

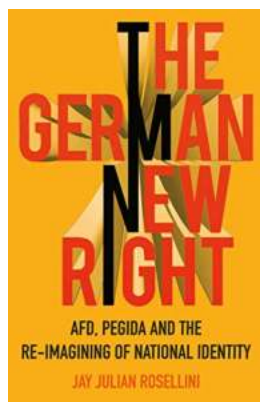
# The Rise of Afd Pegida: Re-Imagining National Identity for Better or Worse?

Since their emergence in Germany, Afd Pegida has been a controversial political movement, captivating both media attention and public interest. The rise of Afd Pegida has forced Germany to reckon with its national identity in ways that were unimaginable just a few years ago.

But what is Afd Pegida? And how has it shaken the very core of German society?

## The Birth of Afd Pegida

The Alternative for Germany (Afd) and Patriotic Europeans Against the Islamization of the Occident (Pegida) individually made headlines before merging into a powerful force in German politics.



## The German New Right: AfD, PEGIDA and the Re-Imagining of National Identity

by L. Jonathan Cohen (Kindle Edition)

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

Language : English

File size : 851 KB

Text-to-Speech : Enabled

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The Afd, founded in 2013, originally positioned itself as a eurosceptic party opposed to the European Union and the Eurozone. However, it gradually shifted its focus towards anti-immigration sentiments, attracting a growing number of right-wing supporters.

Pegida, on the other hand, emerged in 2014 as a grassroots movement in Dresden, Germany. It quickly gained momentum, organizing weekly demonstrations against what it perceived as the Islamization of Germany and Europe. Pegida's leaders framed their movement as a defender of traditional European values and cultural preservation.

## **Growing National Identity Crisis**

The success of Afd Pegida reveals an underlying national identity crisis in Germany. The nation, shaped by its past and World War II, has long struggled to assert a unified and inclusive national identity.

Germany's open-door policy towards refugees in 2015 further fueled tensions within the country. With the influx of immigrants, a segment of the population began questioning the impact on their cultural and national identity.

Afd Pegida capitalized on these concerns and tapped into a deep sense of frustration among citizens who felt unheard by mainstream political parties. Their populist rhetoric touched on issues such as national security, cultural preservation, and the protection of traditional German values.

## **Re-Imagining National Identity**

Afd Pegida's rise has sparked a re-imagining of national identity in Germany, but the ramifications are far from black and white.

On one hand, Afd Pegida's message can be seen as a threat to Germany's commitment to inclusivity, multiculturalism, and human rights. It has attracted far-right extremists and xenophobes, leading to concern over the potential rise of hate crimes and discrimination.

On the other hand, Afd Pegida has given a voice to those who believe that German national identity is at risk. They argue that multiculturalism and excessive political correctness have diluted the essence of German culture, eroding traditional values and customs.

This re-imagining of national identity has polarized German society, creating deep divisions between those who support Afd Pegida and those who vehemently oppose them. Dialogues surrounding immigration, integration, and national values have become increasingly heated and tense.

## **The Role of Mainstream Political Parties**

The rise of Afd Pegida has also shed light on the failures of mainstream political parties to address the concerns and fears of certain segments of society.

While many perceive Afd Pegida as a fringe movement, its popularity indicates a growing dissatisfaction with the status quo among a significant portion of the population. Mainstream parties must acknowledge and engage with these concerns if they wish to regain trust and prevent further polarization.

However, finding a balanced approach to re-imagine national identity while upholding democratic values and human rights is no easy feat. It requires open and honest conversations, policy reforms, and a commitment to inclusivity.

## **The Future of National Identity**

The re-imagining of national identity in Germany is an ongoing process with no clear in sight.

While Afd Pegida continues to gain traction, there are also strong counter-movements that advocate for a more inclusive, diverse, and tolerant Germany. Civil society organizations, activists, and progressive political parties are working tirelessly to reshape the narrative and promote a vision of Germany that is open to change and embraces its multicultural society.

