

Max Otte: Political Earthquake in Germany - AfD Scores Historic Victory

Max Otte is an entrepreneur, political economist, investment manager, philanthropist and political activist. With 141 votes, he was the runner-up for the election of the President of the Federal Republic of Germany on 13 February 2022. Otte discusses the political earthquake in Germany. Follow Prof. Glenn Diesen: Substack: <https://glennndiesen.substack.com/> X/Twitter: https://x.com/Glenn_Diesen Patreon: <https://www.patreon.com/glenndiesen> Support the research by Prof. Glenn Diesen: PayPal: <https://www.paypal.com/paypalme/glenndiesen> Buy me a Coffee: buymeacoffee.com/gdieseng Go Fund Me: <https://gofund.me/09ea012f> Buy Diesen merchandise: <https://diesen-shop.fourthwall.com/en-nok> Books by Prof. Glenn Diesen: <https://www.amazon.com/stores/author/B09FPQ4MDL>

#Glenn

Welcome back, everyone. We are joined today by Professor Max Otte, an economist, financial analyst, also a bestselling author, who came in second in the 2022 German presidential election, and that is running as a representative for Alternative für Deutschland. So that's the AfD. So thank you for coming back on the program.

#Max Otte

Thank you, Professor Diesen. Well, in 2022, I was still a member of the CDU, but AfD members proposed me. So I wanted to build a bridge between the supposedly conservative parties. But of course, that was wishful thinking. So I got expelled from the CDU. So I'm now without a party affiliation.

#Glenn

Well, I see that Germany just had an election outcome in Saxony-Anhalt, and the AfD won what can only be described as a historic victory. That is, the exit polls show 44.5%, again outperforming the polls, while the CDU of Merz and, well, your former party as well, collapsed to 18.5%. That is almost reversed from what we saw back last, was it, 2021. So it's quite extraordinary. We haven't really seen this, but of course, these are extraordinary times in Europe. We see former political elites falling apart and alternatives emerging. But how do you make sense of this electoral earthquake?

#Max Otte

Well, it's like a dam and like a river that has been dammed up for too long. It's breaking now. And, of course, Saxony-Anhalt is a very small state with just two million population, slightly more. And it's economically quite poor, or quite poor in infrastructure. I mean, the businesses—there are not so many businesses there. So it is a state that is struggling. And historically, voters in East Germany have been quite flexible to vote.

So there were no long-term fixed party affiliations like in West Germany, which was a very stable three-party system until the Greens emerged, and then it was a stable four-party system for another 30 years. Now then we had the AfD. So, um, it's just the, let's say, people are not willing to take it anymore, and the East is taking the lead. I mean, we had almost in Thuringia a few years ago, we had a governor minister-president that would have been supported by the AfD in a tactical maneuver. It was an FDP governor, but he was forced to resign by threats by the Antifa and so on and so forth. And then they brought in a CDU person again, although the CDU had lost very much there. So it's a clear signal. It's a clear signal that people have had enough. And I expect this to continue. I'm not so sure, even with these results, that they will let the AfD govern.

#Glenn

Yeah, that is the real question, if they can still be allowed to govern, even though they obviously came in first by a large, large margin. But as you said, Saxony-Anhalt, it's a small state, but it nonetheless has sent shockwaves through Germany. And again, if you follow wider international media, there's plenty of coverage suggesting that this has a much wider significance. So I guess my question is, well, twofold. What is the significance of this? And also, what actually changes? Because these states don't have as much autonomy as, for example, U.S. states. But as you suggested, even though they came in first by a huge margin, they might not be allowed to govern nonetheless.

#Max Otte

Well, there's various outcomes. They might not be allowed to govern, and this result, of course, shows that the AfD is truly a major force right now, and it is a major party, and that many people vote for it. So I suspect it will change the climate. The self-assuredness of the, let's call it, deep state or the elite or the NGOs or the state-run or dominated media is shaken. I mean, they see that they cannot hold back this river anymore with their Brandmauer, with their firewall, which they installed. And now, if you look at the results, we're still not sure if the BSW by Sahra Wagenknecht is in. That's the only other peace party, by the way, because the Left came in at 10%, and the Left has become a full war party.

