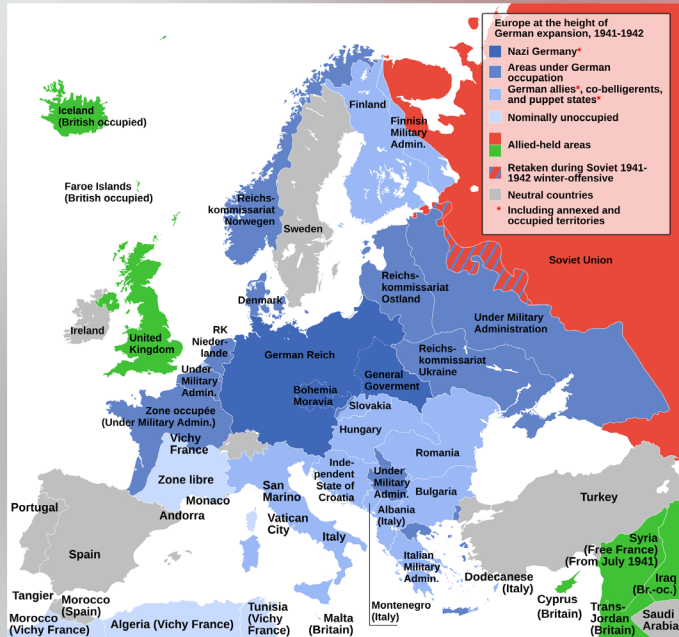




Understanding Germany in Times of Genocide

Franz Neumann and the Question of Imperialism

Kai Koddenbrock, Bielefeld University, Max-Planck-Institute for the Study of Societies, 8 July 2026

Germany Today

The AfD leads in most polls at state and federal level. The German government has resolved to field the largest conventional army on the European continent by 2039 —100 years after the invasion of Poland and the start of the Second World War.

Internally, the government, AfD, and state-aligned media compete in repressing and exposing critical voices. In the feuilleton, a fierce debate rages over whether the term "fascism" or "fascistisation" applies to what is happening in Germany.



STARTSEITE NEWS POLITIK REGIO UNTERHALTUNG KAUFBERATER SPORT FIFA WM 2026 RATGEBER GESUNDHEIT SEX & LIEBE AUTO SPIELE

Er ist Direktor am Max-Planck-Institut

Deutscher Professor ruft auf, AfD-Parteitag zu verhindern



Professor Ralf Michaels (57) ist eigentlich Wissenschaftler für ausländisches und internationales Privatrecht

Foto: picture alliance/dts-Agentur

Violence in Discourse — When in the Streets?

Academic Threats

A professor in Marburg has been threatened by right-wing fraternities. And the above mentioned Max Planck director received death threats for supporting blockades of the AfD party conference.

A Widening Pattern

Threats against political opponents are increasing internally. Intimidation of academics and public intellectuals signals a broader shift in the political climate—one that is expected to escalate from discourse to the streets.

External Violence: Militarisation and Ukraine

Since Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine, Germany has intensified its external violence through massive financial and weapons support for Ukrainian defence efforts.

The Panzer Brigade 45 Lithuania was founded in April 2025, the first major formation to be permanently stationed beyond German borders, eventually comprising around 5,000 personnel. Defence Minister Pistorius has publicly threatened to compel service if insufficient volunteers come forward.



A Population Sceptical of Militarisation

Public Reluctance

The majority of the population, much of Germany's own military personnel, and many international voices remain sceptical or opposed to the drive towards militarisation—or at least unwilling to risk their own lives for it.

Government Drumbeat

Despite this, government and media continue to beat the drum for militarisation and uncompromising confrontation with the Russian enemy.

The Missing Debate

While internal violence is widely discussed in the feuilleton, the external dimension—outward-directed imperialism—is largely absent from public debate.

The Gaza Front: Germany's Other Violence

Germany maintains a second front of violence by continuing to support the Israeli government massively with weapons and money, taking no steps to halt displacement and destruction in Gaza and the West Bank.

Numerous ministers compete in declarations of solidarity. Science Minister Dorothee Bär's recent photo op with the Israeli foreign minister to Berlin exemplifies this. The destruction of all universities in Gaza and nearly all schools goes unremarked, and Germany's official ~~tw~~ate policy is not even symbolically underlined.



Scholasticide and the Battle in Professional Associations

Academic Debate

The struggle over positioning on scholasticide in Gaza is playing out in professional associations worldwide—most recently in the American Historical Association, where historians debated resolutions condemning the destruction of Palestinian academic institutions.



