

RT

QUESTION
MOREGerman military operates secretive unit to
provide arms to Kiev – media | Russia-
Ukraine conflict

LIVE

/ [Home](#) / [World News](#)

The Fiedler Dare: Germany's politicians never lie, they say

Berlin's Moscow accusation rests on credibility
Germany's leaders don't have

Published 15 Sep, 2026 21:57 | Updated 15 Sep, 2026 23:00



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

[@tarikcyrilamar](#)[tarikcyrilamar.substack.com](#)[tarikcyrilamar.com](#)

German Chancellor Friedrich Merz © Christian Mang / Getty Images

Berlin has officially blamed a murky drone incident at the Leipzig-Halle airport on Moscow. However, as unbiased observers agree, the German authorities have not published any actual evidence to back up this accusation. Instead, they have relied on unsubstantiated claims and what seems to be the systematic management of the public mood via leaks and speculation.

Top stories



Mearsheimer: There's no diplomatic way out of the Ukraine war

FEATURE

Netanyahu proposes stripping IDF critics of Israeli citizenship

Ukrainian officials stole \$3 million from Polish gift to Kiev – investigators (PHOTOS)

Protesters attack EU office over Kosovo leader's war crimes conviction (VIDEOS)

Turkish sailors sue Ukraine over deadly drone attack

Subscribe to RT
newsletter to get
news highlights of the
day right in your
mailbox

The stakes are high: Berlin has taken substantial punitive measures against Russia; Moscow has responded in kind. More importantly, Russian government representatives have been explicit about considering the German allegations and initiatives a deliberate [escalation](#).

Germany's mainstream media are even more hysterical than usual: Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, once the country's flagship of serious conservative-centrist journalism, [is comparing](#) the Leipzig-Halle incident – which resulted in zero casualties or damage – with the September 11, 2001 attacks in the US.

Against this backdrop of Germany's umpteenth moral panic about Russia stampeding through the establishment, hardly anyone even notices that the prominent Ukrainian dissident journalist Anatolij Sharij – long exiled and under permanent threat from the Zelensky regime – [has unearthed an eyewitness report](#) about the events at Leipzig-Halle that contradicts the German official and mainstream accounts and even features details pointing to stage-managing and, in short, the possibility that it was faked.



Read more: Berlin's latest Russia panic is reckless even by its own standards

The German authorities, meanwhile, are staying the course. Not by presenting evidence, which is much talked about yet never shown, but by demanding, in effect, blind faith. In that spirit, the parliamentary domestic policy spokesman of the co-governing Social Democrats (SPD) Sebastian Fiedler has brought out things with commendable if self-sacrificing clarity.

[Rejecting, in effect, demands for proof](#), Fiedler's key argument – of sorts – is an odd claim: if German Chancellor Friedrich Merz and Minister of the Interior Alexander Dobrindt publicly state that Russia is to blame, then [“you can be certain \[...\] that Russia really is to blame.”](#)

In other words, once top representatives of the Berlin government stake their credibility for all the world to see, we simply must believe whatever they say because – as it's obviously implied – they always speak the truth. Further

☐ We offer you the possibility to receive RT's news highlights every Monday, Wednesday and Friday by email.

Subscribe

RT Features



Mearsheimer: There's no diplomatic way out of the Ukraine war FEATURE



The CIA paid cash. A NATO ally supplied the torture prison FEATURE INVESTIGATION



What does American football look like in a country most Americans couldn't find on a map?

FEATURE

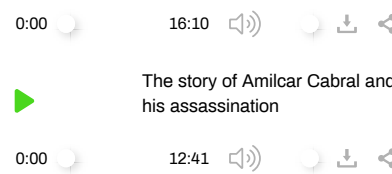
Podcasts

[All podcasts](#)



The British concept of "Indirect Rule" and its consequences

questions are – according to the unspoken yet unobvious message – at least superfluous, probably unpatriotic, and perhaps even VERBOTEN!



Police investigators work on the tarmac with a robot capable of defusing explosives near a Ukrainian Antonov cargo plane at Leipzig/Halle Airport on August 5, 2026 near Leipzig, Germany. © Jens Schlueter / Getty Images

Now, that is an intriguing move indeed; let's call it the Fiedler Dare. For one thing, it is extremely counterintuitive, because it means that German politicians never lie when the stakes are high. In general, though, history – and the present, too – really teaches the opposite about politics in general and everywhere: precisely when the stakes are high, lying becomes more likely, more brazen, and more obstinate. Is Fiedler suggesting that Berlin government representatives are the global exception? A superior kind of political animal?

Luckily, the other thing that makes Fiedler's astonishing claim so fascinating is that it is eminently falsifiable. Not on one but two levels: Do the two individuals mentioned explicitly always stick to the facts and only the facts? And do German government members in general?



Let's start with the general issue, because it neatly brings into focus yet another German minister who has also staked his credibility by accusing Russia of the Leipzig-Halle airport incident: Johannes

Read more: Faith in fakes: How anti-Russian hysteria is driving the EU's drone hoax *"Russia-will-always-be-our-enemy"* Wadephul, the head of what now

counts for diplomacy in Germany and probably makes Otto von Bismarck and Friedrich Genscher turn in their graves.

In Wadephul's case, we have a recent case of spreading a very politicized and harmful untruth and, moreover, never correcting his (presumably) mistake. As recently as February, Wadephul [was among several foreign ministers](#) falling – whether unknowingly or knowingly – for an Israel-adjacent disinformation campaign smearing UN special rapporteur Francesca Albanese by crudely misquoting her.

