

Vatnik Soup @P_Kallioniemi

Sep 4, 2026 · 23 tweets · [P_Kallioniemi/status/2095887827611304180](#)

In today's Vatnik Soup, we introduce Hans-Thomas Tillschneider @P_Plattform, a German AfD politician, Islamic-studies scholar & Putinversteh'er.

He's best known for playing dumb over his Russian Army mug & for shaping the AfD program ahead of Sunday's Sachsen-Anhalt election.1/21



Russian Army and Putin mugs, Putin portrait, Spasskaya Tower souvenir, vodka Kalashnikovs...

If you asked your AI, "Draw me a caricatural vatnik's office, as ridiculous as possible", you'd probably get this.

Except this is Tillschneider's real political office.

2/21

RONZHEIMER.

**RUSSEN-TASSE:
AFD-POLITIKER WOLLTE
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<https://twitter.com/i/web/status/2095887837631594990>





**russische Armee
Tasse hier stehen?**

Why do you have a Russian Army mug

FDP parliamentary group leader Andreas Silbersack described the actions of AfD politicians as »not very responsible«. CDU parliamentary group leader Guido Heuer said that parts of the AfD parliamentary group had definitely left the ground of the free-democratic basic order.

»Mr. Tillschneider sits in the plenary session with a coffee cup with a picture of Vladimir Putin on it. That doesn't surprise me«, said SPD parliamentary group leader Katja Pähle. The AfD is consciously seeking proximity to autocratic systems. **5**

czl/dpa

When journalist Paul Ronzheimer @ronzheimer asked him where the Russian Army mug came from, Tillschneider said it was given to him in Berlin. Then he tried to stop the video from being published. Later, he changed his story: a souvenir from Russia.

Very normal mug behavior.

3/21

„GIFT“ AT CONSTITUENCY OFFICE

„Russian trolls are showing their support more and more bluntly“ – Criticism of Tasse in Tillschneider's office

Status: 01.09.2026 | Reading time: 4 minutes



Axel Springer Global Reporter Paul Ronzheimer discovered a cup with the inscription „Russian Army“ during an interview with AfD politician Hans-Thomas Tillschneider. „That made him a little upset“, said Ronzheimer.

Source: WORLD TV

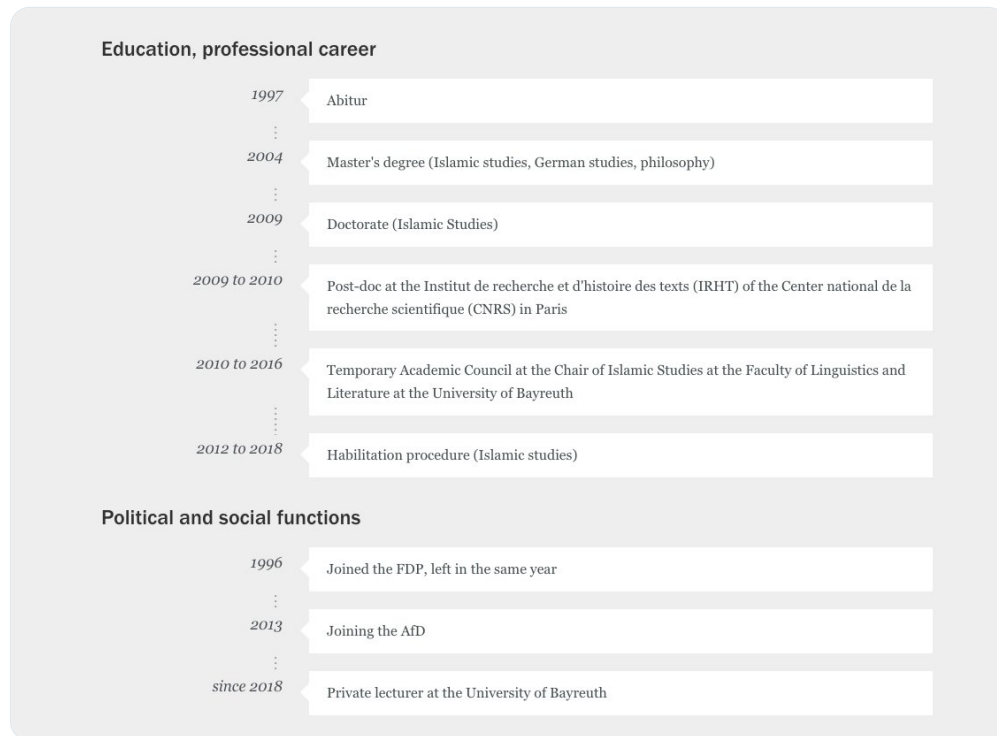
AUTOPLAY ☐

Journalist Paul Ronzheimer discovers a cup with the inscription „Russian Army“ during an interview with AfD politician Hans-Thomas Tillschneider. This is supposedly a gift, says Tillschneider – and avoids questions.

The Saxony-Anhalt AfD politician Hans Thomas Tillschneider sees no problem in the fact that there is a Russian Army cup in his constituency office. „It is a souvenir from a trip to Russia in 2023 or 2024, which has already been reported on several times“, explained Tillschneider at the request of the German Press Agency. „In this respect, we don't understand the scandal.“

Journalist Paul Ronzheimer discovered the black cup with a red star and the inscription „Army of Russia“ in Cyrillic letters during a visit to Tillschneider's constituency office in Querfurt and asked: „Why do you have a Russian army cup here?“ Tillschneider replied: „Someone gave it to me. I didn't want to put them away now.“

But Tillschneider is no random Internet troll. Born in Timișoara, Romania, in 1978, he studied Islamic studies, German literature and philosophy, including in Syria. He earned a PhD, habilitated, worked at France's CNRS and taught at the University of Bayreuth.



Politically, Tillschneider joined the FDP in 1996, then the AfD in 2013.

His academic specialty soon became politically useful: he helped shape the AfD's hardline position that "Islam does not belong in Germany" and fought a proposal to support liberal reform within Islam.

