



Universiteit
Leiden
The Netherlands

Modernity vs Tradition: Exploring Natural and Environmental Perspectives among the Young Alternative (JA) within the Alternative for Germany (AfD)

von Schwiderski, Maren

Citation

Von Schwiderski, M. (2024). *Modernity vs Tradition: Exploring Natural and Environmental Perspectives among the Young Alternative (JA) within the Alternative for Germany (AfD)*.

Version: Not Applicable (or Unknown)

License: [License to inclusion and publication of a Bachelor or Master Thesis, 2023](#)

Downloaded from: <https://hdl.handle.net/1887/3764694>

Note: To cite this publication please use the final published version (if applicable).



**Universiteit
Leiden**
The Netherlands

**Modernity versus Tradition: Exploring Natural and
Environmental Perspectives among the Young Alternative (JA)
within the Alternative for Germany (AfD)**

Bachelor's Thesis

Maren von Schwiderski (S3193861)

Leiden University

BSc Political Science: International Relations and Organizations

Thesis Supervisor: Professor Rebecca A. Ploof

24th of May 2024

Embargo Statement: Public

Contents

- 1. Introduction 3
- 2. Literature Review 5
 - 2.1 Complexities of Environmental Disagreements 5
 - 2.2 Far-Right Environmentalism 5
 - 2.4 Contemporary Right-Wing Views on Nature and the Environment 7
 - 2.5 Media Portrayal of the AfD and its Impact on Environmental Discourse 7
 - 2.6 Far-Right Ideologies on Nature and Environment within the AfD 8
 - 2.7 Role of Youth Movements in Shaping Environmental Attitudes 9
 - 2.8 Significance of Far-Right Youth Wings in Political Parties and the JA 10
 - 2.9 Literature gap and preliminary answer 10
- 3. Methodology 10
 - 3.1 Case selection and data 11
 - 3.2 Research Design 11
- 4. Results and Findings 12
 - 4.1 Convergence with Right Political Ideologies 13
 - 4.2 Love for Homeland, Natural Preservation and Regional Identity 14
 - 4.3 Community, Positive Nature Encounters and Integration of Nature in Patriotism 15
 - 4.4 Youth Engagement in Natural Advocacy and Skepticism Towards Mainstream Environmental Movements 16
 - 4.5 Climate Change 16
- 5. Reflection and Conclusion 17
 - 5.1 Reflection of Results 17
 - 5.2 Strengths and Limitations 20
 - 5.3 Conclusion 22
- 6. References 23
- 7. Annex: Social Media Posts: Title Page and Title Page Translated 26

1. Introduction

In the last decade, environmental dialogue in the younger generations has been predominantly steered by left perspectives (Uekötter, 2017, p. 107), with climate issues and movements such as “Fridays for Future” dominating the discourse and media coverage (Schürmann, 2023, p. 1). However, it is important to remember that preservation of the environment was historically an anti-urbanization and anti-industrialization movement that is not exclusive to left-wing ideologies (Uekötter, 2017, pp. 25-28). Back then several youth groups in Germany were formed to rethink nature and the environment. Especially around 1900, the newborn environmentalists began to associate themselves more closely with right-wing beliefs. This was further intensified by the Nazi government, which integrated those groups into the Nazi system, pushing for a combination of nationalistic and environmentalist topics. After the second world war and with the review of the Nazi-past, far-right thoughts were not openly discussed and disappeared to the background, similarly with far-right environmental thought (Uekötter, 2017, pp. 59-71). However, with the rise of the Alternative for Germany (in German: Alternative für Deutschland, AfD) and their current success in German party politics, their environmental thought and understanding how they connect with and sense their natural environment is of fundamental significance, especially due to new environmental challenges confronting the international community. In this context, looking at how nature and the environment is seen within the AfD party, particularly through the viewpoints of its youth organization, the Young Alternative (JA), offers a distinct lens through which to examine modern political engagements with environmental issues on the right. Hereby this research will examine the question:

“How does the Young Alternative (JA) within the Alternative for Germany (AfD) perceive the natural environment?”

This will further strike this question: "How does the JA perceive and engage with environmental issues, cultural traditions, and political ideologies, and how are these perceptions reflected in their attitudes towards homeland preservation, conservation efforts, and community engagement?". By creating a review of data relevant to the JA's attitude on nature, this research tries to give an understanding of the JA's core environmental ideas and ideals. The findings give us insights on how the JA views ecological issues and how their views interact with larger political ideas and societal frameworks.

Several scholars investigated historical environmental youth groups on the far-right (Giesecke, 1981; Cupers, 2008; Forchtner, 2019a). However, none of them have talked about

contemporary far-right movements and their thoughts about nature and the environment. There are several ways in which a better understanding of the JA's perspective on nature and the environment can improve academic discourse and advance research. First of all, it sheds light on a contemporary revival of 20th century right-wing environmentalism in Germany, which Staudenmaier (1996, pp. 9-10) pointed out included an important youth movement component. Staudenmeier (1996, pp. 9-10) claimed that the Wandervögel, a German youth movement in the early twentieth century, sought true social interactions by embracing countercultural aspects such as neo-Romanticism, environmental mysticism, and communal life. Despite certain sections tending towards emancipatory politics, most Wandervögel were eventually co-opted by the Nazis, lured to their nationalist rhetoric, and promise of a unified German identity, resulting in their absorption into the regime's ideology.

