



Pekka Kallioniemi @P_Kallioniemi

Oct 26, 2023 · 18 tweets · [P_Kallioniemi/status/1717557852078756199](#)

In today's #vatniksoup, I'll introduce a German politician, Sahra Wagenknecht (@SWagenknecht). She's best-known for her praise of Russia, fighting against the them on Russia, and for her attempts to stop the military aid to Ukraine during the Russo-Ukrainian War.

1/16



Wagenknecht started her political career at a young age, and she eventually became a prominent member of the Party of Democratic Socialism during the early 90s. After the foundation of the far-left party Die Linke, she joined the party and became a leader of its...

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...Marxist-Leninist sub-faction called the Communist Platform. Sahra has been referred as the 3rd most popular politician in Germany, but throughout her career, she has also been a controversial figure due to her populist takes on DDR, immigration and Russia.

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POLITICS | GERMANY

Germany's unruliest political rogues

Ben Knight
07/06/2021

All major German political parties have a politician who knows how to play to the gallery with carefully honed outrageous statements — to the annoyance of their party leaders. But why don't they just get kicked out?

f X ↕



There's always one: Individual politicians regularly create big headaches for their parties

Even though she's been spending most of her political career in leftist parties, her political views & statements don't really fit this shoe. As a matter of fact, her statements on immigration, comments on Russia & even her economical views fit better to the far-right mindset.

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German politics [+ Add to myFT](#)

New leftist anti-immigration party to challenge Germany's far right

Prominent politician seeks to appeal to voters backing Alternative for Germany 'out of fury'



Sahra Wagenknecht, who is half-Iranian, has a huge following among voters disillusioned with mainstream politics © John MacDougall/AFP/Getty Images

Guy Chazan in Berlin OCTOBER 23 2023

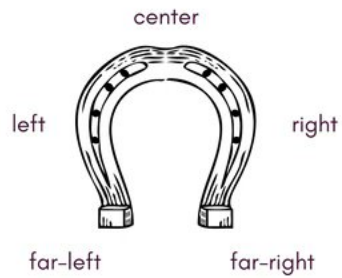
176

One could even say, that with Wagenknecht we see the horseshoe theory in action. In Germany, there is even a term for this: querfront (cross-front).

It originates from the Weimar politics referring to the cooperation between the far-right and far-left.

THE HORSESHOE THEORY

In political science, the horseshoe theory asserts that the far-left and the far-right are not opposites at the end of a political continuum, but rather, that they closely resemble each other, nearly meeting like the ends of a horseshoe, as in the illustration below:



@gotmetals



When it comes to NATO and Russia, Sahra has a clear stance. In 2017, she called for the dissolution of NATO. Throughout her career as a politician, she's called for closer relations with Russia, and in 1992 she published an essay praising Stalinist Russia.

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POLITICS

Wagenknecht calls for security union with Russia

Lewis Sanders IV
01/17/2017

The parliamentary leader of Germany's largest opposition party has urged the dissolution of the NATO alliance. Her remarks come after US president-elect Donald Trump described it as "obsolete."


f X ↕



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Lukas Mihr, guest author / 23.10.2023 / 06:15 / Photo: THE LEFT / 168 /

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Comrade Sahra: From Stalinist to bearer of hope?

Sahra Wagenknecht is now serious about her new party and many Germans who turn away from the old parties can imagine choosing. Is your proximity to communist dictators, your denial of communist crimes, your relativization of Islamist murder? A little excursion to the world of the comrade of the comrade Sahra.

Before Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine, she argued that the US were trying to "conjure up" an invasion, "Russia has in fact no interest in marching into Ukraine". During the same speech, she also stated that NATO has forced Moscow into a corner with their expansion.

COMMENT

Deluded Berlin has finally woken up to the truth about Vladimir Putin

The veil has finally lifted: Moscow never wanted a diplomatic solution to the Ukraine crisis



KATJA HOYER

22 February 2022 · 8:00pm

Related Topics

Germany, Olaf Scholz, Vladimir Putin, Soviet Union, Russia-Ukraine war



Putin is our enemy now," said Germany's largest newspaper *Bild* yesterday. As the country woke up to reports of Russian tanks rolling over Ukrainian borders, the veil was finally lifted from German eyes: Moscow never wanted a diplomatic solution to the [Ukraine crisis](#).