AFD PARTY CONFERENCE

"Islam does not belong to Germany"

Published on 01.05.2016 | Reading time: 2 minutes



Source: dpa

Stuttgart - From the perspective of the Alternative for Germany (AfD), Islam does not belong to Germany. «An orthodox Islam that does not respect or even fight our legal system and claims to rule as the sole valid religion is incompatible with our legal system and culture», says the chapter of the new party program that the approximately 2,000 members adopted on Sunday in Stuttgart. The chapter is entitled «Islam does not belong to Germany». A motion calling for clarification that Muslims are not consistently rejected was not adopted.

Whistles were received by a member who wanted a more nuanced discussion. The man said: «We do politics without friend-enemy rhetoric.» Religious freedom is a valuable asset. He recommended that his party friends read Gotthold Ephraim Lessing's Ring parable, a call for religious tolerance. Vice party leader Beatrix von Storch countered that the party did differentiate between individual and political Islam. «We don't mean expelling all Muslims.»

The following point has also been included in the basic programme: the financing of the construction and operation of mosques from abroad is to be prohibited. The AfD rejects the minaret as an Islamic symbol of power, as well as the muezzin call. Women and girls should not be allowed to wear headscarves in schools and full veils should be banned.

A passage in the draft program supporting efforts to reform Islam was deleted at the request of Islamic scholar Hans-Thomas Tillschneider. He had argued that it was «ridiculous» to want to enlighten «inoculate» Islam.

Founded in 2013 as a eurosceptic party, the AfD gradually became more and more nationalist, anti-immigration, and pro-Russia. In the February 2025 federal election, the AfD became Germany's second-largest party nationwide.

6/21



Vatnik Soup

@P_Kallioniemi · Follow



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



4.1K



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Exclusive: Far-right German parliamentary aide tasked by Russia with stopping Leopard tanks to Ukraine

4 August 2023

The Insider

Leaked communications between Vladimir Sergienko, a naturalized German citizen, and "Alexei," a suspected FSB operative, show the extent of Russia's infiltration of the Alternative for Germany party. Their "active measures" included a plan to stop or slow delivery of German main battle tanks to Ukraine using frivolous litigation against the German government. It would only cost \$93,000.

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Report: Russian money fueled AfD trip

05/22/2018

Media report that three members of the Alternative for Germany flew to Moscow on a mysterious donor's dime during the 2017 campaign. Former co-leader Frauke Petry, her husband and another AfD figure took the trip.

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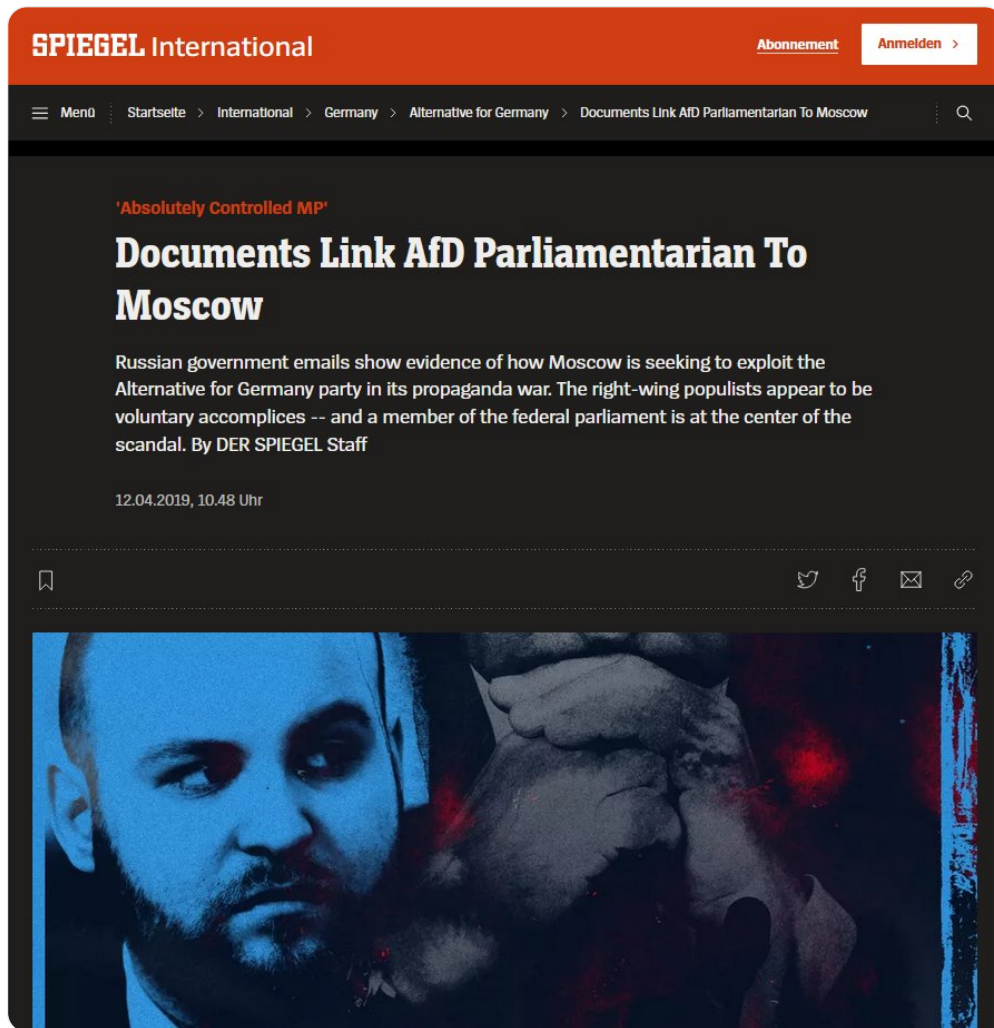
POLITICS | GERMANY

Germany's far-right AfD lawmakers visit Moscow

03/10/2021

Duma lawmakers welcomed three members of Germany's far-right AfD party in Moscow, with the visitors calling to end the sanctions against Russia.





And for some reason, a certain illegal immigrant from Africa goes out of his way to help them.

Elon Musk declared that “only the AfD can save Germany,” published an op-ed backing it and hosted Alice Weidel for a 75-minute conversation urging support for the far right party.

7/21



<https://twitter.com/i/web/status/2095887860511510937>



Elon Musk  
@elonmusk

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   AfD!   



