



**Pekka Kallioniemi** @P\_Kallioniemi

Aug 7 · 22 tweets · [P\\_Kallioniemi/status/1688475826763776000](https://twitter.com/P_Kallioniemi/status/1688475826763776000)

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



The party was established in 2013, in the wake of the surge of many conservative, right-wing political parties around Europe. Throughout the years, the party has moved further to the far-right, and has taken stronger opposition against immigration, Islam and the EU.

2/19



Europe

## Germany's far right rides high on anti-immigration, anti-green agenda

By Sarah Marsh

June 7, 2023 11:19 AM GMT+3 · Updated 2 months ago



[1/4] Supporters of Alternative for Germany party protest against the government in Berlin, Germany, October 8, 2022. REUTERS/Christian Mang



AFD Head Frauke Petry

## 'The Immigration of Muslims Will Change Our Culture'

Frauke Petry, head of the populist Alternative for Germany, rejects the notion that her party is too far to the right. In a SPIEGEL interview, she speaks about patriotism, German history and her own childhood.

Von [Susanne Beyer](#) und [Jan Fleischhauer](#)

30.03.2016, 19.41 Uhr

DW Made for minds. IN FOCUS Russia's war in Ukraine Niger Women's World Cup Latest videos


POLITICS | GERMANY

## Germany's far-right AfD derides EU as 'failed project'

15 hours ago

The populist party stopped short of calling for Germany to leave the EU. Instead, the AfD proposed a "federation of European nations" that preserves the members' sovereignty.

f t v



© Klaus-Dieter Gahleitner/picture alliance

AfD has become the most popular far-right political party in Germany since WW II. In a recent poll, the party was second strongest party with over 20% support. They've increase their support especially in the "adaptive-pragmatic" middle classes.

3/19

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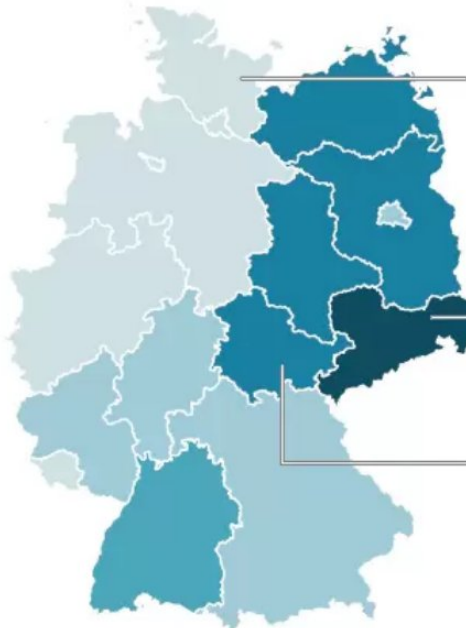
03:33