Israel ist einer der wichtigsten Partner in Forschung, Innovation & Raumfahrt. Daher wendet sich 🇩🇪 gegen jede Art von Boykott von 🇮🇱! Das unterstrich BM @dorobaer im Gespräch mit Außenminister Gideon Sa'ar @IsraelMFA & Botschafter @Ron_Prosor @IsraelinGermany.



4:50 nachm. · 6. Mai 2026 · 99.019 Mal angezeigt

526

194

853

64



The Central Question

**When, how, and why does Germany
become violent - towards the inside
and outside?**

In an era defined by imperialist and exterminatory wars in Palestine, Israel, Iran, and Ukraine—analysing societal tolerance of violence, its active support, and its perpetration is decisive. The internal dimension is debated widely; the external dimension of outward imperialism is mostly missing.

The argument

Understanding the genesis of violence, particularly in the German context, requires a thorough political economy and historical analysis. Mass violence and war become more probable under specific conditions:

Economic Desperation

Key economic sectors, or specific capital fractions, see no alternative for survival and profit beyond supporting right parties.

Ideological Mobilisation

Racist narratives gain influence, legitimising internal mass violence, while an expansive ideology develops for external aggression. and a military-industrial complex emerges.

A tentative exercise in early warning

Using the past to plan for the future to find the right moment to jump



The Fascism Debate: Reemtsma vs. Rigorous Analysis

"If I try to understand the present by searching for which features it shares with past events, that is an entertaining sport, but hardly a way to better understand the present... I must examine the phenomenon, not discuss how I name-it."

Jan Philipp Reemtsma, FAZ, 6.5.2026

This position is epistemologically naïve. Without concepts we can neither think nor communicate. The real task is the hard work of the concept—the constant movement between concepts, their social mediation, and social reality itself. As Marx put it: the ascent from the abstract to the concrete.

TRUMP UND DIE USA

Woher kommt die Lust am Faschismus-Vorwurf?

GASTBEITRAG von Jan Philipp Reemtsma 06.05.2026, 08:42 Lesezeit: 11 Min.



Die Faschismus-Frage ist im politischen und akademischen Diskurs allgegenwärtig. Ist sie mehr als der hilflose Versuch, politische Verunsicherung durch historische Begriffe zu bändigen?

Political Affect and the Fascism Debate

The resistance to the term "fascism" among (middle-aged white men of German social science is ultimately a matter of political affect and feeling. Their intellectual reflexes say: no, we cannot call it that.

"We have good concepts to criticise [these developments]: racism, dehumanisation, authoritarianism, exclusion, discrimination, illegality, and so on."—Oliver Nachtwey, Jacobin.de

The problem: this argument ultimately only asserts. "Racism is the better concept because it is narrower" the question is precisely whether a broad, structural, radically problematising concept is needed to address the intensification of repression and violence and outward.

Nachtwey on the Point of No Return

"Historically, the point of no return was marked by a general inability to achieve hegemony, and parts of the ruling class being unable to openly support the NSDAP, while nationalist and conservative parties no longer opposed the rupture but de facto brought it about themselves."—
Oliver Nachtwey

Nachtwey argues that the broad concept of "fascistisation" which identifies fascism as already present within bourgeois democracy—does not help clarify the dangers ahead.

