

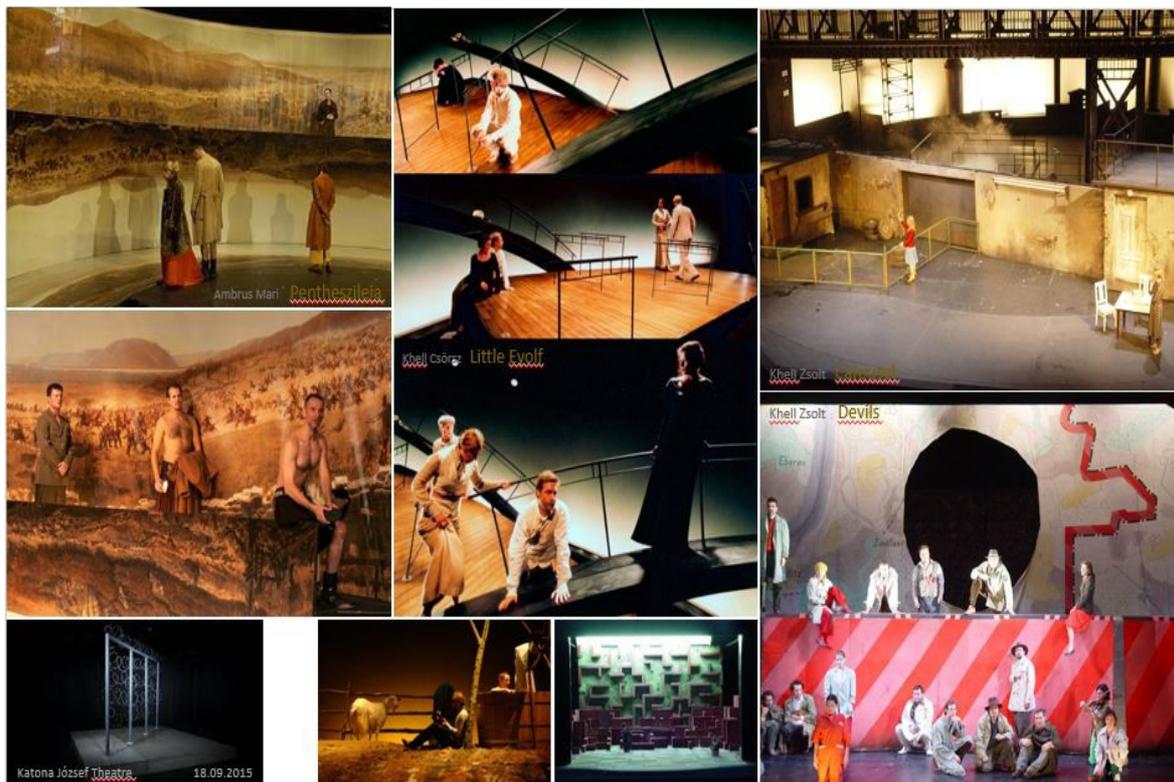
# RADICAL FENCES IN BETWEEN DISCIPLINES

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Hungary started to knock the Iron Curtain down in 1989. 26 years later Hungary built a new one between Serbia and Hungary because of mass migration. A fence on the border doesn't solve the problem of mass migration but has a very negative symbolic meaning. For this reason, the FENCE, this really important spatial structure, is the topic of my presentation.



1. Let's start with the special field of fences. Fences on the stage are really strong and useful elements of the spacial structure, holding the special meaning of a given fence.

The scenery of Penthesileia shows a famous Hungarian painting pulled into different layers, which give the fences of different levels behind them. So, actors can become the character of different parts of the painting, which also makes their relations exciting.

Just a few elements of the fence structure the space in the scenery of Little Eyolf.

You can see three different type of fences in the set of Carousel. The low metal fence separates a personal space on the left side, which is transparent. The big brick fence completely separates the heroes' closed world and the world outside. The strong metal fence of the overhead railway has an important role in the story. It's permanently present over the brick fence from the audience's point of view.

The abstract fence of the set of the play Devils is a picture of a border.



2. Private fences around houses show a great variety from the point of view of function, meaning and appearance including their material, structure, measurement, shape or transparency.

In some cultures a fence just indicates the border of a private zone, in other cultures the fence saves the private territory sometimes to cover it completely. A fence can be very simple, or an important part of the building in the same style. In many cases the role of the fence is to show wealth as well as the owner's humorous character. My favourites are the green fences which are fashionable again, fortunately.



