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**STOP LETTING THE [REDACTED] VS POPULISTS' STORY TURN THE FAR-RIGHT INTO THE ONLY ALTERNATIVE**

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These are bewildering times for democracy.

In September, the Alternative for Germany (AfD) could win a majority of seats in the parliament of Sachsen-Anhalt and form the first government in a German state.

It would not only rule a state, but it would gain a foothold in Germany's federal system, as the Länder [federal states] are deeply entrenched in governing the whole country.

In the US the Trump administration keeps marching to a semi-authoritarian form of government and in Russia the Kremlin fears the upcoming elections [REDACTED] not because it would ever allow free elections, but because in the face of discontent, a rigged election is harder to disguise.

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