Musk even appeared on video at the AfD's 2025 campaign launch in Halle, in the same Sachsen-Anhalt state that votes this Sunday. Addressing thousands of supporters, he called the party "Germany's best hope" and told Germans that they "focus too much on past guilt."

8/21





<https://twitter.com/i/web/status/2095887870934339874>

Musk Says Germany Has ‘Too Much of a Focus on Past Guilt’

His comments to the hard-right Alternative for Germany party escalated efforts by the billionaire to influence the country’s election for chancellor next month.



“It’s good to be proud of German culture, German values, and not to lose that in some sort of multiculturalism that dilutes everything,” Elon Musk told a gathering of the hard-right Alternative for Germany party on Saturday. Sebastian Willnow/DPA, via Associated Press



By [Jim Tankersley](#) and [Christopher F. Schuetze](#)

Reporting from Berlin

Jan. 27, 2025

[Leer en español](#)

Elon Musk told a gathering of the hard-right Alternative for Germany party this weekend that the country has “too much of a focus on past guilt,” an apparent effort to wipe away the long shadow of the Nazis that has influenced generations of Germans to quarantine extreme political parties from public life.

OPINION

CONTROVERSY

Why Elon Musk relies on the AfD – and why he is wrong

From Jan philipp burgard, Elon Musk

Published on 28.12.2024 | Reading time: 7 minutes



Elon Musk (L) is the CEO of Tesla and SpaceX. Jan Philipp Burgard will be WELT editor-in-chief from January 1st

Source: picture alliance/Sipa USA/Image Press Agency; Andreas Hornoff/WORLD

US entrepreneur Elon Musk believes that only the Alternative for Germany can fundamentally reform the country. Completely wrong, answers Jan Philipp Burgard. The AfD is partly xenophobic and anti-Semitic. That's why it's a danger for Germany.

Till Schneider loved it. The next day he thanked Musk “endlessly” for the speech and said it would help Germany end its “cult of guilt” over the Nazi era.

He fits on the far right of the party: Patriotic Platform, Björn Höcke’s Flügel and ties with the Identitarians.



H.-Th. Tillschneider
@P_Plattform



Translated from German [Show original](#)

Am infinitely grateful to [#ElonMusk](#) for his speech. With his support, we will normalize our relationship to our history. Sensible, well-dosed, historical engagement with the [#NS](#)-era yes, but enough with the guilt cult! Let the past rest! [#AfD](#)

Rate this translation:



Frederik Schindler @FreSchindler · Jan 25, 2025

Elon Musk verbreitet beim Wahlkampfauftritt der AfD das rechtsextreme Narrativ eines vermeintlichen Schuldkults – und diskreditiert damit eine aufgeklärte Auseinandersetzung mit der Verbrechensgeschichte des Nationalsozialismus als ein Klima der Schuld, welches die Deutschen daran



7:02 AM · Jan 26, 2025 · **4,038** Views

The Identitarians and the AfD

A dozen members of the Identitarian Movement briefly occupied the Brandenburg Gate yesterday and used it for their propaganda. They belong to the spectrum of the New Right and are monitored by the Office for the Protection of the Constitution. What many people don't know: The group maintains connections with the AfD.

of Marcus Bensmann

28. August 2016



The Identitarian Movement at the demo „Fortress Europe“ in May, organized by ex-Pegida woman Tatjana Festerling. The New Right, well connected. © Ludwig Rehnolt / strassengezwitscher.de

The right wants to know. On Saturday they burned down pyrotechnics at the Brandenburg Gate and Hoisted a poster² against Chancellor Angela Merkel's refugee policy: „Secure borders – Secure future“. The campaign was a signal for the Identitarian movement with around 500 activists nationwide. For the first time, right-wing extremists appeared visible to everyone.

So far, the group is hardly known publicly in Germany. She appears primarily on social networks and spreads her ethnic theses there. Her head is the Austrian-born legal activist Martin Sellner.

The „great exchange“

Above all, the group holds one motif together: the fear of the „big exchange“. In Europe and Germany, peoples are specifically deprived of their own „identity“. The immigration of people, especially from the Islamic world, orchestrated by the federal government would wipe out the people who originally lived in Germany. According to the Identitarians, this population exchange is controlled by dark forces.

Identitarians in the AfD?

But the AfD's demarcation from the Identitarians doesn't work. In Saxony-Anhalt, for example, AfD member of the state parliament Hans-Thomas Tillschneider is fighting for an opening to the right. The Islamic scholar from Romania told correctiv.org that he considered the AfD's decision „wrong“ to distance himself from the Identitarians. He wouldn't ignore it, but he would try to refute this decision with „good arguments“.

Tillschneider is federal chairman of the right-wing „Patriotic Platform“, an association of AfD members that promotes cooperation with the Identitarian Movement on its website.

Tillschneider accuses the parliamentary managing director of the AfD in the state parliament of Saxony-Anhalt, Daniel Roi, of „maintaining contacts with leading activists of the Identitarian Movement“. A remarkable accusation. Roi recently launched a call for the party to exclude the Identitarians and the NPD. „We don't want a merger with organizations that act as a haven for extremists“, writes Roi.² In an interview with CORRECTIV, Roi says that „certain parts“ of the movement are rightly being watched by the Office for the Protection of the Constitution.

In terms of content, the Identitarians are in line with the right wing of the AfD in any case. The fear of the end of the German people is a main motif in almost every appearance by Björn Höcke. The party's right-winger recently gave ethnic speeches at election campaign events in Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania. „We as a people are more broken inside than we were after the Second World War“, cried Höcke at one [Election event in Neubrandenburg](#)³. The AfD parliamentary group leader in the Thuringian state parliament writes: „Yes, I'm speaking plainly. Yes, I want to shake things up. Either the Germans wake up, or [they are lost](#)⁴.“ And further: Politics is not a power game „but the way to give the German people new orientation.“

New rights in the fight against the state

The New Right sees itself as having the right to work against the state using extreme means. During the peak phase of the refugee wave in 2015, the right-wing pioneer Götz Kubitschek organized a kind of legal opinion. „[On the German political right of resistance](#)⁵“. The paper was written by the right-wing lawyer Thor von Waldstein. This writing contains the basic ethnic melody that drives the Identitarians, Höcke and Kubitschek.

