

# The Rise of the Far Right in Germany:

## Implications for Refugee and Immigration Policies

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(Abdulhamid Hoşbaş - Anadolu Agency)

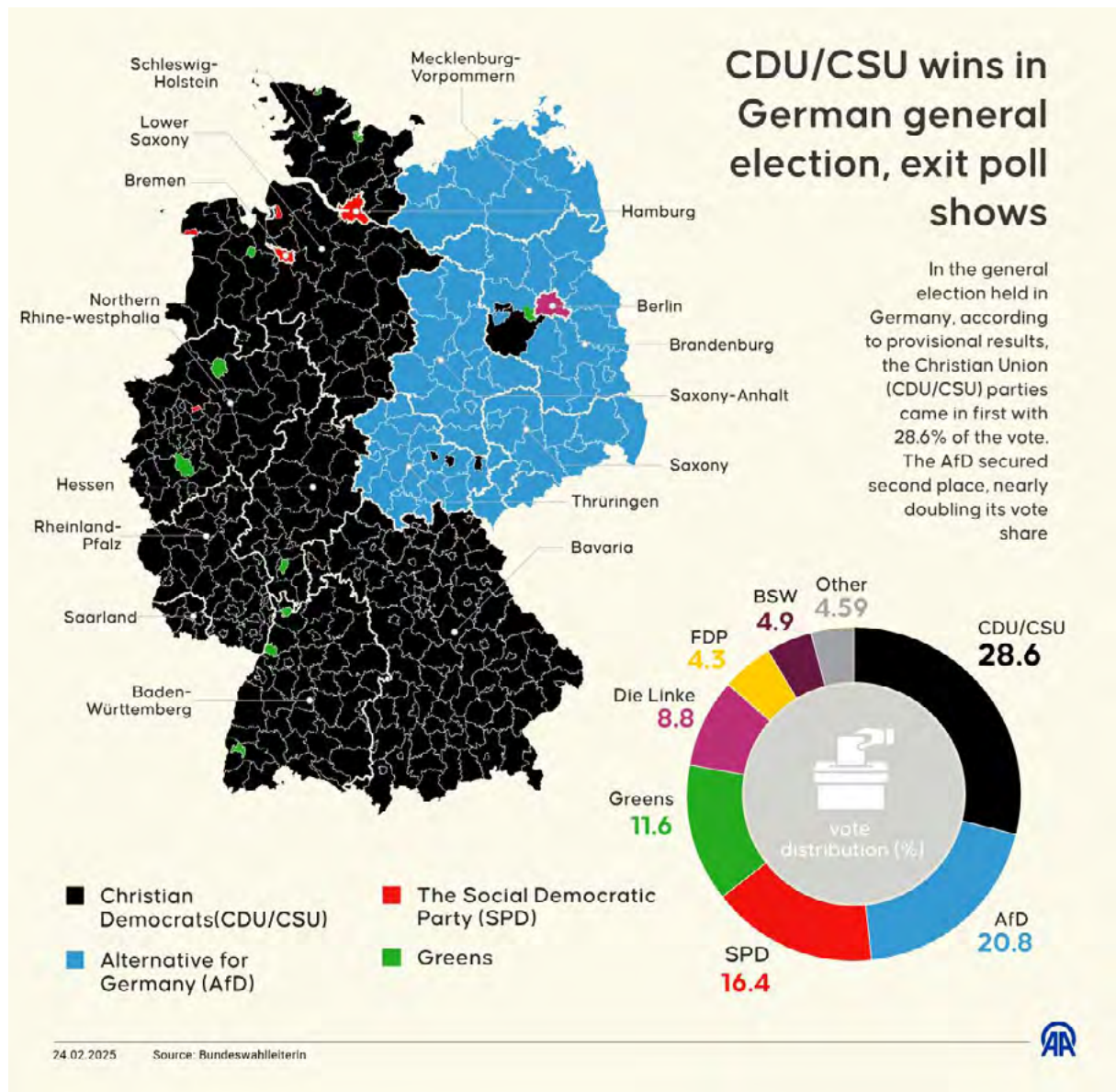
**The rise of the far-right Alternative for Germany (AfD) has reshaped Germany's political landscape, bringing anti-immigration rhetoric, nationalism, and Euroscepticism into the mainstream. This analysis explores how the AfD evolved from a fringe movement into a major political force, particularly following the 2025 elections, where it secured unprecedented electoral gains. The policy outlook examines the securitisation of immigration, the party's populist strategies, and the influence of high-profile figures like Elon Musk, whose support amplified the AfD's reach. Additionally, it discusses the broader implications for German democracy, refugee policies, and European unity, highlighting the role of misinformation and economic grievances in fueling far-right sentiment. As mainstream parties shift rightward in response, the study raises critical questions about the future of Germany's political and social fabric.**

