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German-Polish relationship: Who basht Poland, has not understood considerably

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“Kulturkampf” amongst East and West, here the Western values liberalism, tolerance, equality, there racism, ignorance, bigotry – so Jakob Augstein pointed to *Spiegel On-line* latest developments in Poland, since the national-conservative celebration “Law and Justice” (PiS) has been in energy. In Poland ruled Russia comparable conditions, it is conveyed the picture of Poland will abolish democracy and release from the EU.

This crackdown is simplistic. The statements of the European Parliament Martin Schulz, who spoke of a coup, and to inquire of Commissioner Günther Oettinger, Warsaw perhaps under supervision, need to be an occasion to look cryptic, versatile and goal recent occasions in Poland.

In truth, the new Polish government is acting really authoritarian. She takes possession of the public media, whose leaders are now appointed directly by the government, the former employee be “examined totally”. She also introduced the two-thirds vast majority in the Constitutional Court, which is perceived by numerous as a threat to democratic authority division. These are developments that threaten the values of a liberal democracy.

[embedded content material]

The split was by no means so deeply The Polish government adopted a law soon after one more, a protest motion organized demo to demo. Poland seasoned the strongest transformation because 1989

Not ample, nevertheless, the historical past illuminated, which has led to these violations of media freedom. All governments since 1989 have positioned their followers in the public media. And also the ruling prior to the PiS Civic Platform has two constitutional judges occupied “in stock” – which also violated applicable guidelines – when their defeat was predictable in the presidential elections. Thus the ground was prepared for additional debates on the Constitutional Court, what the actions of the PiS government of course does not justify.

PiS is not only fairly conservative

What circumstances led to the victory of PiS ? Many do not know that this get together has not only right-wing conservative, but also partially left aspects, because a powerful Left in Poland has been missing for many years. It is the PiS, which for the very first time introduces the child advantage in the history of the Republic and this argues towards the worries of financial experts for the re-decreasing of the retirement age and alterations in tax policy in favor of the most vulnerable and at the expense of (foreign) banking institutions.

The PiS benefited from a minimal turnout and by the robust polarization within the celebration landscape. On the one hand, the neo-liberal PO get together was (Civic Platform), on the other, the nationwide conservative PiS with Jaroslaw Kaczynski. Some voters, like

several moderate, not at all nationalist-minded citizens who opted for the PiS, simply to avert another legislature between neoliberals. Despite the fact that the rapid economic growth of Poland was probably necessary in purchase to compete as a partner in the EU, but for this the business has paid a large value: the neglect of the bad.

The PO Government has offered no difficulty for several

Numerous new PiS voters felt by the Civic Platform is not represented because their policy was mainly company-oriented, incredibly EU-pleasant and because they neoliberal one particular way of life embodied what was sold as an identity threat. Element of the population also identified the public media as as well conformist, partial and not especially demanding.

For myself was the leftish embossed *Gazeta Wyborcza* the correct newspaper, and the Civic Platform PO I was grateful for the progressive integration in Europe and to increase awareness for the troubles of minorities. When I worked for a number of many years as a visiting professor at the University of Szczecin (Stettin), however, I had to make the encounter that a lot of of the college students had really distinct views and the correct-wing nationalist PiS inclined towards. The press they did not trust in the least, and my gender orientation, my EU kindness and my efforts to a better knowing of German culture they met with suspicion.

youth left alone, Old shock

It was not lengthy, and I could win a great deal of them for my views. My issue: The State gave with respect to their profession prospects and their political training no effort. Soon after learning cultural studies, numerous of them anticipated only a single job in shopping centers or industrial kitchens in England (unemployed can not survive in Poland). Some of my college students may have been influenced by the reactionary component of the church, which apparently extreme to the youth “took care” as the PO government. Only in bigger cities there was a a lot more open, liberal or leftist, EU-pleasant youth who came primarily from wealthier households.

In the massive cities, there have been also a lot of pensioners and the elderly who have been residing on the poverty line and had been brought up in the patriotic spirit of ahead of 1989th. They did not truly feel represented by the preceding government, but rather by surprise, or even betrayed.

Towards this background, German politicians ought to very carefully judge the existing predicament in Poland and spend focus to their language. With a “coup” we did not have to do it, the PiS came to electrical power in a democratic way. The phrase “place below supervision” reminded however of occupation instances throughout the Second Planet War and the term “culture war” to Otto von Bismarck and the time of the partition of Poland by Prussia, Russia and Austria, so also in occupation and aggressive Germanization. The German-Polish connection is historically still heavily loaded, comparable to the German-Israeli. A more careful use of language is notably critical.

