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Sommario/riassunto	Robert Goeckel here explains why, despite the ideological antagonism between Marxism-Leninism and Christianity, a working relationship developed between East Germany's Communist rulers and the country's Evangelical Lutheran Church. By reconstructing how the church won a measure of autonomy and became a forum for dissent, The Lutheran Church and the East German State deepens our understanding of the popular forces that swept the Honecker regime from power in the fall of 1989.