# AfD's Rise and the 2025 Election Shock

Once a symbol of stability and openness in Europe, Germany is now at a crossroads. The rise of the far-right Alternative for Germany (AfD) party—a political force that has surged from the fringes to the mainstream—threatens to upend the country’s long-standing commitment to humanitarian values. While the results of the 2025 federal elections are still being debated, the AfD’s anti-immigrant rhetoric and nationalist agenda are reshaping Germany’s political landscape, with profound implications for refugees, immigrants, and the nation’s global reputation. Emerging in 2013 as a Eurosceptic movement, the AfD initially focused on opposing bailouts for struggling Euro-zone countries. However, the 2015 refugee crisis marked a turning point. As over one million refugees and asylum seekers entered Germany, the AfD pivoted to anti-immigration rhetoric, positioning itself as the staunch opponent

of Chancellor Angela Merkel’s liberal refugee policies. This shift resonated deeply with voters who felt overwhelmed by the rapid demographic changes and concerned about the cultural, economic, and security implications of mass migration.

By 2023, the AfD had established itself as a dominant force in eastern Germany, winning state elections in Saxony, Thuringia, and Brandenburg. Its “Germany first” message appealed to voters who felt left behind by globalisation, disillusioned by mainstream parties, and alienated by what they perceived as a cosmopolitan elite out of touch with their concerns. However, the party’s unprecedented success in the February 2025 federal election—where it doubled its vote share to become the second-largest party in the Bundestag—marked a seismic shift in German politics. This electoral triumph was not just a victory for the AfD; it was a wake-up call for Germany, signalling a profound transformation in public sentiment toward nationalist and anti-immigrant policies.



The 2025 election results reflect a deepening societal divide. In eastern Germany, where the AfD won over 30% of the vote, the party tapped into a sense of economic marginalisation and cultural alienation. In contrast, urban centres like Berlin and Hamburg remained more resistant to its message, highlighting the growing rift between cosmopolitan and nationalist voters. This divide is not unique to Germany; it mirrors broader trends across Europe, where far-right parties have gained ground by capitalising on similar anxieties. However, the AfD's success is particularly significant given Germany's historical role as a leader in European integration and humanitarian protection.

## Theoretical Lenses: Understanding the AfD's Success

Why has the AfD's message resonated so deeply with German voters? The answer lies in two powerful narratives shaping modern politics: the framing of immigration as a security threat and the growing divide between cosmopolitan elites and nationalist voters. The AfD has transformed itself from a fringe movement into a political powerhouse by exploiting these dynamics.

### *Securitisation Theory:*

Developed by scholars like Barry Buzan and Ole Wæver, securitisation theory explains how political actors frame issues as existential threats to justify extraordinary measures. The AfD has masterfully employed this strategy, portraying immigration as a danger to Germany's security, cultural identity, and social welfare system. By framing refugees and asylum seekers as potential criminals, terrorists, or economic burdens, the AfD has tapped into deep-seated

fears among voters, particularly in regions with limited exposure to immigration. This narrative has gained traction in a climate of rising concerns about crime, terrorism, and economic instability, enabling the AfD to [push](#) for stricter asylum laws, tighter border controls, and expedited deportations.

The AfD frames immigration, especially from Muslim-majority countries, as a threat to Germany's cultural and social stability. According to its priorities [published on its website](#) before the 2025 Bundestag elections, the AfD has three focus areas regarding domestic policy: Fighting Islamism, preventing illegal immigration, and restoring internal security.

**Migration as a threat:** By proposing extreme measures such as offshore refugee camps and net-zero immigration, the party is reinforcing the perception of a crisis and demanding urgent action outside the normal political process.

