

PT318 The New Nexus Between Party Politics and Foreign Policy: Helping the German Government to cope with the Alternative for Germany (AfD) and International Challenges

Seminar Leader: Dr. Timo Lochocki

Email: t.lochocki@berlin.bard.edu

Office Hours: upon request

Description

The rise of populist parties – as the French Front National (FN) or the Alternative for Germany (AfD) – fundamentally changes international cooperation on global scale. Populists successfully campaign on nationalist platforms, rejecting international cooperation. The presence of this new political player and its appealing nationalist agenda profoundly alters the mechanisms defining the scope of action for moderate governments. With a populist sitting in the White House, the moderate governments of the three strongest remaining liberal democracies – Germany, France and the United Kingdom – therefore have to square a circle: Regaining voters of populist parties keen on following a nationalist agenda, while at the same time safeguarding the international cooperation lying in their very own national interest.

This course will try to develop a possible solution to this paradox, focusing on Germany as a case study. After discussing the theory and the data on the rise and impact of populist parties on foreign policies, we will try to craft policy recommendations for the German government. Ideally, students already have a strong knowledge of German history, social structure, finance and politics. This class is recommended for committed and advanced students only.

This is NOT an introduction to German politics. Substantial knowledge about the basic mechanisms of German Politics, Society, Strategic Interests and History is required.

Assignments

In order for you to receive your credits you need to

- Adhere to the general student guidelines at Bard College Berlin
- Prepare all the readings assigned for each class
- **In addition** to the assigned readings, look for more recent information of the discussed topics via The Economist, Politico Europe, Handelsblatt Global and The New York Times
- Participate actively during the in-class discussions
- Give presentations on German scope conditions and concrete policy issues
- Hand in various smaller papers throughout the seminar
- Hand in your final policy recommendations in a format to be discussed

Grading

Grading will be based on three equally weighted contributions:

- Your in-class participation
- The average of your presentations and smaller papers
- Your final paper

Learning Outcomes

- Widen your understanding of the complex interactions in German politics
- Get a proper grasp how the EU's interwoven crises affect German politics
- Get an idea of the pivotal role Germany plays in contemporary European politics

- Comprehend the patterns and mechanisms in which democracies' reactions to Globalization are grounded
- Extend your knowledge of the reasons and factors accounting for the delineation between parts of the progressive elites and their more conservative voter base
- Understanding the key factor domestic party politics, right-wing populism and political communication plays in foreign policy making in the 21st century

- Present and convey complex information in a given time frame
- Further develop your analytical thinking in applying Boolean and classic statistical reasoning at the same time
- Find information and apply about contemporary German politics on your own
- Craft hands-on policy recommendations for the German government

Readings

All readings are available online or in the reader, excluding the following books:

Kriesi, H.P. et al. (2012): Political Conflict in Western Europe. Cambridge University Press.
Lemke, C. and Welsh A. (2017): Germany Today: Politics and Policies in a Changing World. Rowman & Littlefield Publishers
Lochocki, T. (2017): The Rise of Populism in Western Europe. Springer University Press.
MacGregor, N. (2014): Germany. Memories of a Nation. Penguin Books
Mudde, C. and Kaltwasser, C. (2017): Populism. A very short introduction. Oxford University Press.
Rodrick, D. (2012): The Globalization Paradox. Democracy and the Future of the World Economy. Norton Publishers.

Course-plan

February 1: No Class

February 8: Organization of class, no further assignments

February 15: Scope Conditions for Germany policy makers (1/5) – The Strategic Surrounding of the European Union (input presentation)

Applebaum, Anne (2015): The risks of putting Germany front and center in Europe's crisis. The Washington Post, 02/20/2015.

https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/germanys-centralrole/2015/02/20/d1119cd4-b8f8-11e4-aa05-1ce812b3fdd2_story.html

Borger, Julian (2012): Germany slowly comes to terms with sending armed forces abroad, The Guardian, 09/18/2012

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2012/sep/18/germany-military-moderniseforeign-intervention>

Cohen, R. (2015): The German Question Redux. The New York Times Opinion Pages, 07/13/2015

<http://www.nytimes.com/2015/07/14/opinion/roger-cohen-the-germanquestion-redux.html?mtrref=query.nytimes.com&assetType=opinion>

Karnitschigg, M. (2014): Angela Merkel's year of living dangerously, Politico Europe, 12/31/2015.