3. Many fields of communal life are protected by fences. The wall around a church protected the resident population against attacks. A very new wall around a church in Budapest makes the sacral space larger, creates the space of silence in a noisy urban surrounding. Fences of playgrounds and sports grounds keep the children inside, as well as their balls. Fences of pastures are qualified for keeping animals on a given territory. But, there is a fenceless version! Animals could move free and together use the Great Hungarian plain (puszta) named

Hortobágy. The owners of horses, cows, and sheep paid the shepherds together. Here are a few examples of fences for protection of the environment, like fences on both sides of highways, or the increasing green walls.



Hungary, Slovakia

4. A special type of fence separates large groups of people from each other, sometimes to serve social separation like ghettos of poverty, or „ghettos” of extreme wealth. These fences help to deter the meeting of different social groups for a short time. But it’s just a treatment of symptoms instead of a solution for serious social problems.

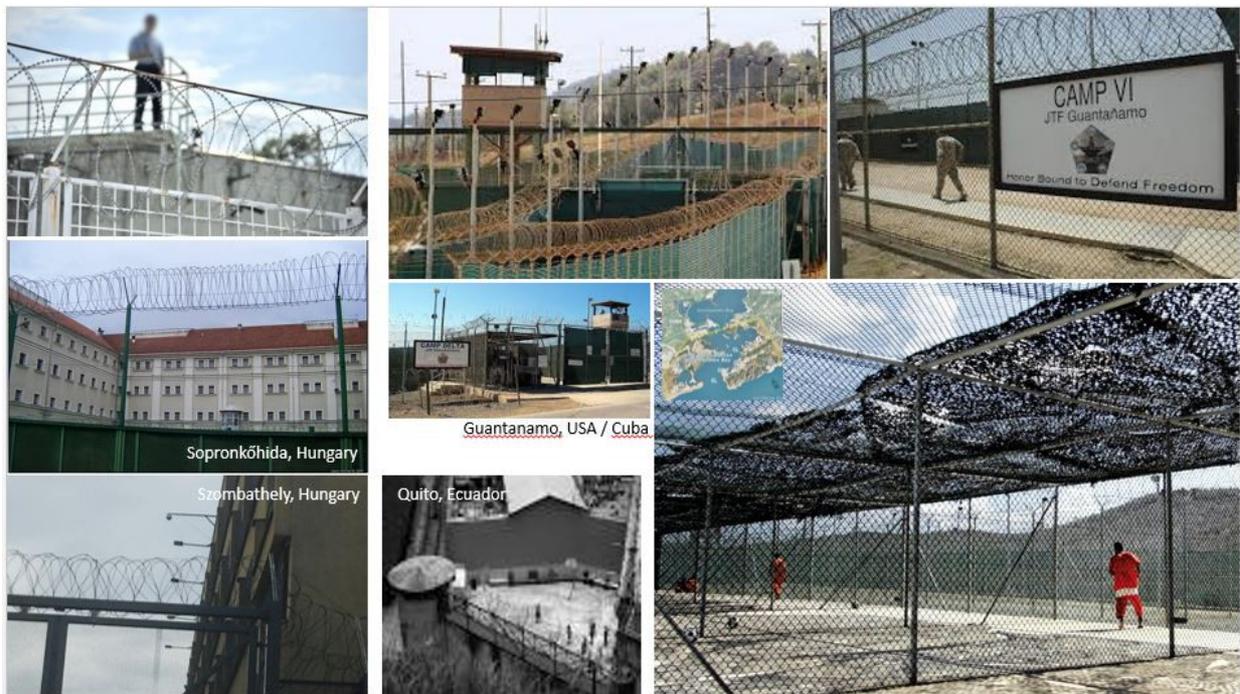


5. Royal Caribbean International Cruises decided to create a stop, even in Haiti which is one of the poorest countries in the world. So the cruiseline invested many millions of dollars into a small peninsula, Labadee, which became a luxury miny paradise. Look at the seaside behind the wall, out of Labedee. That is Haiti. Pétonville is a small town of the very thin layer of riches, political, economical leaders, foreign buisnessmen and aid organisations. They exist among walls and fences, saved by a private army. On the other side of the wall is Haiti. Five years ago Port au Prince, the capitol was the epicentre of a serious earthquake and completely