In its manifesto published in 2017, the party advocated setting up camps in North Africa and holding refugees until their application process was completed. However, under the new immigration law, refugees cannot obtain German citizenship anyway if they commit a crime in the country or do something that could be considered extremist. Moreover, [according to the Dublin Regulation](#), to which Germany is also a party, asylum seekers can go through the application process in the country they applied to, and the country they applied to has a legal obligation to protect the asylum seeker during this process.

AfD co-chair Alice Weidel has made statements in interviews that contribute to Islamophobic sentiment. She made generalisations about Muslim immigrants, portraying them as inherently dangerous or a threat to public safety.



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Weidel, however, prefers to focus on her personal experiences. She has reportedly described her childhood in the small town of Harsewinkel, in western Germany, as formative for her political views. In an interview with *TIME*, she claimed that as a teenager, she avoided public swimming pools due to what she described as harassment from groups of immigrant boys. “Even in my little village, we had a problem with Muslim immigration, and it was quite painful for us,” she stated, while requesting that *TIME* not print the specific slurs she allegedly encountered. Weidel further claimed that this experience led her to believe that “a proper, peaceful life with a high proportion of Muslims is not working out.”

**Law and Order:** The party associates immigration with increasing crime and terrorism, securitises the issue further, and positions itself as a defender of public safety and German values. Although its website [explicitly blames](#) immigrants for the increase in crime and violence, research has shown this to be untrue. Immigration has not contributed to rising crime rates in Germany’s immigration regions, according to an analysis of police crime statistics at the district level from 2018 to 2023 [published by the Ifo Institute](#).

“We found no correlation between the increasing share of foreigners in a region and the local crime rate. The same applies particularly to refugees,” [said Ifo researcher Jean-Victor Alipour](#).

According to the study, while foreigners are “overrepresented” in crime statistics relative to their share of the population, it was stated that this is due to their concentration in metropolitan areas, where crime rates are generally higher for both immigrants and natives. Considering that the population in Germany does not have a German passport is around 14 per cent. If isolated violent incidents are attributed to entire communities, such generalisations can foster a sense of alienation and insecurity among immigrants who have been integral to Germany’s economic development for decades.

**Cultural and Demographic Concerns:** The AfD also securitises demographic changes and warns of a “Great Displacement” narrative in which immigrants allegedly replace native Germans. This rhetoric speaks to



fears about national identity and survival and resonates with voters who feel threatened by globalisation and multiculturalism. In particular, their election and advertising [slogans](#), such as “Burkas? We prefer bikinis.” or “New Germans? We’ll make them ourselves,” have inflamed Islamophobia and anti-immigration hostility.

The AfD’s ads have also been the target of criticism because they are reminiscent of Nazi-era propaganda, but the party turns a deaf ear to all this criticism and doubles its vote share in relatively low-income regions like East Germany. Another AfD ad features a baby pig with the caption “Islam? It doesn’t fit in with our cuisine” — a reference to the fact that observant Muslims don’t eat pork.

## New Cleavage Theory:

New cleavage theory highlights the growing divide between cosmopolitan elites, who embrace globalisation and multiculturalism, and nationalist voters, who feel threatened by these changes. The AfD has positioned itself as the defender of traditional German values, appealing to those marginalised by mainstream parties’ policies. This divide is particularly pronounced in eastern Germany, where the AfD has its strongest support. The 2025 election results underscore this cleavage, with the AfD gaining significant support in rural and economically disadvantaged areas while urban centres remained more resistant to its message. This polarisation reflects broader trends across Europe, where far-right parties have capitalised on the backlash against globalisation and multiculturalism.

Together, these frameworks provide a lens for understanding how the AfD has reshaped Germany’s political landscape and influenced its refugee and migration policies. The 2025 election results validate these theories, showing how the AfD’s securitisation of immigration and exploitation of the cosmopolitan-nationalist divide has driven its success.

Another reason for the AfD’s rapid political rise is economic despair. Especially in former industrial centres such as Saxony-Anhalt in East Germany, where youth unemployment is still very high, the AfD’s ideological combination of welfare populism ([German jobs for German workers](#)) and anti-immigration messages has attracted many voters.

It has attracted voters who feel alienated from mainstream parties. In the 2017 German federal elections, the AfD made a [significant breakthrough](#) by winning 12.6% of the vote and 94 seats in the Bundestag. This result means that a far-right party had entered the German federal parliament for the first time since World War II.

