
GERMANY'S GREENS MAKE MERZ SWEAT OVER MASSIVE SPENDING PLAN

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Friedrich Merz's historic spending plan for Germany hinges on the cooperation of a party many of his conservatives have often derided.

It's the Greens — the defeated, center-left party that came in fourth place in the Feb. 23 election — that hold the power to foil the election winner's grand plans. And the party seems intent on either stopping Merz in what would be a stunning act of political retribution — or, as is more likely, using their new and unexpected leverage to force the conservative leader to accede to many of the Green policies he's long railed against.

On Monday, Green leaders upped the ante, vowing to reject the paradigm-shifting deal Merz and his conservative alliance struck with the center-left Social Democratic Party (SPD) to potentially unleash one trillion euros of new spending to bolster the military and invest heavily in the economy.

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