

Abstract

This bachelor thesis deals with the influence of new social movements on the development of West Berlin with emphasis on the Kreuzberg district and the SO 36 citizen initiative in the time period from 1979 to 1984. The main aim of the thesis is to answer questions on how the new social movements influenced the urban and the housing policy of West Berlin, and what steps the members of the Kreuzberg social movements have taken to change it apart from the physical occupation of houses. In a wider context, the thesis deals with new social movements in Germany, mainly with squatting in West Berlin. The thesis is also devoted to West Berlin's Kreuzberg district and its development after the construction of the Berlin Wall until the beginning of the squatting wave in the late 1970s, including a description of the then urban policy. The central focus of the thesis is the SO 36 citizen initiative that contributed to the creation of the squatting wave in Kreuzberg and other parts of West Berlin by the first occupations of vacant houses in order to repair them. The paper analyses different ways in which the members of the initiative tried to influence the urban and housing policy of the time, such as publishing their own monthly newspaper or information leaflets. In addition, the thesis deals with the attitude of significant West Berlin political parties to squatting, including elimination attempts enforced by different governments. The result of the squatters' interaction with the city's governance was finally legalizing a large part of the squats together with a major change in the urban and housing policy course, as the original buildings were to be renovated instead of demolished.