

Resource Guide for Educators



# EUROPE GOES GREEN?

## ENERGY, ENVIRONMENT, POLITICS, & SECURITY IN THE EU

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MODULE 3

# The Rise of Green Parties in European & EU Politics

WITH A FOCUS ON GERMANY

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# Introduction to Session Speaker



**Dr. Niko Switek** is DAAD Visiting Assistant Professor for German Studies at the Henry M. Jackson School for International Studies and the Department of Political Science at the University of Washington. His research interests focus on political parties and party systems as well as on coalition politics. He wrote extensively about the green party family in Western Europe and he worked on parties on European level ('Europarties')



# Key Terms

**The Greens, Green Party:** any of various environmentalist or ecological-oriented political parties that formed beginning in the 1970s. The European Greens have committed themselves to the basic tenets of Green politics, such as environmental responsibility, individual freedom, inclusive democracy, diversity, social justice, gender equality, global sustainable development and non-violence.

**Green Party of Germany:** German environmentalist political party. It first won representation at the national level in 1983, and from 1998 to 2005 it formed a coalition government with the Social Democratic Party (SPD). The Green Party traces its origins to the student protest movement of the 1960s, the environmentalist movement of the 1970s, and the peace movement of the early 1980s.

**Environmentalism:** political and ethical movement that seeks to improve and protect the quality of the natural environment through changes to environmentally harmful human activities; through the adoption of forms of political, economic, and social organization that are thought to be necessary for, or at least conducive to, the benign treatment of the environment by humans; and through a reassessment of humanity's relationship with nature. In various ways, environmentalism claims that living things other than humans, and the natural environment as a whole, are deserving of consideration in reasoning about the morality of political, economic, and social policies.

**Environmental Law:** principles, policies, directives, and regulations enacted and enforced by local, national, or international entities to regulate human treatment of the nonhuman world. The vast field covers a broad range of topics in diverse legal settings, such as state bottle-return laws in the United States, regulatory standards for emissions from coal-fired power plants in Germany, initiatives in China to create a "Green Great Wall"—a shelter belt of trees—to protect Beijing from sandstorms, and international treaties for the protection of biological diversity and the ozonosphere.

**Global Greens Charter:** cooperative agreement made by an international group of environmentally minded political parties (green parties) and other organizations, who have pledged to work together on environmental and social causes on the basis of six guiding principles. The Global Greens Charter was signed at the Global Greens Congress in April 2001, in Canberra, Australia, by more than 800 delegates from 72 countries.





# Learning Objectives

1. Students will be able to identify, analyze, and discuss the impact of climate change on European nations, including efforts to mitigate the impact of climate change on local, national, and regional communities.
2. Students will be able to define "Green Party" and identify/explain the role of green parties within/across the European Union.
3. Students will be able to identify, analyze, and discuss three initiatives proposed by green parties in Europe, including the possible impact of these initiatives or policy proposals on the EU.
4. Students will be able to identify and evaluate the role of a national green party within the EU, such as Germany, and discuss how it is influencing public discourse, policymaking, and cooperation.
5. Students will be able to compare green party goals/initiatives in the European Union with similar parties in the United States or other contexts around the world.
6. Students will be able to analyze and discuss the rise of green parties within/across the EU and their role in shaping Europe's Green Deal.



# The Green Party



## [European Green Party - EN](#)

This European Green Party video describes their values, goals and aspirations for Europe. They state “We’re striving for a Green transformation of Europe and its economy, that will bring about a progressive and sustainable future for all its citizens. We focus on strengthening human rights, tackling climate change, creating good jobs, empowering young people and building a strong, democratic Europe.”

## [Charter of the European Greens](#)

The European Green Party’s charter gives further insight into their guiding principles and political intentions. They stand for the sustainable development of humanity on planet Earth, a mode of development respectful of human rights and built upon the values of environmental responsibility, freedom, justice, diversity and non-violence.



## [European Dis-union](#)

The world's second-largest exercise in democracy produced big wins for Europe's left-wing Green Party, some gains for far-right politicians, and a collapse of traditional centrist parties. The episode breaks down what these results actually mean for the people of Europe, the European Union, and the rise of fringe parties around the world.

# The Green Party



## [The Emergence of Green Parties in Western Europe](#)

Recent literature on green parties identifies them as parties of the New Left which share with the old Left a critique of the capitalist system but reject its policy alternatives and the ideological foundations of socialism. A recurring question raised by this literature is whether the greens in western Europe are primarily a protest movement or have become an established party. Green parties have apparently been able to balance elements of their heritage in the protest movement with imperatives of electoral competition, but judgment on their success is not final. More conclusive answers on the future of green parties require more comparative research that moves away from an excessively rigid understanding of the postmaterialist value cleavage and investigates more extensively the interrelationships between old and new Left.

## [The Present and Future of the #GreenWave - Part 1: The Present and Part 2: The Future](#)

The European Greens look back on two exceptional years of electoral history. In 2019, members of the European Green Party (EGP) won record numbers of seats in the European election. This two-article series shows how EGP members profited from this electoral wave in 2020 and sheds light on what to expect from elections in Europe in 2021. This first article shows that the Greens in Europe generally were able to establish themselves further at the local and regional level in Western Europe and get a foot in the door in some Eastern European countries.

