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Ancient Feminism: Troy and the Cold War Germany

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Ancient Feminism: Troy and Cold War Germany.

In her novel, titled *Cassandra*, Christa Wolf writes about the society of Cold War Germany in a way that does not directly speak out against her government, using a foreign world to demonstrate her ideas. Cassandra was a princess of Troy who was given the gift of prophecy at a young age, but was cursed so her visions would not be believed. Christa Wolf, a prominent political author from East Germany, became fascinated with the character of Cassandra while on a trip to Greece with her husband, Gerhard. Wolf saw parallels between her life during the Cold War and what she imagines life would have been like for citizens of Troy during the war. In this paper, I show how Wolf depicts the home country of Cassandra as a patriarchal society and in this way Wolf comments on the male dominated government in Germany throughout the Cold War. Through *Cassandra*, Wolf can express her ideas through examples, showing her readers the cause and effect relationship that she sees between the suppression of women and the violence of war. These two coexisting cultures are juxtaposed in the novel to show the differences between them. By going deeper into the daily life of Trojans and the characters of women who are often ignored, Wolf demonstrates both her arguments against her current government and the faults of a society where only men make the important decisions.