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At least someone in Berlin knows the true enemy

An AfD co-leader has stated the obvious – that pouring money into the Ukraine war is killing the German economy. But will anyone listen?



By **Tarik Cyril Amar**, a historian from Germany working at Koç University, Istanbul, on Russia, Ukraine, and Eastern Europe, the history of World War II, the cultural Cold War, and the politics of memory



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Alice Weidel, co-leader of the far-right Alternative for Germany (AfD) political party and AfD candidate for chancellor, speaks at the party congress on January 11, 2025 in Riesa, Germany. © Sean Gallup/Getty Images

Alice Weidel, co-leader of the AfD (Alternative for Germany) party, has given [a speech to which every observer of Germany should pay close attention](#). And not simply because of Weidel's inherent political weight.

She is among the country's most important politicians and with serious prospects for very high office: if her New-Right party breaks through to leading a Berlin government, Weidel is the most likely chancellor. Next to her co-chairman Tino Chrupalla, she is the only real opposition that matters inside the current German parliament.

What makes this particular Weidel speech, delivered in the city of Heilbronn while campaigning in state elections in the classically 'West German' Land of Baden-Württemberg, especially noteworthy is its unprecedentedly outspoken, bracingly combative, and, stirringly logical and honest take on one specific topic, namely Germany's masochistic relationship to Ukraine.

Not that there were no other topics. Indeed, Weidel started what was a gleefully pugnacious 'Rundumschlag' (German for onslaught) where you would expect, the absolutely dismal state of Germany's once proud and now relentlessly tanking national economy. She [reminded her large audience](#) that Germany's industrial sector is bleeding jobs and companies; national insolvency statistics are a horror and won't stop breaking abysmal records; and the traditional parties have nothing to offer but same-old-same-old.

And yet, as most right-wing politicians – whether traditional or insurgent – former business consultant Weidel is not at all original with her own suggestions either. She complains that producing things in Germany is so expensive that the country's economy

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as a whole has been losing international competitiveness. True enough.

But things get more debatable when Weidel starts explaining the causes of the national malaise.

Costs that are too high include, in her view, taxes in general, payroll taxes, and social security payments.

This is a classical conservative

position: if anything is wrong with capitalism, it's that those at the bottom of the income and power pyramid still have it too good. Cut the state down and rely on the market's miraculous powers – pretty much the essence of Weidel's extremely tired recipe for the future.

In that respect, Weidel's talk had nothing to offer that isn't already generously supplied by the grindingly repetitive rhetoric of the current centrist Berlin government under mainstream conservative and sour-schoolmaster-in-chief Friedrich Merz. In essence, 'shut up, work harder, ask for less. (At least if you aren't rich like me and my chums).'

With so little of that sounding like a genuine alternative from the 'Alternative for Germany,' can the AfD really succeed in breaking the traditional parties' stranglehold by winning another – at least – ten or so percent of the national electorate? In a country where even the government admits that 17.6 percent of its citizens must get by without "important goods and social activities due to poverty." In a society where 2.2 million children are officially categorized as at risk of or in poverty? Where income inequality has been growing ever worse, with Germany's five wealthiest families now boasting combined fortunes of €250 billion, which is more than the poorer half of Germans



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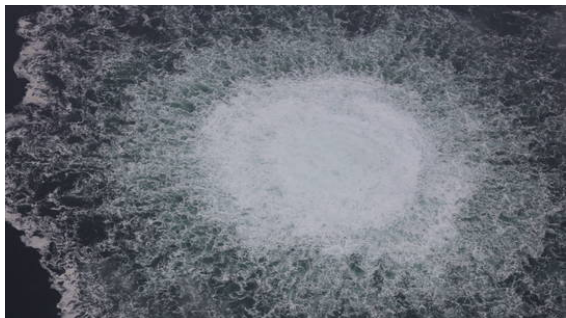
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– over 40 million people –combined? Where, finally, working hard is *not* even a halfway reliable way to achieve success? More than half of private fortunes are now inherited or gifted (usually to circumvent inheritance taxes, low as they are) and that share rises to between 75-80% among the rich.

Weidel's criticism of Berlin's – and the EU's – current economic suicide non-strategy is often refreshingly on point, but it's also the very easy part. Yet cosplaying as yet another 'iron lady,' promising more blood, sweat, and tears for those who are already getting plenty of all that, may well get the AfD stuck where it is now [at less than 30% in Germany](#) as a whole, weaker in the West and doing better only in the East. Weidel and her solidly neoliberal wing in the AfD would do well not to be too sure of themselves yet.