Thus, comprehending the JA's viewpoints is essential as it enables us to spot any such radicalization trends that can turn them into a threat. This research provides illumination on the on the ongoing existence and evolution of right-wing environmental ideologies over time. Additionally, addressing the research question contributes to the conversation about how political ideology and environmentalism interact. It features the various ways that right-winged groups approach environmental issues, which complicates the narratives that predominate the media surrounding environmental protection especially regarding current demands to mitigate climate change. Even while the AfD is mostly associated with right-wing populism, it is important to reject overly simplified classifications and instead analyze the details of its positions, particularly on issues related to the environment. Simply classifying the party as climate change deniers' risks missing their larger and more complex environmental concerns. Examining the youth branch, the JA, rather than the AfD as a whole, gives a unique viewpoint since younger members may have different, maybe more progressive, opinions on environmental concerns. This may be an outlook into possible future environmental policy orientations by the AfD. By offering an understanding of the views of the JA and illuminating their attitudes, values, and interpretations about the environment, this research intends to further the body of current knowledge on far-right environmentalism.

The research design and case selection are described in the methods section. This research centers on the JA within the AfD party, in response to Heinze's (2024) observations on the need of looking into the online activities of far-right youth wings. Using a qualitative content analysis methodology, the study design examines social media posts, political campaign materials, and online representations of the JA's environmental and natural philosophy.

2. Literature Review

In order to comprehend the state of research on the environmental viewpoints of far-right youth organizations such as JA inside the AfD, a review of the literature is fundamental. It assists in identifying knowledge gaps and topics that require more research by reviewing previous studies on far-right environmentalism. In particular, the literature review assists in examining earlier studies on youth political movements, environmental activism, and right-wing environmental ideas in the context of this research.

2.1 Complexities of Environmental Disagreements

In his work on Political Ideologies and Environmental Policy, Manno (2004, p. 155) highlights the many different conclusions drawn from environmental literature, declaring "One thing becomes obvious with even a cursory glance at the mountain of books and papers written about the environment, and that is that people come to very different policy conclusions looking at the same set of conditions." This comment highlights the central significance of firmly held opinions in creating attitudes towards the environment, as well as the need of comprehending these underlying ideologies in conversations about environmental policy. Following this, this research will now focus on far-right environmental ideology.

2.2 Far-Right Environmentalism

Forchtner and Lubarda (2022) contend that the far-right's inclusion of natural issues has often been intertwined with nationalist and ethnocentric ideologies, highlighting the centrality of the nation's homeland and encouraging the conservation of natural regions (p. 85-87). This makes clear how various far-right groups have been influenced by environmental themes such as deep ecology and mysticism to shape their idea of "ecofascism". The term "ecofascism" itself characterizes the fixation of rightists with natural issues, proposing an association between authoritarianism and ecological conservation (p. 93). To gain a better understanding of this, it is important to examine the relationship between fascism and authoritarianism. Fascism is characterized by a combination of strong centralized control, limited political freedoms, and ultranationalist, dictatorial power paired with authoritarian control. When authoritarian regimes integrate environmentalism, they frequently do so to further nationalist agendas, endorsing the notion of preserving the natural purity of the homeland and using ecological concerns as justification for discriminatory and xenophobic policies (Forchtner & Lubarda, 2022, pp. 95-97).

Aronczyk (2023) analyzes the phenomenon of modern eco-nationalism, which uses environmental language to advance national sovereignty and a sense of belonging. This

method uses tactics, symbols and stories that refer to environmental issues to defend the exclusion of particular populations from "native" lands, the construction of physical barriers around national borders, and restrictions on the flow of people and products across international borders. By manipulating environmental concerns, nationalist beliefs are strengthened and sovereignty over national resources and territory is cemented. In his examination of the usefulness of eco-nationalism in political mobilization, Marguiles (2021) makes the claim that nationalist leaders frequently commercialize the tools used in environmental mobilization. Because of the commercialization of the environmental movement, nationalist objectives may take precedence over sincere concerns for ecological preservation, which may restrict the movement's long-term efficacy. A more detailed example is given by Nurmukhambetova and Kadyrbekova (2023), who investigate the ways in which hiking excursions might promote patriotism. According to their research, these journeys can foster a love of nature and the country via cultural discovery and patriotic education, which can strengthen nationalist feelings by fostering an appreciation of the natural environment.

Generally, due to its fundamental importance in national identity and unification, nature plays a pivotal part in nationalism (Yılmazoğlu, 2022; Casado de Otaola, 2011; Garner, 2022). Nature's significance in forming national identity is further reinforced by the idea that it is a mirror of a country's history and ideals (Garner, 2022). Furthermore, nationalist tales' depiction of nature as a pure, Edenic setting idealize the country and encourage a sense of patriotism and belonging among its citizens (Casado de Otaola, 2011).

2.3 Historical Roots of German Far-Right Environmental Concerns

Building on this perspective, Forchtner (2019a) provides a chronicled account of German far-right environmentalism in "Beyond the German Forest". According to Forchtner (2019a), the roots of far-right environmental concerns stem from Romantic responses to the Enlightenment and societal changes. This time witnessed the German forest's symbolic rise as a representation of national identity, endorsed by figures like Ernst Moritz Arndt and Wilhelm von Riehl (p. 218). Amid the late 19th century, the Völkisch movement developed, advocating for Heimat (homeland) and nature as basic features of their anti-urban, anti-industrial-capitalist motivation, as portrayed by Olsen (1999). Franke (2017) examines how Individuals such as Hermann Löns encouraged the connection between nature conservation and German character. With the rise of National Socialism, conservationists hoped for regime support, leading to conservationists aligning with Nazi philosophies. This is also, where Staudenmeier (1996) comes into play, explaining how the Wandervögel movement was seamlessly

integrated into the Nazi administration. Franke and Pfenning (2014) highlight phenomena of the post-World War II time, where the continuation of former National Socialists' impact on preservation efforts was seen, shaping approaches through institutions like the Bundesanstalt für Naturschutz und Landschaftspflege (Federal Agency for Nature Conservation and Landscape Management). Within the mid-2000s, there was a resurgence of extreme right engagement with environmental issues, as reported by Heinrich et al. (2015). Parties like the NPD (National-Democratic Party of Germany, now called "Die Heimat") and publications like the far-right "Umwelt & Aktiv", translated to "Environment & Active" started contributing to contemporary environmental discourse, underscoring the persistent association between nationalism and environmentalism. However, this resurgence was rather underground due to the problematic past of the Nazi regime (Heinrich et al., 2015).