<http://www.politico.eu/article/angela-merkels-year-of-living-dangerously/>

Kundnani, Hans (2011): Germany as a Geo-Economic Power. The Washington Quarterly, November 2011.

<https://www.ciaonet.org/attachments/18832/uploads>

Kriesi, Hans Peter et al. (2012): Political Conflict in Western Europe. Cambridge University Press.

Schwarzer, Daniela (2015): Learning on the Job. The EU is battling three major crises – with Germany in the lead in every case. But so far Berlin has not been able to create momentum for building a stronger Europe. Berlin Policy Journal, 11/10/2015

<http://berlinpolicyjournal.com/learning-on-the-job/>

Simms, B. (2015): Germany's triumph: from the ruins of war, how a new German empire was built. New Statesman, 07/30/2015

<http://www.newstatesman.com/politics/2015/07/germany-s-triumph-ruins-warhow-new-european-empire-was-built>

Steinmeier, Frank-Walter (2016): Germany's New Role. Berlin steps up. Foreign Affairs, July/August 2016.

<https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/europe/2016-06-13/germany-s-newglobal-role>

February 22: Scope Conditions for Germany policy makers (2/5) – Germany’s Party System and political configuration (input presentation)

Lemke, C. and Welsh A. (2017): Germany Today: Politics and Policies in a Changing World. Rowman & Littlefield Publishers

March 1: Scope Conditions for Germany policy makers (3/5) – Germany’s National Self-Perception (input presentation)

Garton Ash, Timothy (2013): The New German Question, The New York Review of Books, 15th of August 2013.

MacGregor, N. (2014): Germany. Memories of a Nation. Penguin Books

Katzenstein, Peter (1997): United Germany in an integrating Europe, Current History, 96, 608, 116-123.

Simms, Brandon (2013): Cracked Heart of the Old World, The New Statesman, 14th of March 2013.

March 8: Scope Conditions for Germany policy makers (4/5) – The Rise of the Alternative for Germany (AfD) and the crucial role of Political Communication (input presentation)

Lochocki, T. (2017): The Rise of Populism in Western Europe. Springer University Press.

Mudde, C. and Kaltwasser, C. (2017): Populism. A very short introduction. Oxford University Press.

March 15: Scope Conditions for German policy makers (5/5) – The New Nexus between Party Politics and Foreign Policy (input presentation)

Balfour, R. (2016): Europe’s Troublemakers – The populist challenge to foreign policy, EPC February 2016.

http://www.epc.eu/pub_details.php?cat_id=17&pub_id=6377

Rodrick, D. (2012): The Globalization Paradox. Democracy and the Future of the World Economy. Norton Publishers.

Task: Write a 3-pager about all scope conditions German policy makers are facing

March 22: No class

March 29: No class

April 5: Researching Germany – Class on Research Sources and Tools

Task: Write first bibliography about your assigned policy area

April 12: Detailed presentation and discussion about policy cluster 1/5: State Finances and Fiscal Policies / Monetary Policies and Eurozone

Detailed presentation and discussion about policy cluster 2/5: Migration and Integration / Demographics and Labor Force

April 19: No class

April 26: Detailed presentation and discussion about policy cluster 3/5: Social Inequality / Welfare and Health System

Detailed presentation and discussion about policy cluster 4/5: Infrastructure / Digital Innovation / Education

May 3: Detailed presentation and discussion about policy cluster 5/5: Global Strategy: Trade and Security

May 10: Wrap up

Task: final paper due May 17