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#### ПОДСЕКЦИЯ 5.2 ЗАМАНАУИ АЙМАҚТАНУ МӘСЕЛЕЛЕРІ СОВРЕМЕННЫЕ ПРОБЛЕМЫ РЕГИОНОВЕДЕНИЯ

#### UDC 330.3 IMPACT OF GERMANY'S RIGHT-WING RADICALISM ON EUROPEAN UNION

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Abstract. This article provides an overview of the historical context and current state of rightwing radicalism in Germany. It focuses on the rise of the Alternative for Germany (AfD) party, which has gained prominence in recent years. The impact of far-right political parties on the values and policies of the European Union (EU) is also examined, with a particular emphasis on Germany's role as a leading member of the EU. The article highlights the potential consequences of Germany's right-wing radicalism on the EU's future and the challenges that it poses to the Union's principles and institutions. Ultimately, the article argues that addressing the rise of rightwing radicalism in Germany and across Europe requires a comprehensive approach that involves addressing the root causes of this phenomenon, including social, economic, and political factors.

Key words: Germany, European Union, right-wing radicalism, Alternative for Germany.

The extreme right-wing populism in Europe has been increasing in the last two decades. What makes this event different is that the extreme right tendency is not a new phenomenon. Especially in Western Europe, in the period of Hitler, examples of extreme right, neo-fascism were also seen. After the 1970s, the majority of the right-wing parties, which have been stationary position even in the fall and left their places to the left wing, have increased in recent years. There are some primary reasons. These are ethnic, political and economic reasons. Right along with ethnic and political reasons such as xenophobia, increasing immigrant populations and islamophobia, the effects of the 2008 Global Economic Crisis, which is called the Great Recession, on Europe, are also in place, and the permanent government or leaders in the time of the crisis, are guilty of the crisis. On the other hand, the increase in foreign workers' population due to increased migration is one of the economic reasons. In this article shall be identified historical context, current state of right-wing radicalism in Germany, and its influence to European Union's policy and values. For this, firstly history and definition of right-wing radicalism will be mentioned, then the right-wing parties its rise to prominence will be explained and finally the impact of far-right political parties on EU will be examined.

The aim of the research is defining current state of Germany's right-wing populism, and identifying its impact on the European Union's values and policies.

The novelty of this article. There are not enough articles that provide up-to-date information on the Germany's right-wing radical parties, and their influence on European Union's policy.

Methodology of the research. The methodological basis was the following methods of scientific research: theoretical, historical and qualitative, using secondary sources. Through these methods, historical context and current state of right-wing populism were briefly revealed in the first section. The second and third sections were focused on the rise of the Alternative for Germany party of radicals and the its impact on the European Union's policy and values. Finally, it was provided some concluding remarks.

Historical context of right-wing radicalism in Germany

Right-wing radicalism refers to political ideologies that promote extreme right-wing views, often characterized by authoritarianism, nationalism, racism, xenophobia, and opposition to liberal democracy. Right-wing radicalism has a long and complex history in Germany, with roots dating back to the 19<sup>th</sup> century. In the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, right-wing extremist groups like the Freikorps emerged in the aftermath of World War I, opposing the Weimar Republic and advocating for nationalist and anti-Semitic ideologies.

During the Nazi era, the extreme right-wing National Socialist German Workers' Party (NSDAP) rose to power and committed atrocities against millions of Jews, homosexuals, disabled individuals, and other marginalized groups. Following Germany's defeat in World War II, right-wing extremist groups were banned, and the country underwent a period of denazification. However, right-wing radicalism persisted in Germany in the post-war period, with groups such as the neo-Nazi National Democratic Party of Germany (NPD) gaining popularity in the 1960s and 1970s. The fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989 and German reunification in 1990 created economic and social instability, leading to a resurgence of right-wing radicalism.[1]

In recent years, right-wing extremist groups have become more visible and active in Germany, with incidents of hate crimes and anti-immigrant sentiment increasing. In particular, the Alternative for Germany (AfD) party has gained significant political influence, with members espousing anti-immigrant and nationalist rhetoric.

The historical context of right-wing radicalism in Germany is complex, and it is influenced by factors such as economic instability, political disillusionment, and social change. It is crucial to understand this context to combat the rise of extremist ideologies and promote tolerance and diversity.