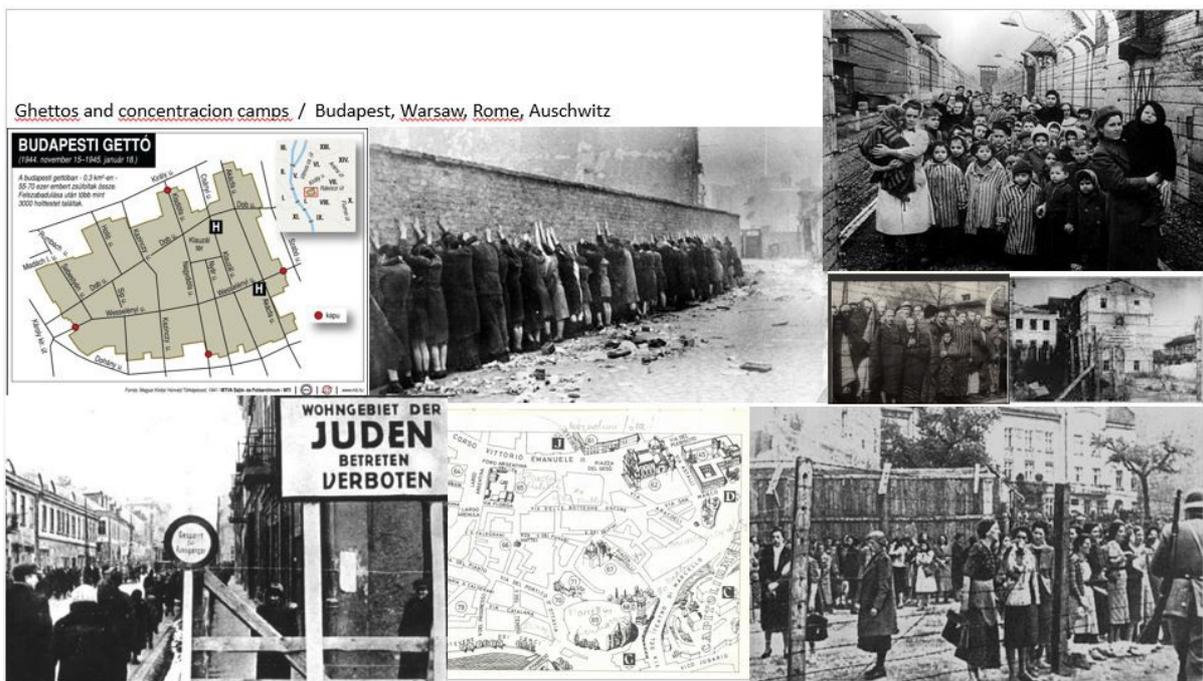
destroyed. Haitians have been living among the ruins even since, without running water, electricity, public transport, garbage collection, and afflicted by the misery and epidemics. I think that fences wouldn't give a long-term solution!



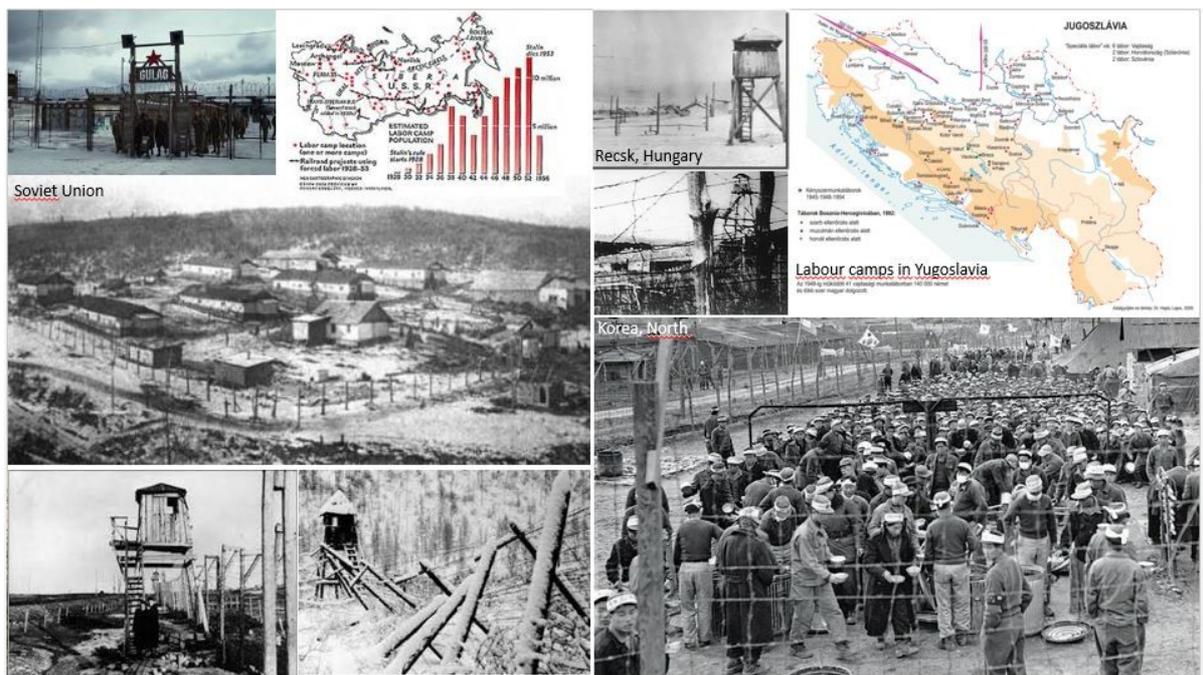
6. Mountains and highways can function as a border between hopeless slums and elegant, smart districts. Sometimes they are too close to each other, like Paradise City and a favela in São Paulo. So, the upscale apartment complex is separated by a fence from the impoverished neighbourhood.