After this success in 2017, it continued its campaign to deepen the polarisation by telling the story of winners and losers louder to maintain its grassroots support. The party’s continued support was also largely due to blaming globalisation and EU policies for these economic struggles and its promise to protect German jobs and industries. The AfD capitalised on this division by positioning itself as the voice of the “losers of globalisation.” On the issue of refugees, the economy, and culture.

The party also appeals to voters alienated by progressive cultural changes such as gender equality, personal freedoms, and multiculturalism. By emphasising traditional values and national identity, the AfD mobilises those who



(Mehmet Kaman - Anadolu Agency)

feel their way of life is under threat. Even though party co-chair Alice Weidel has a partner of Sri Lankan origin, they live outside Germany and have two children.

The AfD portrays itself as an anti-establishment force, criticising mainstream parties and the media for their lack of connection with ordinary citizens. This resonates with voters who feel ignored by the political elite and distrust institutions.

As a result, the AfD's application of securitisation theory and the new cleavage theory is central to its electoral strategy. By framing fundamental issues as threats and exploiting social divisions, the party aims to expand its influence in the 2025 elections, further polarise German politics, and challenge the mainstream political order, thus increasing its vote share. The 2025 election results showed that they have successfully applied these theories, as they saw their number of seats in parliament double.

## Elon Musk and the AfD: The Tech Mogul's Role in Empowering Germany's Far Right

The February 2025 German elections were not only a domestic affair but also a battleground for global influencers, most notably Elon Musk, the billionaire CEO of Tesla, SpaceX, and owner of X (formerly Twitter). Musk's vocal support for the far-right Alternative for Germany (AfD) party played a significant role in amplifying the party's anti-immigrant rhetoric and legitimising its nationalist agenda on the global stage.

Musk's involvement in German politics began to take shape in the months leading up to the election. His tactics mirrored those he had used to bolster Trump's re-election campaign in the United States. While German law prohibits foreign campaign contributions, Musk's influence was felt through public endorsements and media appearances. In December 2024, he posted a tweet endorsing the AfD, calling it the "last spark of hope" for Germany's future. This endorsement, which reached his millions of followers, was shared over 500,000 times in Germany within 24 hours, significantly boosting the AfD's online presence. Its current [views](#) are around 52 million.

Musk's support did not stop at social media. A few days after his tweet, he [published](#) a full-throated defence of the AfD in a German newspaper, reiterating his belief that the party was essential for Germany's future. In early January 2025, Musk conducted a lengthy interview with AfD leader Alice Weidel [on X](#). During the interview, [Musk urged](#) Germans to vote for change, stating, "If you are unhappy with the situation, you must vote for change, and that is why I'm really strongly recommending that people vote for AfD."

Musk [appeared](#) via video link at the AfD party convention two weeks later. His speech focused on historical memory and the taboos that emerged after World War II. "It's good to be proud of German culture and German values and not to lose that in some sort of multiculturalism that dilutes everything," Musk told the party faithful. He added that there had been "too much of a focus on past guilt," a statement that resonated with the AfD's base and reinforced the party's nationalist narrative.

The interview, which violated the European Union's Digital Services Act (DSA) by failing to address disinformation and hate speech, drew sharp [criticism](#) from EU officials. Thier-

ry Breton, the EU's Internal Market Commissioner, reminded Musk of his legal obligations, stating, "Platforms like X have a responsibility to ensure they are not used to spread harmful content or undermine democratic processes". Thereupon, Alice Weidel joined the discussion [by making the statement](#), 'An EU that uses its bureaucracy to exercise censorship on social media is instilling the spirit of unfreedom. The #dsa threatens democracy!'

The AfD's ability to capitalise on Musk's support was closely tied to Germany's social media landscape. As of 2025, 89% of Germans aged 18-34 were active on social media, with X (formerly Twitter) being one of the most popular platforms among this demographic. While platforms like Facebook and Instagram remain widely used, X has become a hub for political discourse, particularly among young people. According to a 2024 [report](#) by Statista, 42% of Germans aged 18-24 regularly used X to follow news and political content, compared to just 18% of those aged 50 and above. This demographic overlap is crucial, as the AfD's electorate is disproportionately young, with 35% of its voters under age 35 (Federal Returning Officer, 2025). In addition, X has an estimated 300 million users worldwide, around a third of which are in the EU.

