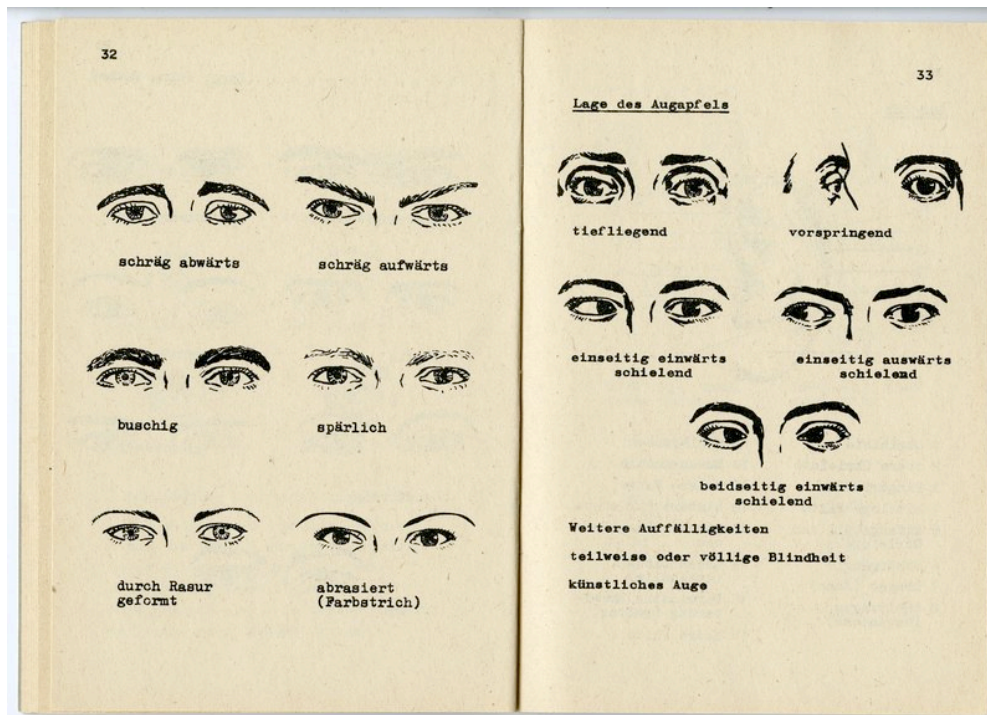


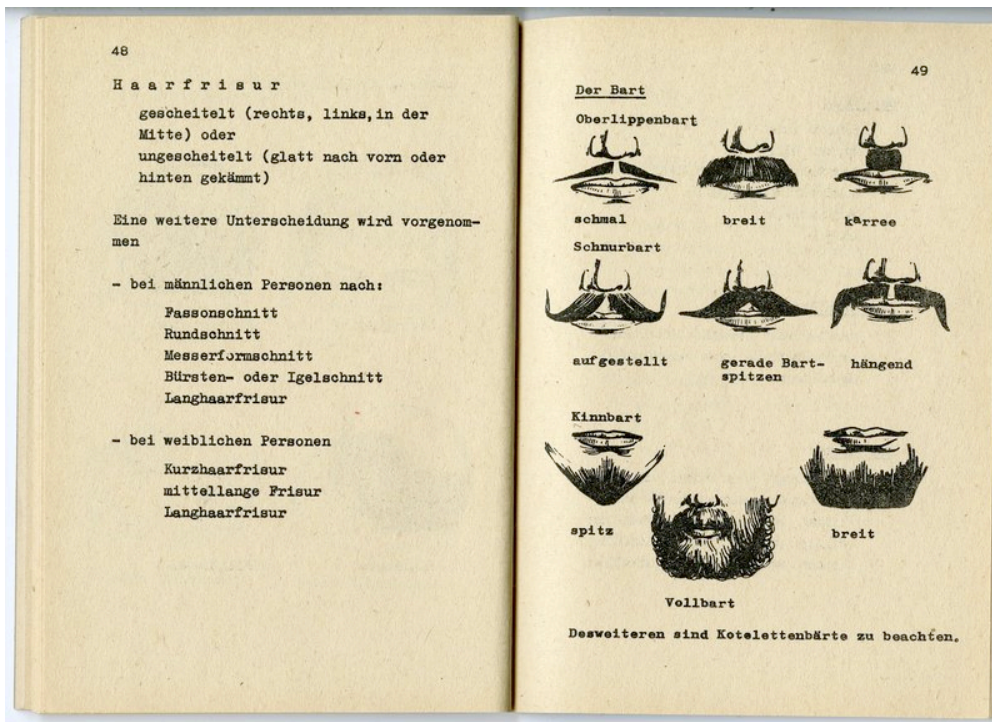
Facial Recognition Manual, German Democratic Republic (1970)

Abstract

Founded after World War II in the former Soviet occupation zone, the German Democratic Republic (1949-1990) quickly disqualified itself as a “people’s democracy” in the Western sense of the term. Within a year of its existence, the new communist government had established the Ministry for State Security, more commonly known as the *Stasi*. Arguably the most effective arm of domestic surveillance and repression in German history, the *Stasi* was tasked with creating and maintaining a “socialist mentality” among the East German population. Central to this effort were arrests and interrogations based on the premise that, when it came to its citizenry, the state had the right to know absolutely everything. By 1988, *Stasi* officials numbered at 160,000. This manual was intended to help them analyze the faces of people before and during questioning.

Source





Source: Merkmale des Äußeren von Personen. Ministerium für Staatssicherheit, Hauptabteilung VI, [Characteristics of Personal Physical Appearance, Ministry for State Security, Main Department VI], 1970. Reproduced with permission from the Wende Museum, Los Angeles.

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