For, if the party does get stuck electorally instead of continuing its surge, then the AfD will not be able to fracture the traditional parties' undemocratic and, arguably, effectively unconstitutional 'firewall' policy of exclusion. Studiously supported by Germany's propagandistic and conformist mainstream media, in reality the 'firewall' is a scandal, since it massively discriminates against more than a fifth of Germany's voters (and more in the East) [who are, in effect, partially disenfranchised](#). Yet ending that scandal will take electoral success beyond anything the AfD has yet achieved. That's simply a cold hard fact. Weidel's rigid capitalist dogmatism could be a dead-end, making the AfD, despite all its current surging, a might-have-been story. We'll see.



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Yet, to her credit, Weidel added a crucial point to her diagnosis of the German economy's dramatic downfall. A point that almost no other German top politician – at least outside the

over Nord Stream blasts – MP New-Left BSW, which has been electorally kneecapped, most likely by foul means – has the guts to be honest about in public: The [main cause of Germany's ongoing crash, according to Weidel, are "exploding energy costs,"](#) and that explosion is "*homemade*," a result of catastrophically self-harming policies by the traditional parties.

While many of these policies of self-strangulation have been driven by an ideologically motivated exit from nuclear energy and misguided – as well as ineffective – attempts to mitigate global warming, one factor stands out because it is a matter of life and death in a straightforward manner, namely the Ukraine war. That is, in reality, the barely indirect war between Russia and the West (including Germany) via Ukraine.

It is a direct consequence not of the war but of the position toward it taken by at least two successive governments in Berlin (first under the hapless Olaf "*the Grinner*" Scholz, now under Friedrich "*the Scolder*" Merz) that Germany's energy has become ever more backbreakingly expensive.

Even official German agencies and mainstream media have not been able to conceal this basic fact. [According to the government statistics office](#), as of early 2023, the industry price for natural gas was 50.7% higher than before the escalation of February 2022; for electrical power – 27.3%, and for petroleum derivatives – 12.6%. In February 2025, German households were paying a whopping [31% more for energy than in 2021](#) (according to the mega-mainstream RND). One month later, the respectable Handelsblatt called the "[price leap](#)" since the [pre-2022, "immense"](#) and reported that [gas prices for private households had increased by almost 80%](#) in a little over one year. Let that sink in. And where private citizens' budgets are squeezed like that, the whole economy badly suffers as well, of course.

And just now, [the EU has confirmed it will cut itself off](#)

from even the last remnants of Russian gas supplies by 2027. Good luck!

Weidel addressed both the insanity of German policy toward this war and the single most emblematic symbol of that madness, the destruction of most



of the Nord Stream pipelines and suddenly being nice to Russia? Berlin's perfectly perverse response to it.

Weidel rightly noted that the AfD's long-standing – and plausible – arguments in favor of pursuing peace with Russia in earnest [have long been met with the usual witch-hunting smears](#). That is, the type of neo-McCarthyite suppression which all such displays of dispassionate reason in search of an end to the “nonsensical dying” (Weidel) have been receiving from the “politico-media complex” in war-besotted NATO-EU Europe. Weidel was merciless, too, [in skewering the persistent sabotage](#) of any peace prospects by (at least) two German governments and their co-belligerents in the EU and most of Europe. All pretty obvious? Yes. Among the reasonable. But not in the German mainstream media and elite.

And then there was [the passage that really rocked the hall](#): “This government [in Berlin] doesn't utter a squeak” when Ukrainians, helped by other special services (which Weidel cautiously refrained from naming), blow up German energy infrastructure “in our face.” Genuinely irate, Weidel asked how a German government could keep quiet in such a situation. For “the lost delivery of inexpensive gas,” she continued, “harms not only Germany but all of Europe, [and] Germany the most.” Nice one. So much then for the domestic non-credibility of the Scholz and Merz governments, and for Merz's

aspirations to play a leading role in Europe.

And yes, the Nord Stream scandal marks not merely a political and economic catastrophe. It's worse than that, because it also stands for a shameful display of submissiveness: *"How can a government have so little self-respect,"* Weidel asked, that it won't even genuinely seek to solve such a blatant case of, in effect, massive economic sabotage? That indeed is *the* question. Even a German very far left of Weidel, such as me, can only agree here. It takes a fundamental lack of elementary patriotism and decency not to share her exasperation.