2.4 Contemporary Right-Wing Views on Nature and the Environment

Forchtner (2019b) also emphasizes the variety of viewpoints that comprise contemporary right-wing views on nature and the environment. These viewpoints span from an aesthetic idealization of communal landscapes to a profound ecological worldview stressing the interdependence of flora, wildlife, country, and homeland. The importance of environmental factors in far-right rhetoric is emphasized, exposing a nuanced interaction between historical trends, current liberal democratic dilemmas, and worldwide environmental issues. Actors on the far-right frequently view nature as essential to a country's identity, depicting it as untainted by modernity and figuratively connecting landscapes to identity stories. Far-right perspectives on environmental conservation are often associated with upholding local identities and opposing alleged global influences. Before we get on to the main focus of this research, the JA, let's discuss the AfD, it's mother party, and how their depiction in the media makes the media less concerned with their environmental ideas.

2.5 Media Portrayal of the AfD and its Impact on Environmental Discourse

The University of Mainz conducted research on the political philosophy of Germany's largest news providers, public service broadcasting (Maurer et al., 2024). According to the Reuters Institute by the University of Oxford (Hölig, 2023) around half of media consumption in Germany is through public broadcasting channels. Trust in public broadcasting news outlets is also higher compared to private broadcasting (Hölig, 2023). The research the University of Mainz discovered that, in terms of positioning along basic societal fault lines, the nine public formats examined here consistently (a preference for the welfare state) or predominantly (a

liberal-progressive attitude) align with the side of society that can be simplified as politically left of center (Maurer et al., 2024).

Forchtner and Lubarda (2022, p. 85) inspect the relationship between far-right ideology and environmental concerns and come to the conclusion that it has gained increasing attention, especially in light of the far right's growing political clout and the growing urgency of tackling climate change. However, this attention might have different layers in differing far-right groups, including the AfD. Other research examined the media's representation of the AfD due to the party's radicalism. Lenz (2019) performed research that revealed that all of his analyzed newspapers took a position of proactive containment against the AfD. The severity of this proactive stance was shown to connect with the level of "Berührungsangst" (fear of contact) displayed by media, which often criticized the AfD by labelling them as Nazis. This emphasis on fear, along with the constant focus on the party's radicalism, frequently led to an aversion to covering their political ideologies. As a result, media coverage tends to prioritize the AfD's anti-migrant and populist rhetoric above nuanced discussions of their larger political program, and hence their beliefs about nature and the environment.

The main German media sources' liberal-progressive angle as well as their deliberate containment strategy towards the AfD hinder the investigation of the party's environmental policy. Because of this media trend, the AfD is oversimplified, overshadowing more nuanced conversations regarding their positions on nature and the environment.

2.6 Far-Right Ideologies on Nature and Environment within the AfD

Adding to that, the Alternative for Germany addresses environmental protection less extensively in its election program, than typical far-right populist topics such as nationalism. However, Götze and Kirchner (2016) found, that the AfD exhibits typical right-winged ideologies of nature. Nature conservation is seen as homeland protection by the AfD, shaped by romantic notions of nature (Götze & Kirchner, 2016). Götze and Kirchner (2016) discovered distinct ideological frameworks in the AfD on climate change. They discovered a difference between about climate change and neoliberal ones, where the AfD fits with sovereignty-based scepticism. The emphasis on sovereignty implies a concentration on national autonomy and independence, with scepticism about climate change deriving from an unwillingness to transfer control to supranational authorities or implement policies considered to violate national sovereignty. Neoliberal scepticism, on the other hand, would most likely prioritize market-based solutions while emphasizing the possible economic implications of climate action. Forchtner (2019a) also analyzed programmatic writings of the AfD that

concern the environment. He reports that the AfD states that "we" have a "responsibility" for an "unspoilt and diverse environment"; nevertheless, the statement that "nature conservation should not be to the detriment of mankind" follows this acknowledgement of "our" is an initial indication that the party intertwines the natural world with nationalistic tendencies (Forchtner, 2019a, p. 221).

2.7 Role of Youth Movements in Shaping Environmental Attitudes

Youth movements have developed as compelling powers in forming natural and environmental attitudes and activism, relating to a mixture of values, strategies, and organizational structures. Sloam et al. (2022) highlight the transformative part of youth movements in democratic politics, pointing out their capacity to cultivate learning, engagement, and political cooperation among young individuals. The historical context of youth movements and their engagement with nature gives further knowledge about their development and significance. Cupers (2008) looks at the rise of youth camps in Germany during the interwar period, highlighting their part in cultural renewal and nationalist ideologies. These camps served as spaces for outdoor activities and collective engagement, reflecting efforts to govern and shape the nation's youth. According to Cuper (2008, p. 173), a gathering known as the "First free German youth day" in 1913, brought together individuals of different youth groups that had emerged amid the past two decades.

The Wandervögel development, as explained by Staudenmeier (1996), an association of bourgeois youth from Berlin, had started to organize regular hiking and camping trips within the surrounding region. Officially founded in 1901, it quickly became a nationwide movement of numerous groups linked by the idea of an unrestrained experience of nature and a critical stance towards what they considered as adult society's cultural problems. They wanted to escape from the restricted limitations of education and society to build their own way of life in the wild during a period of rapid urbanization, motivated by Romantic ideals. After the Gleichschaltung ("coordination") all youth organizations were to be coordinated into the „Hitler-Jugend“, the Nazi regimes all-encompassing youth wing (Giesecke, 1981, pp. 190-191). In order to indoctrinate children and teens with their ideology, the Hitler Youth started using sports, camping excursions, and group activities in 1926. This also included the nature and environmental education promoted by the Nazis, which had a close connection to racism, nationalism, and anti-Aryan sentiment. In the end, children and teens were sacrificed throughout the battle (Giesecke, 1981, pp. 169-174).

