

BATTLE STATIONS GERMANY

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Merkelism held fast in Germany's general elections. It emerged though bruised with only an estimated 32% of the vote and is now in need to strike awkward alliances to form a government. The Social Democrats, led by a former bookseller and recovered alcoholic, who attempted suicide in 1980, collapsed to 21% in its worst defeat since the end of World War Two. But the focus of feverish attention was the far-right Alternative for Germany party (AfD) that was catapulted to third place and prepares to enter the Bundestag with close to 90 deputies.

The AfD's show at the ballot box has sent shivers through the progressive "humanist" ranks and the assorted supporters of post-war "German values" which Merkel pushed to new controversial extremes by throwing German borders open in the summer of 2015 to accept one million Moslem undocumented aliens.

Ever since, German society has developed severe fissures separating those who interpret "German values" as license to literally force change of the very basic tenets of the German national character, and dismantle German traditions, by mainly importing foreign populations—and those who are alarmed by such "globalist" pressures, the effort to demonize, diminish, and crush those who object, and using the full extent of the law, often loaded by deliberate parliamentary maneuvering, to persecute many on wobbly charges of "Islamophobia," "racism," "inciting ethnic hatred," etc., etc.

Needless to say, Merkel proved, for yet another time, she is a master strategist. Despite the drop in the Christian Democrat final tally of the vote, Merkel's plan of sitting tight, after the 2015 disastrous illegal alien onslaught, and letting a booming economy to do the rest, paid handsome dividends. As for the Social Democrats, they had no chance.

What comes next will be an explosive soul searching about the AfD "onslaught" resembling the confused and outraged "resistance" of the left which emerged in America after the Trump victory. The AfD success bears common characteristics with Trump's tactics in wooing those Hillary Clinton memorably described as "deplorables" and, in many ways, reflects the anger, frustration, and disappointment of millions of Germans denigrated and insulted by the "progressive" left for their "primitive" beliefs and demands for a Germany that places "Germans first."

But the AfD victory carries key significance for Europe's overall political balance as well. With the European (dis)Union in permanent turmoil over widening rifts between North and South, Germany's refusal to consider a change of course in creating a centralized "European" federal economy, and the growing strategic threat of illegal immigration, Berlin being forced to change its tune to the right, even ever so slightly, could have political effects unimaginable until recently.

While Marine Le Pen in France and Geer Wilders in the Netherlands created electoral ripples that made Europe's "centre left" to develop conniptions, their longer term, wider impact remains questionable given the secondary strategic position of both France and Holland in the European political map. But the AfD has cracked the "centre left" barricade in Europe's master state, the overlord of the European (dis)Union, and will be in a position to create significant political grief for the Merkelists and their allies in parliament by setting the tone of the debate and demanding changes that are abominations to the left and its allies.

Germans are divided on what exactly feeds the AfD phenomenon. Some do not hesitate to see toxic "Nazis" on the march threatening the very nature of the Fatherland's 70-year old democracy created by the Allies after 1945. Statements like [this](#) feed this fear. Others see nothing wrong with supporting a political party that gives voice to their deepest worries about illegal immigration and what looks like a mysterious politician tendency in Germany, and in other European countries

as well, to deliberately exonerate Islamic propensities, Islamic fifth column tactics, and Moslem fierce resistance to integration in host European societies. Still others are disappointed and outraged by lingering economic disparities and the still gloomy outlook of what was once East Germany.

While the “Trump dynamic” continues to have currency among those who offer possible explanations for the AfD’s ascendancy, the genesis of this German party is far more complicated. Germany has a significant history of radicalism both on the left and the right which often turned deadly. Adolf Hitler crushed a combative and numerous communist party with ease and went on to create a “Hitler state” which, according to prominent historians, would have been impossible without the tacit approval of influential social and political actors, not to mention the military. While the utter destruction of Nazi Germany, and the “de-Nazification” imposed by the Allies, combined to create the certainty that German totalitarianism was eradicated, leftists fear history may hold unwanted surprises up her sleeve.

The AfD views on immigration and Islam, for example, may be already causing Merkel to quietly shift Germany’s, previously severe, positions on the refusal of countries like Poland and Hungary to accept *any* illegal immigrants from Moslem countries despite the constant hectoring of Warsaw and Budapest by the European Commission. Similarly, Berlin is eerily silent on Austria’s outright refusal to condone any opening of the borders, however modest, and her outspoken position on immigration and border fences guarded by both armed police and the military. As a footnote, Merkel is equally silent on the predicament of bankrupt Greece, in irreversible downturn, as Europe’s de facto illegal immigration septic tank.

Ultimately, Merkelism, for all its electoral endurance so far, is turning “geriatric” at a time when the tides of history turn ominous. Merkel’s presence, while still lauded as the ultimate insurance for “sane politics,” cannot arrest the gradual fraying of the German party system and the cracks that have appeared so prominently via the AfD. If anything, these cracks were most visible on election day in Bavaria, Germany’s bastion of conservative politics, where the rightist Christian Social Union (CSU) has suffered its worst electoral defeat since 1945—and now needs to rework its platform most likely by shifting father to the right in

the hope of attracting some, at least, of its old voters who have defected to the AfD in droves.

At the end of the day, those who see the AfD as a mere “poisonous case of right-wing populism” should be doing some soul-searching, not to mention some hardnosed political thinking about the paralyzing, soul-altering liberalism presented to citizens across Europe as the only elixir for the present and future.

The proverbial “mainstream” in Germany and elsewhere is apparently shifting in ways that should be watched closely. The effort from now on should be to re-connect a political class isolated in its privileges, and “diversity-tolerant” daydreaming, and the mass of plebeians sentenced to suffer their frequently disastrous consequences.