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## **FRIEDRICH MERZ IS NOW ON BORROWED TIME. BUT THAT'S NOT WHY THE AFD'S TRIUMPH IS SEISMIC**

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The Guardian (8 September 2026)

Jörg LAU

*The anti-fascist consensus about our Nazi past is fundamental to German democracy. But that, shockingly, is being shattered*

As shock at the scale of the far rights resounding state-election victory in Germany reverberated on Sunday, not everybody was unhappy.

Seconds after the first exit polls from Saxony-Anhalt were revealed, Donald Trump posted the results on his Truth Social platform, seemingly delighted by the devastation of the centrist-conservative Christian Democrats (CDU) and the surge of the far-right Alternative für Deutschland (AfD).

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