

European Institute Public Lecture

A changing Germany in a changing Europe? The German Elections and Implications for Europe

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The German Elections
and implications for
Europe

A changing Germany in a changing Europe?

Dr. Natascha Zaun

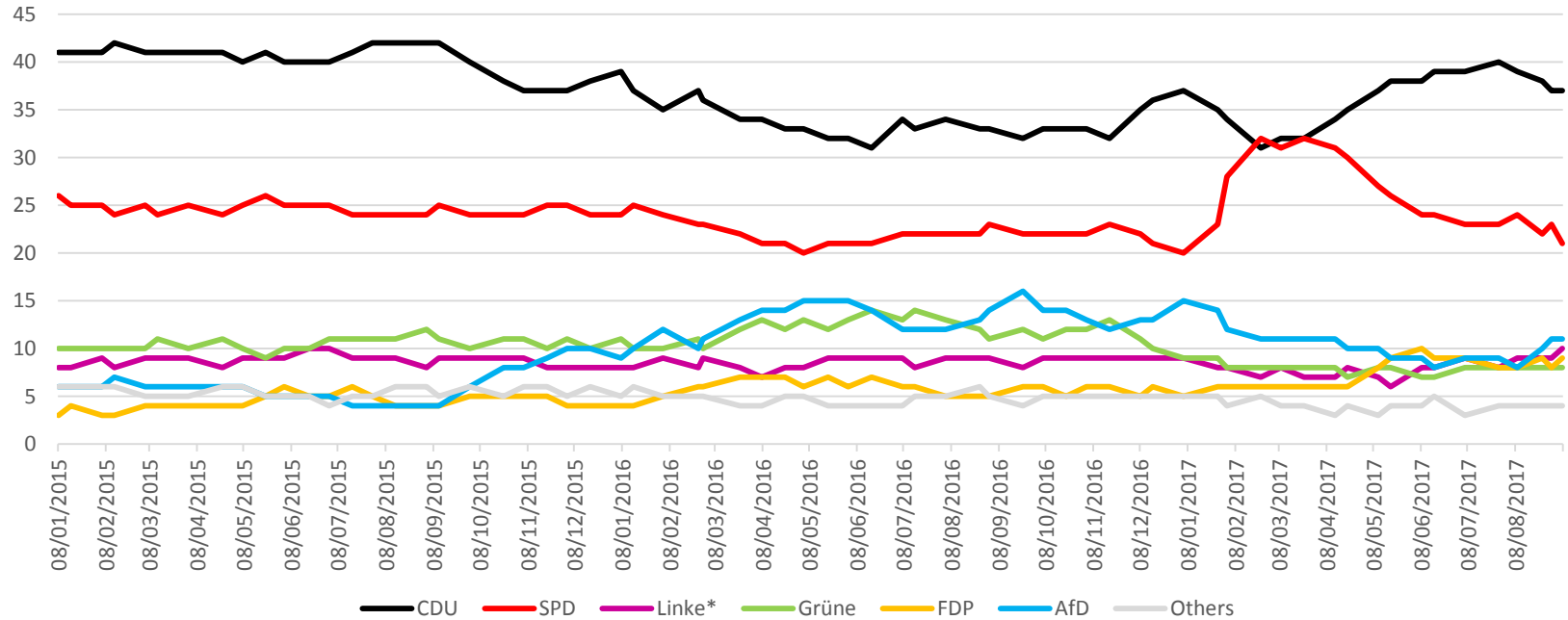
The electoral campaign- which campaign?