POLITICS | GERMANY

## Germany's far-right AfD party surges in opinion polls

# AfD share of the vote at most recent state elections

- 5-10%
- 10-15%
- 15-20%
- 20-25%
- 25-30%



Lowest support 5.9%  
Schleswig-Holstein

Highest 27.5%  
Saxony

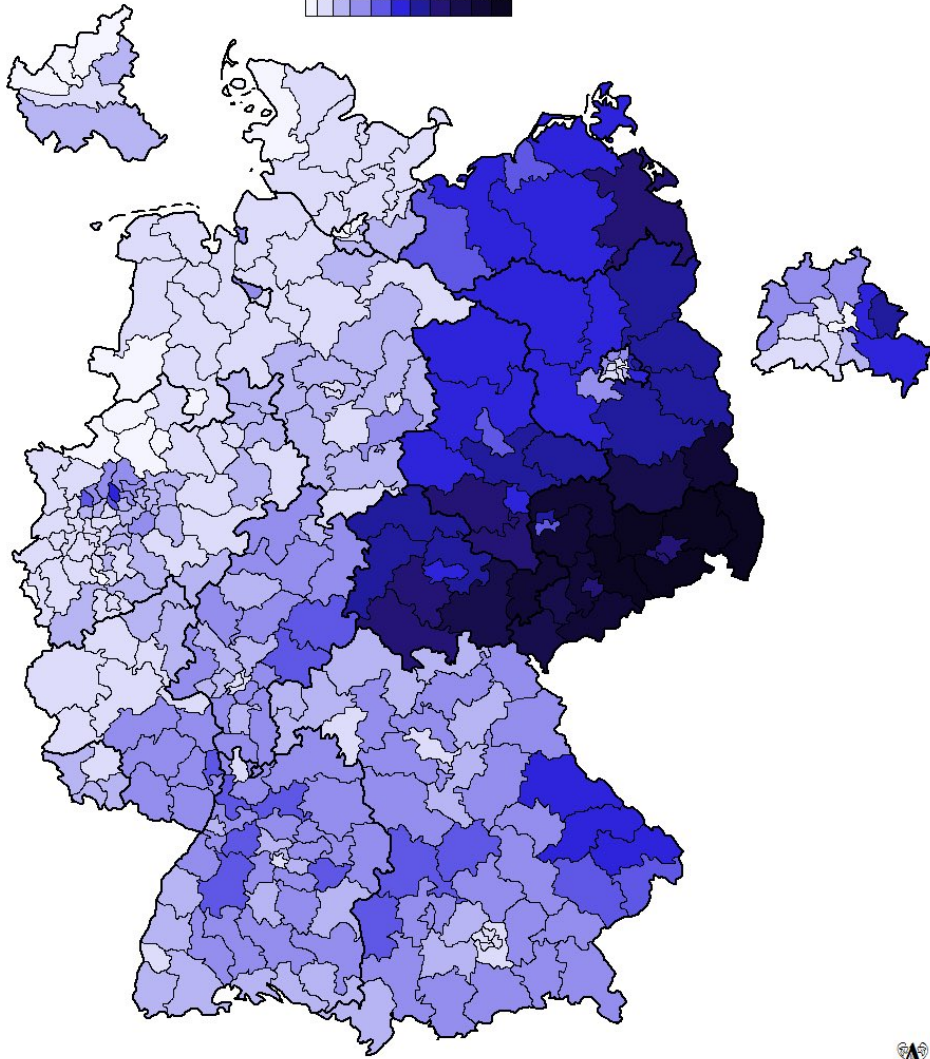
Thuringia 23.4%

Percent voting

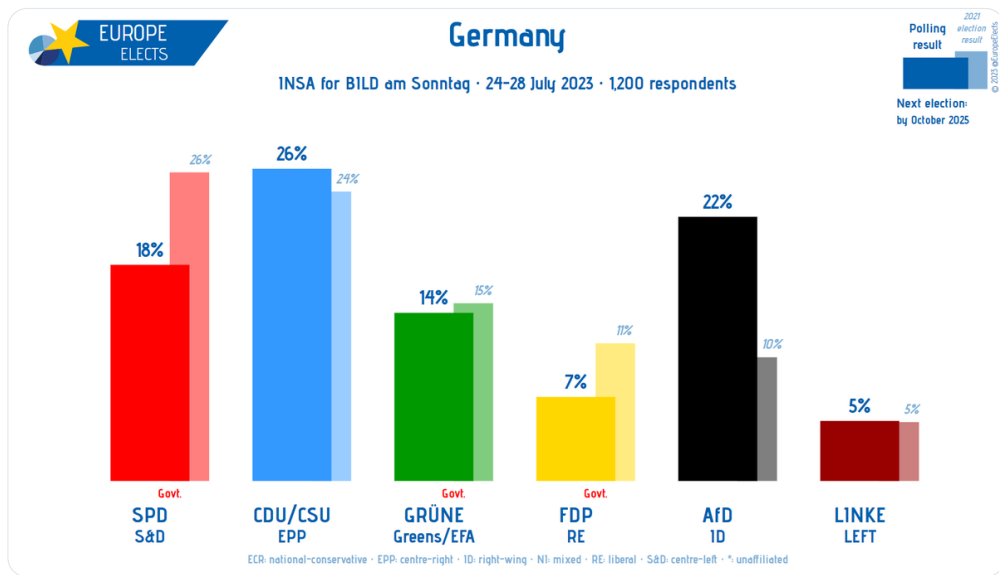
**AfD**

On the Party List ballot

5 7 10 12 15 17 20 23 25 27 30







The party has also been connected to various ultranationalist, far-right organizations like the German PEGIDA and the Neue Rechte, and the Bulgarian Vazrazhdane (Revival). Some of their members have roots in the German neo-Nazi parties like the NPD.

4/19

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POLITICS | GERMANY

## Far-right AfD co-chair Jörg Meuthen quits party

01/28/2022

The longtime leader and AfD spokesperson said he could no longer fend off the party's more extremist faction. He had already announced his intention to step down as co-chair, but now plans to leave the party entirely.

f t v



U.S. MARKETS FEBRUARY 22, 2018 / 5:15 PM / UPDATED 5 YEARS AGO

## Germany's far-right AfD set to embrace anti-Islam PEGIDA

By Madeline Chambers

3 MIN READ



BERLIN (Reuters) - A leader of the nationalist Alternative for Germany (AfD) is pushing to overturn the party's ban on members joining rallies by the anti-Islam PEGIDA movement - another sign of the rightward shift of Germany's budding main opposition party.





