

Germany

	PO	FL	FR	EU	Best %	Last %	Government
AfD	X		X	X	12.6 (2017)	10.3 (2021)	
PDS / Linke	X	X		X	11.9 (2009)	4.9 (2021)	
Republikaner	X		X	X	2.1 (1990)		

Parties represented in parliament:

The **Alternative für Deutschland (Alternative for Germany, AfD)** was founded in 2013 as a mostly Eurosceptic party. Initially, the party was dominated by right-wing academics addressing primarily socio-economic issues (hence sometimes called the “professors party”). The party has always been populist. Since its foundation, there has been a struggle between moderate and radical factions. The leader of the moderates, Bernd Lucke, quit in 2015. Subsequently, the AfD swiftly moved into a far right direction under Frauke Petry’s leadership with a greater focus on immigration. We classify the party as far right since 2015, when Petry was elected leader. There is even a group in the party – led by Björn Höcke – that currently flirts with extremism.

After the fall of the Berlin wall, the **Partei des Demokratischen Sozialismus (Party of Democratic Socialism, PDS)** was founded as the successor to the *Sozialistische Einheitspartei Deutschlands* (Socialist

Unity Party, SED), also known as the (previously ruling) East German Communist Party. The PDS was active between 1989 and 2007 and was mainly popular among voters in the east of Germany. In 2007 the party merged with a small radical left party from western Germany into **Die Linke (The Left)**. Although the party has often been classified as a populist radical left party, some scholars are hesitant about this label. We therefore classify the party as borderline populist, borderline far left since its foundation as Die Linke in 2007.

Parties not/no longer represented in parliament:

Die **Republikaner (The Republicans, Rep)** was founded in the 1980s by former CSU (Bavarian Christian democrats) politicians and still exists. The party has, however, never gained seats in the national German parliament. It can be classified as populist and Eurosceptic.