

LEGAL DEVELOPMENT IN A DIVIDED EUROPE CONTRASTS AND POINTS IN COMMON

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The Iron Curtain, which has divided Central Europe since 1948, led to the adoption of the Soviet social and economic order in those countries which were separated from the West. A Soviet legal sphere, separate from the continental European system, was created, which did not recognize the universality of property. The convergence of the legal orders of the German Democratic Republic, the People's Republic of Poland, and Czechoslovakia, which began to call itself the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic in 1960 in order to emphasize the realization of socialism, on that of the Soviet Union took place in two stages of development. The search for an "own way" to the realization of a legal system suitable to the socialist societal order followed an initial process of integration, the quickest possible adoption of the Soviet example. In the initial phase, East Germany certainly played the role of a model student, who most concretely put into force the adoption of the example of the Soviet Union, Poland behaved always more hesitantly in all phases, while Czechoslovakia proved itself the most eager, but also the most self-willed reformer.