Structure of the talk

1

Germany today

Instances of internal and external violence

The feuilleton debate on fascism and fascization

2

Historical antecedents

Theories of Imperialism und Faschism: Neumann and Solmi
Rethel

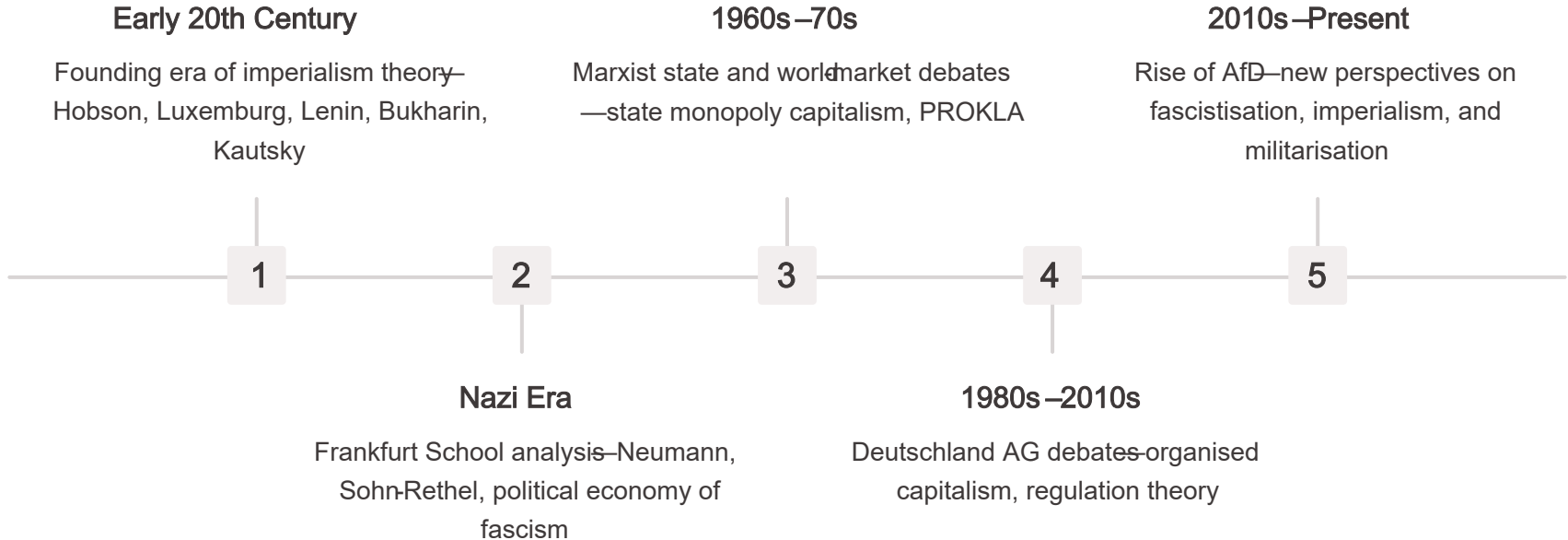
From the 1970s to the 2010s: Monopoly capitalism and Germany Inc

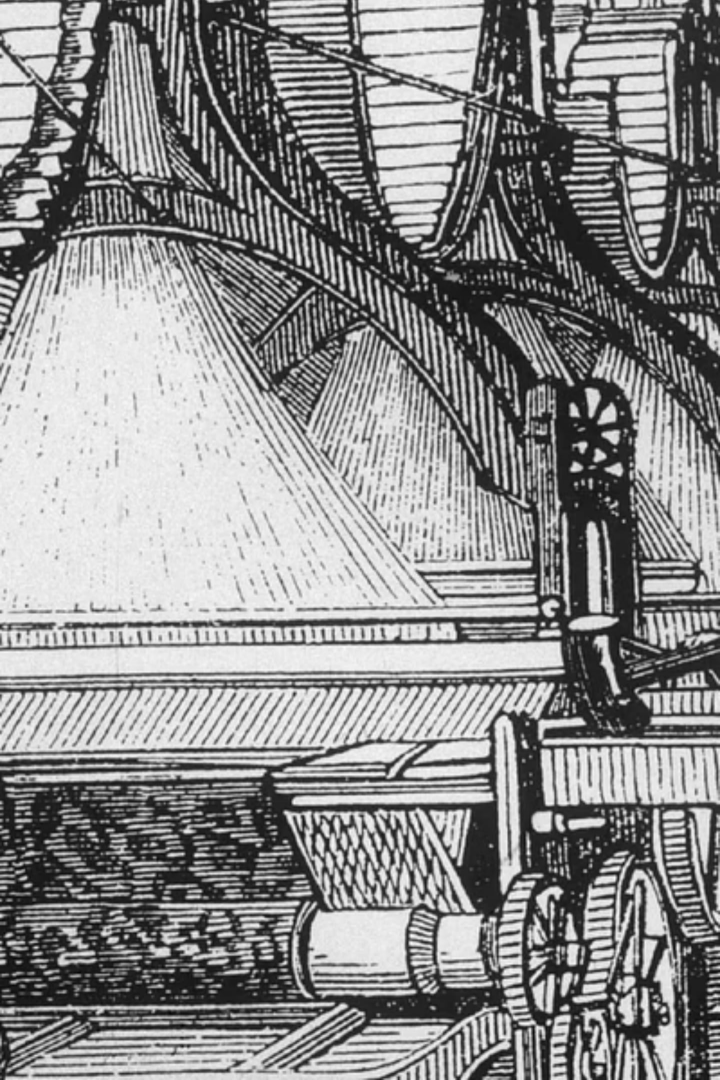
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Back to today

Militarization, internal repression and the open question of the capitalist alliance

Political economy (of violence) of the GDR in 5 waves





Phase I: Classical Imperialism Theories

The works of Hobson (1902), Rosa Luxemburg (1913), Bukharin (1917), Kautsky (1914), and Lenin (1917) emerged from debates over reform and revolution within the labour movement and the outbreak of the First World War.