2.8 Significance of Far-Right Youth Wings in Political Parties and the JA

Far-right youth wings inside political party organizations sometimes go unnoticed even though they are important for recruiting and socializing (Hooghe et al., 2004). Heinze (2024) found that they may also act as catalysts for radicalization. Nevertheless, despite their significance, little is known about their growth and interactions with parent parties. According to Heinze (2024), the JA is also affected by this information gap. Although previous research has examined the AfD's ideological and organizational expansion (Arzheimer, 2019; Heinze & Weisskircher, 2021), the JA's evolution and function within the AfD have received less attention (Heinze, 2024). Heinze's case study explores these points and finds that the JA originally adopted more extreme stances than the AfD. Heinze (2024, pp. 7-9) emphasized their eurosceptic attitudes, their hostile statements against Islam and established connections with radical organizations like the Identitarian movement and far-right fraternities. The JA prospered despite encountering doubt from moderate AfD members and had created state organizations in each of the 16 federal states by October 2016 (p. 12). But gradually, spy services began to look into its more radical positions. Following the Federal Constitutional Court's classification of the AfD as a suspected case in March 2022, the JA was designated as a "proven right-wing extremist" in April 2023 (Heinze, 2024, p. 10).

2.9 Literature gap and preliminary answer

Given Germany's acknowledged significance as a focal point for the study of far-right environmentalism, as explained by Forchtner (2019a; 2019b), and the obvious lack of scholarly attention to far-right youth wings as explained by Heinze (2024), there is a compelling case for a scholarly investigation into the environmental perspectives advocated by the AfD's youth faction. By diving into the environmental perspectives of the JA, this research hopes to provide a nuanced layer to our understanding of far-right environmentalism in the German context. Furthermore, if youth groups can act as catalysts for radicalization, then studying this youth group's views on the environment may also give us a sense of the future of far-right environmentalism in German politics. Finally, this research aims to determine whether contemporary environmentalisms as displayed by the JA can be defined as a revival of earlier right-wing environmentalisms, such as those associated with the Wandervögel and the Nazis.

3 Methodology

In the following I will further explain my case selection and methodological approach.

3.1 Case selection and data

After having mentioned above that current literature highlights the necessity to analyze the JA, the youth wing of the AfD party as a crucial study case, in the following I want to further elaborate on the relevance.

First of all, researching the JA offers a unique chance to examine the growth of a fresh, little-known youth movement that succeeded in a nation where a number of other far-right parties had previously failed. The mother party AfD is one of Europe's newest and most successful extreme right parties (Arzheimer, 2019; Heinze & Weisskircher, 2021). Previous studies (Heinze and Weisskircher, 2021; Heinze et al., 2023) have examined the AfD's comparatively robust party organization, which includes its "movement-party" approach, which blends the characteristics of traditional political parties with those of social movements, aiming to create a more dynamic and engaged political entity (Heinze and Weisskircher, 2021).

According to a rather thorough analysis, the JA has undergone a fundamentally extreme right tilt (Arzheimer, 2019). On the other hand, we don't know much about the AfD as an organization or its young wing inside it. The early ideological stances of the JA have been clarified by additional research (Herkenhoff, 2016; Knopp, 2017). However, because both groups are new, little in-depth research has been done on the JA's ideological stances such as environmentalism.

Especially Heinze (2019) emphasized the relevance of a JA analysis. She provided highly relevant insights for the answer of my research questions and outlined what further research should address. Therefore, Heinze (2019) significantly shaped this work's methodological approach and the underlying research design, as explained in the following.

3.2 Research Design

Heinze (2024, pp. 5-6) suggested that additional studies should look more thoroughly at the internet activities of far-right youth wings, since the online space is becoming more and more relevant. Even the fourth interviewee stated that "everything else is pretty dead" (Heinze, 2024, p. 13) outside from the JA's internet activity. . Therefore, my research design for investigating JA's views on nature and the environment consists of a qualitative content analysis approach, taking into account an analysis of social media content, election campaign materials, and their views expressed online. The fundamental component of this technique is the examination of the content of primary materials, which include the different types of communication that the JA uses, mostly social media. In order to guarantee a whole

comprehension of the viewpoint of the JA, I will also examine an assortment of secondary materials, including media pieces. This ensures that the study takes into account broader society conversations and views of environmental concerns in addition to internal JA communications.

Facebook and Instagram were used to gather JA organizations' social media communications. Interviewee 3 in Heinze (2024, pp. 5-6) said that Instagram is mostly used for recruiting and Facebook for reporting on their political activities. These are the kinds of platforms I chose based on their reach (the JA's first prominent media engagement was on Facebook). Furthermore, there weren't enough pertinent results from Twitter's advanced search (nor from the AfD website). All 16 of the JA's state-specific accounts and the main page were taken into consideration for the research on (social) media communication. The research maximizes the chance of gathering representative opinions by choosing venues with substantial reach and relevance to the organization's communication strategy.

The data that was gathered spans the years 2018 to 2024. Most of the JA's social media profiles don't have data from before 2015, since social media is a relatively new media source, and the JA was formally merged into the AfD in that year. For that reason, this period has been chosen for examination.