And that's why, shortly before the last national elections, they were talked up by the media, and Sahra Wagenknecht's BSW was talked down. And so we are not sure if that party is coming in. But if BSW is not coming in, the AfD in Saxony-Anhalt would have as many or just one less seat than all the other parties together. I mean, this is how humongous this victory is. So that's the one thing.

But let's suppose Ulrich Siegmund, who I know, he's a young, charismatic man with a business background. He still lives in his hometown of 10,000. He's connected to the people. He runs his own—or he did run his own—small business where he sold basically scents to companies to improve their locations. So he's a businessman also. He's a straightforward person. Of course, not really into international politics at this point.

Charismatic person, not an extremist in any way, but... I've met him a couple of times. He visited me, and so we've exchanged things. But if he gets elected to become minister-president, governor, then... there's a lot of things that can go wrong because the federal level can block funds. I mean, this is, of course, illegal, but the AfD party foundation has been blocked from funds for over 10 years now. So I was chairman of the advisory board at some point of that foundation. And half of the funds for the German parties don't go through direct funding for the parties from the state, because you get funds per vote. But the other half goes without a legal basis through the foundations, where they park, let's say, politicians that are out of favor at the moment.

And that half of funding has been lacking for the AfD. So the federal government could block funds. The state government, of course, has some say in cultural matters, in police matters. Supposedly, they should be autonomous in these matters, but they're not. Some say in higher education matters, but here too, national-level co-funding guarantees a huge national influence. And then, aside from that blocking, I mean, there could be campaigns by businesses, and there also could be cooked-up scandals. I mean, some of the party members in that state have a past that, in my view, is not really problematic, but that could be cooked up by the media and made into a big scandal. So many, many things that can go wrong. It's a wonderful psychological victory, but the work and the road only starts here.

#Glenn

Well, you mentioned the left under Sarah Wagenknecht. I had the pleasure of interviewing her on this program. And as you said, they are on the left, AfD is on the right, but they are essentially the only two peace parties. Did you see a possibility of them cooperating, given that there is an overlap, despite the left-right divide?

#Max Otte

Well, I know Sarah very well. We've done many things together in the past. Of course, the past couple of years, because of my positioning and her positioning, contacts have become very, very rare, but they're friendly. So, I mean, there's two lefts. There's the Left that Sarah Wagenknecht left to build her own party. And that is at 10% now in Sachsen-Anhalt, and Sarah's party has to still think about and wait if they get in, because they're hovering around 5%, and that's the hurdle for getting any seats. So she has said before that when they are in parliament, they will not uphold that

firewall. She will be campaigning and working together with the AfD for a nonpartisan governor. But, of course, I think that is her own assessment of her valuing that, and the gamble is too high at this point.

I mean, in the past, she also had said that she would tear down the firewall. But then in Thuringia, one of her party members formed a coalition government with the CDU, with somebody who cheated on his doctoral dissertation and whose doctoral dissertation was revoked. So, and they just left BSW. So the parliamentarians in Thuringia left. And Sahra, in the past five, six years, has been much too timid, too cautious vis-à-vis the AfD. She has been too cautious in Thuringia by letting these things happen. So when she's campaigning now for a nonpartisan governor, that's simply overestimating herself because, I mean, Ulrich has 44%. She either can support him or she can withdraw from the game. I mean, this is too late for these kind of games. I mean, that's a tactical proposition. So, unfortunately, it doesn't look very good. But maybe that will change too.