## A Classic Neo-Nazi Background

According to DER SPIEGEL's research, there was also a AfD politician present – and another speaker: Peter Steinborn, whose real name is Pierre Dornbrach. He used to be the national head of training for the Young Nationalists (JN), the youth wing of the neo-Nazi National Democratic Party (NPD). He also attended meetings of an organization modeled on the banned neo-Nazi group Heimattreue Deutsche Jugend (HDJ), which translates loosely as German Youth Faithful to the Homeland. He now works as an author and speaker for a think tank that feeds off people and ideas close to the NPD, which recently renamed itself Die Heimat (The Homeland). In other words, a classic neo-Nazi background.

Time and again, the AfD and its youth wing have claimed that they want nothing to do with neo-Nazism and right-wing extremism. Both are taking legal action to try to prevent the Office for the Protection of the Constitution, the domestic intelligence agency responsible for monitoring extremism in Germany, from classifying them as "confirmed right-wing extremist" organizations. However, reporting and research by reporters at DER SPIEGEL has now revealed that the AfD is closer to groups of a right-wing extremist or outright neo-Nazi nature than previously known. This once again reveals how far the AfD and JA have moved into right-wing extremist territory.

The party has been labelled as a group of "Putin-Versteher" or Putin understanders, which is also pretty evident from their actions. They're actively contributing to Russian disinformation campaigns and propaganda, and they've criticized many of EU's actions against Russia.

POLITICS | GERMANY

## Germany: Far-right demo slams Russia sanctions, coalition

10/08/2022

The far-right AfD party has called for "energy security and inflation protection" at a protest in Berlin. Party co-leader Tino Chrupalla accused the government of waging "economic war" against Russia.



In 2017, three AfD members received a sponsored flight on a private jet to Moscow. The members claimed that the trip was not "party business". In 2021, other three AfD members, including AfD co-chairwoman Alice Weidel, visited Moscow to "normalize" Russian-German relations.