The data was recovered into a spreadsheet and sorted into the headings of "Link, Source, JA/AfD Branch aka page, Publication Date, Title Page, Title Page Translated, Original Text, Translated Text". Because the data set is too large (52 pages), Annex 1 only contains the title pages in their original language, a translation, or a description if there was no text. After collecting all of the data from social media pages, news stories, declarations, and so on, each data source was analyzed and organized into a list. The findings were then categorized according to their subtopic of nature. Since all communication from the JA and AfD was in German, it was translated by me in the additional spreadsheet, which may be made available upon request.

This approach offers a strong framework for examining the perspective on nature and the environment in the JA, especially when combined with inclusive account consideration and strategic platform selection.

4 Results and Findings

The data provides insight into this AfD youth organization's thoughts and attitudes on nature and the environment. Across the texts analyzed, a few repeating topics and points of

view arise, giving a comprehensive understanding of how the JA sees natural issues and their interconnecting with political philosophies and social characters.

4.1 Convergence with Right Political Ideologies

The viewpoints of the JA on nature and the environment are closely lined up with right-wing political belief systems, especially those embraced by the AfD. The promotion of nature inside the JA is surrounded within a broader ideological setting, emphasizing conservative values, national personality, and domination.

The JA depicts itself as a shield of the environment against what it sees as misguided climate policies reproduced by left administrations. They strip other political ideologies of the competence to care for the environment, claiming that only the right can adequately execute this responsibility. This includes hunting as a means of natural life administration and denial of renewable energy sources seen as troublesome to social and natural scenes. This includes the propaganda against the building of new renewable energy sources to stop a further “cluttering of our landscape”. An example for this is the active strive for the prohibition of wind turbines close to forest and protected areas to eliminate the endangerment of birds and bats. They advocate for regional and directed approaches to nature protection and advocacy which goes in hand with their criticism of systematic, bigger solutions to environmental degradation (e.g. carbon tax) which they claim is unreasonable environmental extremism by the government. The JA seemingly prioritizes pragmatic smaller arrangements over radical activism, pointing to balance between natural preservation and socio-political concerns such as keeping heating costs small instead of using more pricier yet ecologically friendly heating sources. Through the view of the JA, youth engagement should take on a dynamic tone, emphasizing the significance of forming a forward-looking future whereas honoring tradition and national character. This reflects the JA's desire in some regional branches to promote the reconsideration of patriotism and the deep-rooted appreciation for legacy and culture as reconcilable with modern values. An overall nice example for showcasing the JA's views of nature is the propagation of the far-right nature conservation magazine “Die Kehre” (The Reversement), which includes reposting content as well as holding events on the topics of homeland protection, nature conservation and ecology with the editor-in-chief, Jonas Schick.

Schick (2022) delivered detailed lectures presenting a right-wing conservative approach to ecological issues, including climate change, consumer behavior, and capitalist exploitation. He emphasized the historical lack of ecological concern in leftist politics and highlighted the conservative tradition in environmental protection. Schick (2022) argued for a conservative

ecological perspective rooted in localism, questioning the sustainability of modern industrial systems, and advocating for restraint and moderation. He criticized the current societal obsession with convenience and technology, suggesting a return to traditional values and a reevaluation of the pursuit of endless growth. This advancement has, agreeing to Jonas Schick (2022), “denied the common person of its inherited ties to land and (family) community”. Already this detailing uncovers what far-right environmentalism points to: the foundation of ethno-homogeneous communities and, thus, the strict rejection of all migration. Schick (2022) called for a reconnection with nature and warned against the damaging influences of modernity on both the environment and human society. Schick (2022) addresses climate change as one of the ecological issues discussed in his lectures from a right-wing conservative perspective. He argues for skepticism towards certain mainstream narratives surrounding climate change which include the “man-madeness” of climate change. He also advocates for conservative solutions that prioritize localism, sustainability, and traditional values. These views as expressed by Schick (2022), emphasize conservative ecological perspectives, resonating with the JA's focus on homeland, natural preservation, and regional identity.

4.2 Love for Homeland, Natural Preservation and Regional Identity

Inside the talk of the JA, there's a predominant sense of cherish and connection to the homeland, frequently articulated through hashtags like "#heimatliebe" (love for one's homeland). This strengthens the enthusiastic association to the common landscapes that contain the homeland, with regards to the excellence and biodiversity of timberlands, waterways, and mountains. Natural preservation is communicated as a crucial approach of protecting the homeland and protecting its cultural legacy. The JA emphasizes the significance of securing local forests, natural life environments, and conventional landscapes as part of their dedication to protecting the innocence of the country for future eras. In this sense, "innocence" refers to the pure condition of the country's natural and cultural heritage. It suggests that the country has no signs of deterioration and other negative effects that might damage its purity. The JA's dedication to conserving this "innocence" includes preserving the country's authenticity and purity, as well as ensuring that natural landscapes and local heritage sites of their regarded heroes are preserved for future generations.

References to particular regions and social traditions emphasize the significance of territorial personality in forming JA mindsets towards nature and environmental conservation. There's a sense of territorial pride and connection to nearby scenes, which are respected as necessarily components of social legacy. Cultural traditions, such as enthusiastic hikes and folklore

celebrations, serve as stages for encountering and celebrating the common excellence of the country. These traditions reinforce community bonds and cultivate a more profound appreciation for the interconnecting between people and nature among JA individuals.

