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Bearing the responsibility for showing the entire German nation the way toward a future of peace and socialism, in light of the historical fact that imperialism under the leadership of the USA in agreement with circles of West German monopoly capital has divided Germany in order to build up West Germany as a base for imperialism and the struggle against socialism, which contradicts the vital interests of the nation,  
the people of the German Democratic Republic, resting firmly on the accomplishments of the antifascist-democratic and socialist transformation of the social order,  
its working classes and strata united in continuing the work of the Constitution of October 7, 1949 in spirit,  
and suffused with the will to continue unswervingly and voluntarily along the path of peace, social justice, democracy, socialism, and international understanding,  
has given itself this socialist Constitution.

Article 1

The German Democratic Republic is a socialist state of the German nation. It is the political organization of the working population in town and country, who are jointly realizing socialism under the leadership of the working class and its Marxist-Leninist party.

The capital of the German Democratic Republic is Berlin.

The state flag of the German Democratic Republic consists of the colors black-red-gold and shows the coat of arms of the German Democratic Republic on both sides.

The state coat of arms of the German Democratic Republic consists of the hammer and compass, surrounded by a wreath of grain whose lower portion is entwined by a black-red-gold ribbon. [ . . . ]

Article 8

(1) The generally accepted rules of international law serving peace and peaceful cooperation among nations are binding on the state and on every citizen. The German Democratic Republic will never undertake a war of aggression or deploy its armed forces against the freedom of another people.

(2) The creation and maintenance of normal relations and cooperation between the two German states on the basis of equality are a national concern for the German Democratic Republic. The German Democratic Republic and its citizens, moreover, seek to overcome the division forced on the German nation by imperialism, and to gradually reproach the two German states to the point of their unification on the basis of democracy and socialism.

Source: Nationale Front des demokratischen Deutschland, ed., *Verfassung der Deutschen Demokratischen Republik*, Berlin: 1968, p. 1 ff.

Original German text reprinted in Volker Gransow and Konrad Jarausch, eds., *Die Deutsche Vereinigung: Dokumente zu Bürgerbewegung, Annäherung und Beitritt*. Cologne: Verlag Wissenschaft und Politik, 1991, pp. 40-41.

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