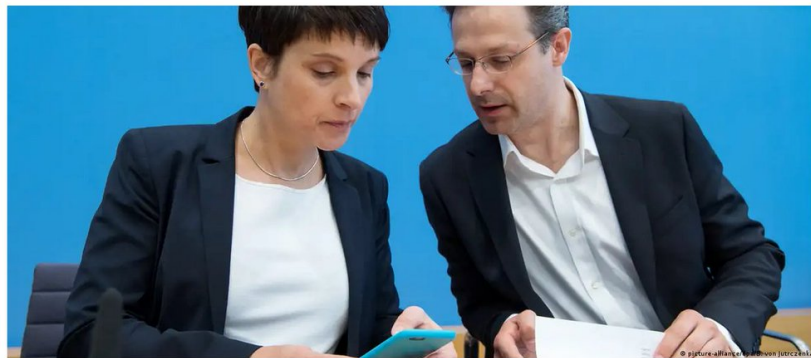
6/19

POLITICS

## Report: Russian money fueled AfD trip

05/22/2018

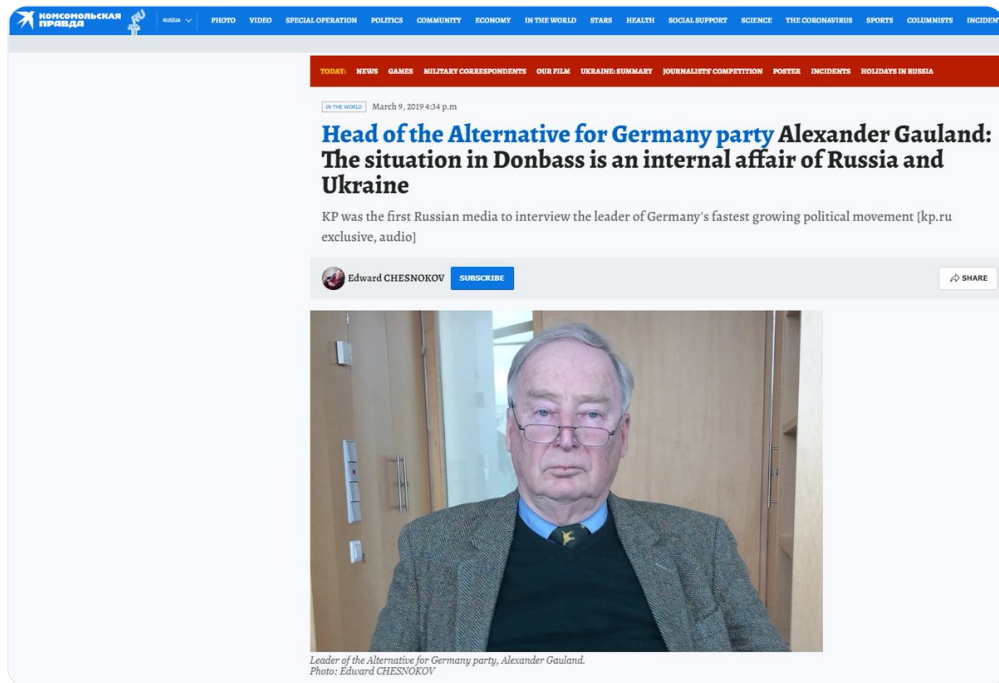
Media report that three members of the Alternative for Germany flew to Moscow on a mysterious donor's dime during the 2017 campaign. Former co-leader Frauke Petry, her husband and another AfD figure took the trip.





In Mar 2019, then AfD co-leader Alexander Gauland gave an interview to Komsomolskaya Pravda, in which he called the conflict in Ukraine an "internal matter", and that the party is strongly against any economic sanctions against Russia.

7/19



In Sep 2022, five members of AfD were planning to visit the Russia-controlled region of Donbas, Ukraine. The trip was allegedly organized by Russia, but was eventually cancelled due to the harsh criticism and public outcry they received.

After heavy criticism

### AfD politicians cancel trip to Donbass after massive criticism



AfD politicians from Saxony-Anhalt and North Rhine-Westphalia travel to Russia and also want to go to eastern Ukraine - this is not only causing sharp criticism within the party. Then in the evening the turnaround.

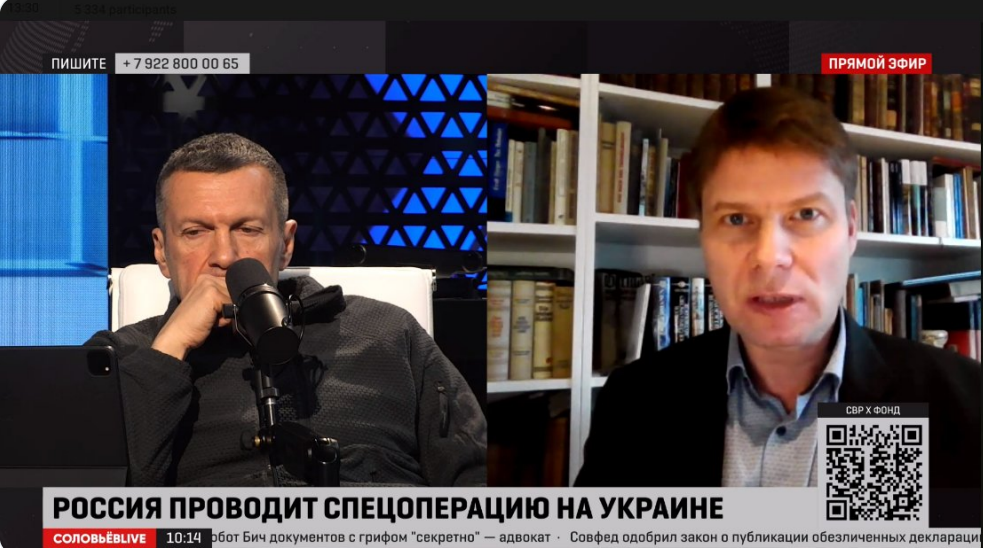
09/20/2022, 9:20 p.m

After sharp criticism, three AfD politicians break off their controversial trip to Russia. The editorial network Germany (RND) learned this from the AfD

In Feb 2023, AfD member @SteffenKotre was guest at Solovyov's propaganda show, where he claimed that "ordinary Germans" don't want to send military aid to Russia, and it's only the mainstream media that's pushing this narrative so they could turn people against Russia.