4.3 Community, Positive Nature Encounters and Integration of Nature in Patriotism

The findings paint a distinctive picture of the JA's appreciation for the natural excellence of the different regional landscapes, emphasizing the appeal of different natural phenomena. These depictions highlight the JA's claimed fondness of nature. An example of this would be, that the data depicts a like for the ordinary beauty of Swabia, highlighting open air exercises like hikes as roads for cultivating friendship among JA individuals. It underscores a positive engagement with nature, emphasizing its part as a source of delight and shared encounters. Nature activities such as hikes are seen as chances to foster patriotism and nationalism by linking people with their country's environment. These activities are aimed at promoting a greater appreciation for the country's natural beauty, allowing participants to experience a greater feeling of pride and connection to their homeland. By promoting hikes and outdoor excursions as patriotic, organizers hope to foster a national character that cherishes and maintains heritage. This suggests a view of patriotism that has a love for both cultural traditions and natural landscapes. By combining fun with historical talks, the JA boosts its individuals to engage with nature in a way that helps promote their patriotic beliefs. Community engagement exercises like hikes, climbs and youth activity days demonstrate trying to have involvement in nearby communities. These initiatives cultivate a sense of belonging and shared values among JA individuals, exhibiting a perceived commitment to community strengthening.

The JA claims that it is “a community of committed young people who want to lead change and represent our patriotic values in innovative and progressive ways. We stand for a patriotism that is oriented towards the future and proactively addresses the challenges of our time. We are proud of our roots and the achievements of the past, but we also believe that as young people we have the responsibility to shape a better world (...). Become part of our movement (...).” To comprehend JA's self-proclaimed innovation and progressiveness in the context of their heritage dedication, a consideration of how traditional values combined with modern techniques is needed. The JA values cultural heritage as the core of their identity and uses it to shape their future vision. They use current technologies for digital outreach and interactive media campaigns to attract support and address issues. Given their dedication to cultural heritage and its progressive outlook, the JA actively participates in digital engagement

and makes use of contemporary technology to shape their future perspective. Their concentration on communication and technology like social media is in line with their position on environmental concerns, where they show a strong commitment to natural advocacy while also displaying a noticeable scepticism towards mainstream environmental groups.

4.4 Youth Engagement in Natural Advocacy and Skepticism Towards Mainstream Environmental Movements

Regardless of recognizing the significance of the environment, the JA shows skepticism towards other environmental movements. There's a recognition that these developments prioritize political motivation over veritable natural preservation, driving to doubt skepticism among the JA. Reactions are coordinated towards government decisions seen to hurt the environment, such as the extension of wind turbines into nature. The JA communicates concerns around the effect of such missions on landscapes, natural life, and local societies.

The JA develops as a dynamic member in environmental promotion and instruction among youth organizations. Despite ideological contrasts, there's a shared commitment among JA individuals to protect the environment for future eras. Activities such as reforestation are pointed at raising mindfulness about natural issues. This highlights the JA's devotion to advance supportability and conservation efforts inside their communities. However, since this research does not interview members of JA, fluctuations between members importance of those topics may be in place. Also, while supporting atomic power, the data critiques left-wing environmental policies and reveals scepticism towards certain environmental movements. Be that as it may, more general environmental issues such as climate change are not explicitly tended to, suggesting a focus on particular angles of environmental talk adjusted with political ideologies.

4.5 Climate Change

There`s a general recognition of climate change within the youth wing, and even some assertion towards the main party to acknowledge climate change in certain regional branches like JA Brandenburg. However, it is still used as a theme to downplay and defame other parties and ideologies, such as the greens and the left in general. The JA concentrates on pointing out the strong focus of these groups, suggesting that their engagement to mitigate climate change makes them less competent in other domains and is excessively polarizing. In general, there's a lack of concrete mitigation efforts and a tendency to downplay crucial aspects such as human contribution and the severity of scientific findings on climate change.

The JA content that protecting the climate has a negative effect on protecting the natural world. They draw attention to the negative aspects of climate change mitigation, such as the harm that wind turbines bring to birds, bats, and insects; the way that biomass agriculture degrades land because it overfertilizes monocultures; and the ecological and social problems that are left over from the creation of "green technology" in the Congo through cobalt mining.

They claim that although the existence of climate change is widely acknowledged, there is still debate on the extent of human influence on it. This is part of their remarks regarding global climate talks such as their statement on the IPCC Report. They argue against reacting to climate challenges with costly, top-down arrangements that may lead to negative economic results such as deindustrialization and unemployment. Rather, they push the significance of infrastructure advancement, flood security, local natural preservation, and the conservation of natural and cultural landscapes. Also, they highlight concerns about population development within the Third World, proposing that this issue is regularly neglected by left/green climate activists. They suggest addressing this challenge through efforts to gradually reduce birth rates, instead of forcing what they see as eco-authoritarian measures on individuals in their nation.

In summary, my research indicates that the JA places a strong focus on conservatism and disapproval of leftist environmental policies, closely tying its environmental beliefs to right-wing ideology. Their political views and environmental attitudes are complexly entwined. While they express scepticism towards mainstream environmental groups and actions against climate change, they prioritize the preservation of local landscapes and cultural traditions and support regional solutions to the problem.

5 Reflection and Conclusion

5.1 Reflection of Results

The answer to the question "How does the Young Alternative (JA) within the Alternative for Germany (AfD) perceive the natural environment?" has several nuances. The assertion, that the JA hold a more progressive view on environmental issues than other far-right actors due to its young nature was not true. First off, there was a convergence with right political ideologies regarding the environment in the JA as explained before. The JA's environmental position is consistent with a larger right-wing movement that aims to reclaim ecology as a field contemporarily linked to leftist politics. Recurrent themes of homeland love, natural preservation and a regional identity were found in the JA's social media posts. Community,

positive nature encounters and integration of nature in patriotism were all important themes that were often mentioned.

The discussion of a potential revival of 20th century right-winged environmentalism includes the reimagination of environmental rhetoric to conform to nationalist, ethnocentric, and culturally conservative ideologies, all of which are fundamental to the JA's platform. Several authors (Staudenmeier 1996, Giesecke 1981) discussed 20th-century environmental groups, including those that the Nazi state used to further its goals. By looking at the JA, we can see how environmentalism can be used to promote nationalist ideology that is fundamental to issues like homeland security, cultural heritage preservation, and community-based conservation activities. The clear linkage with Nazi ideology may therefore suggest a “revival” of 20th century right-winged environmentalism in Germany.

