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**Told in Newspaper Pictures: The German Election**

*Wolf Schäfer*

Newsblackout in the United States: Neither CNN nor the *New York Times* reported Sunday night on the German election results although the time difference would have made that very easy. The next morning brought no NYT headline, only a short article on page 4. Here is Monday morning in Germany:

![German newspapers show a triumphant Merkel. © Wolf Schäfer](image)

And “Merkel über alles” all over Europe as well:
The German verdict on Tuesday according to the liberal *Süddeutsche Zeitung* published in Munich. *Die schwarze Republik* – the black republic – refers to the color associated with the conservative “sister parties” CDU and CSU:

Note that East and West Berlin are still reflected in the election results:

However, the CDU gained even in East Berlin:
Angela Merkel is the big winner. She is likely to enter into a coalition with the SPD, which will make her political life easier since the SPD will dim the influence of the Bavarian CSU, her permanent coalition partner. The biggest loser is the liberal FDP. Both results are depicted by the Tagesspiegel, the leading newspaper in Berlin, which headlined, “Merkel approaches the SPD … and the Liberals disappear”:

The conservative Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung showed the faces of the FDP leaders that lost. Am Boden zerstört in the caption means “totally destroyed”:
The business newspaper *Handelsblatt* reflected the FDP debacle with a cartoon of Hans-Dietrich Genscher – iconic FDP politician, Vice Chancellor and German Foreign Minister from 1974 to 1992 – and the headline “Liberalism, without a home”:

![Handelsblatt cartoon](image)


*Die tageszeitung* (an “alternative” newspaper commonly called “taz” and published in Berlin) showed Merkel as the cannibalistic Brothers Grimm witch under the headline “Merkel searches for a new coalition partner”:

![Die tageszeitung](image)

*GSJ EuroPoint, 17 September 2013, page 4*