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ПРЯМОЙ ЭФИР



СВР Х ФОНД

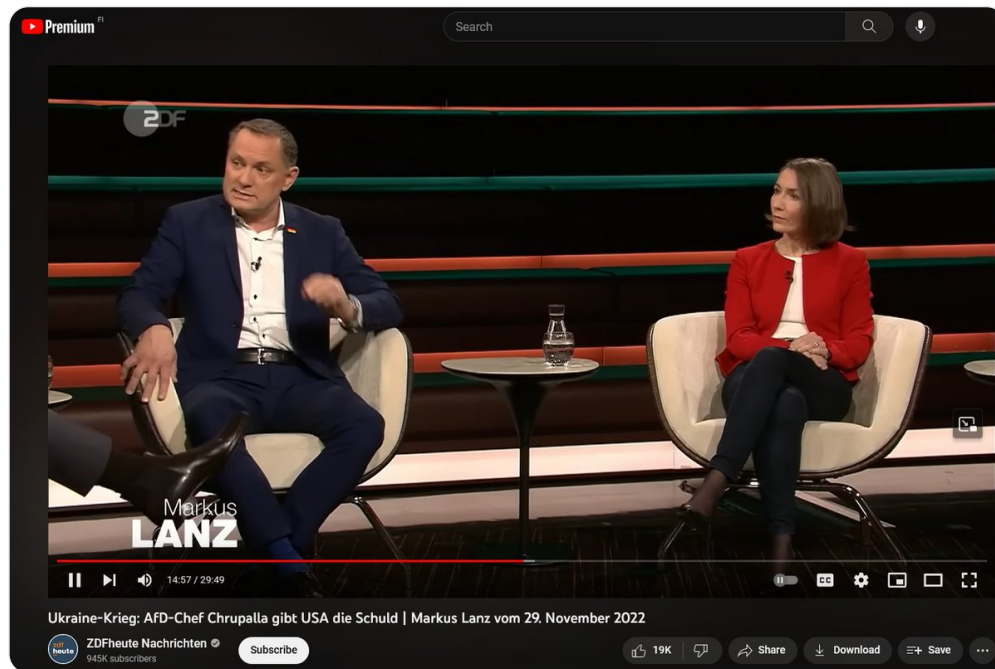
**РОССИЯ ПРОВодит СПЕЦОПЕРАЦИЮ НА УКРАИНЕ**

СОЛОВЬЕВ LIVE 10:14 Бот Бич документов с грифом "секретно" — адвокат · Совфед одобрил закон о публикации обезличенных деклараций



The party head, Tino Chrupalla, has claimed that the US "provoked Russia" and is at least partly responsible for the war in Ukraine. He even used the Russian propaganda phrase "The Americans are fighting on Ukraine territory until the last Ukrainian is dead."

10/19



AfD was also heavily involved in organizing so-called antiwar demonstrations in Feb 2023. WaPo found out that this "antiwar coalition" was one the Kremlin's goals, after Putin had illegally annexed the four Ukrainian Oblasts in Sep 2022.

11/19



EXCLUSIVE

# 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

By Catherine Belton, [Souad Mekhennet](#) and [Shane Harris](#)  
April 21, 2023 at 2:00 a.m. EDT



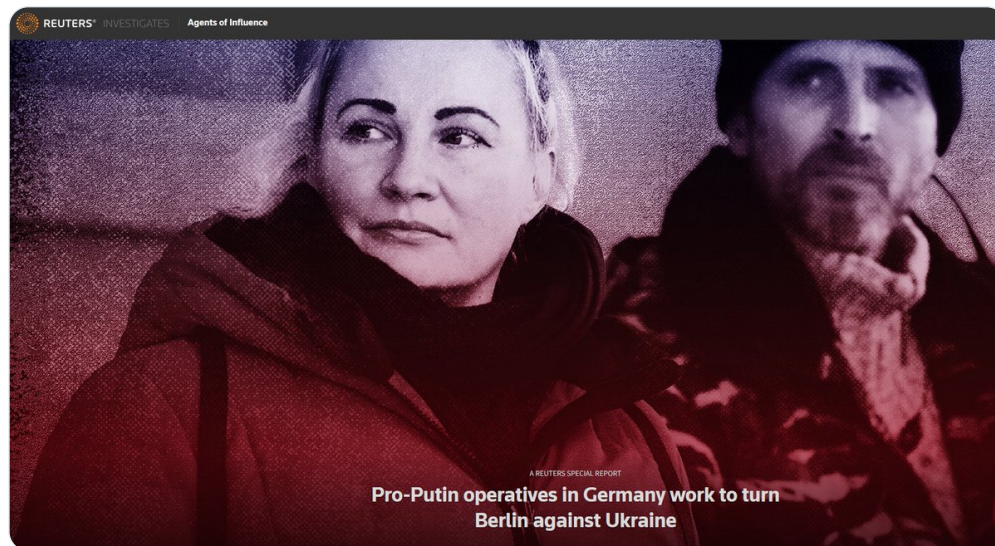
(Illustration by Emily Sabens/The Washington Post; Steffi Loos/Getty; Documents shared with The Washington Post; iStock)

Russian political strategists were ordered by the Kremlin officials to build an antiwar sentiment in Germany in order to reduce the support for Ukraine with slogans like "Buy gas, not war" and "Ukraine wants war, Germany want peace".

