, Daniela Dahn, Freya Klier, and Thomas Brussig, all of whom belong to a younger generation of East Germans. I shall conclude with mentioning two better known GDR authors, Monika Maron and Christa Wolf.

In the writings of the authors under my consideration, the complex socio-political and literary contemporary problems of united Germany are reflected. The differentiated and often critical reactions towards reunification illustrate the psychological deformation process in a totalitarian state, as well as the search for identity and a role in a new societal structure.