Sahra Wagenknecht, of the far-Left Die Linke party, claimed not two days ago on German television that "Russia has in fact no interest to march into Ukraine". According to her and many on the German Left, Moscow saw itself forced into a corner by Nato expansion and felt it needed security commitments from the West, "if necessary also by military means".

She still opposed the sanctions imposed on Russia, stating that the German government had launched "an unprecedented economic war against our most important energy supplier."

After the speech, she was applauded by members of the far-right party AfD:

8/16

 **Pekka Kallioniemi** 
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In today's [#vatniksoup](#), I'll introduce a German right-wing and populist political party, Alternative für Deutschland, or AfD ([@AfD](#)). The party is best-known for their Euroskeptic and pro-Kremlin politics, and for having strong political and financial ties to the Kremlin.

1/19



9:03 AM · Aug 7, 2023 

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Back in Feb 2023, Wagenknecht, together with AfD, organized large rallies in many German cities. These protests called to end any military aid to Ukraine. Few months later, WaPo exposed that the Kremlin had been trying to create an "antiwar coalition" in Germany..

9/16



Europe

Protest in Berlin over arming Ukraine against Russia draws thousands

Reuters

February 25, 2023 10:39 PM GMT+2 · Updated 8 months ago



BERLIN, Feb 25 (Reuters) - A demonstration against supplying Ukraine with weapons for war with Russia attracted 10,000 people on Saturday, drawing criticism from top German government officials and a large police presence to maintain order.

Organised by a prominent left-wing German politician, the protest comes a day after the one-year anniversary of Russia's invasion of Ukraine, which drew promises of [more weapons](#) from western allies, [fresh sanctions](#) against Russia and [shows of support](#) for Kyiv across the globe.

"We call on the German chancellor to stop the escalation of arms deliveries. Now!...Because every day lost costs up to 1,000 more lives - and brings us closer to a 3rd world war," the protest's organizers said on their [website](#).

The "Uprising for Peace" was organised in part by Sahra Wagenknecht, a member of Germany's left-wing Die Linke party.

Germany, along with the United States, has been one of the biggest suppliers of weapons for Ukraine.




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Kremlin tries to build antiwar coalition in Germany, documents show

Marrying Germany's far right and far left is a Kremlin goal, according to a trove of Russian documents reviewed by The Washington Post

▶ Listen to article



(Illustration by Emily Sabens/The Washington Post; Steffi Loos/Getty; Documents shared with The Washington Post; iStock)

By [Catherine Belton](#), [Souad Mekhennet](#) and [Shane Harris](#)

April 21, 2023 at 08:00 Austria Time

BERLIN — When 13,000 demonstrators gathered at the Brandenburg Gate on Feb. 25 to call for an end to weapons supplies to

...and Russian officials had allegedly met with AfD members on the issue, suggesting that the rallies weren't as organic as they appeared. Unsurprisingly, similar protests like the "Rage Against the War Machine" were organized in the United States:



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In today's #vatniksoup I'm going to talk about the "antiwar movement". After Putin organized the fake referendums in the four Ukrainian Oblasts, various pro-Kremlin parties started calling for immediate peace in Ukraine. Unsurprisingly, the movement was planned by the Kremlin. 1/18

Jimmy Dore 
@jimmy_dore

Rally for PEACE in Ukraine! February 19 Washington DC at the Lincoln Memorial I'll be speaking along with many others!



rageagainstwar.com
Rage Against the War Machine

8:19 PM · Feb 1, 2023 · 159.3K Views

816 Retweets 64 Quotes 2,858 Likes 11 Bookmarks

7:21 AM · Apr 29, 2023



 3.9K  Reply  Copy link


[Read 174 replies](#)

Few weeks before the rallies, Wagenknecht and Alice Schwarzer had collected signatures for "peace manifesto", calling for negotiations between Russia and Ukraine and halting the arms deliveries to Ukraine. They manifesto has almost 900 000 signatures.