7. Fences of jails must guarantee the criminals' separation, which is why are they equipped with barbed wire, electricity and nowadays with cameras. The stormy twentieth century showed a preference for using this type of fence even out of prisons. Guantanamo is a significant point to look back on in the recent past.



8. All the countries occupied by Nazi Germany faced the enclosed Jewish ghettos and the brutal fences of concentration camps. You can see a few examples from Budapest, Warsaw, Rome and Auschwitz. Among these fences 6 million Jewish people died, with a total number of victims around 11 million.

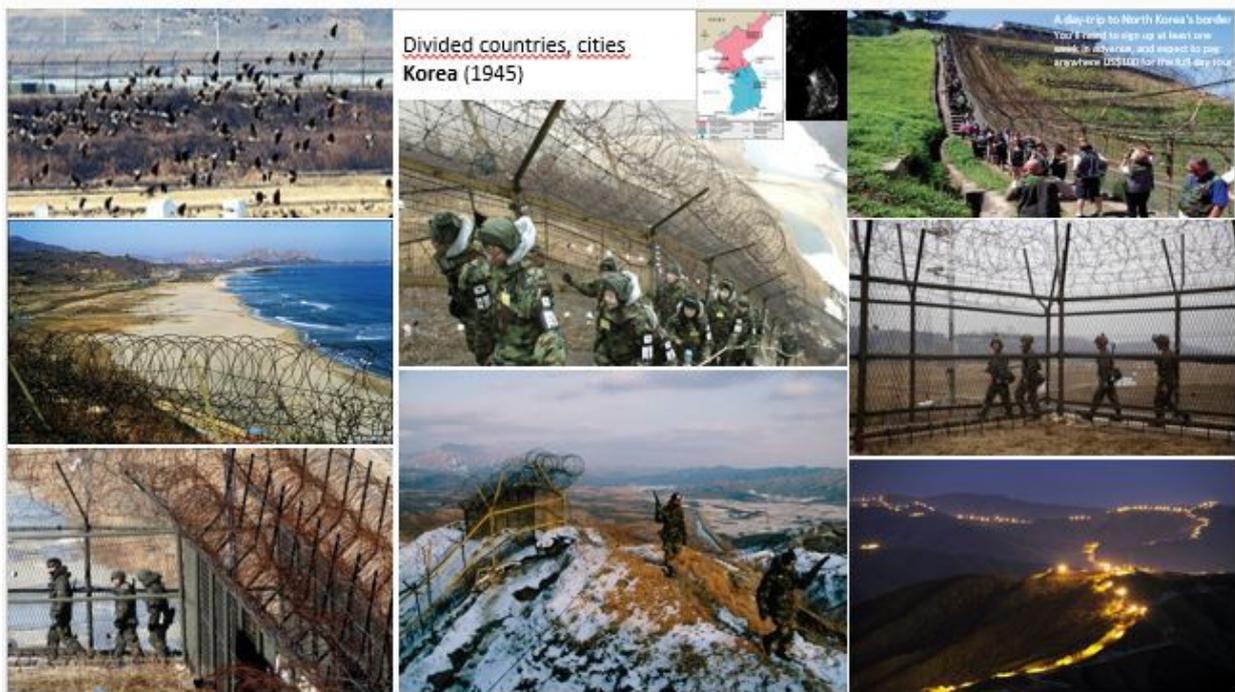


9. Communist dictatorships also created a large network of enclosed concentration camps, like the GULAG in the Soviet Union. In Hungary Recsk was used for the same purpose. Concentration camps and barbed wire fences were wellknown in Judoslavia too. In North Korea these kinds of camps exist even today. The exact numbers aren't known but millions died among these fences.



10. Typical products of the twentieth century are the fences of political separation, mostly between the parts of countries and cities that have been split in half, like the Berlin Wall.

The **Berlin Wall** was a barrier, constructed by the socialist state of East Germany, that divided Berlin and completely cut off West Berlin for 28 years. The Wall served to prevent the massive emigration from the communist bloc. During the post-Second World War period, 3.5 million East Germans and Eastern Bloc emigrants left via West Berlin to Western Europe. Between 1961 and 1989 around 5,000 people attempted to escape over the wall, of which more than 200 didn't survive.