Some in Tillschneider's party certainly seem to have overcome the guilt already.

In 2024, AfD Maximilian Krah said that not everyone who wore an SS uniform was automatically a criminal.

Even Marine Le Pen's RN cut ties with the AfD over this.



Vatnik Soup

@P_Kallioniemi · Follow



In today's #vatniksoup, I'll introduce a German lawyer(!), politician and MEP, Maximillian Krah (@KrahMax). He's best-known for his far-right politics, for his pro-Russian voting patterns, and for his denial of war crimes and human rights violations around the world.

1/18



11:26 AM · Apr 11, 2023



1.1K



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AfD

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EURE KINDER**

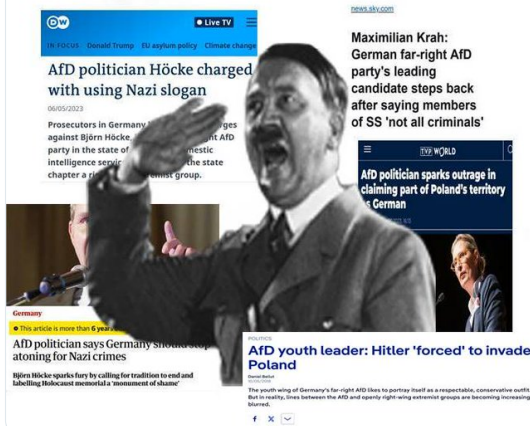


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La versione di Krah: “Non prendo soldi dai russi. Le SS criminali? Sbagliato generalizzare”

dalla nostra corrispondente Tonia Mastrobuoni



L'intervista con lo “spitzenkandidat” dell'Afd alle Europee: “C'è fobia verso i cinesi. Sono un miliardo e mezzo di persone, ci sono enormi interessi economici. Non rinuncio ad avere rapporti con loro”

18 MAGGIO 2024 ALLE 01:00

5 MINUTI DI LETTURA

And Tillschneider, who could become Sachsen-Anhalt's education minister, wants to reshape how German history is taught. National Socialism would “of course” remain in the curriculum — but “somewhat less”.

His own summary: “More Bismarck, less Hitler.”

The far-right leader pushing Germans to forget the Nazi past

Hans-Thomas Tillschneider could soon wield more power than any other far-right figure in Germany's postwar history to turn his radical ideas into reality.

By **JAMES ANGELOS**
in Querfurt, Germany



Illustration by David Szakaly for POLITICO

It is aiming at winning enough votes to take a parliamentary majority in Saxony-Anhalt: a remarkable feat in German politics.

Polling suggests that is possible but by no means inevitable.

If it did pull off that level of victory, the party would take control of services including culture, policing and education.

It is proposing to change the school history curriculum by placing more emphasis on the century that came before the catastrophic conflicts of World War One and Two.

Hans-Thomas Tillschneider, who masterminded the programme, has said there would "of course" still be teaching on National Socialism "but somewhat less so".

Speaking on an ARD programme last year he summed it up as "More Bismarck, less Hitler", referring to Otto von Bismarck, the chief architect of German unification in 1871.



Should the AfD win enough votes in Saxony-Anhalt, Ulrich Siegmund (centre) will become state premier. He has a considerable lead in the polls

Senior figures within the AfD have previously been accused of seeking to downplay the darkest chapter of German history partly, claim its critics, as a way of appealing to its more extremist supporters.

In 2018, former party co-leader Alexander Gauland likened the Nazi era to a "speck of bird poop" while, a year before, Björn Höcke, who leads the party in the state of Thuringia, described Berlin's Holocaust Memorial as a "Monument of Shame".



tagesschau

tagesschau24 live



The Staatliches Bauhaus was an art school initially founded in Weimar by Walter Gropius and revolutionized the art and architecture world between 1919 and 1933, moving to Dessau in 1925. The Bauhaus experienced its heyday there, influenced by Walter Gropius, Hannes Meyer and Ludwig Mies van der Rohe.

Recourse to Nazi discourse

When he described the Bauhaus as the "wrong path of modernity" in the Magdeburg state parliament a year ago, he took up a direct quote from the Nazi ideologist Paul Schultze-Naumburg. His book "Art and Race" had a significant influence on the cultural policy of the National Socialists.

While Paul Schultze-Naumburg once criticized the flat roof as "undeutsch", Tillschneider followed the argument at least indirectly. The Bauhaus's ideas would contradict "traditional and culturally anchored ideas about living and living spaces". A "global uniformity" has replaced "local identities".

In the subsequent debate, however, Tillschneider rejected any proximity to National Socialist ideas. This is just an attempt to avoid a real argument.



Hans-Thomas Tillschneider, deputy AfD state chairman, during his speech to the participants of the state party conference.



Shortly before the full-scale invasion of Ukraine, Tillschneider called Putin a “real man” with a “healthy value system.”

His response to February 24, 2022? “Russia is defending itself!” and “the attacker is not the actual aggressor.”

12/21

After Putin's „Security Conference“: AfD politician celebrates Russia as a paradise on earth

22.08.2023, 13:42
From: Robert Wagner

Hans-Thomas Tillschneider (AfD) sees the USA as „the biggest security problem“ and raves about „gloss, order and prosperity“ in Putin's Russia.

Magdeburg – politician of the AfD repeatedly attract attention with their sympathy for Putin's Russia. Hans-Thomas Tillschneider, member of the AfD Saxony-Anhalt state parliament, regularly makes particularly clear statements in this direction. Already on the first day of the Russian invasion Ukraine he felt called upon to protect Russia. „Russia [sic!] defends himself!“ he wrote in a tweet dated February 24, 2022, which he deleted shortly afterwards. „Putin defends Russian interests and that is his right“, he said, according to the *MDR* a short time later in the Magdeburg state parliament.

AfD politicians about Putin's Russia: „People seem calm and satisfied. People are fine“

How enthusiastic Tillschneider is about Russia under the illiberal ruler Vladimir Putin is, has recently become very clear again. In Saint-Petersburg in mid-August he attended the eleventh „Moscow Security Conference“, to which the Kremlin invited states such as China, Iran and Saudi Arabia to debate the „multipolar world order“. Their goal is „a world that is no longer dominated by the USA alone“, as Tillschneider said in a video for the right-wing radical and AfD-affiliated online portal *Germany Courier* summed up.