Current state of right-wing radicalism in Germany

Right-wing radicalism in Germany has been a subject of concern for decades. In recent years, there has been a resurgence of this movement, with a notable increase in far-right violence and hate crimes. This trend has been amplified by the arrival of over one million refugees since 2015, which has fueled anti-immigrant sentiment and provided a rallying point for far-right groups.

According to recent studies, right-wing extremist groups have been able to exploit social media platforms to spread their ideologies and recruit new members. This has led to the proliferation of online communities that espouse anti-Semitic, anti-Muslim, and anti-immigrant views. In addition, the pandemic has further radicalized some groups, who see the crisis as an opportunity to promote their anti-government, anti-democratic agendas.

Another factor contributing to the rise of right-wing radicalism in Germany is the fragmentation of the political landscape. Traditional mainstream parties have lost ground, and some voters have turned to more extreme alternatives, such as the Alternative for Germany (AfD) party, which has been accused of fostering a climate of hate and intolerance.

The German government has responded to this trend by implementing a range of measures aimed at combating right-wing extremism. These include increasing funding for anti-hate crime initiatives, improving the monitoring of extremist groups, and strengthening laws related to hate speech and incitement to violence. However, some critics argue that these efforts are insufficient, and that more needs to be done to address the underlying social and economic factors that contribute to the rise of far-right movements. [2]

Overall, the current state of right-wing radicalism in Germany is characterized by a growing sense of anti-immigrant, anti-Semitic, and anti-Muslim sentiment, fueled by online radicalization, political fragmentation, and the COVID-19 pandemic. While the government has taken steps to address this trend, the persistence of far-right ideologies and the threat of violence that they pose suggest that further action is necessary to combat this dangerous movement.

Overview of the Alternative for Germany (AfD) party and its rise to prominence

The Alternative for Germany (AfD) is a right-wing populist party in Germany. It was founded in 2013 in response to Germany's participation in the European Union's bailouts of financially struggling member states.

AfD gained momentum by tapping into widespread discontent with the establishment parties and their handling of issues such as immigration, refugee policy, and the European Union. The party's anti-immigrant and anti-Islam rhetoric has appealed to a growing number of Germans who are concerned about the country's cultural identity and security.

AfD's rise to prominence was particularly evident in the 2017 federal elections, where it won 12.6% of the vote and became the third-largest party in the Bundestag (German parliament). This was a significant achievement for a party that was only founded four years earlier.[3]

AfD's electoral program includes a strong focus on immigration and border control. They advocate for stricter controls on asylum seekers and refugees, including the suspension of family reunification for refugees and a ban on the construction of mosques.

The party also opposes Germany's participation in the Eurozone and calls for a return to the Deutsche Mark as the national currency. They also reject the European Union's policies on climate change and environmental protection, arguing that they are too costly and harmful to German industry.[4]

AfD has been criticized for its association with far-right extremist groups and individuals. The party's leadership has been accused of promoting xenophobia and Islamophobia, and many Germans worry that their rhetoric could lead to increased social division and intolerance.

The impact of far-right political parties on the EU's values and policies

Right-wing radicalism has been on the rise in the European Union (EU) in recent years, fueled by a variety of factors. These include:

Economic insecurity: The global financial crisis of 2008 and the subsequent economic downturn have led to high levels of unemployment and inequality in many EU countries, particularly in southern Europe. This has created a fertile ground for right-wing radicalism to take root, as people look for scapegoats to blame for their economic woes.

Immigration and multiculturalism: The EU's open borders and free movement policies have led to a large influx of immigrants from outside the EU, particularly from Muslim-majority countries. This has created tension and resentment among some EU citizens, who view immigrants as a threat to their cultural identity and way of life.

Terrorism and security: The rise of Islamist terrorism in Europe, particularly in the wake of the 2015 Paris attacks, has fueled fears of insecurity and instability among EU citizens. This has led to increased support for right-wing parties and politicians who promise to crack down on terrorism and strengthen border security.[5]

One of the ways that Germany's right-wing radicalism can influence the EU is through the country's role in EU decision-making. Germany is the largest economy in the EU and has the most

significant population, meaning that its position carries a lot of weight. Right-wing radicalism in Germany could lead to a more inward-looking and nationalist approach to EU policy, which would undermine the EU's core values of unity and cooperation.