They analysed the causes of war and how these related to the systemic necessity of expanding capital accumulation beyond national borders and how relations between different capital fractions and the state were structured.

Phase II: Franz Neumann and Alfred Sohn -Rethel

With the decline of the Weimar Republic and the rise of fascism in Italy and Germany, new questions of violence and the organisation of capitalist rule came into view.

Franz Neumann's *Behemoth: The Structure and Practice of National Socialism 1933-1942* (1942) and Alfred Sohn-Rethel's *Economy and Class Structure of German Fascism* (1978, own translation but written mostly in the 1930s) are particularly instructive—rich in material and theoretically sophisticated.



Who Was Franz Neumann?

Biography

Neumann was a trained jurist who became a political scientist. Being Jewish, he was forced to emigrate to New York City in 1933, became a professor at Columbia University, and died in an accident in Switzerland in 1954.

The Book

Behemoth develops a political economy of National Socialism in three parts: the political pattern of Nazism; the new society; and the totalitarian monopoly economy.

Meticulous policy analysis, political analysis and ideology critique. Political science at its best.

Neumann's Three Analytical Pillars



Abolishing Democracy

Strategies for dismantling democracy after achieving power through democratic means—the legal path to authoritarian rule.



Racism and Antisemitism

The strategic deployment of racism and antisemitism to mobilise society—turning ideology into an instrument of mass politics.



Capital Collaboration

The deal and collaboration with the expansive profit interests of German big industry—the material foundation of Nazi power.

Neumann's Central Thesis

"Germany's imperialism is primarily the policy of its industrial leadership, fully supported by the National Socialist Party. The other classes merely follow this leadership or even resist it. Therefore, the imperialist war is the result of the internal antagonism of the German economy."—Neumann (2009: 202)

This analytical core of *Behemoth* is easily overlooked. Making sense of global accumulation structures, understanding-capital relations, and grasping how value extraction works inside and outside German borders is painstaking work. Current scholarship on German imperialism is scarce and urgently needs expanding.

Inflation, Monopoly, and the Rise of Industrial Empires

Neumann observed—in a sentence that resonates with today's "profit inflation" (Weber 2026) and Silicon Valley mega corporations—that "the inflation of the early 1920s enabled unscrupulous entrepreneurs to build vast economic empires at the expense of the middle and working classes." (2009: 15)

Key Conglomerates

By the late 1920s, corporations had formed: the United Steel Works (Vereinigten Stahlwerke)—the "stronghold of industrial reaction"—alongside the Upper Silesian steelworks and IG Farbenindustrie. These became the material base for what followed.

Monopoly Capital and the German Industrial Giants

Vereinigte Stahlwerke

United Steel Works—the "stronghold of industrial reaction"—exemplified the rise of monopoly capital in the catching up industrialisation of the German Reich.

IG Farben

The chemical giant became one of the most powerful conglomerates, central to debates about the relationship between monopoly capital and the state.

Krupp, Siemens, Deutsche Bank

Other major corporations grew increasingly influential, raising the question of whether parliamentarism or revolution offered better prospects for the working class.

The core question: how could conquering new economic or physical territories restart capital accumulation?

Three Paths Out of Crisis — and the One Taken

1

Concessions to the Masses

Ruling classes could have made concessions—or realigned through "foreign assistance" by joining the concert of Western powers.

2

Socialist Transformation

"Completely unrealistic," Neumann argued, since "the Social Democratic Party was socialist in name only." (2009: 34)

3

Imperialist Expansion

The path actually taken: Nazi totalitarian dictatorship, which "managed to convert some of its victims into supporters and organise the entire country under iron discipline into an armed camp." (2009: 34)

Ideology in *Behemoth* : Race, Nation, Space

Racial Nationalism

Unlike French Jacobin nationalism, German nationalism replaced political theory of nationality with biological racial theory, combined with a strong sense of "national superiority" rooted in Herder and Fichte. (2009: 10304)

Three Forms of Antisemitism

Jews blamed for all evils of capitalism; or as Marxists and socialist threat; or both simultaneously—as in the *Protocols of the Elders of Zion* (2009: 111)

Lebensraum

The concept coined by geographer Friedrich Ratzel in 1900, combined with geopolitical ideas of Kjellen and Haushofer: the state as living organism, justifying German claims to "Central Europe." (2009: 132, 235)



Sohn -Rethel: Inside the Lobby

Alfred Sohn-Rethel's quasiethnographic analyses, written as an employed economist for the lobby group *Mittleuropäischer Wirtschaftstag* between 1931 and 1936 and published only in 1973 (1978), are a fascinating complement to Neumann.