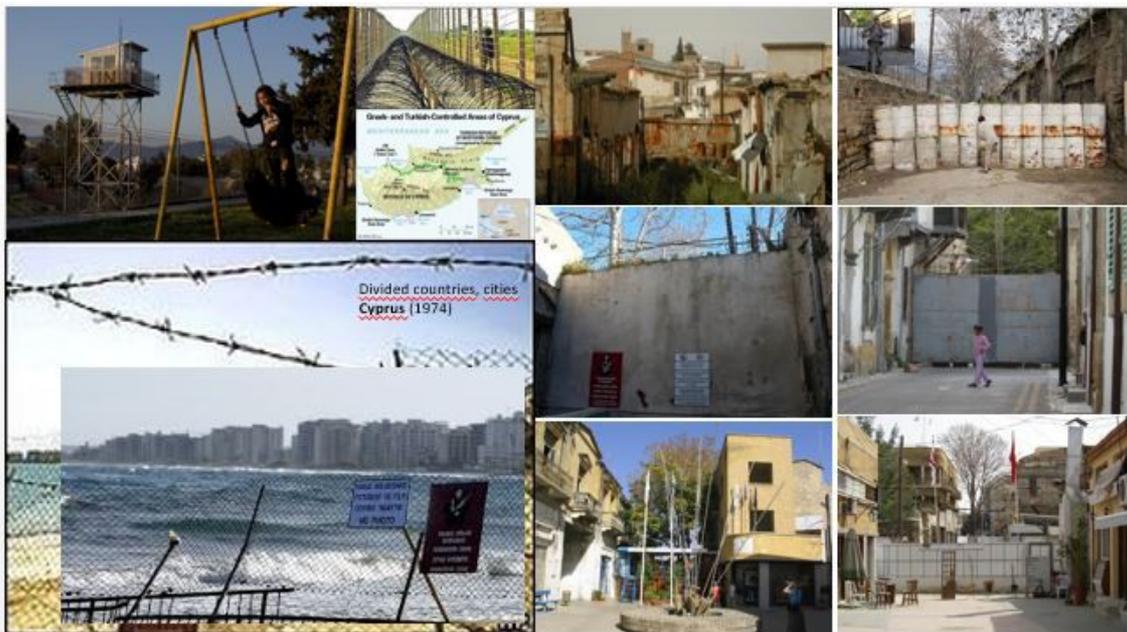
11. In 1945, the Soviet Union occupied Korea north of the [38th parallel](#), by agreement with the United States, which occupied the south. But, neither side accepted the border as permanent. The conflict escalated into open warfare when North Korean forces invaded South Korea in 1950. That was the first armed conflict of the Cold War. The fighting ended in 1953,

when the armistice was signed. The agreement created the Korean Demilitarized Zone to separate North and South Korea hermetically. Clashes continue until the present day.

There is an interesting and really sad picture of a one-day trip to the zone,(By the way, the trip isn't available for children, drunk, and Korean people.) I think, it's a shame that existing fences of millions' tragedies become touristic destinations.



**12.** Szelmenc was a Hungarian village. When Hungary lost the two third part of it's territory after the Word War, the new border between Slovakia and Ukraine directly split the village in two, without an opportunity of passage. Friends, relatives could only shout to each other through the border-fence. They saw the new babies at the barbed wire fence. All the funerals have started with a walk to the border-fence to share the mourning with the other side of the village. After Slovakian accession to the EU this fence became an EU border that made the problem even more difficult. Finally, in December of 2005 a walker checkpoint was opened specially for the citizens of Szelmenc. People on the Ukrainian side need a visa to cross the checkpoint even today. But, after 60 years, the barbed wire fence was destroyed.



**13.** The Green Line, the UN buffer zone, runs from sea to sea cutting Cyprus in two, even the capitol since the Turkish occupation of 1974. The occupation is viewed as illegal under international law, amounting to illegal occupation of EU territory since Cyprus became a member of the European Union.

In the countryside they use the wellknown barbed wire fence. A great variety of fences and barricades close dozens of Nicosian streets. Ledra Street in the heart of Nicosia, a strong symbol of the 32-year division, was reopened in 2008, in the presence of Greek and Turkish Cypriot officials, as a first step in a hopeful direction.



