

politikstube.com

An anonymous, right-wing website covering German politics, immigration, and the AfD that frequently publishes false and misleading information.



Proceed with caution: This website severely violates basic standards of credibility and transparency.

Score: 7.5/100

Ownership and Financing

PolitikStube.com does not disclose its ownership, and NewsGuard was unable to find information about the site's owners.

The website runs advertisements and solicits donations.

Content

PolitikStube.com covers German national news in sections including Politics (Politik), Economy (Wirtschaft), Social (Soziales), Climate (Klima), and Crime (Kriminalität). Articles often focus on crimes allegedly committed by migrants and are often critical of immigration and green policies.

The site includes a section dedicated to coverage of Germany's far-right political party Alternative for Germany (AfD). Articles in this section report favorably on the party and its leadership, frequently featuring interviews with AfD politicians, campaign photos and posters, and texts written by party members.

Typical articles have run under headlines including "In the colorful Munich: Iraqi (34) attacks car driver (33) with a cleaver" ("Im bunten München: Iraker (34) attackiert Autofahrer (33) mit Hackebeil"); "Meuthen: It will be a disaster - Now comes Merkel's great economic crisis" ("Meuthen: Es wird ein Desaster - Jetzt kommt Merkels große Wirtschaftskrise"); and "This party should have been banned long ago: The Left - shoot the rich" ("Diese Partei gehört schon längst verboten: Die Linke - Reiche erschießen").

The site often publishes videos from the YouTube channels of AfD politicians and from conspiratorial YouTube channels including NuoViso.tv and Kla.tv.

Credibility

Articles on the site do not typically rely on original reporting. Instead, the site draws on content from other media outlets, including credible news sources such as Süddeutsche Zeitung, WDR, and Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, along with sites that NewsGuard

- ✗ Does not repeatedly publish false content (22 points)
- ✗ Gathers and presents information responsibly (18)
- ✗ Regularly corrects or clarifies errors (12.5)
- ✗ Handles the difference between news and opinion responsibly (12.5)
- ✗ Avoids deceptive headlines (10)
- ✗ Website discloses ownership and financing (7.5)
- ✓ Clearly labels advertising (7.5)
- ✗ Reveals who's in charge, including any possible conflicts of interest (5)
- ✗ The site provides names of content creators, along with either contact or biographical information (5)

Criteria are listed in order of importance.

[More information.](#)

has found to be unreliable, such as Unzensuriert.at, Epoch-Times.de, and the Russia-controlled RT Deutsch.

PolitikStube.com itself has published false and misleading information. For example, a March 2020 article, titled "Look at this violence: Greek police officers targeted with Molotov cocktails" ("Schaut euch diese Gewalt an: Griechische Polizisten mit Molotow Cocktails beworfen"), claimed that "violent migrants" at the Turkish-Greek border were throwing Molotov cocktails at police officers. The article included a video that purportedly showed a group of migrants throwing handmade explosive devices at police, with accompanying text stating that "these are violent migrants whom we can expect to welcome in Germany soon. One question remains: where do the migrants get Molotov cocktails from?"

In fact, the video does not show migrants at the Greek-Turkish border. The investigative nonprofit newsroom Correctiv traced its origins to a 2011 clash between Greek protestors and the Greek police as a result of the Eurozone Crisis. There are no credible reports of migrants at the Turkish-Greek border throwing Molotov cocktails at police officers.

Another March 2020 article, titled "Completely crazy: Greens blame AfD for Corona pandemic!" ("Völlig Gaga: Grüne gibt AfD Schuld an Corona-Pandemie!"), claimed that the German Green party blamed the AfD for the "spreading of the Coronavirus." To back this claim, the article linked to a speech by Green politician Kordula Schulz-Asche.

A transcript of Schulz-Asche's speech published on her website shows that she said that global solidarity is the answer to the problems caused by the virus, "and not, Ladies and Gentleman from the AfD, incitement and hatred." She did not blame the AfD for the spread of the virus.

A December 2019 article, titled "Climate change has to do with the unstoppable solar cycles, not with humanity" ("Der Klimawandel hat mit den unaufhaltsamen Sonnenzyklen zu tun, nicht mit dem Menschen"), claimed that "there is no manmade climate change. Our politicians know that too. It's all about ripping off citizens."

Multiple scientific studies and government agencies have concluded for years that the world's rising temperatures are caused by rising carbon dioxide levels, which are caused at least in part by human activities. The German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU) states on its website: "The currently observed climate change is largely caused by human" activity, which "inevitably releases carbon dioxide."

The U.S. space agency NASA has rebutted claims that the sun is the main cause of climate change, stating that "the sun can influence the Earth's climate, but it isn't responsible for the warming trend we've seen over the past few decades." According to NASA, "The warming is too large to be caused by solar activity."

Because PolitikStube.com has frequently published false and misleading information and headlines, NewsGuard has determined that the site repeatedly publishes false claims and deceptive headlines and that it does not gather and present information responsibly.

PolitikStube.com does not disclose its agenda or perspective. However, content on the site is consistently presented from a right-wing populist, pro-AfD perspective.

For example, a March 2020 article titled "Gottfried Curio: Old parties instrumentalize the victims of Hanau!" ("Gottfried Curio: Altparteien instrumentalisieren die Opfer von Hanau!") stated, "The political rivals are unable to counter the AfD discursively due to the lack of arguments, and are instead conducting an unrestrained campaign of slander."

An article from February 2020 published titled "Unbelievable: How big Arab and Eastern European families deliberately plunder our unemployment benefits (Hartz IV) funds!" ("Unglaublich: Wie arabische und osteuropäische Großfamilien gezielt unsere Hartz IV-Kassen plündern!") stated, "[Big foreign families] cheat us German taxpayers, lead a luxurious life, drive fast cars, don't care about our laws and then rip off social benefits. That has to stop. We cannot let the criminals and criminal clans take over our cities."

A March 2020 article titled “Blackmailer Erdogan threatens EU with ‘millions’ of migrants” (“Erpresser Erdogan droht EU mit ‘Millionen’ Migranten”) stated, “Following the opening of the Turkish border to migrants, President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has further increased the pressure on the EU. Now it is time to react to this with all severity. Closing the borders, stopping payments to Turkey and further sanctions. Erdogan can only be met with force.”

Because PolitikStube.com does not disclose its right-wing orientation, yet overwhelmingly publishes content that advances that perspective, NewsGuard has determined that the site does not handle the difference between news and opinion responsibly.

PolitikStube.com does not articulate a corrections policy, and NewsGuard did not find corrections on the site.

PolitikStube.com did not respond to two NewsGuard emails inquiring about the articles and headlines cited above, the separation of news and opinion, and the site’s approach to corrections.

Transparency

The site does not include an Imprint page — which is required under German law — and does not provide information about its ownership or editorial leadership. The site’s Contact page lists a general email address.

Articles are largely credited to “PS” (PolitikStube), only include a first name, or do not name an author at all. The site does not provide biographical or contact information for its authors.

Advertisements are distinguishable from editorial content.

The site did not respond to two NewsGuard emails inquiring about its lack of disclosure regarding ownership, editorial leadership, and content creators.

History

According to a report by the newspaper HNA, PolitikStube.com was launched in 2013 under the name NetzPlanet.net. In 2016, Meedia, a website reporting on the media industry, described NetzPlanet.net as a site that takes “actual news reports and gives them a right-wing populist direction.”

The website has been operating under its current name since 2016, according to its copyright notice.

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Send feedback to NewsGuard: [Click Here](#)

Sources

Ownership and Financing

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Content

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Example headlines:
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Credibility

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