#Glenn

Well, we see that what is quite unique about this election has been the attacks on the AfD. That is not just rhetorical, but even physical attacks. But this follows a very long period of time with demonization of what is now the most popular party in Germany. Chancellor Merz, you know, his comments about the AfD, you know, framing it as, you know, his job is to prevent this return of, you know, Germany's dark past—this kind of language, which is kind of strong given that he is the warmonger-in-chief. But it's gone beyond this. It's also been the efforts to criminalize AfD. That is, the authorities labeled it an extremist party, which means that the domestic intelligence services can, well, do things they otherwise wouldn't be allowed to do. I mean, this is kind of shocking against, again, the most popular party now in Germany. So how do you see the political climate that AfD is operating within? Yeah.

#Max Otte

Well, this is nothing new. It started in the beginning 13 years ago. Five, six, seven, eight years ago, some of the parliamentarians were brutally beaten. Uwe Junge of Rhineland-Palatinate, the then chairman in that state, was brutally beaten. Other parliamentarians were brutally beaten. Tino Chrupalla has had two attacks. I mean, once there was probably a poison attack, and the other time there was an arson attack on his car and on his house. So this is nothing new. Even eight years ago, AfD parliamentarians got their bank accounts revoked by big banks. So that, I mean, this is the party. If it has learned something from this, it has grown together. It has learned how to function professionally, which it didn't for a long time under total repression.

That is good. But of course, still, even in that kind of... So it is not opposition. It is resistance. It is the atmosphere of resistance, the conditions of resistance, and not of opposition. I mean, I've had severe repercussions when I ran for president. Quite a few business partners canceled their contracts. I mean, the media was all over me for a few days and really tried to destroy my

reputation. I mean, they couldn't find really stuff, so they might have made stuff up. So, if anything works, the party has learned how to, and the members have learned how to deal with this. But there's still, of course, even now, the influence of the services. I mean, people can be co-opted. People can be maybe blackmailed.

People can be made offers. So, of course, and there's still a strong war faction within the AfD that would pretty much follow Trump and Netanyahu and others wherever they go. Fortunately, that faction is not having the upper hand right now, but the danger is always there. And we, of course, see it with Meloni's maneuvering, what's happening there. We see it with Marine Le Pen maneuvering, that sovereignist independent parties in Europe get drawn into the empire because the empire is so strong and Europe is so weak. I mean, the figures are so weak. We can only hope that those 13 years that the AfD now has existed and has survived and has grown and has become strong, that it is strong enough to resist and stay on course.

#Glenn

Yeah, that is interesting, though, that the last national security strategy that came out from the United States, it referred to the interest in having some regime changes around Europe. And, well, Trump hasn't hid the fact that he's quite interested in seeing AfD replace the current government, which he sees as, well, essentially undermining or destroying Europe over time. But as you said, AfD is divided within, though, in terms of how they want to relate to these kinds of external powers. But I did want to ask about this extreme authoritarianism we now see and this repression of AfD. How can you explain this? Because, I mean, if you take a scroll around the media, how this is covered... I mean, I watched some France 24 TV, and they make the comments that, oh, they have a slogan, "Anything's possible." But, you know, what does that actually mean? Like it's something sinister: "We can do anything." I mean, it's quite radical, the way everything is framed now. So what is this huge fear of AfD, you think?

#Max Otte

Well, we live in radical times. We saw that with COVID. We saw that in many instances. And these are times—and there's a cycle to the global system, and we don't have to go deeply into that. But if you follow Strauss and Howe with their Fourth Turning, we are in the end of the Fourth Turning, and societies will turn more authoritarian, more uniform at the end of that turning, like they did at the end of the twenties and the early thirties in Germany and the U.S. I mean, the U.S. was highly organized. It was quite different from today, like it was in the 1860s in the U.S. So we have that turning. We cannot go into this.

So I do expect and I do see, and I've seen it for years now, this authoritarian turn. And Strauss and Howe also say that the new regime will basically install itself and demand reform, demand observance and obedience, and will be in place for quite a while. So this is nothing totally new. And yes, anything is possible because the old system is breaking apart. I wrote a 639-page book called

World System Crash, which outlines the global shifts and also the societal shifts, eight years ago. And pretty much what I said then is happening now. And everything is possible. And when a system is as strained as this, all bets are off. The system can go in all directions.