## [A quiet revolution sweeps across Europe as Greens become political force](#)

In the 2019, European elections, the Green Party pulled off several unexpected wins, becoming the party with the highest number of votes that year. This upheaval will transform the party and the nature of politics in Europe.

# The Green Party | Germany

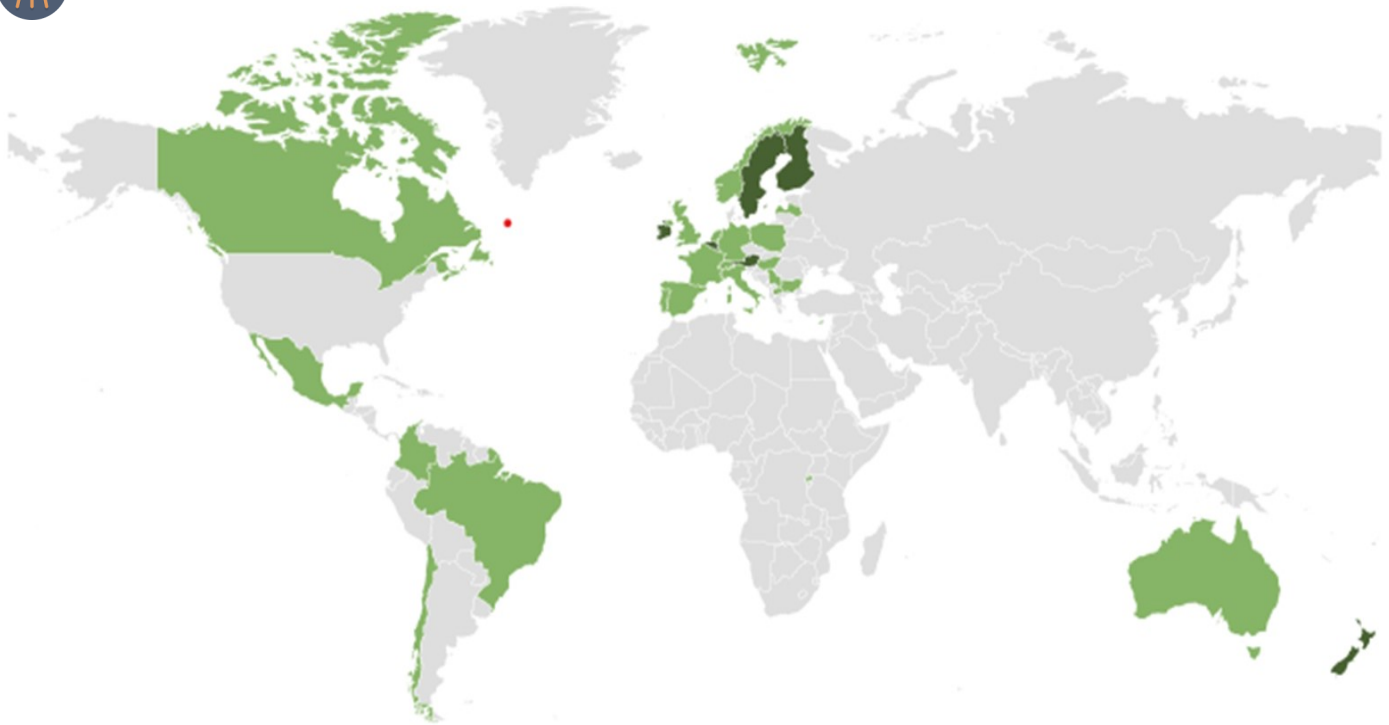


## [European Greens—Member Parties](#)

The European Green Party is a political party that is active across the entire European continent, both within the European and beyond. Check out this interactive map to learn more about each member.

## [How Green-Party Success Is Reshaping Global Politics](#)

Green parties developed out of a wave of radical social activism, especially the student protest of the 1960s and the antinuclear movement of the 1970s and 80s. Their entrance into mainstream politics, especially in Europe, gave them significant influence but revealed divisions over nonviolence, energy policy, and economics. Greens are now seeing their support grow in many countries as climate becomes a top issue among voters, but the implications for the future of global politics are unclear.



● **Green party in governing coalition**  
Austria, Belgium, Finland, Ireland, Luxembourg, New Zealand, Sweden

● **Green party represented in national legislature**  
Australia, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Cyprus, France, Italy, Germany, Hungary, Latvia, Mexico, Netherlands, North Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Rwanda, Serbia, Spain, Switzerland, United Kingdom

Source: CFR research.

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# The Green Party | Germany



## [The Greens](#)

The Greens/EFA was established in 1999, when two progressive European political families - The Greens and the European Free Alliance (EFA) - agreed to join forces in the European Parliament. The Greens/EFA now includes members of Green movements, Pirate and Independent MEPs, as well as MEPs from the European Free Alliance (EFA) representing stateless nations, regions and minorities, standing up for the right to self-determination.

## [German Green Party Presents Plan For Flood Prevention](#)

The Greens have long warned of the extreme weather effects of climate change. Now, they're proposing a program to prevent a recurrence of July's flood disaster.

## [How Germany's Greens Moved From Fringe To Contenders](#)

*Germany's Greens* party has come a long way from the radical *fringe* group of the 1980s, *moving* into the mainstream and appealing to a wider swath of voters .



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