Musk's influence extended beyond social media. His companies, Tesla and SpaceX, have significant operations in Germany, and his public statements were seen as an implicit endorsement of the AfD's economic policies. The AfD, in turn, leveraged Musk's support to appeal to voters concerned about globalisation and economic instability. "Elon Musk understands what it takes to protect a nation's interests," [said AfD leader](#) Alice Weidel during a campaign rally. "He knows that uncontrolled immigration is a threat to our way of life".

The impact of Musk's involvement was evident in the election results. The AfD's vote share doubled, making it the second-largest party in the Bundestag. Analysts attribute this surge partly to Musk's ability to frame the AfD's agenda as a solution to Germany's economic and cultural

challenges. However, his role in the election has also drawn criticism. Critics argue that Musk's support for the AfD undermined Germany's democratic values and contributed to the normalisation of far-right ideologies.

As Germany grapples with the aftermath of the 2025 elections, the role of global influencers like Elon Musk raises important questions about the intersection of technology, politics, and democracy. While Musk's involvement may have boosted the AfD's electoral prospects, it has also highlighted the need for great accountability in the digital age.

## The AfD's Impact on Refugee and Immigration Policies

### *Securitisation of Immigration: Framing Refugees as a Threat*

The AfD's rise to prominence has been built on fear. Since its inception, the party has framed immigration as detrimental to Germany's national identity, public safety, and economic stability. This rhetoric reached new heights during the 2025 election campaign, with AfD leaders like Alice Weidel and Tino Chrupalla warning of "cultural erosion," "rising crime," and "uncontrolled migration." [Their message](#) was clear: Germany's very survival depends on stricter borders and tougher immigration laws.

The AfD's [strategy](#) has been remarkably effective. By securitising immigration—portraying it as an urgent threat requiring immediate action—the party has tapped into deep-seated anxieties among voters, particularly in eastern Germany, where it now dominates the political landscape. This narrative has not only galvanised the AfD's base but also [forced](#) mainstream parties to take notice.



(Sebastian Widmann - Anadolu Agency)

## From Rhetoric to Policy: The AfD's Political Influence

The AfD's electoral triumph has directly impacted Germany's refugee and immigration policies. In the months since the election, the government has introduced a series of measures that reflect the AfD's hardline stance:

**Tougher Asylum Laws:** The coalition government has fast-tracked legislation to expedite deportations and limit family reunification for refugees. One of the most controversial proposals is the ["Integration and Security Act,"](#) which mandates stricter language and cultural competency requirements for refugees seeking permanent residency. Critics argue these measures disproportionately burden vulnerable populations and undermine Germany's humanitarian commitments.

**Border Controls Tightened:** In response to pressure from the AfD, the government has [ramped up](#) border security, particularly along Germany's eastern frontiers. Biometric screening and increased funding for border agencies are now top priorities, signalling a shift toward a more restrictive approach to immigration.

**Mainstream Parties Pivot Right:** Even traditional parties like the Christian Democratic Union (CDU) and the Social Democratic Party (SPD) have felt the pressure to adopt tougher stances on immigration. The CDU, for example, has proposed caps on the number of asylum seekers admitted annually, while the SPD has emphasised ["integration before immigration."](#) This rightward shift underscores how the AfD is pulling the entire political spectrum in its direction.

## Polarisation and Normalisation: The Impact on Public Discourse

In a small German town, a Syrian mother and her daughter, who once dreamed of a safe future, now live in fear of deportation. "We fled in 2017, when the civil war in Syria was raging, to protect my daughter from the war," the mother told [ABC News in February 2025](#). She explained that she chose Germany because then-Chancellor Angela Merkel had opened the borders, offering hope for a stable home. "But now, with the rise of the AfD, they are saying we don't belong here," she added. Her daughter, who grew up speaking German and attending local schools, faces the prospect of being uprooted from the only home she has ever known. The mother, Shalaby, feels she has done everything possible to integrate into German society.