12/19

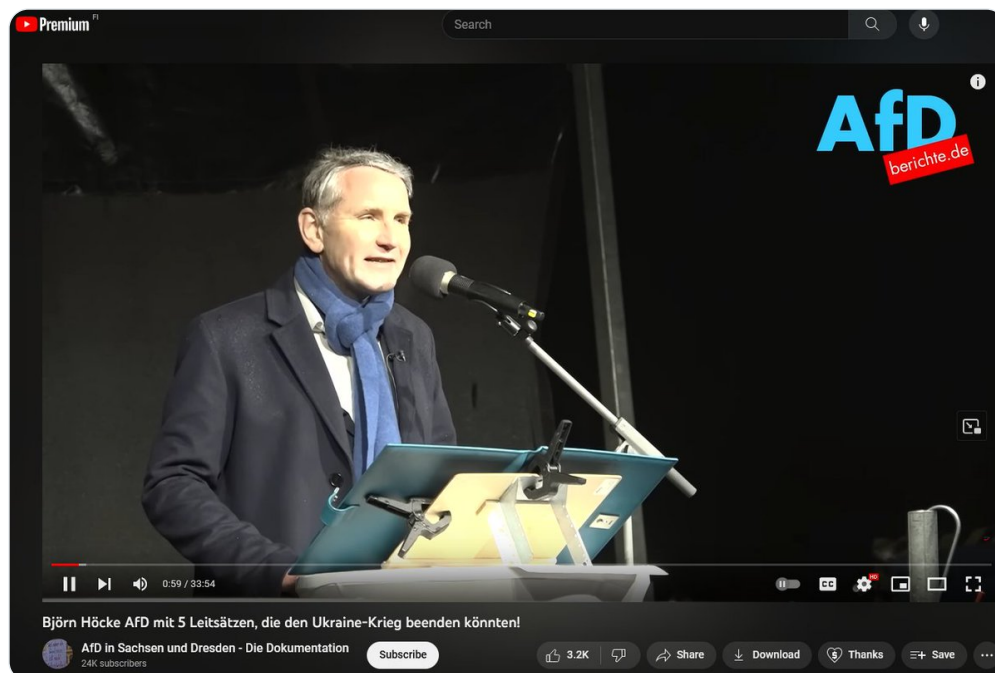


The documents also revealed that several AfD members were in contact with Russian officials while these plans were being laid out. These rallies were organized throughout Germany, from a small town of Neustrelitz to Stuttgart & were strongly supported by Russia's fifth column. 13/19



At these demonstrations, the leader of the Thuringian branch of the AfD, Björn Höcke, claimed that it was the US that ousted Yanukovich in 2014, that the conflict is a "civil war" against Eastern Ukrainians & that Russia merely wants to "free" these people from oppression.

14/19





Björn Höcke, head of the state chapter of the AfD in Thuringia. Foto: HC Plambeck / DER SPIEGEL

Embracing Extremism

## The True Leader of Germany's Right Wing AfD

One of Russia's lap dogs in AfD is Markus Frohnmaier, who was specifically mentioned in a Russian document. "We will have our own absolutely controlled MP in the Bundestag," it declared, while referring to him. The document also requested for "material and media support".



'Absolutely Controlled MP'

## Documents Link AfD Parliamentarian To Moscow

Russian government emails show evidence of how Moscow is seeking to exploit the Alternative for Germany party in its propaganda war. The right-wing populists appear to be voluntary accomplices -- and a member of the federal parliament is at the center of the scandal. By DER SPIEGEL Staff

12.04.2019, 10.48 Uhr



One of AfD's MEPs, Maximilian Krah, is a popular face on China's Global Times, a propaganda outlet controlled by the CCP, and he's also often appeared on the Kremlin's mouthpiece, TASS. He's also strongly opposed the sanctions against Russia.