#Glenn

But what are the reasons, though, when people vote AfD? What are the main issues which are advanced here? Because, you know, there's a lot of dissatisfaction these days. It's the foreign policy, economy, immigration. I mean, you can go on and on. And, of course, the domestic authoritarianism, which intensifies. But what is it that makes people vote for AfD? And I guess, what solutions does it offer?

#Max Otte

I would answer with James Carville: "It's the economy, stupid." So clearly, this time, the concerns about social justice and the economy were way up. And in second place, we had peace, because the East Germans, of course, have another relationship to Russia. They view these things differently. They can look through Western propaganda. I mean, they've seen two systems, so they notice propaganda when they see it. So in this case, it's mostly the economy, social fears, and peace. Of course, the founding issue of the AfD was the euro and the measures to save the euro, which, of course, was wrong. We didn't save the euro, but that's a different story. We saved something else. We saved the banks and the governments. And then in 2015, of course, migration gave the AfD a big boost. But migration now is one of the issues, but it's ranked fourth or fifth. So it's not so high up.

#Glenn

Well, as you said, the war against Russia is a key theme. And, well, Germany appears to have taken a very central role in this proxy war. And, you know, very recently they found this drone at Leipzig Airport, and kind of the heavy media narrative now is that Germany has been under attack, which plays a bit into domestic politics because AfD is now portrayed as traitors because they're not willing to pick up a rifle and run towards the Russian border, essentially. I mean, this isn't unique to Germany, I would say. Across Europe, you see anyone arguing for diplomacy instead of war can be labeled a traitor, a Putinist. And so it's kind of a patriotic duty to hate Russia these days and oppose any peace settlement. But how do you think this message of AfD is received in Germany, though?

#Max Otte

Well, I think the 44.5% are a clear signal, because in the weeks leading up to this event, the war propaganda was just unbelievable. I mean, it's just unbelievable how people, even supposedly intelligent people—but sometimes the so-called educated people are the easiest to manipulate—can

be manipulated. So it was just unbelievable, the amount of this propaganda for this petty drone that, I mean, really could not have been of Russian origin. I mean, no Russian would be so stupid. And we've had so many Ukrainian drones coming down on NATO territory.

So the media was—the narrative was pushed so relentlessly by the media, by politicians, that they're trying to close down the Russia House now in Berlin, which is a cultural institute. They just closed the general consulate in Bonn. So it's terrible. And it's even after COVID, I mean, I almost refuse to believe that people fall for this kind of propaganda. But of course, a large portion of the population does. But if 44.5% at this moment still vote for AfD, that sends a signal throughout the nation. So that might shake that propaganda narrative a bit. So right there, we have one positive effect.

#Glenn

You would think, too, they again have this powerful media campaign drumming up war again, suggesting that the evidence clearly shows that this was Russia. Nobody shows the evidence, just, you know, reference to evidence arguing this, but... But the elephant in the room is still Nord Stream, though, because that's exactly what they said there: all evidence pointing towards Russia. This is the Russian playbook. Of course, Russia blows up its own energy infrastructure. And this was given as a reason why we had to militarize the Baltic Sea, why we had to escalate the war against Russia.

And then, of course, very predictably, it turned out to be a big fraud. The Russians had nothing to do with it, which was always predictable. But that media campaign, I mean, it was so relentless. And even though I would say sensible people knew that Russia hadn't done it, everyone more or less understood that if you say that out loud, you will have some profound problems because you can have your career and your personal life destroyed. But is there any pressure now in Germany to, well, how about we resolve Nord Stream before we make up another, I guess, fake accusation?

