

**ENERGY**

The disaster (happen) \_\_\_\_\_ (vor 20 Jahren) \_\_\_\_\_. On April 26, 1986, one of the most (terrible/terribly) \_\_\_\_\_ nuclear accidents (shock) \_\_\_\_\_ the world. Section IV of the Russian nuclear power plant Chernobyl, which (wurde gebaut) \_\_\_\_\_ in the 1970-ies, (explode) \_\_\_\_\_, and a plume of radioactive fallout drifted over the Soviet Union, Europe, the British Isles, and even North America. Large areas of Ukraine, Belarus, and Russia (wurden verstrahlt – contaminate) \_\_\_\_\_, which (schließlich) \_\_\_\_\_ (result) \_\_\_\_\_ in the evacuation and resettlement of over 336,000 people. (Jedoch) \_\_\_\_\_, this evacuation (not happen) \_\_\_\_\_ (immediate/immediately) \_\_\_\_\_. (Die russische Regierung versuchte zuerst, den Unfall zu vertuschen)

Only weeks later, (wurde den Menschen gesagt) \_\_\_\_\_ that they (verlassen müssen) \_\_\_\_\_ their homes.

The Chernobyl disaster (wird betrachtet) \_\_\_\_\_ as the worst accident in the history of nuclear power. After the disaster, hundreds of uninformed “volunteer helpers” (build) \_\_\_\_\_ a massive concrete construction, the so called “sacophargus”, around the exploded reactor.

As (unbelievable/unbelievably) as it may seem, the nuclear power plant Chernobyl (continue) \_\_\_\_\_ to be operated until the year 2000. Workers there (wurden sehr gut bezahlt) \_\_\_\_\_ because of the (dangerous/dangerously) \_\_\_\_\_ working conditions.

The big accident in 1986 (not be) \_\_\_\_\_ the only accident in Chernobyl. There (be) \_\_\_\_\_ several other incidents. For example, a small explosion almost (trigger – auslösen) \_\_\_\_\_ another catastrophe in the late 1990-ies. But Russia (never admit) \_\_\_\_\_ these incidents.

It (not be) \_\_\_\_\_ (sure/surely) \_\_\_\_\_ how long the disaster (still have) \_\_\_\_\_ an impact on the area around Chernobyl. But the Russian and Ukraine governments (haben immer abgestritten - deny) \_\_\_\_\_ that the disaster (have) \_\_\_\_\_ (serious/seriously) \_\_\_\_\_ consequences for the population.

Vocab:

nuclear power plant	Atomkraftwerk
atomic power plant	Atomkraftwerk
a plume of radioactive fallout	eine Wolke von radioaktivem Niederschlag
Belarus	Weißrussland
contaminate	verstrahlen
result	zur Folge haben
evacuation	Evakuierung
resettlement	Umsiedelung
cover (something) up	(etwas) vertuschen
uninformed	unwissend
volunteer helpers	freiwillige Helfer
a massive concrete construction	eine massive Betonkonstruktion
sacophargus	Sakofarg
reactor	Reaktor
working conditions	Arbeitsbedingungen