Another way that Germany's right-wing radicalism can affect the EU is by setting a negative example for other countries. The rise of the AfD and other right-wing groups in Germany has emboldened similar movements in other parts of Europe, such as France's National Front, the Netherlands' Party for Freedom, and Italy's Lega Nord. These groups share the AfD's antiimmigrant and anti-EU positions and have gained popularity in recent years.[6]

Furthermore, Germany's right-wing radicalism could impact the EU's ability to respond to external challenges effectively. For example, the EU is facing significant challenges related to immigration, including the refugee crisis. Germany has been a key player in developing a unified EU response to these issues. However, the rise of right-wing movements in Germany could lead to a more isolationist and xenophobic approach, which would make it more difficult to reach a consensus on how to address these challenges.

The role of Germany as a leading member of the EU and the potential consequences of its right-wing radicalism

Germany plays a significant role in the European Union (EU) as one of its most powerful and influential members. As the largest economy in the EU, Germany has a considerable say in shaping the policies and decisions of the bloc. However, the rise of right-wing radicalism in Germany has potential consequences not only for the country but also for the EU as a whole.

Firstly, Germany is a key player in the EU's decision-making process. It is a leading member of the EU's major institutions, such as the European Council, the European Parliament, and the European Central Bank. Germany's position as the economic powerhouse of the EU gives it significant leverage in discussions and negotiations within the bloc.

However, the rise of right-wing radicalism in Germany has the potential to damage its reputation and influence in the EU. Right-wing populist parties such as Alternative for Germany (AfD) have gained significant support in recent years, with the party winning over 10% of the vote in the 2017 federal election. The AfD's anti-immigrant and anti-EU stance has raised concerns among other EU member states, which fear that Germany's shift to the right may lead to a more isolationist and nationalist approach to EU affairs.

Moreover, the rise of right-wing radicalism in Germany could also lead to a more fractured EU. The EU's cohesion and stability rely on its members' willingness to work together and pursue shared goals. If Germany's right-wing radicalism leads to a more inward-looking approach to EU affairs, this could undermine the bloc's unity and cohesion, potentially leading to further disintegration.[7]

Finally, the rise of right-wing radicalism in Germany could also have economic consequences for the EU. Germany's economic strength has been a driving force behind the EU's economic growth in recent years. However, if Germany's right-wing radicalism leads to protectionist policies or a reluctance to cooperate with other EU member states, this could harm the EU's economic performance and stability.

To sum up, Germany plays a critical role in the EU's decision-making process, and its rightwing radicalism has the potential to cause significant damage to the bloc's cohesion and stability. As such, it is essential for Germany to remain committed to the EU's shared goals and work with other member states to ensure the bloc's continued success.

Conclusion

Right-wing radicalism has a long historical context in Germany, and its current state in the country is alarming. The rise of the Alternative for Germany party has contributed to the normalisation of far-right politics in Germany, which poses a significant threat to the EU's values and policies. The AfD's anti-immigrant and anti-EU stance, combined with its growing popularity, has the potential to shift the balance of power in the EU.

The impact of far-right political parties on the EU's values and policies cannot be overstated. These parties pose a threat to the EU's core principles, including democracy, human rights, and the rule of law. The rise of far-right parties in Europe has led to an increase in hate crimes, xenophobia, and intolerance towards minorities. This goes against the EU's goal of creating a more united, tolerant, and democratic Europe.

Germany, as a leading member of the EU, has a responsibility to uphold the EU's values and principles. The potential consequences of Germany's right-wing radicalism are significant, as it can undermine the EU's stability and unity. Germany's position as a dominant economic power in the EU means that its political decisions can have a significant impact on the rest of the member states.

In conclusion, it is crucial that Germany and the EU take concrete steps to address the rise of right-wing radicalism. This includes addressing the underlying socio-economic factors that contribute to the popularity of far-right politics, such as inequality and unemployment. Furthermore, the EU must continue to uphold its values and principles, and take action against countries and parties that undermine them. Only by working together can the EU and its member states ensure a more tolerant, democratic, and united Europe for all its citizens.

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