They offer detailed insights into different capital fractions and their interaction with the military, the Foreign Office, and the party spectrum including the NSDAP.

The Social Function of Fascism — Sohn -Rethel's Summary

"The social function of fascism can be summarised as imperialist expansion by militarist means, on the basis of a double guarantee for the capitalist system: the guarantee of its economic reproduction under optimal conditions for capital; and the guarantee of its political reproduction by smashing the labour movement and making its revolutionary struggle against the whole system of surplus value production preventively impossible by terrorist means."—Agnoli, Blanke, Kadritzke, Intro to Sohn Rethel (1973: 23)

Alfred Sohn-Rethel

Ökonomie und Klassenstruktur
des deutschen Faschismus

Vorwort von Johannes Agnoli,

Bernhard Blanke,

Niels Kadritzke

edition suhrkamp

SV

Export Capital vs. Autarky: The Split in German Big Industry

The Export Industry Camp

Globally competitive firms—Siemens, Krupp—kept their distance from the Nazis for a long time. Krupp maintained distance (p. 91); Siemens needed scientifically excellent engineers and was competitive enough. (pp. 5968)

The Autarky / Harzburg Front

The "fronde of rotten debtors"—the crisis-ridden iron and steel industry. State orders rescued their sales quotas. "Bankrupt groups of big capital offloaded their deficit onto the state." (p. 173) These were the early Nazi supporters.

Capital, War, and Military Keynesiansim

"Fireside Conversations" 1935

In Hitler's Reich Chancellery, acceleration of rearmament for a 1939 war start was prepared. The assembled agreed Germany needed "unrestricted disposal over the economic sources and strategic potentials of the entire Central European space." (p. 142)

Krupp and the Chemical Trust

"Krupp, the chemical trust, and the Steel Association formed an inseparable unity with the General Staff... Krupp financed uprisings of Croats and Slovenes... Krupp and the chemical trust provided money to acquire Yugoslav copper, zinc, and bauxite mines." (p. 142)

The state as buyer

60% of the demand for this newly instigated production was met by the state

Intensification of work

“The legislation on hereditary farms... is, in and of itself, as much a part of agricultural cartelization as turning a door (100).

These new laws forced descendants to leave the farm, since it could no longer be bequeathed in several parts but only to a single heir. This led to a massive exodus from the countryside and, as in early capitalism, a massive increase in the labor supply to the industrial sector (102)

In Marxist terms. More intense extraction of absolute surplus value.

Phase III: Hufschmid and the 1960s –70s Debate

In the late 1960s and 1970s Marxist debate, mass violence, antisemitism, and racism receded somewhat—but political-economic interest in the relationship between state and capital remained acute. Jörg Hufschmid's 1970 *Politik des Kapitals* was enormously influential.

Its core thesis: the concentration of capital in private hands had advanced so far that one could no longer speak of competitive capitalism. The subtext was clear: the state could transition to socialism relatively smoothly by converting these enterprises to social ownership.

Jörg Hufschmid

Die Politik des Kapitals

Konzentration und Wirtschaftspolitik in der Bundesrepublik

edition suhrkamp

SV

Hufschmid's Continuity Thesis

"It is the declared intention of the system-supporting forces of our society to eliminate the fundamental contradiction between social production and private appropriation by turning the propertyless wage-dependent masses into owners—if only small owners."—

Hufschmid (1969: 90)

Hufschmid's goal was to demonstrate "the continuity of the capitalist class system despite comprehensive changes in its structure." He analysed income and wealth distribution and corporate concentration painstakingly but questions of war, violence, antisemitism, and racism remained outside the frame.

Phase IV: Organised Capitalism and Germany Inc.

An Affirmative Turn?

After the end of the Trente Glorieuses, the rise of neoliberalism, and globalisation, Marxist political economy lost ground. More affirmative analyses celebrated the Deutschland AG in "organised capitalism" for pursuing not only private profit but also employee welfare.

Profitability was "only one goal among several." (Streeck and Höpner 2003: 25)

What Was Lost

The central publications of political economy moved away from problematising violence, expansion, and concentration. A consensus with the status quo set in. Questions of fascism and imperialism disappeared from the mainstream agenda.



GERMANY TODAY

The Rise of the AfD and the Return of Fascism Debates

The 2007/2008 financial crisis reintroduced a generation of students to Marxist analysis. This intensified with the growing climate crisis, the rise of radical right parties like the AfD, and since 2022, the return of open, unveiled imperialism.