Following this „security conference“, Tillschneider published a short video on the Tiktok platform on August 15th in which he stands in front of the brightly lit skyline of Moscow and plays kitschy music by Russland raves about paradise. He feels a „need“ to „show the beauty of Moscow to his followers“. Tillschneider emphasizes how pleasant life is in Russia. „Everything is very clean People seem calm and content. People are fine.“ The highly uncritical video is titled with the words „Splendor, order, prosperity and cleanliness: This is Russia [sic!] 2023!“

AfD politician Tillschneider: „World domination by the USA is the biggest security problem“

On the occasion of Putin's „Security Conference“, Tillschneider, who is also the education and cultural policy spokesman for his parliamentary group, appeared on Russian propaganda television. Opposite *RT German* he spoke of the „world domination of the USA“, which currently represents „the biggest security problem“. In *Moskva* however, we are working on a „counter-proposal that brings peace to the world“. Shortly before the outbreak of the Ukraine War Tillschneider said in a right-wing discussion about Vladimir Putin that he was a „real guy, a real man with a healthy framework of values“. US President Joe Biden, on the other hand, called it a „poisonous old toad“.



Hans-Thomas Tillschneider, member of the AfD Saxony-Anhalt state parliament, regularly draws attention to himself with his blunt affinity for Putin's Russia (archive photo). © Hendrik Schmidt/dpa

Tillschneider, deputy state chairman of the AfD Saxony-Anhalt, is one of the most influential representatives of the openly right-wing extremist party camp Björn Höcke. In September 2022 he was one of a group of members of the state parliament AfD, who were planning a trip to the Russian-occupied eastern Ukrainian Donbass and after sharp criticism, they dropped out early from their own party. In a tweet at the time, Tillschneider wrote that they simply wanted to „give their own picture of the situation and assess the humanitarian situation in the face of distorted and partisan reporting on the Ukraine conflict [...]“

When confronted in parliament about waving a Russian flag, Tillschneider protested: “I’m not a Kremlin agent; I’m a German patriot.”

The “German patriot” also told a rally: “Our enemies are not in Moscow. Our enemies are in Magdeburg and Berlin — and Washington”.



<https://twitter.com/i/web/status/2095887893688377639>

In September 2022, Tillschneider travelled to Russia with AfD politicians Daniel Wald and Christian Blex.

Their plan was to (illegally) continue into Russian-occupied Donetsk and Luhansk to get their "own" view of the war.

"Mr. Haldenwang, time to act!"

AfD MPs travel to occupied eastern Ukraine



From Annika Leister

Updated on 19.09.2022

Reading time: 2 min.



Christian Blex (l) in 2018 during his illegal trip to Ukrainian Crimea: He met Russian officials there, Moscow's news agencies reported the visit as a visit to "Russia". (Source: Sergei Malgavko/imago-images-images)

At least three AfD politicians are currently on their way to Donbass. The Ukrainian ambassador calls on the Office for the Protection of the Constitution to take action.

As Moscow's "fifth column" the AfD already made a name for itself in recent months – with dubious interviews on Russian state television, strongly pro-Russian positions and close ties to the Kremlin. Now several AfD politicians have traveled to the Russland Controlled Donbass set off in eastern Ukraine.

Criminal Code of Ukraine

- Special Part - Chapter XIV
- Article 332



UNTOC Articles

Smuggling of Migrants Protocol

Article 6 Criminalization



Original Text

Article 332. Illegal movement of persons across the state border of Ukraine

1. Illegal movement of persons across the state border of Ukraine, organisation of illegal transportation of persons across the state border of Ukraine, management of such actions or assistance in their commission by advice, instructions, provision of means or elimination of obstacles

shall be punishable by imprisonment for a term of three to five years.

2. The same actions committed in a manner dangerous to life or health of a person who was illegally transported across the state border of Ukraine, or committed in respect of several persons, or repeatedly, or by a group of persons upon their prior conspiracy or by an official through abuse of office

shall be punishable by imprisonment for a term of five to seven years with deprivation of the right to hold certain positions or engage in certain activities for a term of up to three years.

3. Any such actions as provided for by part 1 or 2 of this Article, where committed by an organised group or for mercenary reasons

shall be punishable by imprisonment for a term of seven to nine years with deprivation of the right to hold certain positions or engage in certain activities for a term of up to three years and forfeiture of property.

{Article 332 as revised by Law No. 3186-VI of 05 April 2011; as amended by Law No. 1019-VIII of 18 February 2016}

A digital collage showing the faces of Vladimir Putin and Tino Chrupalla in profile, facing each other and kissing. The background is a solid teal color. The image is used as a visual metaphor for the article's theme of political alignment.

Alternative for Russia: How the AfD is systematically turning towards Russia

The German far-right political party Alternative for Germany (Alternative für Deutschland) has set its sights on Russia. Their election manifesto barely mentions the West or NATO. Provocative trips, aggressive political speeches and pro-Russian motions in the Bundestag (German parliament) all reveal a party whose foreign policy is pandering to Moscow.

Image: A collage of the politicians Tino Chrupalla and Wladimir Putin by Ivo Mayr.

Trips to Russia

Chapter 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8

The many trips made by AfD MPs to Russia are conspicuous. Many are intended as deliberate provocations, such as a trip to Crimea, which had just been annexed by Russia, or to the separatist areas in Luhansk and Donetsk, which are under Russian occupation. The AfD politicians involved sought proximity to the Putin regime during these trips; some took part in Russian-organised election monitoring. Rather than criticising the repression of the opposition and the restrictions on press freedom, one MP even praised the elections as “free, equal and secret.” The German newspaper Die Welt ²uncovered over 100 such trips in October 2021 alone.

Even after the Russian invasion of Ukraine, AfD politicians continued to travel to Russia. They called for the lifting of sanctions against Russia and did not speak out against Russia's war of aggression. Here we have detailed a selection of these trips and how they demonstrate a systematic rapprochement with Russia.

Since 2023, the “German patriot” also writes a column in Vedomosti.