Compared to other recent European elections rather boring:

- No real electoral campaign
- Few perceived differences between CDU/SPD after grand coalition
- CDU is likely to win this election by a large majority

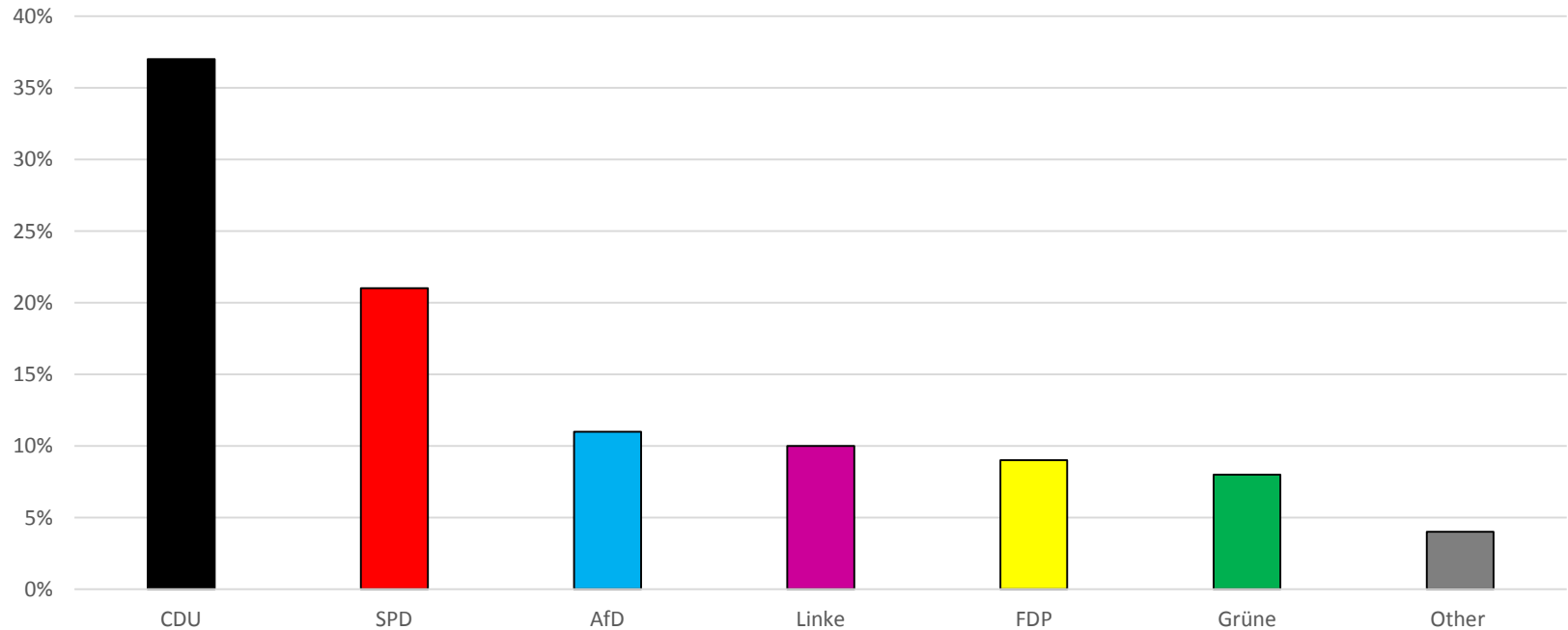


Electoral support 2015-Sept 2017



Source: Infratest dimap 2017.

Latest opinion polls on electoral outcomes



Source: Infratest dimap 2017.

Immediate implications

- Domestically, status quo rather than change
- Implications of a CDU/FDP coalition
- Continuity rather than change also at the EU level

Wider implications

Positive:

- Stability in leadership in times of uncertainty
- Generally, German public content with the status quo (De Vries and Hoffmann, 2017)

BUT:

- Group of voters (feels) decreasingly represented by mainstream politicians (Elsässer, Hense, Schäfer, 2016)
- Further demobilisation of voters
- First time a right-wing populist party is likely to be in national parliament