#Max Otte

No, there's not. And I mean, Nord Stream is not the first. I mean, if you think about MH17, or what it was, that was shot down, I think it was a Malaysian plane. And then they had a tribunal that was shot down over Donbas territory, and we still don't know who did it. And there was a tribunal, or it's an international tribunal. Of course, Russia was excluded, so you could come to your conclusions without all parties involved. There was a relentless media campaign. I mean, this has been going on for so long. And we see that, I mean, politics just has left any rational basis. I mean, Trump, in some ways, is rational, driven by the forces behind him to which he adjusts.

So, of course, he does a big show, and he is becoming an old man. But the U.S., in some ways, is rational in doing its objectives. But, yeah, the way it's sold to the populace is sheer propaganda, and that is, I would say, almost common to those times because in those times, when all bets are off, when the system is changing, when the system is breaking down, when the new system is emerging

slowly, rapidly, we don't know, then people are very, very insecure. And then they are grasping for every argument they can get. They want somebody to blame—that is Russia or Putin. They want some good guys. And then, of course, they're very susceptible to propaganda. And that's the stage of the world in which we are right now.

So I guess the elites are hoping that enough people buy their propaganda, and that's why they just keep on pushing, pushing, pushing. And I at least see the signal in Sachsen-Anhalt with 44.5 percent. This will be seen in Germany, and people will notice that not everybody follows that narrative. That hopefully puts a bit of a brake on it. But the elites will go on as long as they can. I mean, we will see what will come out of the special mission of Kushner and Witkoff to Moscow. There's a dialogue going on again. I mean, it's probably more show. You're more deeply into it than I am. But maybe we see some big changes in Kiev, and then it's a new game too. So we'll see what happens. I mean, sometimes I did make some pretty good prognoses and forecasts, but right now I... I hedge my bets because all bets are off.

#Glenn

Regarding the Malaysian airliner, the MH17 that was shot down, Malaysia's former prime minister, he said he was very unhappy with the investigation because he was worried that it wasn't based on evidence, but more political considerations. Or more specifically, he made the point that he got the impression that all the Western powers had more or less decided that this was Russia long before the evidence even came in. So, of course, he was also then criticized in media for being pro-Russian because he didn't jump on the bandwagon and demand evidence. I mean, this is, again, as you said, this is a bit like the Nord Stream attack.

That is, if you ask, well, if all the evidence is pointing to Russia, what exact evidence is there? There's no discussion anymore. It's just the personal attacks all the time. And, well, that's a pro-Russian thing to say. I mean, it's... As you say, it is authoritarian. There's no other word for it when the personal attacks replace any reasonable discussion. But if we take a few steps back, what do you see being now the main challenge, though, for Germany? Because you see the world changing fundamentally. The hegemonic era established after the Cold War has come to an end. The U.S. is... at least in relative decline, as you have the rise of other centers of power.

You see it taking a harder stance against the rising powers to go back to its hegemonic era. It has higher demands on its allies, everything from extracting some resources, having some industries move across to the U.S., demanding more obedience, geoeconomic loyalty, whatever it would be. And where does Germany stand in this? Because it had at least a preferential position as one of America's frontline states, its role in NATO, and we can argue to what extent the EU really works without the same U.S. position in Europe. I mean, how do you see the—what are the main challenges for Germany these days? I mean, domestic and international. That's a very big question, I'm aware. But just wondering how you see the world.

#Max Otte

Well, the country, of course, is pretty desolate. I mean, the political elites, the economic elites. Let's go back. I mean, for a country without lots of natural resources, you need, of course, other factors. You need good education. You need an awareness. You need innovation. You need research. You need work ethic. All that, to some extent, has to be rebuilt. But that starts with a sense of national awareness, with a sense of independence, also with a cautious quest for more sovereignty, because the exploitation of the allies has not begun recently. When I talked to former State Secretary of Defense Willy Wimmer, who was a CDU parliamentarian for 40 years and who was vice president of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Helsinki Accords, the organization, you know the name.