In August 2023, he attended a vatnik conference in Moscow, praising its goal of a “multipolar world order” and Russia’s “clean streets”.

In June 2024, he joined an AfD propaganda trip to Kaliningrad.

Russian Media

AfD politician regularly writes guest articles in the Moscow daily newspaper

AfD politician Hans-Thomas Tillschneider wants to improve German-Russian relations with articles in a Russian newspaper. He does not receive any compensation for this.

Source: DIE ZEIT, dpa, ljk 3. May 2024, 11:54 am

The AfD-State parliament member Hans-Thomas Tillschneider writes regularly for a Russian newspaper. The Saxony-Anhalt politician said he wanted his regular contributions to the Moscow daily newspaper *Vedomosti* improve German-Russian relations.

He has been writing the guest posts since the beginning of 2023, Tillschneider said. He does not receive any compensation for this. He wanted to show that there are also politicians in Germany who have a different attitude Russland For example, foreign minister Annalena Baerbock (Greens) or the FDP MP Marie-Agnes Strack-Zimmermann. "History teaches us: We were fine when we had a good relationship with Russia", said Tillschneider.

Participation in controversial trip to Russia in autumn 2022

t-online.

Afd MPs on a trip to Russia
Waving flags for Putin

From Annika Leister, Jonas Mueller-Töwe

25.06.2024
Reading time: 4 min.

German-Russian flag high: Afd MP Frank Litzreck on Victory Square in Kaliningrad – and on Russian TV. (Source: Screenshot/Kaskad TV)

Afd MPs traveled to the Russian exclave of Kaliningrad to demonstrate – with Russian media in tow. The Afd leadership says: It knew nothing about anything.

They stand in a central square waving flags that are half Russian, half German: several Afd MPs and officials have travelled to Kaliningrad. Accompanied by Russian TV channels and media, they set an example for German-Russian friendship and "against Western values" – regardless of Putin's war of aggression against them Ukraine, regardless of the massive sanctions imposed by Germany and the EU against Russland. And regardless of the criticism of such media-effective trips to authoritarian countries, especially to Russia, in parts of their own party.

In March 2024, Putin staged another fake election; the Putinverstehher congratulated him. In October 2025, he celebrated Putin's birthday in the Russian embassy in Berlin. Tillschneider also helped Jürgen Elsässer launch Ostwind, literally a group for "understanding" Putin.

Reactions to the election in Russia

Only the AfD congratulates Putin

Chancellor Olaf Scholz does not send congratulations to Vladimir Putin. Germany and the EU do not consider his re-election to be legal.

18.3.2024 15:23

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No surprise: Vladimir Putin before another six-year term
Photo: Maxim Shemetov/reuters

From Berlin **Daniel Bax**, **Gareth Joswig** And **Eric Bonse**

The federal government recognizes this Election victory for incumbent Vladimir Putin in the Russian presidential election „not considered legal“. The federal government sees the election as „neither free nor fair“, said government spokeswoman Christiane Hoffmann on Monday in Berlin. „It wasn't a democratic election.“ The result was clearly already certain beforehand and the election campaign was characterized by a „climate of intimidation“.



H.-Th. Tillschneider
@P_Plattform



Translated from German [Show original](#)

Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin has been elected President of the Russian Federation with over 87%. Congratulations to him and to the Russian people. I would be glad if our government would safeguard our interests as [#Putin](#) safeguards the interests of the Russian people!

Rate this translation: 👍 👎

7:09 AM · Mar 18, 2024 · **55.8K** Views



AUDIO: Outrage in Saxony-Anhalt: AfD MP at Putin celebration in Russian embassy (1 min)

IN THE RUSSIAN EMBASSY

AfD politicians from Saxony-Anhalt honor Putin

Booth: 09.10.2025 12:09

 LISTEN TO ARTICLES

Three AfD members of the state parliament from Saxony-Anhalt took part in an event to mark Vladimir Putin's birthday at the Russian embassy in Berlin. The "Compact" magazine invited people to do so. The chairmen of the other state parliamentary groups condemn the participation.

Founding of the club: The east wind defeats the west wind

From Jürgen Elsässer — 31. January 2023 109 Comments



Symbolic image of German-Russian friendship. Photo: argus / Shutterstock.com.

Re-foundation: An association wants to strengthen peace and friendship with Russia. We deliver **COMPACT Edition „Understanding Putin“** with genuine Putin original speeches and thus make an indispensable contribution to understanding contemporary Russia. [Find out more here.](#)

The founding meeting of the Ostwind association took place in Berlin at the weekend. Some 70 people had come, including members of the Bundestag and Landtag from the AfD and top representatives of the regional associations. But the association emphasizes its non-partisanship and wants to remain independent of the blue party. The aim is to create a network that is a counterpart to the infamous Atlantic Bridge: If it aims to strengthen connections with Washington, Ostwind wants to maintain cultural, humanitarian and political ties on the Eurasian continent. In the current warmongering atmosphere, an undertaking that is as courageous as it is necessary.

Till Schneider admires another Moscow resident: Bashar al-Assad. Even after Assad's fall, he refused to retract "one iota" of his support — as fellow MPs asked: "Despite the torture? Despite the poison gas?"

Right-wing extremists and the Ukraine war

Association for right-wing Putin friends

AfD politician and the right-wing extremist journalist Jürgen Elsässer founded the association „Ostwind“. The aim is to get closer to Russia.

2.2.2023 16:02

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Compact editor-in-chief Jürgen Elsässer
Photo: Sachelle Babbar/imagio



From Hamburg **Andreas Speit**

The milieu around the AfD and the right-wing magazine Compact wanted to fuel a „winter of anger“ for solidarity with Russia [Ukraine War](#) and against the policies of the German federal government. Nothing has come of this so far. But they now want to perpetuate the weak protest that exists. The [Compact editor-in-chief Jürgen Elsässer](#) and the AfD member of the state parliament Hans-Thomas Tillschneider from Saxony-Anhalt founded the „Ostwind Association“ in Berlin for „Peace and Friendship with Russia“. Elsässer made the founding public on the magazine's website.

That's why I came to the conclusion that Assad rule was and is the best thing for Syria.

(Shouts)

And I have no reason at all to say this with full conviction - to take back even one iota of this support.