Fascism is now debated across the feuilleton—in Germany, France, the US, and the UK. Marxist theory must be relearned for these analyses. This lecture is an attempt to contribute to that process and traces my own learning.

Phase V today: New Theoretical Currents



Late Fascism

Alberto Toscano's *Late Fascism* (2023); Eva von Redecker's *Dieser Drang nach Härte*; Vanessa Thompson on Black fascism critique—linking feminist and racial theoretical concepts to the fascism debate.



Social Structure Research

Amlinger and Nachtwey's *Zerstörungslust*; Westheuser and Mau's *Triggerpunkte*—explaining the rise of the AfD through social structural analysis and party research.



Techno -Capitalism

New interest in Musks and Thiels has brought focus on technocapitalism, neofeudalism, and neoroyalism—highly connectable to the 100-year-old debates on monopoly capital.

Violence, Fascism and Imperialism

Phase / Thinkers	Understanding of Imperialism	Understanding of Fascism
I: Classical Theories Hobson, Luxemburg, Lenin, Bukharin, Kautsky	Highest/necessary stage of monopoly capitalism driven by capital export and the need to secure markets and resources abroad.	Not yet a developed category in this founding era of imperialism theory.
II: Franz Neumann <i>Behemoth</i>	Primarily the policy of Germany's industrial leadership, fully supported by the NSDAP, with the people rather following or even resisting.	Rule by an alliance of monopoly capital, party, army and bureaucracy that abolishes democracy and intensifies labor; uses racist national ideology to mask class rule—a non-state "Behemoth" rather than a stable Leviathan.
II: Alfred Sohn-Rethel	Not explicit	A double guarantee for capitalism —securing economic reproduction under optimal conditions, and securing political reproduction by smashing the labour movement through terror.
III: Hufschmid / State Monopoly Capitalism debate (1960s–70s)	Not explicit	The most extreme political form for managing capital's contradictions under monopoly conditions; part of the continuity thesis.
IV: Organised Capitalism / Germany Inc. (Phase IV)	Reframed more affirmatively as negotiated, internationalised "Germany Inc." capitalism rather than crisis-driven expansion.	Critical analysis loses ground amid a more affirmative, institutionalist turn.
V: New Theoretical Currents Today	Reappears through militarisation, rearmament and geopolitical competition (e.g. Ukraine, arms exports). Operationalised through pillars of militarisation: arms corporations, the foreign policy establishment, and export-model economists.	Renewed debate triggered by the AfD's rise and mainstreaming of far-right politics (e.g. Toscano's "Late Fascism"). Contested as a matter of political affect versus rigorous analysis (Reemtsma debate); risk framed around a possible "point of no return" (Nachtwey).

PART II

Lessons from the past: Look for corporate economic losers, an emerging military-industrial complex the deployment of racism

The neoMarxist political economy debate on the relationship between state and capital, the class structure of the Federal Republic the transformation into fascism and imperialism is highly detailed and differentiated especially in its focus on state and capital

Neumann's particular contribution lies in his synthetic perspective, offering fine insights into ideological questions and the labour movement and the SPD. The political economy of the Federal Republic in 2026 must offer detailed insights into state and class structure, and the specific forms of fascism and imperialism.

Ideology First: Migration and Rearmament

Two Mega -Themes

Today's German society is discursively occupied with two mega themes: migration and rearmament. Repressive measures at European borders, deportations, and discursive violence against migrants are increasing. Reports of intimidation of professors and thuggery are growing.

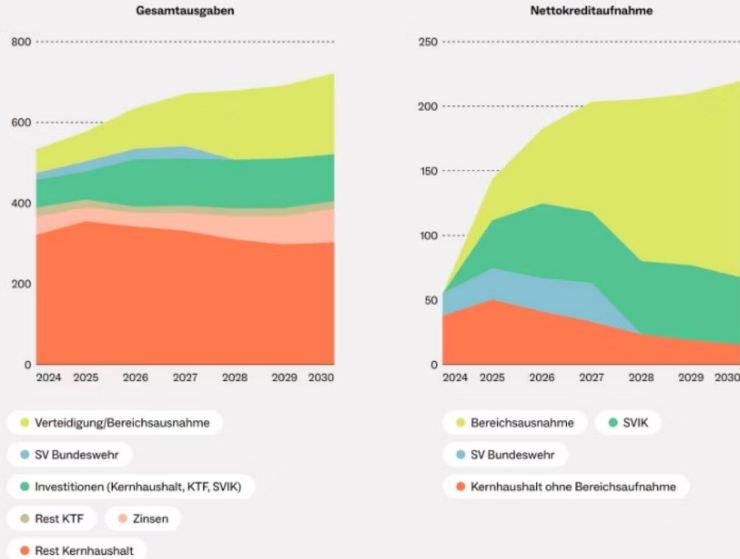
Racism Normalised

Alongside continuing antisemitism, "anti-Muslim racism" (Peace Report) has established and normalised itself. More radical steps are to be expected in coming years. In the US, ICE troops have already appeared deliberately in leather jackets and have killed several people.