Having called, in effect, for her dismissal – based on always bizarre accusations quickly proven as false – Wadephul, moreover, has never publicly retracted or apologized or even quietly corrected his position: his [X post](#) with the original smear is still up.

The Fiedler Dare vs Reality: 0:1

One of the two ministers publicly accusing Russia of the Leipzig-Halle incident does not always tell us the truth, not even when he speaks publicly. Indeed, he doesn't even let go of his falsehood when proven wrong. What about Dobrindt and Merz, then?

Dobrindt has had a long career in politics already. So long, in fact that almost a decade ago, one of Germany's primary weeklies, Die Zeit, found he was [“unfit by character”](#) for his then-office as federal minister of transport. Ouch. Zeit's reason: Dobrindt had [“concealed”](#) an impending bankruptcy [“for years”](#) to promote privatization schemes. Water under the bridge or maybe traffic jams under the autobahn overpass? Hardly, as there are no signs that Dobrindt has changed.

Fiedler Dare vs. Reality: 0:2

And then, there is Merz. He is, of course, the German leader who has been publicly and often derided as [“Lying Fritz”](#) ([“Lügenfritz”](#)), notwithstanding the fact that, in at least one case, a German citizen has been prosecuted and punished for this statement in a case that [critics have rightly identified as an attack on freedom of opinion](#). In general, Merz is historically unpopular: Only [14%](#) of voters think he is the right man for his job, and even in his own CDU party, only a minority still believe in him.





A Police investigator works on the tarmac near to Ukrainian Antonov cargo plane at Leipzig/Halle Airport on August 5, 2026 near Leipzig, Germany. © Jens Schlueter / Getty Images

No chancellor with reliable polling before him has been as widely and deeply disliked. One, perhaps the main reason is that, whether Merz likes it or not, many Germans see him as notoriously dishonest, with a record of broken promises that is unusual even for a professional politician. They feel that the examples of Merz's extraordinarily difficult relationship with the truth could be multiplied ad infinitum.

Yet let's be concrete: Just days after winning the last elections, if rather ingloriously, [Merz reiterated one of his core campaign promises](#): that Germany's "*debt brake*" – a tight cap on public spending via credit and, formerly, an essential piece of conservative identity – was untouchable. A few weeks later he razed it to the ground, with a maneuver, moreover, that may be formally legal but certainly defied the spirit of the constitution by remobilizing parliamentary majorities already voted out.

Fiedler Dare vs. reality 0:3

Trust, Mr. Fiedler may want to take note, is an earned thing. And puffing yourself up about the trust you and your government deserve, when you clearly do not, is not only a little silly but also very counterproductive. All it does with the more skeptical kind of voter – of whom Germany has very many now – is remind them just how unreliable you are. And that is the path to further defeat. Let's hope for the best.

The statements, views and opinions expressed in this column are solely those of the author and do not necessarily represent those of RT.

OPINION

You can share this story on social media:

Please check our [commenting policy](#). If you have questions or suggestions feel free to send them to feedback@rttv.ru.

AA B i “ < > ☰ ☷

Your comment here

Sign In

Sort by Recently updated ▾

K **Karl Heinz Goldberger** 9/17/2026 at 4:39 PM 0

That German Pinocchio is the biggest liar the world has ever seen. Before the elections, he promised that no new debts will be taken. After the elections, he increased Germany's debt by 1 trillion. 1 trillion. And he did not do it with the newly elected parliament, he did it with the old parliament.

[Reply](#)**B** **Bill P** 9/17/2026 at 3:58 PM 0

Merz is an evil minded puppet who hopefully is replaced soon. But do not hold your breathe as Angela Merkel admitted she Lied when signing the Minsk Agreement. German leaders still lust for Russian resources.

[Reply](#)**F** **Fatima Mother** 9/17/2026 at 11:04 AM 0

This is even a lie. Liar- Liar

[Reply](#)**L** **Le bon Sens** 9/17/2026 at 5:00 AM 0

The german fascist leaders (*black rock & co.*) **only** lie.

[Reply](#) **A Banca** 9/17/2026 at 4:15 AM 0

Merz and his eugenically 'can't-lie' *mega-dome*.

[Reply](#)**A** **ANDREA Stengel** 9/16/2026 at 7:54 AM 2

comparing the Leipzig-Halle incident to the September 11, 2001 'attacks' in the US is actually quite funny, as the 9/11 atrocity was in fact a false flag.

[Reply](#) **A Banca** 9/17/2026 at 3:49 AM ↑ 0

A word to the wise is sufficient. ;)

[Reply](#)

B

Bob Droidskey 9/16/2026 at 6:19 PM

1

Reminded me of «The German soldiers don't steal— they take!»

[Reply](#)



Gargarin 9/16/2026 at 5:27 AM

2

Maybe it fell out of a ukraine employee's handbag?

[Reply](#)

M

Misha 9/16/2026 at 6:09 PM ↑

1

That would be a statement from the Green/Black Dwarf Beggar Zelensky.

[Reply](#)



Bundle of Perceptions 9/16/2026 at 5:21 PM

2

If it's true that Germany's politicians never lie, then they say what they say out of sheer stupidity.

[Reply](#)

S

Stella Long 9/16/2026 at 3:36 PM

2

Our 'values' . Dishonesty, nudity, p..... ography, etc. and in the case of the US, the use of the 'f' word.

[Reply](#)