(Olaf Meister, GREENS: Despite torture! - Guido Kosmehl, FDP: Despite torture, despite the use of poison gas?)

The Syrian people owe a lot to Bashar al-Assad and his father.

(Call from Cornelia Lüddemann, GREENS - Unrest)

I hope that he will remain beyond the grasp of the brutal Islamists in Moscow. - Thank you very much.

(Applause from the AfD)



OVERTHROW OF THE ASSAD REGIME

Deportations to Syria: Heated debate in the state parliament

Booth: 19.12.2024 09:31

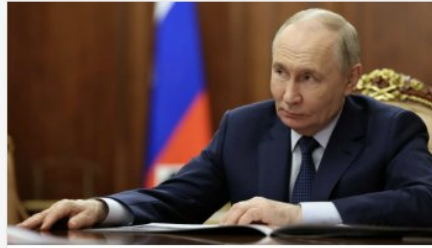
LISTEN TO ARTICLES

How is Saxony-Anhalt dealing with refugees after the fall of the Assad regime in Syria? At the request of the AfD, members of the state parliament discussed deportations on Wednesday. The debate was heated and dominated by various topics. AfD MP Tillschneider expressed his regret over the fall of the Syrian dictator.

by Engin Haupt, MDR SAXONY-ANHALT

- The state parliament discussed this on Wednesday [Deportation of Syrian refugees](#) debates. The [AfD wants to expel Syrians as quickly as possible](#).
- Interior Minister Tamara Zieschang, however, referred to the [still unclear situation in Syria](#) after the fall of the Assad regime.
- The [AfD MP Hans-Thomas Tillschneider](#) Deplored the overthrow of Syrian dictator Bashar al-Assad.

At the request of the AfD parliamentary group, the state parliament of Saxony-Anhalt discussed the deportation of Syrian refugees. While the fall of the Assad regime in Syria was viewed positively by almost all factions, AfD MP Tillschneider expressed his regret. "Peace, freedom and prosperity reigned under Bashar al-Assad", he shouted during the debate. A heated debate quickly developed.



AfD 27.05.2026 · Compact-Team

AfD for Putin: How close are the relationships?

Several AfD politicians have received invitations to the economic forum in Saint Petersburg – the patron is Vladimir Putin. While some are still officially considering taking part, for most it wouldn't be their first trip to Russia.

[Learn more](#)

The questionable Tillschneider moral compass

On the one hand, Tillschneider likes to defame his opponents with Bible quotations. On the other hand, he doesn't seem to see charity that closely and describes Islam as a parallel society – compared it [optionally](#) with the devil or a spreading disease. In the state parliament he made derogatory comments about non-binary people on TikTok [trivialized](#) he the Holocaust.

His questionable moral compass was also evident after the fall of

the [extremely brutal Syrian dictator](#) Bashar al-Assad. Then Tillschneider announced in the state parliament that the Syrian people had al-Assad and his father [much to thank](#). Under their rule there was „peace, freedom and prosperity“.

As a declared Russia fan, Tillschneider regularly praises Putin's policies highly. He travels frequently to Russia and writes for the Moscow newspaper „[Wedemosti](#)“. He calls Europe that because of its equality policy „[Kingdom of Satan](#)“.

Even at this point, Tillschneider doesn't stop: Tillschneider publicly relativized the sexual relationship between the then 63-year-old songwriter Konstantin Wecker and a minor and described the reporting on it as „male-hostile propaganda“.

“

So what? It was clearly consensual and she was over 16. Not punishable.

Hans-Thomas Tillschneider on X (zur [sexual relationship](#) by the songwriter Konstantin Wecker with a student; Post deleted)

Hans-Thomas Tillschneider - as Minister of Education?

Ironically, Assad's atrocities and war crimes helped drive the Syrian exodus, while Putin intervened in 2015 to keep his regime in power. Syrians went on to become Germany's largest refugee group, and migration a key topic for AfD.

Solidarität mit Bashar al-Assad!

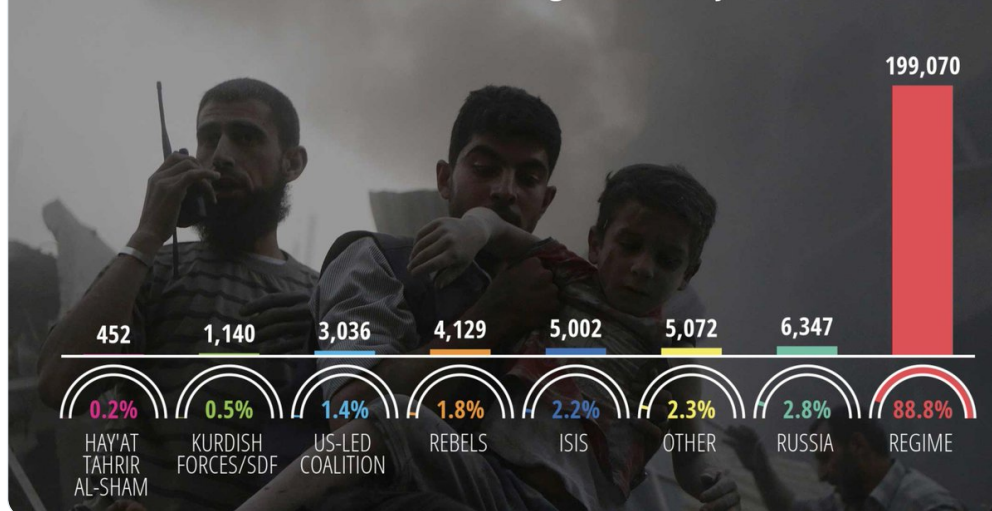


**Dr. Hans-Thomas
Tillschneider**
Sprecher der Patriotischen Plattform



Patriotische
Plattform

2011 – 2019: Who's Killing Civilians In Syria?