An emergent military -Industrial complex?

Verteidigung bestimmt zunehmend den Haushalt

Ausgaben und Nettokreditaufnahme nach Bereichen in Milliarden Euro



Anmerkung: Die Verteidigungsausgaben für das Jahr 2024 werden in der Abgrenzung der ab 2025 geltenden Bereichsausnahme berechnet.

Lesbeispiel: Die Gesamtausgaben im Kernhaushalt ohne Investitionen und Verteidigungsausgaben bleiben zwischen 2024 und 2030 ungefähr gleich, während Verteidigungsausgaben deutlich zunehmen.

Quellen: Bundesministerium der Finanzen; eigene Berechnungen

Dezernat
Zukunft



Die verglichen mit den vergangenen Jahrzehnten stark erhöhten Verteidigungsausgaben des Bundes können ein Anreiz für die Wirtschaft sein, in ihre Produktionskapazitäten zu investieren. Dieses gilt insbesondere vor dem Hintergrund, dass die Nachfrage der Bundeswehr in den kommenden Jahren weiterhin hoch bleiben wird. Vor diesem Hintergrund hat die DIHK eine Umfrage durchgeführt, wie die Unternehmen diese potenziellen Marktchancen einschätzen.



Artikel von Benjamin Baykal

Große Unternehmen deutlich häufiger engagiert als Mittelstand Investitionsgüterhersteller prägen das Bild Deutschlandweit regionale Unterschiede Gesch.

Laut einer Sonderumfrage der DIHK sieht jedes dritte Unternehmen Chancen in der Sicherheits- und Verteidigungsindustrie. Bereits heute sind 17 Prozent der Industrieunternehmen Teil der Wertschöpfungskette dieser Branche. So verorten sich 2,5 Prozent eindeutig als Hersteller von militärischen Gütern, 6,9 Prozent der Unternehmen produzieren sogenannte Dual-Use Güter. Das sind Produkte und Technologien die sowohl im zivilen wie auch militärischen Bereich genutzt werden können. Weitere 7,6 Prozent sind als Zulieferer in die Wertschöpfungskette eingebunden.

Quellen: Dezernat Zukunft, X, 6.7.2026 <https://www.dihk.de/de/newsroom/dihk-veroeffentlicht-sonderumfrage-zur-verteidigungsindustrie-176900>



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Kooperation mit israelischem Rüstungskonzern:

Military Keynesianism and the Conversion Dynamic

€180B

Annual Target

Germany's planned annual defence spending by 2030

20%

Budget Share

Share of total planned federal budget allocated to defence by 2030

2039

Target Year

When Germany aims to field Europe's largest conventional army

4th

Current Rank

Germany's current position in Europe on the Global Firepower ranking

This conversion dynamic—similar to what ~~Sohr~~Rethel analysed in the 1930s—can only be sustainable if the weapons are used ~~in~~ the war dynamic continues to unfold.

Trade Unions: Silent on Militarisation

A Telling Absence

Trade unions are barely audible on the topic of militarisation and mobilisation against fascistisation. Interviews in Lower Saxony with works councils and observation at relevant events show a clear preference for job preservation over mobilisation against war and fascistisation.

Historical Echo

This mirrors Sohre's analysis of the 1930s: the organised working class's failure to resist the conversion of the economy to war production when jobs were at stake. The parallel is uncomfortable but instructive.

Germany and the Gaza Genocide: Economic Dimensions

Military Complicity

Germany is actively involved in the war effort through the provision of numerous warcritical weapons components, delivery of nuclear submarines for deterrence, and diplomatic support for the Israeli government worldwide.

Ideological Function

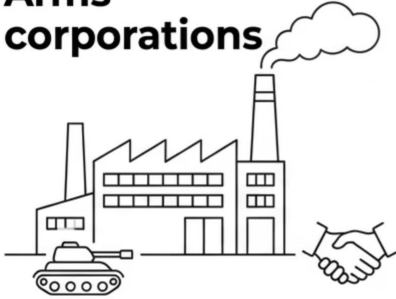
The anti-antisemitism campaign is directed primarily against "imported antisemitism" and leftwing academic antisemitism—serving anti-Muslim racism and weakening criticism of the ruling order simultaneously.