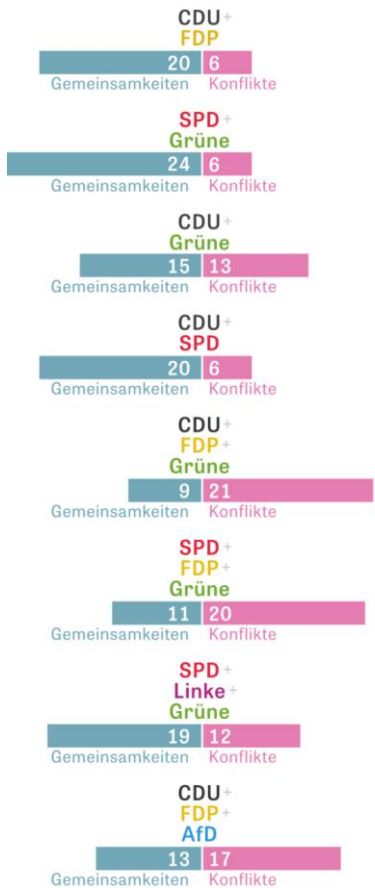
Thank you!

References:

De Vries, Catherine/Hoffman, Isabell (2017): A source of stability? German and European Public Opinion in Times of Political Polarisation. Bertelsmann Stiftung: eupinions 2017/3.

Elsässer, L., Hense, S., Schäfer, A. (2016): Systematisch verzerrte Entscheidungen? Die Responsivität der deutschen Politik von 1998 bis 2015. Endbericht für das Bundesministerium für Arbeit und Soziales. Available at: http://pubman.mpdl.mpg.de/pubman/item/escidoc:2377116:5/component/escidoc:2377114/mpifg_fb16_60.pdf (accessed 10 September 2017).

Infratest Dimap (2017): Sonntagsfrage (bundesweit) vom 7.9.2017. Available at: <https://www.infratest-dimap.de/umfragen-analysen/bundesweit/sonntagsfrage/> (accessed 10 September 2017).



Potential coalitions

What the German election means for Europe

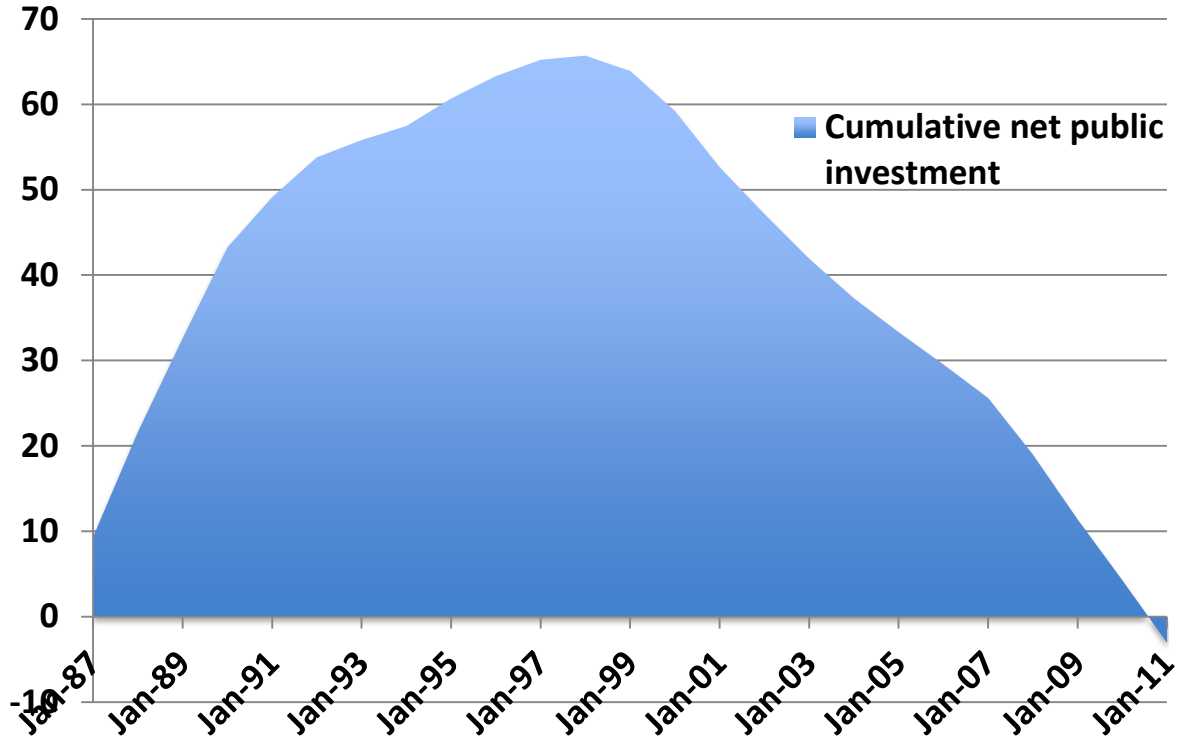
London School of Economics, 14 September 2017