Home / Short News / Politics / The Capitals / German far-right MPs to visit Russian-occupied eastern Ukraine






# German far-right MPs to visit Russian-occupied eastern Ukraine

By Oliver Noyan | EURACTIV and EURACTIV.de | Sep 20, 2022



Leading members of the right-wing Alternative for Germany (AfD) political party Joerg Urban (L), Hans-Thomas Tillschneider (C) and Bjorn Hoock. [EPA-EFE/SEAN GALLUP]

EURACTIV is part of the Trust Project >>>

Print     

**A delegation of the German far-right party AfD, including three members of regional parliaments, will visit the Russian-occupied territories of eastern Ukraine this week in a trip reported by the media to be sponsored by the Kremlin.**

Meanwhile, analysts suggest that AfD's Russian links should be seen in light of the party's efforts to shore up its voter base.

The delegation left Germany for Russia on Monday and will travel to the East of Ukraine in the coming days to "clarify the humanitarian situation," the party said in a statement.

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3 SEP 2020, 19:18

## German politician questions credibility of accusations hurled at Russia over Navalny case

The German government said on Wednesday, citing the results of a toxicological analysis carried out by Bundeswehr experts, that Navalny had been poisoned with a Novichok nerve agent





Dr. Maximilian Krah MdEP   
@KrahMax

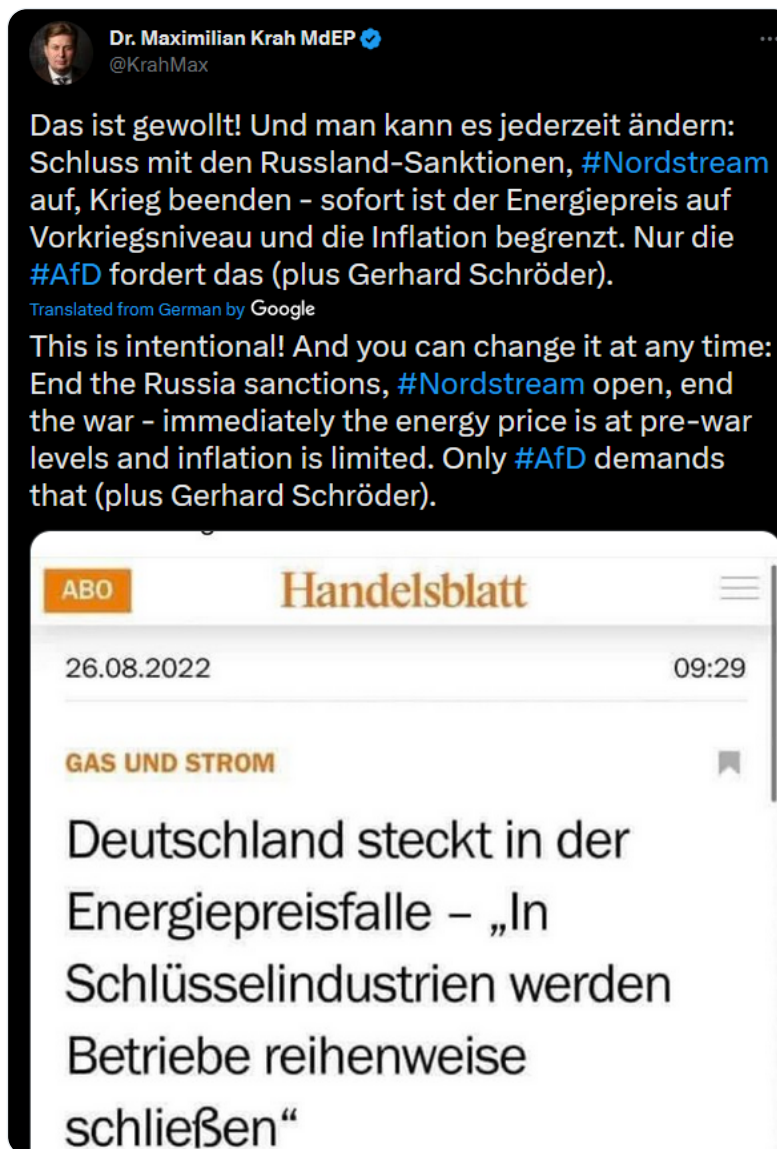
Meinungsaustausch mit Mr. Navalny - wieso? Der Mann wurde von niemandem gewählt, er fiel vor allem durch Rassismus (echten!) auf. Einzige Qualifikation: eine ungeklärte Vergiftung. Hier geht es mal wieder um Stimmungsmache gegen Russland. #EU #EuroParl

Translated from German by Google

Exchange of views with Mr. Navalny - why? The man was not elected by anyone, he attracted attention above all through racism (real!). The only qualification: an unexplained poisoning. This is again about propaganda against Russia. #EU #EuroParl