Economic Entrenchment

The arrangement is economically secured through longstanding military cooperation. Israeli arms firm Elbit is expanding across Germany; Rafael Advanced Defense Systems is in talks to produce Iron Dome components in the former VW plant in Osnabrück.

Solty's Six Pillars of Militarisation

Arms corporations



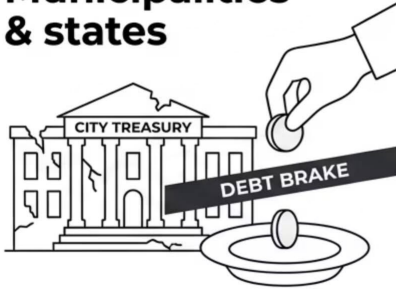
Foreign policy establishment



Economists seeking state contracts



Municipalities & states



Privileged working class



Liberal revanchists



Ingar Solty's essay on the "Six Pillars of Militarisation" identifies the actor groups sustaining this specific political order. He locates the main cause of narcissistic injury in the perceived defeat in Ukraine—though this overshoots somewhat, as neither the defeat nor a sense of it is yet palpable in Germany.

The climate analogy and the boiling frog that dies



The argument again

Understanding the genesis of violence, particularly in the German context, requires a thorough political economy and historical analysis. Mass violence and war become more probable under specific conditions:

Economic Desperation

Key economic sectors, or specific capital factions, see no alternative for survival and profit beyond supporting right parties and intensifying military Keynesianism

Ideological Mobilisation

Racist narratives gain influence, legitimising internal mass violence, while an expansive ideology develops for external aggression.

The Lessons from Sohn -Rethel and Neumann

As soon as profits are called sustainably into question, large corporations look around in a "false" way for the necessary measures and alliances—up to and including land seizure and the use of military means, like the Harzburg Front, which jumped on the bandwagon far more quickly than the flourishing Siemens and Krupp.

Capital is particularly susceptible to raw violence when it has no other easy options. Racism and repression currently serve all to weaken radical questioning of our increasingly military and ecologically destructive accumulation model, and to prevent a confident migrant community from shaking off decades of devaluation.



Die Mittelstandsunion Brandenburg stellt die Brandmauer zur AfD offiziell infrage und will den Unvereinbarkeitsbeschluss kippen. Die Parteiführung in Brandenburg ist alarmiert.

Potsdam – **Update vom 8. Juli:** Die CDU-Mittelstandsunion in Brandenburg hat ihren eigenen Antrag mit Bezug zur AfD entschärft und die Aufhebung der Brandmauer abgelehnt. Das berichtet die *Welt*. Nach dem Wirbel um den Antrag dürfte das innerhalb der Union für Aufatmen sorgen.

Erstmeldung vom 7. Juli: Aufruhr in der CDU: Die Mittelstands- und Wirtschaftsunion (MIT) Brandenburg will bei ihrer Vorstandssitzung am heutigen Dienstag (7. Juli) über einen Antrag beraten, der das Ende der Brandmauer zur AfD [↗] fordert. Es ist das erste Mal, dass ein CDU-Verband in einem formellen Antrag die Aufhebung des Unvereinbarkeitsbeschlusses der Partei [↗] gegenüber der AfD verlangt. Gegenüber dem *Münchner Merkur* hat die CDU Brandenburg Stellung zu der brisanten Forderung genommen.

<https://www.merkur.de/politik/afd-cdu-verband-in-brandenburg-fordert-offiziell-ende-der-brandmauer-zur-zr-94386400.html>, 8.7.26

Conclusions: Political Economy, Violence, and the Road Ahead

Accumulation and Austerity

Spending cuts and austerity are already elements of cheapening labour power—a larger share of its reproduction must be privately financed rather than provided by the state.

Absolute Surplus Value

Whether employment relations will again involve intensification of labour—extraction of absolute surplus value, as in the 1930s—will depend once more on the degree of organisation of the working population.

The Theoretical Task

A political economy of the Federal Republic in 2026 ca integrate state capital relations, class structure, and the specific forms of fascism and imperialism—drawing on Neumann, Sohn-Rethel, and their successors for a world of renewed violence.

□ This lecture is both a contribution to the debate and a documentation of an ongoing learning process. Empirical work on this period remains to be done.