Yet, Shalaby and her daughter have found themselves at the centre of a brutal and divisive election campaign de-

finied by immigration. Their story is emblematic of the growing uncertainty facing refugees across Germany as the AfD pushes for stricter immigration policies. The AfD's success isn't just about changing laws—it's about changing lives. Anti-immigrant sentiment [has risen](#) since the election, and polls show that more Germans than ever before see refugees as a burden on the welfare system and a threat to public safety.

But this shift comes at a cost. Civil society groups report a sharp rise in [hate speech](#) and xenophobic incidents, with refugees and immigrants bearing the brunt of the backlash. "The AfD's rhetoric isn't just political—it's personal," says one activist. "It's dividing communities and making life harder for those who just want a fresh start."

## The Cosmopolitan- Nationalist Divide: A Fractured Society

The AfD's success in the 2025 election also highlights the growing divide between cosmopolitan and nationalist voters—a phenomenon that has reshaped European politics. On one side are educated urban elites embracing globalisation, multiculturalism, and open borders. On the other are rural, working-class voters who feel left behind by these changes and see the AfD as their champion.

This divide is particularly [pronounced](#) in eastern Germany, where the AfD has its strongest support. In states like Saxony and Thuringia, the party has tapped into a sense of economic marginalisation and cultural alienation, positioning itself as the defender of "traditional German values." The 2025 election results show that this message resonates: the AfD won over 30% of the vote in several eastern states, compared to just 15% in western Germany.

**Mainstream Party Responses: A Rightward Shift:** The AfD's rise has forced mainstream parties to adopt some of its rhetoric. To win back voters, the CDU and SPD have adopted tougher stances on immigration, often echoing the AfD's rhetoric. For example, the CDU caps on asylum seekers and stricter integration requirements, while the SPD has emphasised the need for "controlled migration."

This shift reflects a broader trend in European politics, where mainstream parties are increasingly co-opting far-right narratives to counter the rise of populist movements. However, critics argue that this strategy risks normalising the AfD's agenda and undermining Germany's commitment to human rights.

The rise of the AfD has forced mainstream parties [to re-think their strategies](#). To woo voters, the CDU and SPD have adopted tougher stances on immigration, often mirroring the rhetoric of the AfD. For instance, the CDU/CSU [has proposed](#) a five-point plan to tighten asylum policy, including permanent border controls and stricter entry rules, and

has won support from a majority of Germans. [The five-point action plan](#) calls for permanent border controls; the rejection of all asylum applications from migrants arriving in Germany via irregular means of travel; the detention of all foreigners who have exhausted their objections to their return before being deported; increased support and funding for all 16 federal states of Germany to ensure that those who are destined for repatriation are properly returned; and toughening of laws against criminal aliens or those deemed to be a risk to society.

The proposal was submitted in January 2025 following a series of deadly attacks in Germany (in [Solingen](#), Mannheim, [Magdeburg](#) and [Aschaffenburg](#)) by foreign nationals who were thought to have been radicalised in various ways.

In addition, under the new [Citizenship Act of 2024](#), foreigners who work in Germany and are well-integrated will be able to obtain German citizenship after 5 years of residence in Germany instead of 8 years. Without having to give up their previous citizenship. However, the requirements for loyalty to Germany's free and democratic constitutional system have become stricter: no one who expresses racism, anti-Semitism or any other form of hatred can become a German citizen. The new citizenship test has been expanded to include such attitudes.

While Germany has historically been open to immigration, political pressure and disgruntled public opinion have led it to adopt more restrictive policies towards refugees in recent years. However, the country continues liberalising its policies for skilled workers and citizenship.

It continues to liberalise its immigration policies with the [Skilled Workers Immigration Act of 2023](#) and the [agree-](#)

[ment with Kenya](#), which opens its doors to skilled and semi-skilled workers to address the labour shortage and diversify the sources of immigration. However, all of the new laws expect immigrants who want to obtain citizenship to be able to support themselves and their families without relying on public resources. The denial of citizenship or the return of those who do not contribute to the workforce in Germany and receive social benefits is often a matter of debate.

The shift reflects a broader trend in European politics, where mainstream parties increasingly embrace far-right narratives to counter the rise of populist movements. However, critics argue that this strategy risks normalising the AfD's agenda and undermining Germany's commitment to human rights.