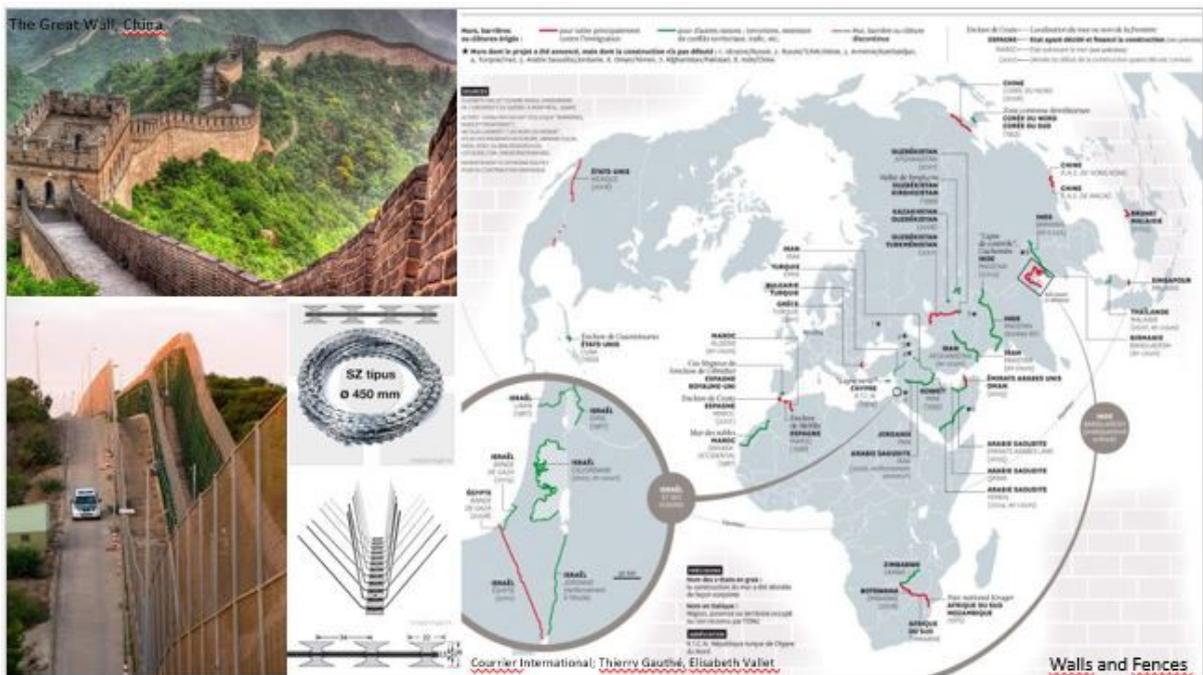
**14.** The Iron Curtain, the „Great Wall” of the Cold War, separated Western Europe and the [Eastern Bloc](#). The Iron Curtain blocked [people’s free movement](#), as well as flow of information. These pictures of the "Iron Curtain" were made in all the different involved countries.



15. In 1989 began the erosion of political power in the pro-Soviet governments, first in Poland and Hungary. In August Hungary organised the Paneuropean Picnic, opened the border to East German people, and started to tear down the Iron Curtain.

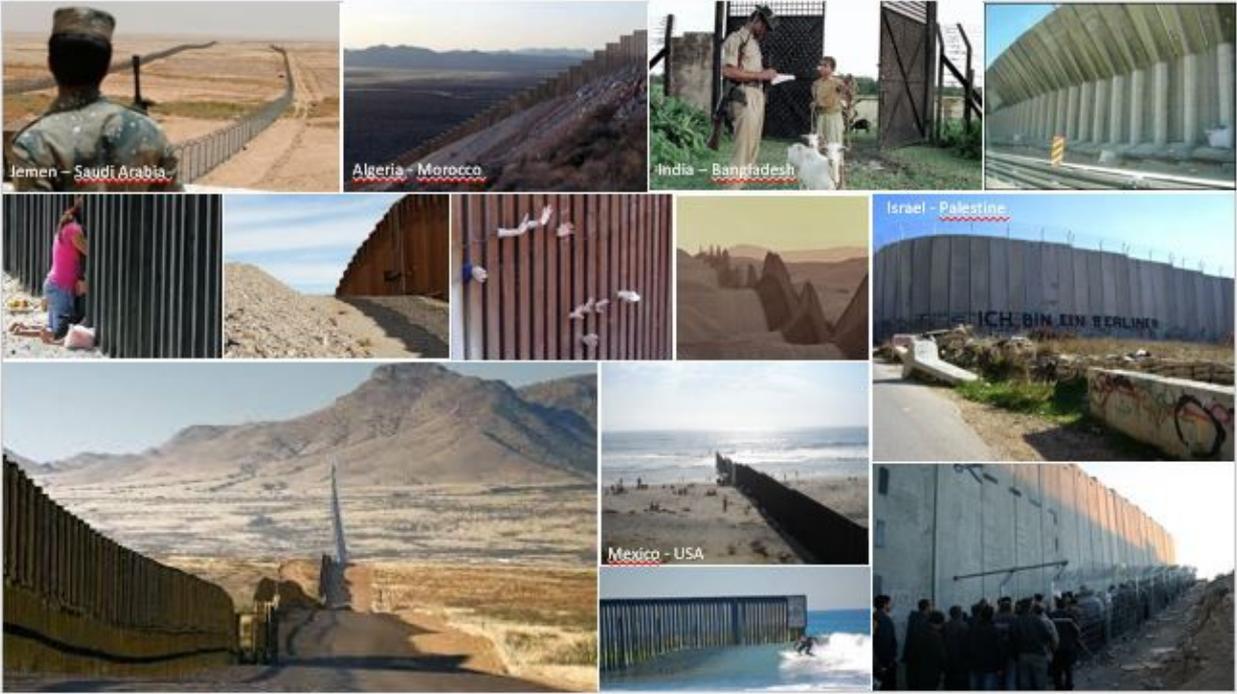
Three months later was allowed to East German citizens to visit West Berlin. Crowds of East Germans climbed onto the wall, joined by West Germans in an euphoric atmosphere. During the following weeks a crowd of people demolished the Berlin Wall.