Read more: Germany made a 'strategic mistake' – Merz

declared [her party's intention to make Ukraine – and Zelensky personally – pay](#) if the AfD gets into power in Berlin. Not only for the enormous damage done by Ukraine's cowardly Nord Stream terror attack, but also for the dozens of billions preceding German governments have pumped into one of the most corrupt regimes in the world. All power to her arm on that one as well.

Intriguingly, that was a moment when the audience reacted with much applause, as usual, but also loud booing. Clearly, not everyone had caught up to reality when it comes to Germany and its perversely self-damaging relationship to Ukraine. But Weidel is right when she also declared that Germany should have stayed neutral instead of joining the Great Western Proxy Crusade against Russia with gusto. Berlin could have served as an 'honest broker,' to the benefit of

If the ultra-corruptioneers in Kiev were listening, things got even worse: Weidel was explicit that a country attacking Germany in this manner is not a friend. Obvious? Yes, but not in Germany. Not yet. And she

everyone, not only Germans but also millions of ordinary Ukrainians.

Whatever you think about the specific mix of stale market-dogmatic Thatcherism, undue deference to Donald Trump, and refreshing no-bullshit honesty on foreign policy and national interest with regard to Ukraine and the Ukraine war that Weidel had to offer, there can be no doubt that this was a breakthrough moment. It was the first time a major German party with potentially very good electoral prospects has come out and clearly stated the obvious – Germany was attacked by Ukraine (and quite a few other 'friends' as well from Warsaw to London and Washington, even if Weidel skirted that part of the issue), *not* by Russia.

Therefore, for Germany and Germans, Ukraine is anything but a friendly state, and it is absurd – to put it very mildly – that German governments have ruined the relationship with Russia and the German economy as well, while pumping Kiev full of money and arms. This is an immense national scandal, as clearly as 2 plus 2 is 4. And like that simple fact, it's always true, no matter who has the courage to say it.

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OPINION

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K **Karl Heinz Goldberger** -1
1/28/2026 at 6:18 PM

No one will listen. In Germany there is the true opposition party, the AfD which tries to make common sense politics, and there are the socialists, the radical greens, the marxists and the supposed conservatives, which are also green socialists. They all unite to make an AfD chancellor or an AfD prime minister in the states impossible.

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D **Dean Thomas** 1/28/2026 at 6:36 PM ↑ 0


Spoken like a FASCIST! blame the commies & socialists & label them all Marxists! I bet this guy misses HIZLER der fuh-rer, eh!

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M **Michel Fortin** 1/28/2026 at 6:27 PM 1

In today's world 2+2= 5 or 6.....
The only logic the EU despots have is the logic of «» how much can I get ?«»
The fact is that they are frontmen for oligarchs and nobody names those.

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 **Stan Allan** 1/28/2026 at 6:34 PM ↑ 0

They are the frontman for the illuminate, secret government!!!...

[Reply](#)

D **Dean Thomas** 1/28/2026 at 6:27 PM 0

More meaningless babble. No real enemy is named!
All that is said is «Germany needs cheaper energy.»
Ukraine is the focus, not U.S.A. Or Israel or Swiss
Rothschilds or Bilderberg group. THEY ARE THE
REAL ENEMY!

YET AGAIN, we have PROOF that RT NEWS is a
propaganda machine which refuses to deal with the
REAL ENEMY – WORLD ZIONISM, ISRAEL,
ROTHSCHILDS & SWISS BILDERBERG MAFIA!

This is OBVIOUS, since the ROTHS,-CHILDS were
declared enemies of RUSSIA. SO why does RT
NEWS NEVER TALK ABOUT RUSSIA'S #1 ENEMY?
WHY BLAME THE WEST FOR WHAT ISRAEL & THE
SWISS DO?

BECAUSE PUTIN & RT NEWS WORK FOR THE
ZIONISTS, THAT'S WHY!

MORE PROOF? I had to «EDIT» THE PROTECTED
NAME ROTHS-CHILD, BECAUSE RT NEWS WILL NOT
ALLOW ANYONE TO EXPOSE THEIR HIDDEN
MASTER THE ROTHS-CHILDS!

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Stan Allan 1/28/2026 at 6:32 PM ↕

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RIGHT On!!!!... Finally, someone agrees with
me!!!!...

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Stan Allan 1/28/2026 at 6:31 PM

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Cuba will soon collapse – Trump

The island nation will not be getting any oil
from Venezuela, the US president has
said

