

It's a pity that Sahra didn't understand anything...

I find the articles that German media like Der Spiegel have written about Sahra Wagenknecht and the rapid decline of her BSW amusing because they all ignore the crucial point. I wonder whether the Spiegel editors are so caught up in their bubble that they don't understand it, or whether they are deliberately not mentioning it.

The Divided Country

In Germany, there are two groups of voters, which are in turn divided into subgroups. On the one hand, there are the voters who have voted all their lives for the bloc parties CDU/CSU, SPD, FDP and Greens, which have governed the Federal Republic of Germany in ever-changing compositions since the war. This has led to many changes in government, but never to a real change in policy. The only exception was Willy Brandt, who changed the political direction a little in at least one area with his Eastern policy.

If these voters of the mainstream parties are dissatisfied with a government, they simply vote for another of the bloc parties, even though practically nothing changes in terms of policy afterwards.

The other group of voters in Germany are the people who have turned away from the bloc parties because they no longer feel represented by them or by the political system in Germany. [According to surveys, this is about half of Germans](#), many of whom simply no longer vote at all.

This can also be seen in the election results, as almost 20 percent did not vote and of those who did vote, around 30 percent (almost 40 percent if you include the Left) did not vote for the bloc parties. This means that almost half of Germans did not vote for the bloc parties.

The rift between these two groups of voters is very deep in Germany. And it will become even deeper because the bloc parties and the mainstream media loyal to them

are doing everything they can to discredit and insult the half of Germans who have turned away from the bloc parties, instead of pursuing policies that could unite the people of Germany again.

Sahra's big chance

Sahra Wagenknecht had every chance of getting into the Bundestag with a double-digit election result. There is actually only one reason why her party did not get a double-digit result and even missed out on entering the Bundestag: she did not understand what I just wrote.

Many Germans who are disappointed with the bloc parties have a problem with the AfD. There are reasons for this. Some may not like the AfD's anti-immigration rhetoric and are influenced by the media campaigns that denigrate the AfD - albeit wrongly - as a "Nazi party".

Others may be put off by the fact that the AfD is quite neoliberal on economic issues and is unlikely to change anything about the social problems in Germany. Still others may be bothered by the fact that, despite its campaign against the Russia sanctions, the AfD still says in its election manifesto that NATO ensures peace. There are plenty of positions within the AfD that not everyone likes and that deter many Germans from voting for the party.

Then Wagenknecht came along with her BSW and she seemed to be the beacon of hope for those very people who no longer want to know anything about the bloc parties but for some reason do not want to vote for the AfD.

Wagenknecht positioned herself for a realistic policy on the migration issue, but she also focused on criticizing the neoliberal economic system and called for more social security. In addition, she is critical of NATO.

But Wagenknecht's fine words do not correspond to what she actually does.

Sahra can't decide

After the elections in the East, in which Wagenknecht was very successful, she relied on coalition negotiations with the very bloc parties that her voters were so disappointed with. Wagenknecht did not have the courage to do what her voters wanted: namely,

either to govern without the mainstream if possible, or to consistently go into opposition.

The example of the FDP, which went into opposition in 2017 because it said it was better not to govern than to govern badly, could have shown Sarah that voters approve of a principled position, especially since the example of the FDP also confirms this the other way around, because the FDP has now been punished for its participation in the traffic light coalition by being thrown out of the Bundestag.

Why Wagenknecht entered into coalition negotiations with the bloc parties in the East remains her secret. The fact is that this was her big mistake, because after that the voters turned away from her BSW and the rapid decline of her young party began, which has now culminated in her failure to clear the 5 percent hurdle.

But this indecision is characteristic of Wagenknecht. She made headlines when she and Alice Schwarzer advocated peace in Ukraine, but she was inconsistent because, on the one hand, she did address the mistakes the West had made in Ukraine, but on the other hand she called Putin a "criminal" (whether out of conviction or to avoid bad press is another matter). Sahra Wagenknecht was unable to decide on a clear line.

The same thing happened after the elections in the East, where she was successful in the elections with her clear words, only to then work with parties that stand for a completely different policy than what their voters want.

The Missed Opportunity

This is also confirmed by the polls, as the BSW managed to reach nine percent by August 2024, but with the start of coalition negotiations in the East, the BSW's decline began, which was just as rapid as its previous rise.

If Wagenknecht had remained true to her principles at that time, the BSW would almost certainly have entered the Bundestag with double-digit numbers instead of failing to clear the 5 percent hurdle.

Now she has lost the federal election. The fact that Wagenknecht is now considering having the election result legally reviewed and blaming it on polls in which, in her opinion, the BSW was rated too low shows that she has clearly not understood where the problem lies.

Sahra Wagenknecht has missed a great opportunity to actually change something in Germany. If she had clearly stood for a line that opposes the policies of the bloc parties on issues of the economy, social policy, foreign policy and migration, and had maintained this even after the election successes in the East, she could have achieved a clear double-digit election result. Together with the AfD, there would now be a real opposition in the Bundestag, which would have received around 30 percent of the seats. Perhaps this would have woken up the bloc parties and finally made them change their policies, even if it was only out of fear of not being able to get a majority in the next election.

But this means the opportunity has been lost and there will once again be a coalition of bloc parties that only know one political line: carry on as before!