

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910809618903321
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Titolo	The crisis of the German left : the PDS, Stalinism and the global economy / / Peter Thompson
Pubbl/distr/stampa	New York ; ; Oxford, [England] : , : Berghahn Books, , 2005 ©2005
ISBN	1-84545-160-0 1-57181-543-0 1-78533-053-5
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (144 pages)
Collana	Monographs in German History ; ; Volume 13
Disciplina	324.243/027
Soggetti	Communism - Germany (East) - History Globalization Germany Politics and government 1990- Germany Economic conditions 1990- Germany Social conditions 1990-
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Frontmatter -- CONTENTS -- PREFACE AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS -- LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS -- INTRODUCTION -- Chapter 1 ON THE USES AND DISADVANTAGES OF HISTORY FOR THE PDS -- Chapter 2 THE LONG COLD WAR AND THE SHORT POLITICAL CENTURY -- Chapter 3 THE PDS: MARX'S BABY OR STALIN'S BATHWATER? -- CONCLUSIONS -- BIBLIOGRAPHY -- INDEX
Sommario/riassunto	Using Nietzsche's categories of monumental, antiquarian and critical history, the author examines the historical and theoretical contexts of the collapse of the GDR in 1989 and looks at the positive and negative legacies of the GDR for the PDS (the successor party to the East German Communists). He contends that the Stalinization of the GDR itself was the product not just of the Cold War but of a longer inter-systemic struggle between the competing primacies of politics and economics and that the end of the GDR has to be seen as a consequence of the global collapse of the social imperative under the pressure of the re-emergence of the market-state since the mid-1970s. The PDS is

therefore stuck in dilemma in which any attempt to "arrive in the Federal Republic" (Brie) is criticized as a readiness to accept the dominance of the market over society whereas any attempt to prioritize social imperatives over the market is attacked as a form of unreconstructed Stalinism. The book offers some suggestions as to how to escape from this dilemma by returning to the critical rather than monumentalist and antiquarian traditions of the workers' movement.
