

politikversagen.net

A right-wing, nationalist website that aggregates articles from other sites, with a focus on immigration, German politics, and crime. The site has repeatedly re-published false and misleading content.



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

Score: 15/100

Ownership and Financing

Politikversagen.net's Imprint page states that the site is owned by Lisa Krüger, although no other information about her is provided. The site lists an address in Basel, Switzerland.

The website solicits donations from its readers and does not run advertising. On its Donations (Spenden) page, the site states that it is run on a "mostly voluntary" ("größtenteils ehrenamtlich") basis.

Content

Politikversagen.net's tagline describes the site as "The system-critical press review" ("Die systemkritische Presseschau"). The bottom of each page features a different quote, including one from former German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt: "We can't handle any more foreigners, it's going to lead to murder and mayhem."

Content on Politikversagen.net largely consists of headlines and the first paragraph of the article, with a link to the original. The site organizes content in more than 60 sections, including Mainstream Propaganda, Merkel, Left-wing extremism (Linksextremismus), Police (Polizei), EU, and Islamization (Islamisierung).

Articles often criticize migrants, immigration, and mainstream press organizations. The site frequently writes about crimes allegedly committed by immigrants. The site also regularly publishes videos from YouTube, including from the YouTube channel of Martin Sellner, one of the leaders of the far-right Identitarian movement in Austria.

Typical articles have run under headlines including "Can Merkel-Germany call itself a 'Democracy'?" ("Kann Merkel-Deutschland sich 'Demokratie' nennen?");

- ✗ 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.](#)

"Three asylum seekers harass girl, beat up father and threaten him with a pistol" ("Drei Asylbewerber belästigen Mädchen, verprügeln Vater und bedrohen ihn mit Pistole"); and "Islamism: Macron's plan to reconquer the Republic" ("Islamismus: Macrons Plan zur Rückeroberung der Republik").

Politikversagen.net prominently features a calendar on its homepage with dates and locations of rallies and demonstrations, such as protests by German nationalist and anti-Islam group Pegida.

Credibility

Politikversagen.net often links to articles from reliable news sources, such as Neue Zürcher Zeitung, Welt, and Tagesspiegel. However, the site also frequently links to articles from websites that NewsGuard found has published false and misleading information, including JournalistenWatch, Pi-News, Unzensuriert, and the Russia-controlled RT Deutsch.

Articles linked on Politikversagen.net often include false and misleading information. For example, a February 2020 article titled "Secret report by the German government warns: Migrants can cause corona[virus] epidemic in Germany!" ("Geheimbericht der Bundesregierung warnt: Migranten können Corona-Epidemie in Deutschland auslösen!"), claimed that a "secret report from the Federal Ministry of Health ... warns of a coronavirus epidemic by African migrants." The article, which was first published on Deutschland-Kurier.org, claimed that African migrants were bringing the coronavirus to Germany, stating, "Migrants 'rescued' in the Mediterranean bring the disease en masse to Germany, where the virus then spreads rapidly in their shelters - a scenario of apocalyptic proportions!" The article cited an unnamed government official as the source for its claims.

In fact, at the time this article was published, no cases of coronavirus had been confirmed in Africa, let alone any credible reports about African immigrants bringing the virus to Germany, according to the investigative nonprofit newsroom Correctiv. A spokesperson for the

Federal Ministry of Health told Correctiv that “such press coverage is fictitious and without any factual basis.”

Another February 2020 article, titled “Left-wing extremists burn down memorial wreath for victims of bombing” (“Linksextreme fackeln Gedenkkranz für Bombenopfer ab”), claimed that in a “disgusting attack on the Old Annen cemetery in Dresden,” left-wing extremists destroyed memorial wreaths commemorating the 75th anniversary of the bombing of the city. The article, first published on Bild.de, cited an anonymous text published on the site Indymedia.org, in which the “perpetrators confessed to the vandalism,” the article stated.

According to Correctiv, there is no evidence that the attack was carried out by left-wing extremists. The authors of the post on Indymedia have not been identified, and, as Correctiv noted, “anyone can write texts and publish content” on Indymedia.org. Moreover, the text itself did not indicate any political affiliation or agenda.

In a July 2019 article titled “Turkey apparently cancels EU refugee agreement” (“Türkei kündigt angeblich EU-Flüchtlingsabkommen auf”), first published on Deutschland-Kurier.de, the site claimed that Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlüt Cavusoglu had said in an interview that Turkey had terminated a 2016 refugee agreement between the EU and Turkey that aimed to decrease the numbers of asylum seekers in the EU.

Investigative newsroom Correctiv examined the claim about Cavusoglu and found it to be false. According to a full transcript of Cavusoglu’s speech published by Correctiv and reviewed by NewsGuard, Cavusoglu referred to the suspension of a different agreement — a re-admission agreement that originated prior to the EU-Turkey refugee pact. Cavusoglu did not make any statements about the refugee agreement, and the European Commission and Federal Foreign Office confirmed that the agreement had not been revoked by Turkey.

A June 2018 article, titled "'Aquarius refugees' throw donations in the trash and go partying" ("Aquarius-Flüchtlinge' schmeißen Spenden in den Müll und gehen feiern"), first published on Philosophia-Perennis.com, claimed that a group of refugees who landed in Valencia, Spain, discarded a large amount of clothing given to them by the local Red Cross. The article included a photo that showed containers full of clothes.

Spanish, French, and German fact-checking sites ([Maldito bulo](http://MalditoBulo.com), [CheckNews](http://CheckNews.com), and [Correctiv](http://Correctiv.com), respectively) investigated the report and found that the clothes were actually disposed of by the Red Cross itself, as part of a hygiene protocol. The Red Cross of Valencia made the same point one day before the Philosophia-Perennis.com article was published.

Because Politikversagen.net has frequently published false and misleading information and headlines, [NewsGuard](http://NewsGuard.com) has determined that the site repeatedly publishes false news and deceptive headlines, and that it does not gather and present information responsibly.

Politikversagen.net does not articulate a corrections policy, and [NewsGuard](http://NewsGuard.com) did not find corrections on the site.

Politikversagen.net does not disclose a political or ideological orientation. Nevertheless, stories and details are cherry-picked to offer a right-wing perspective.

For example, a February 2020 article titled "Hamburg prefers to hire dark-skinned people" ("Hamburg soll bevorzugt Dunkelhäutige einstellen"), first published on JournalistenWatch.com, stated that "in Germany the former centre is slipping at such a breathtaking pace into left-wing ideological delusions that one wonders who can still put a stop to this great disaster."

Another February 2020 article, titled "A country in delirium" ("Ein Land im Wahn"), first published on Reitschuster.de, stated: "The equation of the AfD with National Socialism is a gospel truth in the political discussion in Germany in 2020. You better not ignore that - in the blink of an eye you'll be a heretic!"

Because Politikversagen.net does not disclose its political 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.

The site did not respond to two NewsGuard emails, inquiring about the articles cited above and the site's editorial practices, including its approach to corrections and handling of news and opinion.

Transparency

The site's Imprint page lists Lisa Krüger as the owner and provides a physical address, an email address, and a link to a contact form. The site does not identify its editorial leadership.

Articles typically name the author, and the site lists some of its contributors on an Authors (Autoren) page. However, the site does not provide contact or biographical information for the writers of the articles it re-publishes, which does not meet NewsGuard's standard for disclosing information about content creators.

The site does not run advertisements.

History

Domain registration archives show that the site was created in August 2015.

Written by: [Karin König](#)

Edited by: [Marie Richter](#), [Eric Efron](#), [Florian Meißner](#)

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

Sources

Ownership and Financing

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Content

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