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Film Response: ISMS

The video gives us an overview of the historical context that led to the construction of the Berlin Wall in 1961. After World War II, Germany was divided into two separate countries, with the eastern part becoming the German Democratic Republic (GDR) and the western part becoming the Federal Republic of Germany (FRG). The GDR was under the control of the Soviet Union, while the FRG was a democracy aligned with the United States and other Western powers.

It is very interesting how tensions between the two sides began to mount during the early years of the Cold War, with the Soviet Union tightening its grip on the GDR and the West becoming increasingly concerned about Soviet expansionism.

In August 1961, the East German government began construction of a wall separating East and West Berlin. The wall was initially made of barbed wire and concrete blocks, but over time it was reinforced with guard towers, electrified fences, and other security measures. The wall effectively cut off East Berlin from the rest of the city and served as a physical symbol of the division between East and West.

The video goes on to describe the impact that the wall had on the lives of people on both sides of the divide. Families and communities were separated, and many people lost their jobs and homes as a result of the wall's construction. However, the wall also inspired acts of defiance and resistance, with people attempting to cross the wall in a variety of ways, including tunnels, balloons, and even homemade hot air balloons.

Finally, we were told about the events that led to the fall of the wall in November 1989. By this time, the Soviet Union was in the process of reforming under the leadership of Mikhail Gorbachev, and there was a growing sense of political change in Eastern Europe. In the face of widespread protests and public demonstrations, the East German government announced that it would open the border crossings between East and West Berlin. Thousands of people flocked to the wall, and over the course of several days, it was dismantled piece by piece.