With no patriotism could Poland not survive

The PiS has so far always advocated Poland EU membership. She would like to strengthen the country’s place in the EU – no matter whether she succeeds with these money is

questionable, but this is their concern. There are fanned before the reduction of independence, and a single of the EU hegemonic practices fears. To understand why they met with this tactic in several open ears, you have to use historical contexts. A lot more than 120 many years, Poland (1795-1918) as a state does not exist and was occupied by great powers. During this time you have, in spite of oppression done every little thing to protect the nationwide identity and language – and it worked, Poland became an independent state.

As early as 1939, the country misplaced its freedom yet again, it was followed by the German occupation, and following the war it fell into the Soviet sphere of influence (till 1989). In all these years, Poland has resisted – with reference to nationwide and Christian values and patriotism. With out these values Poland would these struggles can not win. Pointedly said: Poland has not been pleased at the nation-state extended sufficient to like to do without him. In Germany, we have to do it in this regard with a entirely distinct scenario. Since of Nationwide Socialism, it is – at least officially – frowned on, to depend on nationwide values.

Poland notorious spirit of resistance

Of course, the PiS acted clumsily and with no any sensitivity to the Western liberal democratic discourse. Foreign Minister Witold Waszczykowski stated, for example, the *Picture* – newspaper, the new government wanted to Poland of some cure “diseases”, which naturally arouses quite unpleasant associations in Germany. In Poland, no one particular would like to the planet, which primarily consists of vegetarians and cyclists and is primarily based on renewable energy.

This grotesque statement he has numerous cartoons are turned on Polish sites. Of course Waszczykowski has nothing towards cyclists or towards people who do not consume meat. He associated these elements with the liberal lifestyle and the renunciation of the traditional values, which is represented in Germany by the wealthy layer. But in Germany, this way of life has created only from the wealth out of a sense of social security, does not but have a lot of Poles. To put it bluntly: Who has not eaten sufficient meat in Poland prior to 1989 and now can not get enough money for it, does not aspire to turn into a vegetarian

disappointment about the EU Musterknaben

Numerous are now questioning what to make of Poland, which had luckily created in current many years to the paragons of the EU, now. They are disappointed and angry. I even see the current exchange price of the Polish government quite critically and get portion in the protests against the restrictions on press freedom. But of radical conceptual shorts and moralizing or militant rhetoric I advise.

The infamous Polish resistance spirit doth currently work, a committee to save the democracy established by the neoliberal get together PO and the PSL, and the green-and-coming party Razem organized protests. Poland Kenner and Pals as the chairman of the German-Polish Basis for Cooperation, Cornelius Ochmann, or Gesine Schwan, as well as director of the Solidarity Centre in Gdańsk and editor of the journal *dialog* Basil Kerski represented in the press convinced that Poles are struggling to preserve their democracy itself. Poland’s civil society is indeed very strong, the situation with the Russian can not be in contrast, it should be place.

goes so you search as well a lot public criticism, mixed it up also significantly in the inner political struggle, a, one particular produces a predicament could be fueled in the old Polish-German resentment. The National Conservative supply sharper phrases on the part of Germany's arguments for the thesis of this strongest EU nation that Poland does not even know extremely properly, consider to put Poland underneath his lash. With diplomacy and respectful conversations behind the scenes is to accomplish much more.

Much more skills, respect and sensitivity

Otherwise: Just as Europe splits lately in West and East, as is Germany at the moment also partially digested. The alienation among East and West is also here not fully lifted, we see that amongst other folks in the refugee debate. Also playing right here, at least partially, the level of prosperity a part. If you would pick up on the notion of Jakob Augstein, so prevailed also in the Prenzlauer Berg in Berlin in recent many years a "culture war" between East and West – only that now the newly arrived "Westerners" like riding a bike, and also the lengthy-established "Ossis" that there are hardly any, are vegan.

And as far as the issue of migration: Poland did not have a lot time to get accustomed to Muslim immigrants. In Germany and France, this was various (East Germans have this knowledge not even manufactured the way). That explained, fears of foreign cultures can effortlessly be exploited for the duration of the election campaign. To make issues worse: Poland had a long struggle against foreign domination. That is all questionable but understandable due to the historical context. Usually stay on subject refugees also disregards the reality that Poland has recorded 800,000 migrants from Ukraine.

Critics Poland need to not overlook the reality that Poland has created a considerable contribution to the liberation of the Soviet domination in Europe, also in East Germany, and also in Ukraine has -Crisis very committed. In recent years, Poland has been raging in the direction of economic development and the western liberal culture, partly more than corpses. It is hoped that the path does not alter, but the nation stumbles at the second, it nevertheless has anything to clarify it have to stop again, and, as the author Andrzej Stasiuk put it, to consider care of his abandoned poor and the elderly, Even these men and women who have fears of dropping their material livelihood or her identity should not be left in the lurch. If they are to come, the politicians have to flip them in Poland as in the EU, taking their considerations and issues critically and welcome them – that would be welcoming culture, I admire the current-day Germany that. Europe and Germany should clearly reflect the circumstance in Poland position – but with ability, respect and sensitivity.