In the end, the future of national identity in Germany will depend on the collective efforts of its citizens and political leadership. It will require a delicate balance between addressing legitimate concerns and fears while upholding democratic values and inclusivity.

## In

The rise of Afd Pegida has forced Germany to confront its national identity crisis. The movement raises important questions about the role of immigrants, cultural preservation, and the balance between embracing diversity and maintaining a sense of unity.

As Germany moves forward, it is crucial to remember the importance of respectful dialogue, inclusivity, and the preservation of democratic values. Only through open and honest conversations can Germany find a path towards a re-imagined national identity that reflects the aspirations and diversity of its citizens.

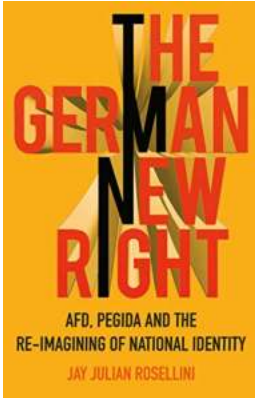
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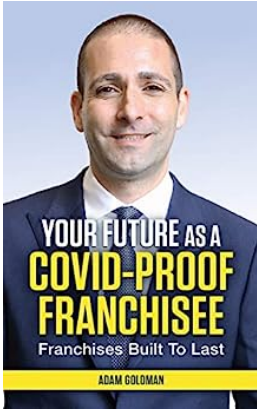


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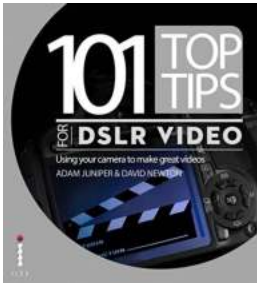
Contemporary Germany is a modern industrial democracy admired throughout the world. Many Germans believe that they live in the 'best Germany' that has ever existed. Yet there are dissenting voices: individuals and groups that reject cosmopolitanism, globalization and multiculturalism, and yearn for the more homogeneous country of earlier times. They are part of a global movement, often characterized as populist, that values tradition over innovation or constant change. In Germany, such people are routinely portrayed as reactionary or even neo-fascist. The present study seeks to provide a portrait of these individuals and their organizations.

Very little has been written in English about the cultural figures who play a role in this movement. When the political side is discussed--whether in its manifestation as a party (the Alternative for Germany) or a citizens' group (PEGIDA)--the cultural dimension is usually ignored. Jay Julian Rosellini places the so-called New Right in the context of currents in German culture and history that differ from those in other countries. With Germany the dominant country in the European Union, economically and politically, this volume offers an essential view of its current conditions, future prospects and political particularities.



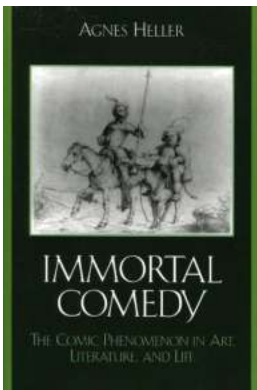
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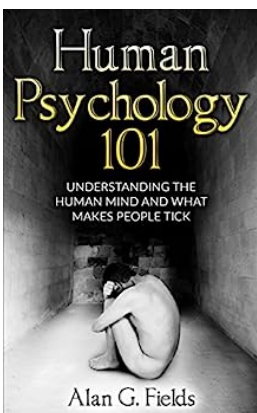
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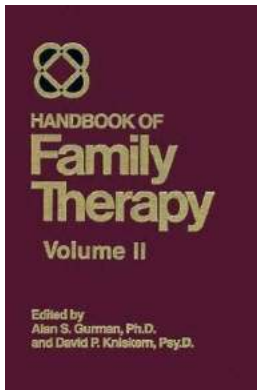
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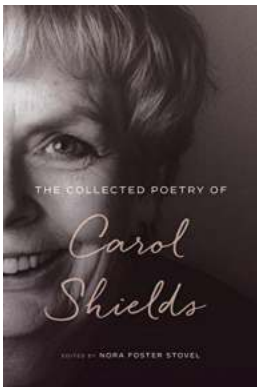
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