Dissatisfaction with German democracy is higher than in two decades

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Popularity of antidemocratic values rises in Germany according to the poll of the Leibzig Authoritarianism Study 2026

The University of Leipzig conducts and publishes every second year a study measuring the state of democracy and popularity of extremist ideas and authoritarianism in Germany. For the first time in the research period of two decades, less than 9 out of 10 informants approve democracy as an ideology. Only 1 out of 3 is happy with the current state of democracy and most of the critics come from the states of earlier East Germany.

The proportion of people with a recognizably far-right mindset was 6.9%, the highest level since 2014. Also, nearly 1 out of 3 respondents agreed that “something radical is needed for the current state of affairs to change” Another one-third agreed “at least to some extent”. These attitudes were often combined with xenophobia and the said kind of mindset was popular especially among the far-right party AFD. Still the result underlines that a

return is still possible and that the popularity of democracy has ebbed and flowed also earlier during the research period.