

Germany: Representation and Participation

I. German Political Parties

A. Christian Democrats (CDU/CSU)

B. Social Democrats (SPD)

C. Free Democrats (FDP)

D. Greens (*Die Grünen*)

E. The Left Part (WASG
and PDS)

II. German Political Culture

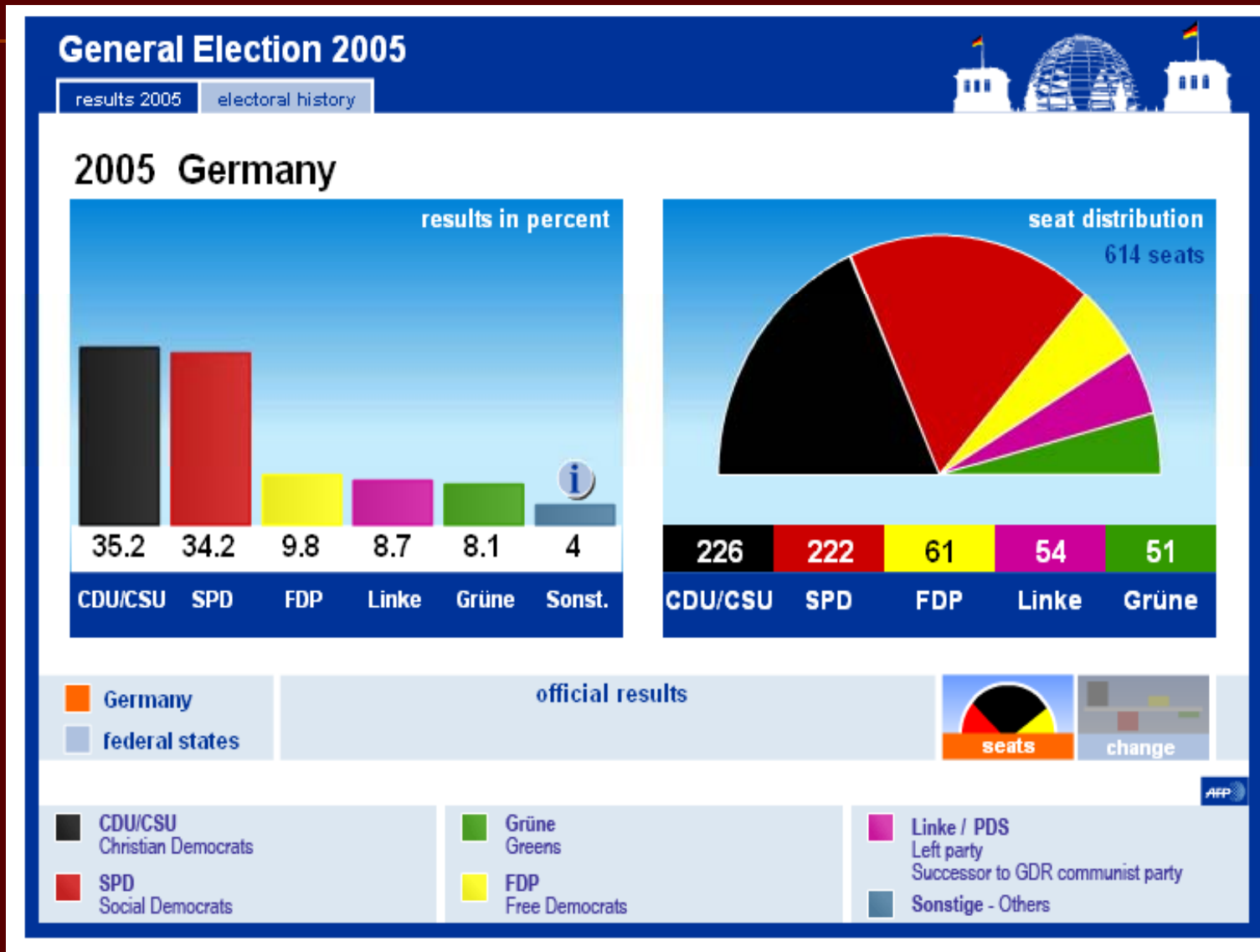


A. Christian Democrats (CDU-CSU)

- Two parties:
 - Christian Democratic Union (most of country)
 - Christian Social Union (Bavaria)
- Center-Right
- 'Social market' economy
- Pragmatic

The logo for the Christian Democratic Union (CDU), consisting of the letters "CDU" in a bold, red, sans-serif font on a white rectangular background.

The 2005 German Election



B. Social Democrats (SPD)

- Marxism and the ‘30% ghetto’
- Bad Godesberg Conference (1959)
- Willi Brandt and ‘*Ostpolitik*’
- Helmut Schmidt
- Eclipsed by Kohl
- Gerhard Schröder (the “Cashmere Chancellor”)

The SPD logo consists of a red square with the letters 'SPD' in white, bold, sans-serif font centered within it.

SPD



C. Free Democrats (FDP or Liberals)

- Clear third party (never more than 13% of the vote nationally) but...
- ‘Kingmaker’ in German system
- Free market, libertarian party
- Moderating influence within coalitions
- Good showing in 2005 (9.8%); official leader of the opposition



**FDP Leader
Guido Westerwelle**

D. The Greens (*Bündis 90/Die Grünen*)

- Formally Alliance 90/The Greens
- *Fundis and Realos*
- Environmentalism, post-material values, social justice
- Positions in Schröder government
 - Joschka Fischer (Foreign Minister)
 - Jorgen Trittin (Environment)
- Nuclear Power



Joschka
Fischer



E. Left Party (*Die Linke*) Party

- Combination of Labor and Social Justice Party (WASG) and Party of Democratic Socialism (PDS)
- PDS is the successor to East German Socialist Unity (Communist) Party (Lothar Bisky)
- WASG is former far left SPD members under Oskar Lafontaine
- Attracts disaffected SPD/Green voters in West; disaffected East Germans
- Came in fourth (ahead of Greens) in 2005
- Recent gains in western state elections



Bisky and
Lafontaine



DIE LINKE.

II. Germany Political Culture

- Inculcation of Democratic Values (*Wessies v Ossies*)
- National Identity (Who is a German?)
- Legitimacy of System
- Social Cleavages
 - Postmaterialist Values
 - Social Class and Region
 - Religion (Secularization)
- History and Culture
 - Q: Which is the *real* Germany?

American Stereotypes of Germany



"Touch my monkey!!! *Tuchen sie meine Abschmenkie!*"

German History and Political Culture

- Q: On which period of German history should we focus?



Nazi Era?



Postwar Democracy?