That time we really belived in a peaceful, cooperative and free Europe. And in a better world.

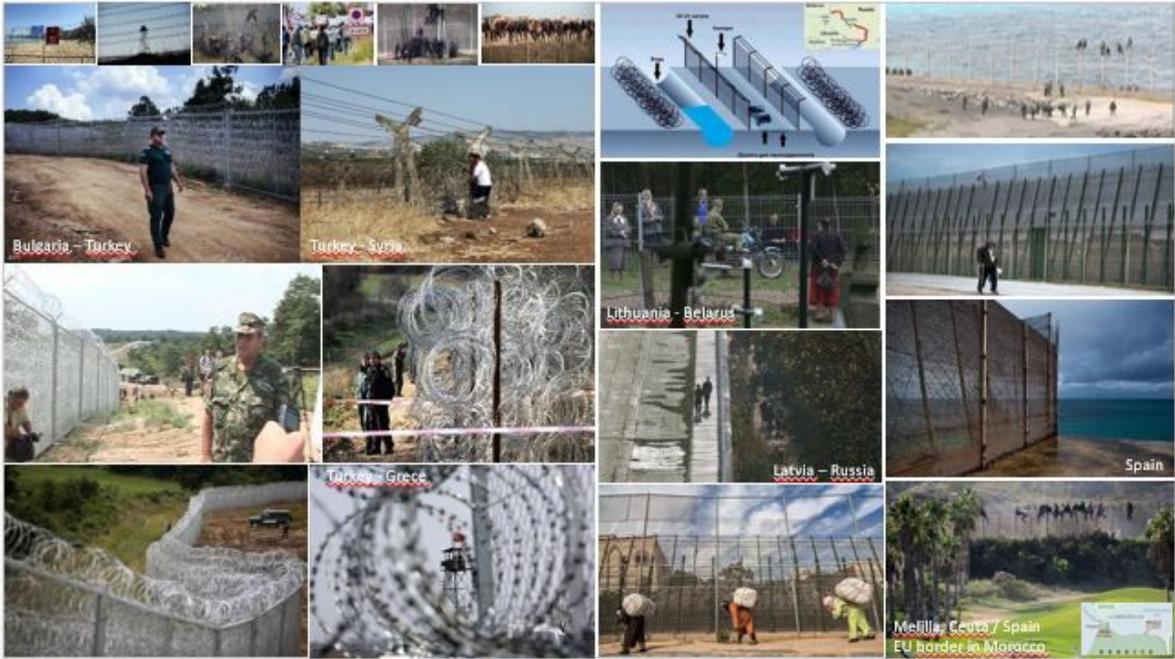


16. But more than 8 000 km of new fences and walls have been built all over the world from 1989 to 2014. This map was made in 2014, and the rate of fence making has sped up in the last year. Now we know about even more building and plans of new border fences.

Here you can see the first border-fence and one of the most recent ones. The Great Wall is huge and aesthetic, a value of architecture. New border-fences are frightening, brutal and ugly, with the ability of injure or murder.



17. Some of these walls and fences were built because of political conflicts, wars, and terrorism, but most fences were built because of mass migration. The border-fence between Mexico and the US is the second longest structure in the World after the Great Wall.



18. As you can see, the fences created by politicians are similar to fences of prisons. A prison world is growing, rather than real solutions.