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Manifest für Frieden



893,577 Signatures 1,000,000 Next Goal

305 people signed today

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Started February 10, 2023



According to her, weapon supplies to Ukraine are "highly dangerous" and they "escalate the conflict". Mrs Wagenknecht seems completely oblivious to the fact that Putin's Russia has been waging imperialistic wars since the start of the 2nd Chechen War in 1999.



In one interview, Sahra claimed that the war isn't about "Putin's nationalism", rather than about the neutrality of Ukraine. We should of course remember that Russia started the war already back in 2014 by annexing Crimea and fueling pro-Russia protests all around Ukraine.

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In Oct 2023, Wagenknecht announced her intention to start a new political far-left party. One survey put the new party at 12% nationally, a pretty significant number in German politics. As a populist pro-Kremlin party, it will probably also steal some votes from AfD.

14/16

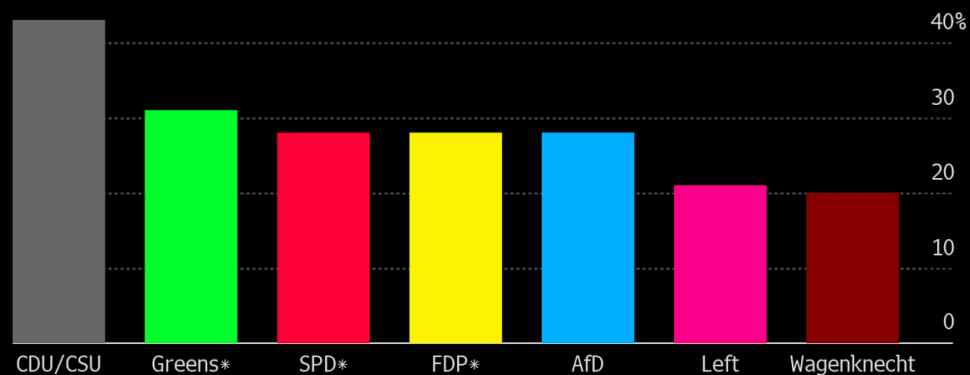
A leading German radical-left politician who has questioned the green transition and blamed the west for Russia's war on **Ukraine** has left her party to set up a new one, in a move likely to cost the far right votes and further fragment the nation's politics.

German hard-left icon set to start a new populist party

The new party would further scramble Germany's fracturing political landscape – and likely peel away support from the far right.



Fifth of Germans Open to Backing New Far-Left Party



Source: YouGov survey for DPA

Note: * = Governing coalition | Participants were asked if they could imagine voting for each party. Answers include both "yes, definitely" and "yes, maybe."

Bloomberg

In Jul 2022, Sahra's ex-husband Ralph T. Niemeyer founded a "shadow government" in Russia and addressed Putin directly about this. In Feb 2022 Niemeyer suggested that Sahra should become the "Präsident-Kanzlerin" of Germany and called her "incurruptible".

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DerWesten.de » Politics » **Sahra Wagenknecht: Hammer! Ex-Man founds "exile government" – and addresses Putin directly**

Sahra Wagenknecht: Hammer! Ex-Man founds "exile government" – and addresses Putin directly

 of **Marcel Görmann**
22.07.2022 - 06:35 hrs.

Sahra Wagenknecht: Hammer! Ex-Man founds "exile government" – and addresses Putin directly

To conclude: Sahra has positioned herself as the Kremlin's friend since the beginning of her political career. She's always been supportive of Russo-German collaboration (and Russian imperialism) & she's ready to throw Ukraine under the bus for cheap Russian energy.

PICTURE » politics » inland » New party: Putin press celebrates Sahra Wagenknecht

“National-Bolshevik turn”

Putin press cheers on Wagenknecht



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CORRECTION 1/16:

"fighting against the them on Russia"

should say:

"fighting against the Western sanctions set against Russia".

• • •