Friday, 27 November 2020, 09 15

Committee on Foreign Affairs Extraordinary meeting Exchange of views with Mr Navalny



In Aug 2023, The Insider and Spiegel published a joint investigation on Russian Vladimir Sergienko, who had funneled money and instructions to AfD politicians on a constitutional complaint in Germany against its supplies of weapons to Ukraine:

17/19 <https://t.co/cvU4RhckPQ>



**Exclusive: Far-Right German Parliamentary Aide Tasked by Russia wit...**

Leaked communications between Vladimir Sergiyenko, a naturalized German citizen, and "Alexei," a suspected FSB operative, show the extent of Russia's infiltration of the Alternative for Germany party...

<https://theins.ru/en/politics/264014>

**SPIEGEL** International




The documents indicate that Sergiyenko, together with members of the AfD parliamentary group in Berlin, was apparently preparing a legal complaint against German arms deliveries to Ukraine – and was hoping for Russian help. His messages also state that "financial support" would also be welcome. The goal of the action is stated bluntly in the documents: "The government's work is to be made more difficult. It's a win-win situation." Even if the lawsuit fails, he said, German tank deliveries could perhaps be delayed by a month or two.

It would be easy to dismiss the messages between Sergiyenko, who lives in Berlin, and his Moscow contact as some kind of wacky fantasy were it not for the fact that the AfD made a strikingly similar move only four months later. On July 4, the parliamentary group of the far-right party filed a complaint against the government in the Federal Constitutional Court.

The AfD justified its move by saying that the government should never have supplied tanks and other war equipment to Ukraine without the agreement of the federal parliament, the Bundestag. Speaking at a specially scheduled press conference, senior AfD parliamentarian Stephan Brandner described the government's action as being "highly problematic." The rule in the past, he said, had been "no arms deliveries to war and crisis zones." Lawyer Ulrich Vosgerau, who is representing the AfD parliamentary group in the case before Germany's highest court, sat next to him.

**THE INSIDER** REPORTS ANALYTICS INVESTIGATIONS USD 98.01 EUR 103.04 RUB 961 DONATE Pycou...



**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.

Vladimir Sergienko, an aide to a Bundestag deputy, has been acting as an intermediary between the Kremlin and German lawmakers in the far-right Alternative for Germany (AfD) party, a joint investigation between The Insider and Der Spiegel can reveal. Sergienko, a staff member of AfD parliamentarian Eugen Schmidt, has

In its reporting, DER SPIEGEL found that Sergiyenko's network includes important propagandists like Margarita Simonyan, the head of the television channel RT, and Vladimir Solovyov, the host of one of the nastiest and most inflammatory shows on Russian state television. But he also appears to maintain contacts with numerous members of the Russian parliament, the Duma, including Maria Butina, who was convicted in the United States as an agent of Moscow and later deported to Russia, where she began a political career.

It's a rather dazzling circle of acquaintances.

And AfD's internal documents have confirmed all this: the party condemns the aid to Ukraine and the sanctions against Russia, and describes the US as a "global hegemony" and as an "alien power". In addition, the document calls for closer collaboration with China and Iran.



## The AfD and the “pandering to inhuman regimes”

Internal papers from the foreign policy working group of the AfD parliamentary group show the party's closeness to China and Russia. The US, on the other hand, is described as a "global hegemon" and "alien power". Institutions such as the German Marshall Fund, the Aspen Institute or the Atlantic Bridge should no longer receive money from the state. CORRECTIV publishes the position papers.

by Marcus Bensman

November 23, 2022



Member of the Bundestag Joana Cotar left the party because of AfD positions on Russia, China and Iran. Photo: Christoph Hardt/picture alliance/Geisler-Fotopress

To conclude: AfD is a far-right populist party that's gaining a lot of traction and popularity in German politics. At the same time, they're acting on behalf of the Kremlin and Vladimir Putin, and often try to undermine any German humanitarian or military aid to Ukraine.

## How Germany's far-right politicians became the Kremlin's voice

8 Mar 2023 | Vanessa Geidel

Russia-Ukraine war



In February, German parliamentarian Steffen Kotre, from the far-right party AfD (Alternative for Germany), was interviewed on Russian TV by the propagandist Vladimir

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CORRECTION TO 9/19:

""ordinary Germans" don't want to send military aid to Russia,"

Should of course say

""ordinary Germans" don't want to send military aid to UKRAINE,"

• • •