Basically, people want to live in their own environment. They leave their relatives, friends, their language and culture, in one word, their home, if it is not suitable for life, because of war, genocide, terrorism, dictatorships, environmental or economical catastrophes.

Main decision makers in politics, economy, science, and business must wake up to global questions and start to work on a suitable world. Today, particular interests overwrite the really important points of view, like serious effects of global warming, lack of drinking water, environmental pollution, deep poverty, epidemics, uncontrolled arms trade, irresponsible political games, and poisoned conflicts.

Without global cooperation we will lose everything.



**19.** Easy to build fences, moreover, are quite good business. But fences don't stop the millions migrating from impoverished regions. They will find ways around the fences which will only lead to more fences. Hungary started with a fence on the Serbian border. Now, new ones are built on our Croatian and Rumanian border. Finally, we all will be living among barbed wires, of course, together with immigrants.



20. Walls and fences have never stopped people, running for their lives. They accept difficulties and risk their lives. You can see different ways to cross fences as well as victims' memories at the place of the Berlin Wall and at the Mexican American border.



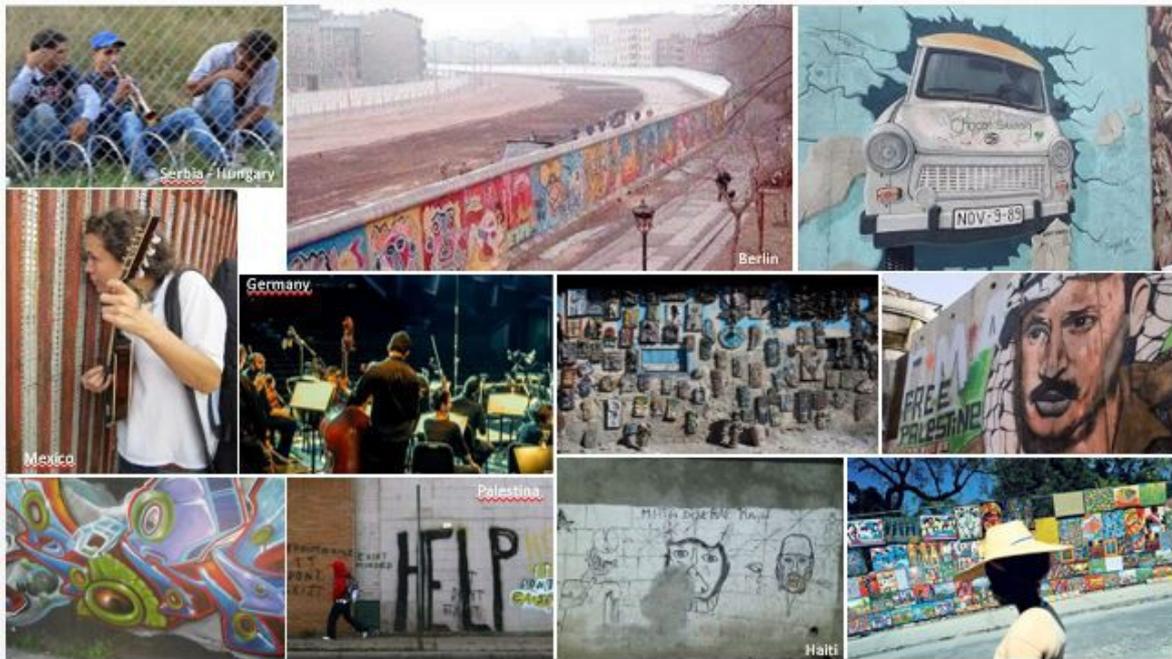
21. Here are a few pictures of a better world. The picnic table is standing on the meeting point of the Austrian, Slovakian and Hungarian borders. The big green fish are lying on the Polish Ukrainian border as a result of a landart camp, which is organised by actors of both countries every summer.



**22. More and more artists reflect on the Hungarian border-fence.**

The Fenceforeurope group organised an action at the Venice Biennale. They built a blockade around the Hungarian exhibition hall, using elements of the border-fence and the poster campaign of the government.

Peter Weiler created a portable one-man safety fence. Certainly, this is where fence-building is leading.



**23. Art is present even among refugees and in those people's lives who must stay behind fences, or living among closed walls. Painters use the walls to leave a message or to make them a bit more human. Last summer members of the San Diego Symphony and the Baja California Orchestra met on both sides of the U.S.-Mexico border-wall and gave a common concert. Recently, Syrian musician refugees formed a Syrian Expat Philharmonic Orchestra in Brehmen. They gave their first concert at the day of the presentation.**

We all, including artists, are responsible to work on a more human world.



24. If you want to be a bird...