**Public Attitudes: A Nation Divided:** The AfD's success has deepened social divisions in Germany. Polls show that attitudes toward immigration have become increasingly polarised, with a growing number of Germans viewing refugees as a threat to their way of life. This polarisation is particularly evident in regions where the AfD has strong support, such as eastern Germany, where incidents of xenophobia and hate crimes have risen sharply since the election.

At the same time, there are signs of resistance. Civil society groups, pro-immigrant activists, and grassroots movements have mobilised to counter the AfD's narrative, [organising](#) rallies, awareness campaigns, and community-building initiatives. "The AfD may have won the election, but they haven't won the hearts and minds of all Germans," says one activist. "There's still hope for a more inclusive future."



(Halil Sağırkaya - Anadolu Agency)

# Germany at a Crossroads: Can Policy Turn the Tide Against the AfD?

The rise of the far-right AfD has thrown Germany into a political and moral crisis. As the 2025 elections loom, the nation faces a stark choice: Will it double down on its humanitarian values, or will the AfD's vision of a closed, nationalist state take hold? The stakes are sky-high—not just for refugees and immigrants but for Germany's soul and its role as a European leader. But here's the good news: there's a way out. With bold, targeted policies, Germany can counter the AfD's influence and rebuild a society that works for everyone. Here's how.

## Integration That Works: From Words to Action

The AfD's hardline stance on immigration has left refugees in limbo, facing bureaucratic nightmares and social exclusion. But integration doesn't have to be a pipe dream. Germany can turn the tide by:

**Supercharging Language and Job Training:** Imagine a refugee arriving in Germany and, within months, speaking fluent German and landing a job in their field. It's possible—with more funding for language courses and vocational programs tailored to the labour market.

**Building Bridges, Not Walls:** Community-led initiatives, like neighbourhood welcome committees, can break down barriers between locals and refugees. Think potluck dinners, cultural festivals, and joint projects that turn "us vs. them" into "we."

**Fighting Misinformation: The Battle for Hearts and Minds.** The AfD's anti-immigrant rhetoric thrives on fear and misinformation. It's time to fight back with facts—and flair. A National Campaign for Truth must be implemented with billboards, social media ads, and viral videos showcasing the real stories of refugees—doctors, engineers, and artists who've enriched German society. Let's replace fear with hope.

**Tackling Hate Speech Head-On:** Stricter penalties for hate crimes and better support for victims can send a clear message: xenophobia has no place here.

**Economic Justice: Healing the Divide.** The AfD's stronghold in eastern Germany isn't just about ideology—it's about economics. To win back trust, Germany must address the inequality fuelling resentment.

**Revitalising Forgotten Regions:** Targeted investments in infrastructure, education, and small businesses

can breathe new life into struggling towns. Let's give people a reason to believe in the future.

**Jobs for All:** Incentives for businesses to hire locally—including refugees—can create a rising tide that lifts all boats. Economic stability is the best antidote to extremism.

**A Fairer Asylum System: Protecting the Vulnerable.** The current system is a bureaucratic maze that leaves refugees in limbo. It's time to streamline and humanise the process.

**Faster Decisions, Fairer Outcomes:** More staff and resources for immigration offices can slash waiting times, giving refugees clarity and a chance to rebuild their lives.

**Access to Basics:** Healthcare, housing, and education shouldn't be luxuries. Ensuring access to these essentials is a moral and practical imperative.

## Germany Must Lead by Example

The AfD's anti-EU rhetoric threatens to isolate Germany from its neighbours. But Germany can reclaim its leadership role by:

**Championing EU Solidarity:** A fairer Common European Asylum System isn't just possible—it's essential. Germany can lead the charge, showing that cooperation beats division.

**Addressing Root Causes:** By investing in development aid and conflict resolution, Germany can tackle the drivers of migration at their source. It's not just about managing the crisis—it's about solving it.

The 2025 elections aren't just a political contest but a battle for Germany's identity. The AfD's rise has exposed deep fractures, but it's also a wake-up call. With the right policies, Germany can turn this moment of crisis into an opportunity for renewal. By investing in integration, fighting misinformation, and addressing economic inequality, Germany can rebuild trust, strengthen social cohesion, and reclaim its place as a beacon of hope in an uncertain world.

The choice is clear: a Germany that's open, inclusive, and forward-looking—or a Germany that turns inward, divided and diminished. The time to act is now.