May 1, 2017

Death by Chemicals

The Syrian Government's Widespread and Systematic Use of Chemical Weapons

Available in [English](#) [العربية](#)



A poison hazard danger sign is seen in the town of Khan Sheikhoun, Idlib province, Syria on April 5, 2017. © 2017 Abdussamed Dagul/Anadolu Agency/Getty Images

Summary

All available evidence strongly suggests that on April 4, 2017, a Syrian government warplane attacked Khan Sheikhoun, a town in the northwestern governorate of Idlib, with a nerve agent, killing at least 90 people, 30 of them children. The death toll likely makes this the deadliest chemical attack since an attack killed hundreds in Ghouta, near Damascus, in August 2013.



7 February 2017

Index Number: MDE 24/5415/2017

Also available in العربية,Русский

Syria: Human slaughterhouse: Mass hangings and extermination at Saydnaya Prison, Syria

At Saydnaya Military Prison, the Syrian authorities have quietly and methodically organized the killing of thousands of people in their custody. Amnesty International's research shows that the murder, torture, enforced disappearance and extermination carried out at Saydnaya since 2011 have been perpetrated as part of an attack against the civilian population that has been widespread, as well as systematic, and carried out in furtherance of state policy. We therefore conclude that the Syrian authorities' violations at Saydnaya amount to crimes against humanity. Amnesty International urgently calls for an independent and impartial investigation into crimes committed at Saydnaya.



By 2026, Tillschneider was proclaiming the end of “the era of international law”.

The emerging world order, he said, would consist of great-power spaces and their spheres of influence. And it’s pretty obvious which one of them the “German patriot” is siding with.



Hans-Thomas Tillschneider and Compact boss Jürgen Elsässer, Florian Schröder, Frank-Otto Lizurek in the Russian embassy
Hans Thomas Tillschneider

Also there was Hans-Thomas Tillschneider, who was photographed with two other AfD MPs. FOCUS online tells Tillschneider he was there at Compact's invitation.

Finally, at the beginning of 2026, Tillschneider said in a video for the AfD format „Deutschlandkurier“: „We are experiencing a break in the era. The period of international law is coming to an end. A new world order is forming, which is characterized by large areas.“ It's about negotiating areas of influence between the major powers.

Expert: Tillschneider part of Russia's disinformation campaign

And Tillschneider isn't merely posting from the sidelines. He wrote large parts of the AfD's 2026 Sachsen-Anhalt program, which includes ending sanctions, restoring Nord Stream, expanding Russian-language teaching, and reviving student exchanges with Russia.

16. July 2026 · From [Campact Team](#)

Tillschneider: Observed by the Office for the Protection of the Constitution, soon to be Minister of Education?

Right-wing extremist Russia fan and perhaps soon Minister of Education in Saxony-Anhalt. Hans-Thomas Tillschneider is still flying under the radar. It's high time to report on him and his beliefs.



Ulrich Siegmund and Hans-Thomas Tillschneider are more than just sitting neighbors in the Magdeburg state parliament - they complement each other. Photo: IMAGO / Christian Schroedter

A man who does not find sex between a 63-year-old and a 16-year-old reprehensible is a possible possibility in Saxony-Anhalt [Minister of Education](#) ready: Hans-Thomas Tillschneider. Among other things, he wants to abolish homeschooling instead of compulsory schooling, inclusion and daily flying national flags. In general, the AfD wants that [Education system](#) radically change things up in Saxony-Anhalt.

„Remigration“, Russia, radicalism: What the AfD Saxony-Anhalt stands for

Far-right, close to MAGA and Russia, and yet far ahead in the polls: CORRECTIV shows what the AfD candidates stand for in Saxony-Anhalt, how they are integrated into radical networks – and why they demand sentries at schools.

of [Stella Hesch](#), [Martin Böhmer](#), [Isabel Knippel](#)

07. August 2026



Ulrich Siegmund, top candidate of the AfD Saxony-Anhalt, is leading in the polls. The State Office for the Protection of the Constitution assesses the state association as „certainly right-wing extremist. Photo: picture alliance/dpa | Klaus-Dietmar Gabbert

If elections are held in Saxony-Anhalt on September 6th, the „certainly right-wing extremist“ wants to [AfD](#) reaching for power. This is how the State Office for the Protection of the Constitution evaluates the party. Nevertheless, it is at a good 40 percent in the current surveys. It could be the first time in the history of the Federal Republic that a right-wing extremist party has come into government responsibility. Many of the candidates propagate „remigration“, have connections to Russia or were involved in the nepotism affair – an overview of the most important topics and people.

And he could end up as minister of education. The Sachsen-Anhalt election is this Sunday. The AfD is polling at around 42%, and Tillschneider is #3 on its list.

He can play dumb about the mug all he wants, but the man behind the mug is a real vatnik, not a German patriot.



News > Politic > Germany > State election in Saxony-Anhalt > AfD election crime thriller in Saxony-Anhalt on Sunday: Russia fan Tillschneider becomes a problem for Siegmund

Election campaign in Saxony-Anhalt

Putin fan Tillschneider becomes a problem for Siegmund



©IMAGO / Christian Schroedter



Sascha Adamek

Thursday, 03.09.2026, 09:24



Hans-Thomas Tillschneider was supposed to become Super Minister for Science and Education in an AfD cabinet, but according to FOCUS online information, he recently became a burden on top candidate Siegmund.

Saxony-Anhalt state election

The AfD's radical restructuring plans

In Saxony-Anhalt, the AfD is in the polls at almost 40 percent – an absolute majority in the state elections would therefore be within reach. In its „government program“ the state AfD reveals disruptive plans for Saxony-Anhalt.

By Niklas Ottersbach | 09.04.2026



The AfD member of the state parliament Hans-Thomas Tillschneider wrote large parts of the program –and, above all, shaped the tone. (picture alliance / dpa / Hendrik Schmidt)

AfD politician Hans-Thomas Tillschneider is a man who likes to surround himself with art in his Magdeburg state parliament office. With pictures by Caspar David Friedrich and the oriental painter Gustav Bauernfeind. An official portrait of Vladimir Putin, covered by a curtain, has been hanging next to the window overlooking Magdeburg Cathedral for years. But it's still there, emphasizes Tillschneider. Newly added and immediately visible as a political statement: a red MAGA cup on the office table („Make America Great Again“).

Russia spends \$5 billion a year on propaganda narratives and information operations to manufacture support for its invasions through vatniks and useful idiots. Fact-based research to counter it takes time and effort — please support our work:

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