In addition, the JA's youth population offers an ideal environment for the radicalization of ideologies, as their declaration as “confirmed right-extreme” shows. However, a more radical view on nature than their mother party was not found. As a replacement for emphasizing a more inclusive, wide environmental ethic, these viewpoints place more emphasis on a relationship to the land that is articulated in terms of preserving national identity and cultural heritage. It is crucial to understand that radicalism and populism are entwined with the JA's perspective on nature, in addition to being present in issues related to gender, race, and nation. Their affiliation with the ecological magazine "Die Kehre," strengthens the relationship between these beliefs and the JA's environmental position. Instead of representing a change towards more progressive environmental ideals, the JA essentially employs the “Kehre” as an undertaking to the reformulation and recovery of dehumanizing positions, which have a long tradition beneath the guise of nature and natural protection. Supporting the formation of ethno-homogeneous communities implies ignorance and marginalization of people who do not fit into the ethnic or cultural character. This cultivates division and propagates oppressive patterns. Strict rejection of all migration, as encouraged by this philosophy, overlooks the complex socio-economic and humanitarian causes that push migration. It fails to handle the rights and needs of migrants and refugees, and it ignores the important gifts that migration can make to societies. This belief propagates racial hierarchies and rejects the equality of all people regardless of their ethnicity or cultural background.

Even though there are clear convergences with far-right environmentalism found within the JA, it is apparent that natural and environmental issues are not their focal point. The young organization lacks a strong environmental section, with social media activity centered on

other, generally populist concerns. Especially areas such as migration and the protection of German culture and heritage gain more attention topics surrounding nature and the environment. Criticizing the established parties, also on the topics of nature and environmental protection is dominating their activity. Especially with regards to their natural activism, the focus lies on heritage and small-scale actions to protect. The infrequent references of major environmental topics, such as climate change, might be deliberate attempts to appeal to young individuals dissatisfied with conventional environmental politics and action, such as those affiliated with the Green Party or the Fridays for Future movement. It indicates that the JA takes a selective approach to environmental attention, prioritizing or downplaying specific environmental concerns dependent on how well they coincide with the organization's overall ideological objective. For example, the JA may prioritize environmental issues that are consistent with its nationalist or ethnocentric views, such as homeland protection and the preservation of native landscapes. These challenges are presented in a way that supports the narrative of national identity and sovereignty. On the other hand, environmental challenges that do not fit this narrative, such as climate change, may be minimized or rejected completely. This might be because climate change is frequently portrayed as a global issue requiring international cooperation. Furthermore, the complexity and systemic nature of climate change may discourage the JA from prioritizing it as a concern, particularly given scepticism or denial among their ranks. However, this selective approach restricts the JA's capacity to engage in meaningful conversations about a variety of environmental concerns. By prioritizing certain themes above others, they risk overlooking and failing to solve critical environmental issues. This approach may end in a restricted knowledge of environmental concerns, limiting the ability to find solutions.

Although climate change is acknowledged at differing levels, the debate on climate mitigation inside the JA is mostly critical, commonly focused at discrediting rival parties and activists. The JA, in particular, criticizes technical measures to solving climate change, such as renewable energies, which they see as harmful to nature. Instead, they prioritize low-tech or non-tech initiatives that create emotional links to environment and national identity, such as organizing hikes. Contrary to what might seem a logical consequence, the JA does not provide a non-technological answer to climate change since it is not adequately addressed. In addition to failing to offer practical solutions to the problem, this strategy contributes to the issue of climate change by neglecting systemic problems like global inequality, inadequate policy frameworks, unsustainable agricultural practices, dependency on fossil fuels, deforestation, and industrial emissions. This narrow focus on non-technological solutions, such as

connecting with nature through hiking, ignores the critical need for comprehensive, multifaceted strategies to combat the devastating effects of climate change. The JA also encompasses the more sceptical side of climate change, such as denialism. Understanding this scepticism about climate change, alongside the willingness to embrace conservative environmentalism, needs recognition of the ideological complexities at play. The JA's right-wing environmentalism frequently focuses on protecting natural landscapes, fostering local use of resources, and sustaining traditional ways of life, which is consistent with their wider principles of stability, heritage, and national sovereignty. This contrasts with the global approach to environmental challenges that is commonly connected with climate change action. Scepticism regarding climate change may originate from a scepticism of international organisations and scientific consensus, which is viewed as politicised. Young right-wingers may see large-scale climate initiatives as a danger to national sovereignty, economic independence, and individual liberties. However, scepticism does not prevent engagement in environmental care. As a result, their environmentalist philosophy emphasises local action and practical solutions. For example, they support projects to maintain local woods, which directly benefit their communities and are consistent with their beliefs. They argue for environmental conservation from a stance of maintaining the nation's natural and cultural history, rather than from a global climate change perspective.

5. 2 Strengths and Limitations

One of the project's key strengths is its broad scope, as nature and environmental concerns include a wide variety of themes, allowing a thorough knowledge of the JA's position. Furthermore, the study draws parallels between past and present right-wing environmental movements, providing a valuable historical perspective. Furthermore, by investigating the youth body of the AfD, the study gives important insight into the future trajectory of the right-winged sphere. This research is timely and very important, given the increased environmental consciousness and political polarization. It examines current issues about climate change, sustainability, and the role of political ideologies in influencing environmental policy. Furthermore, the findings can help policymakers understand the environmental perspectives and methods of current right-wing parties, allowing for the formulation of more effective and inclusive environmental initiatives with fewer interruptions from the right.

While the project's broad scope is a strength, it may also be considered a weakness. The large range of themes covered by nature and environmental concerns may result in a lack of depth

in certain areas, making it difficult to adequately study and analyze each component of the JA's perspective. Furthermore, the attempt to draw parallels between past and present right-wing environmental movements, although offering a rich historical backdrop, may end in oversimplification or generalization, potentially disregarding key nuances and contrasts. The study's approach is largely focused on the JA's internet presence, with little direct contact or interviews with its members. This emphasis on digital content means that the study is based on publicly available information, such as social media postings, official declarations, and digital publications. Online material frequently portrays an edited image intended for public consumption, which may fail to convey the organization's varied perspectives and internal dynamics. As a result, the study may overlook important insights that can only be discovered through human contacts and in-depth interviews. The material supplied online may also be biased or selective, emphasising some parts of the JA's position while downplaying or ignoring others. This might result in an inadequate or biased knowledge of their environmental beliefs. Online statements may also lack the contextual information that direct discussions may offer. Personal interviews would allow for follow-up inquiries, clarification of misunderstandings, and an exploration of the reasons for certain thoughts, resulting in fuller and more thorough knowledge.

While the concern of depending only on online presence is correct, it is crucial to acknowledge that online presence is a key element of the JA. Modern political groups, especially those involving younger generations, rely heavily on digital channels like social media, websites, and blogs to share their views, mobilize followers, and organize events. These platforms have an extensive reach and are easily accessible, allowing young organizations to engage with a huge audience quickly and efficiently, regardless of geography. The digital domain enables these organizations to clearly represent their identity, values, and aims as it is them who talk about themselves. It also gives them a forum to share their accomplishments and milestones. Furthermore, direct connection with JA members presents some obstacles. The organization frequently avoids direct interactions with journalists and academics, limiting the availability of personal examples. They are concerned about how they are depicted in the media, scared of misrepresentation, or framing that may harm their reputation. This scepticism causes reluctance to participate in interviews or collaborate with researchers. Various reportages have demonstrated that the JA is concerned about being portrayed or misunderstood by the media. By depending on their internet channels, the JA retains control over their narrative, ensuring that their message is conveyed in a way that is consistent with their beliefs and aims, free of external distortion. Given these conditions,

concentrating on their online presence proved to be the most feasible and accurate way for this study to investigate their viewpoints and actions.

5.3 Conclusion

A better knowledge of the JA approach to nature and the environment within the AfD improves academic discourse. The research gives insight on a modern revival of 20th-century right-wing environmentalism in Germany. Furthermore, answering this research subject adds to the larger discussion concerning the relationship between political ideology and environmentalism. It exposes the many approaches the JA brings to environmental concerns, contrasting the prevailing media narratives surrounding environmental conservation, including modern demands to combat climate change. While the AfD is generally associated with right-wing populism, knowing how its youth organization perceives nature helps highlight variations in the party's environmental thoughts and gives indications for the future of the party.

To build on this research, future research could include direct interviews with JA members to acquire a better understanding of their attitudes on specific environmental issues, like climate change. This would give a more comprehensive knowledge of their points of view and might support or question this research's conclusions. Furthermore, investigating JA members' individual encounters with nature may provide useful insights into how personal and collective environmental views emerge within the organization. This might include ethnographic study or participatory observation, which allows researchers to capture the subjective and varied character of environmental experiences. Moreover, it could be especially informative to look at right-wing environmental discourse in Germany between 1960 and 1990, when it was mostly hidden from public view. Examining possible parallels and relationships with past ideologies in this period may reveal how these ideas have developed and endured, offering a more comprehensive framework for comprehending contemporary patterns.

6 References

- Arzheimer, K. (2019). Don't mention the war! How populist right-wing radicalism became (almost) normal in Germany. *Journal of Common Market Studies*, 57(S1), 90–102.
- Casado de Otaola, S. (2011). Nacionalizar la naturaleza. Ciencias naturales y discursos nacionalistas en la España del regeneracionismo. *European journal of literature, culture and the environment*, 2(1):9-18. <https://doi.org/10.37536/ECOZONA.2011.2.1.387>.
- Cupers, K. (2008). Governing through nature: Camps and youth movements in interwar Germany and the United States. *Cultural Geographies*, 15(2), 173–205. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1474474007087498>
- Forchtner, B. (2019a). Beyond the 'German forest'. In B. Forchtner (Ed.), *The far right and the environment: Politics, discourse and communication* (1st ed., pp. 216-236). Routledge. <https://doi.org/10.4324/9781351104043>
- Forchtner, B. (2019b). Far-right articulations of the natural environment. In B. Forchtner (Ed.), *The far right and the environment: Politics, discourse and communication* (1st ed., pp. 1-9). Routledge. <https://doi.org/10.4324/9781351104043>
- Franke, N. (2017). Naturschutz als völkische Aufgabe. In M. Fahlbusch, I. Haar, & A. Pinwinkler (Eds.), *Handbuch der völkischen Wissenschaften. Akteure, Netzwerke, Forschungsprogramme. Teilband 2* (pp. 1073–1079). Oldenbourg: De Gruyter.
- Franke, N. M., & Pfenning, U. (Eds.). (2014). *Kontinuität im Naturschutz*. Baden-Baden: Nomos.
- Renaud-Philippe, Garner. (2022). Nationalism. *Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Politics*, <https://doi.org/10.1093/acrefore/9780190228637.013.2039>
- Giesecke, H. (1981). *Vom Wandervogel bis zur Hitlerjugend: Jugendarbeit zwischen Politik und Pädagogik*. München: Juventa-Verlag.
- Götze, S., & Kirchner, S. (2016). *Die Umweltpolitik der Alternative für Deutschland (AfD): Eine politische Analyse*. Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung.
- Heinrich, G., Kaiser, K.-D., & