

# *Ostalgie:* **le radici economiche e sociali**

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## *Abstract*

### *Ostalgie and its economic and social roots*

*The broad dimension of Ostalgie in the territories of former German Democratic Republic is traced back by the author to the economic and social shortcomings of German unification. The essay first of all considers the German monetary union (§ 1) and its dire economic consequences (§ 2), worsened by privatization policies that led to a massive deindustrialization of East Germany (§ 3). Then it focuses on the complex strategy enacted by German governments in order to downplay the economic failures and to shift the blame for them to the former GDR regime (§ 4). Ostalgie is therefore considered by the author as a reaction to all that. The final part of the essay briefly outlines the many facets of this mass phenomenon (§ 5).*

**Keywords:** *ostalgie*; German monetary union; privatisations; *Treuhandanstalt*; deindustrialisation.