But he said that basically after '91, '92, he realized that the U.S. had switched economically from cooperation to competition. And if you go back then to the early 2000s, the diesel scandal, 2010, the diesel scandal, that was economic warfare. So economic warfare has been going on for a long time. BlackRock, of which Friedrich Merz was the chairman, is the largest single shareholder in most of the German DAX companies. We don't have the strong business elites anymore that we had after 1945. 1945 wiped out the nobility because they were in the resistance, the best part of it, or a lot of it. We had wiped out quite a bit of the opposition. Of course, there was a terrible loss through the war, but basically the business elites were still intact.

And that helped Germany recover quickly and very strongly after 1948, '49. Today's business elites are not really elites. I mean, they're basically managers that run the companies to the fixed playbooks, to U.S. rules. So I think it starts at the very beginning, at identity building, because as soon as you talk about German identity, you're almost a völkisch nationalist, so you're an extremist. You cannot talk about the German people, although on the Reichstag it says, "To the German people." So it starts very, very at the basic level, and it is a very long shot. It will need extreme patience. It needs judgment. It needs foreign policy judgment. It's clear that if anything has to become of Europe, Germany has to take some kind of lead, and that is already difficult because then France will be envious.

Because in the past—and Helmut Schmidt said that himself—I mean, he let the French lead and do the grand gestures, and we do some stuff in the background. But that, of course, is a model that will not work. So I guess my optimistic scenario is that the EU breaks down and we have to build something new. And actually, this was my job talk at Boston University in April 1998, when I predicted severe problems for the euro 10 years later. And I was hoping the EU would break down and we would get a new euro. The euro did develop problems 10 years later, or let's say 11, 12 years later, but the repressive and top-down measures were so strong that we kept the EU together to this day. But I guess the best hope is Germany runs out of money. We have some real, real problems, and we get a chance to start anew, but only at a very modest level, and it will be a long, long time.

#Glenn

Helmut Schmidt, though, like other German leaders, made the point that it was imperative for Germany to clothe itself in NATO and the EU as a way for Germany to rise as an industrial power. Again, if NATO's future now looks uncertain, and in all fairness, its entire purpose does appear a bit outdated after the Cold War, and also the European Union doesn't seem to work as this geoeconomic bloc it was supposed to, what are the challenges for Germany, though, to develop as an important center of power without these two institutions, which on one hand can empower it, but also constrain Germany to a large extent as well?

#Max Otte

Of course, we would need—I mean, to handle that situation, you would need a highly skilled and experienced diplomatic corps. And let's say it hasn't gotten better, Ms. Wadehul and Annalena Baerbock. So, I mean, I'm terribly sorry for the few remaining upfront and straightforward officials that are there and that have to suffer from those terrible ministers. But we would need—I mean, it's... I wouldn't even know where to start, but it would need a very skilled diplomacy. It would need an extremely wise head of government, a chancellor. It would need many, many lucky factors coming together. So, it's difficult to even start to go into these questions. But, of course, still the most likely scenario is that Europe will be impoverished. Its decline will continue, and we will still be pretty much an extension of the U.S. empire. I mean, that's the base scenario.

#Glenn

How about Ukraine, though? I mean, it's quite important. It shapes the relationship with Russia. It also has become a source for Germany's deindustrialization. So again, the proxy war against Russia can't really be dismissed as a minor issue. So we know that the leader in AfD, Alice Weidel, she has been quite outspoken about the need for Germany to distance itself from Zelensky and his clan. But how do you see the possible—what should be done, essentially, in terms of reshaping Germany's relationship with Ukraine and Russia?

#Max Otte

Well, many things could be done if the AfD is in the national government, but that is long and far off. And I am afraid that the elites will do everything to prevent that. But, I mean, so many things. You could reopen the Nord Stream. That, of course, would directly lead to a fight with the EU. So, I mean, Germany would have to start ignoring some things by the EU, which other countries have done. But of course, the clamor would be big if Germany did it. But we have done so much good and we've paid so much that we, I think, are entitled to sometimes go our own way. Of course, that would have massive repercussions within Europe. Who knows who would say what? But we could find skilled alliances in the European Parliament with other sovereignist parties. But again, I mean, that would require a master diplomat. It would almost be a challenge more difficult than Bismarck's 150 years ago.