Christian Odendahl

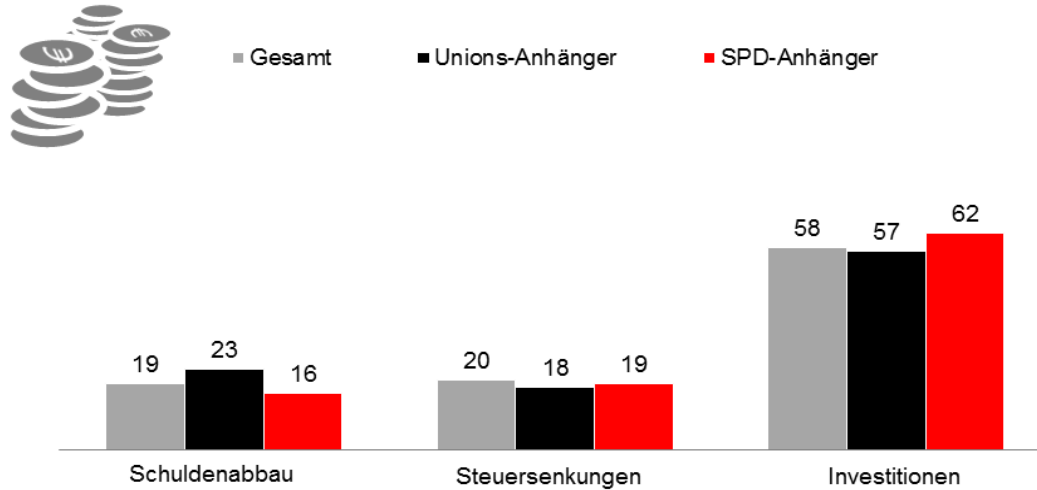
Centre for European Reform

Questions

- 1 Will the German economy rebalance?
- 2 Will Germany and France reform the eurozone?
- 3 Will Germany help out on Brexit?



Verwendung der Mehreinnahmen des Bundes



Frage: Momentan wird darüber diskutiert, wie die Steuer-Mehreinnahmen des Bundes verwendet werden sollten. Was denken Sie: Wofür sollten diese Mehreinnahmen verwendet werden: für den Schuldenabbau oder für Steuersenkungen oder für Investitionen, zum Beispiel in die Infrastruktur?

Grundgesamtheit: Wahlberechtigte Bevölkerung in Deutschland / Angaben in Prozent
 Fehlende Werte zu 100%: Weiß nicht / keine Angabe

infratest dimap 

To complete the Eurozone...

Macroeconomic:

- Countercyclical monetary and fiscal policy
- Balanced economies, reasonable capital flows
- Lender of last resort

Financial

- Complete banking union
- Make progress on capital markets union

Brexit: Germany to the rescue?

No:

- EU is a core German national interest.
- The economic case for being soft on Britain is not very strong.
- The EU cannot be a vehicle for German domination