

Note: National elections were held in Germany on Sunday, Sept. 22. As the most powerful capitalist country in the European Union, these elections hold more than just national importance. Below a German comrade comments on the significance of the outcome.

So the election results in Germany are in and it was the second worst result for the Social Democratic Party (SPD) and the second best for the conservative Christian Democrat Union (CDU) since World War II.

No big surprises, actually. “Mutti Merkel macht’s” (Mother Merkel will do it”) was a main slogan long before the elections took place. And she does, did and will continue to do so.

Angela Merkel, the leader of the CDU did not allow her party to make too deep cuts in the last years and kept Germany’s economy strong and the EU alive. When asked by her fellow party members to do more severe cuts she would answer: “Do you want me to set my country on fire?” She refused. And is still in power. Maybe her East German heritage and the fact that she is a daughter of a priest makes her more capable of understanding how German capitalism works. In Germany it retains its base through "social justice," social security, social peace and social stability. Don’t mess with that or you’ll ruin it - meaning ruin the profits of German and other major capitalist companies.



You don’t want the German working class (and their still quite strong unions) against you. Angela Merkel understood. The SPD did not.

Social Democrats in Power

The Social Democratic Party didn’t care. When SPD chancellor Gerhard Schroeder was in power (ten years ago), the worst cuts in German history since World War II took place. Harz IV, “one-Euro-Jobs”, cuts in unemployment and social security took place.



SPD leader Peer Steinbrueck. According to the Wall St. Journal, voters find him "greedy, arrogant and awkward."

Greens no Better

And when the so called "peace and environmental party", the Green Party, was in power (with the SPD at the same time), Germany went back to war for the first time since World War II and the abolishment of nuclear power was postponed for, well, until the power plants would have run out of power anyway...

The German working class did not forget. They will not. Ever. Especially since "Mutti Merkel" seems to be real nice, quite social in some ways.

The SPD lost their base - The working class. It is interesting though, that they didn't lose it to the Left Party but to the CDU. *"The CDU is the new SPD"*. That's what they say in Germany these days. But it wouldn't be "just" for the CDU. Angela Merkel did put her own say, her own touch on it, feeling and reacting to the pressure, needs and anxieties of the German working class. She is not even against a minimum wage. She just wants it to be worked out in a union contract.

The Linke

The Linke (or "The Left" - a new left party whose main base is supporters of the old Communist Party in Eastern Germany) had an "ok result" in today's elections. 8.5% - not too bad, and better than other left parties do in most other European countries. But it was a loss compared to the last elections (down from 11.7 % in 2009).

The main winner was the CDU - in every way: they got up from 33% (in 2009) to almost 42% (in 2013). The SPD gained a couple of percent from 23% (2009) to 25,6% (2013) but their main potential coalition party, the Green Party went down to 8,4 % (from 10.7 % four years ago).

So there is no option for the SPD to form a government with the Greens (and no pressure/need for the Linke/Left Party to be part of it or maybe tolerate it).

And the CDU can't go on with their previous coalition party - with the pro business party FDP - who didn't make the 5 % and will not be in the German parliament. So the German foreign minister and some other FDP ministers will be fired today. A day to celebrate! A lot of Germans always hated the fact that such a little minority party like the FDP (a clear pro-business party which we liked to call *"Fast Drei Prozent (FDP)"* - meaning "almost three percent") could have this kind of power of deciding how to form a government and being able to get minister positions.

Coalition

Today's election outcome could not be better for most of the involved parties (besides the FDP, of course): The CDU just failed (very closely though) to get the absolute majority, meaning they don't have to govern by themselves. Because that would have been horrible for Angela Merkel and the way she likes to govern because she would have been more exposed to the pressure by her right wing party members. Now the most likely outcome is going to be a grand coalition between the SPD and the CDU. That will keep both big parties out of trouble - the CDU can ignore their right wing members and the SPD their left wing members. They will have a solid majority in the German parliament and do not have to rely on their "extremists" in any of their corners.

Pirate Party

Some other little details: The Pirate Party (quite successful in previous elections, but totally useless in practice afterwards) went down to something like 2 % and the newly formed AFD (Alternative Fuer Deutschland) an anti-Euro, very nationalist, and quite right wing party didn't make the 5 % either (but came quite close with 4.7 %...).



Greece in Crisis: The crisis of capitalism will be felt in Germany too.

German Capitalism

German capitalism is saved for one more time. Germany will stay stable. For now. And the Left Party has another chance to become more radical without being in charge. Of course, sooner or later - and it could be sooner - the shock waves from the rest of the EU will find their way into German Politics.

Just a first analysis of the German election outcome.