#Glenn

Well, I did see, though, in the—I think it was the British media—that was reporting that Merz had some secret plans. That is, if AfD would win in some German states, he would find a way of stripping it of its autonomy or its powers in general. But again, I haven't seen anything after this. What exactly were these reports about, and has it been verified? And I guess, what would be the significance of this? That is—well, yeah, he didn't trust if they would take power because he considered them to be traitors. So if Germany wants to go to war with Russia, they might not allow for weapons to flow through their territory, or they might reveal secrets. This was essentially the argument, that, well, they're not as gung-ho on war with Russia as him, essentially. Is this still on the table? No.

#Max Otte

We don't know. I mean, there's, of course, many things that can be done. You can stop funds. You can outlaw some things. You can declare a state of emergency. I mean, lawfare, of course, has been pioneered by the U.S., but then the U.S. was always a bit tougher and a bit more, let's say, brutal in its political means. Germany, of course, has this, as the Nordic countries, as far as I know, have a sense of order and of harmony and so on. So if Merz went to those measures, that could backfire. But those are rumors I cannot confirm. But again, in these times, anything is possible.

#Glenn

Just a last question, though, is: do you have any, I guess, expectations, or for lack of a better word, predictions about what's going to happen now in terms of how will Merz and the political media establishment respond to this? As you said, it's a smaller state in Germany. So, you know, but still, it's an important indicator of where things are headed. So what exactly do you think will change now? Because, you know, as I said when we started, Merz has made all this point that he will never allow nationalists to take power and all of this rhetoric. So where do you see this headed now? What will be the consequences of this for the rest of the country?

#Max Otte

Yes, I'm just checking the very latest numbers for Sachsen-Anhalt before we continue here. Now Sarah Wagenknecht's party seems to be in, which means that the AfD and Sarah Wagenknecht's party together have 49.3%, and the others have 9, 18, 27, and 18.45%. So, in theory...

#Max Otte

There could be an AfD-led government if Sarah Wagenknecht changes her position and if those prognoses and forecasts still hold tomorrow morning. But right now it looks like Sarah is in, which I

think is a good thing because it's the only other pro-peace party in the parliament. I was actually not expecting this because in the forecasts they were talked down, but now we see why. I mean, manipulated forecasts are a way of also manipulating decisions. So the propaganda has been relentless for weeks and weeks.

It can't go on like this. But at some point, the established media also will have to think about whether they stay credible if they go on with that propaganda. That's the one thing. And then the other thing is, I expect this to be, let's say, an open situation for quite a while to come, people discussing, debating. Ulrich does not get the mandate to form a government because this is being declined, because it's being sent back. So there can be a lot of positioning and games being played. So I don't see a government forming quickly.

#Glenn

Well, as you said, the political establishment has many tools: propaganda, lawfare, and other trickery. But in terms of the analogy you presented earlier, that is, that of the dam, I think that's a good one, or a strong analogy, because you can hold these forces back. There's unhappiness. You can go down the wrong path for, you know, for quite a bit, but you're not resolving anything, so the pressure is just building up. And I think once it bursts, it's going to be very uncontrolled, which is probably not an ideal scenario anyways. But anyways, I'll be looking forward to seeing how the political situation changes in Germany. It's, as I said, I think it's, you know, an important country to look at to get a feel for where Europe is headed as well. Because if Europe should change directions, which it should, we probably would need to see some changes coming out of Germany, I think, initially. Yeah. So, yeah, thank you for your great work and for taking the time, of course.

#Max Otte

Thank you for your work. Well, we had the electoral burst. Now we only need the political burst. So thank you very much.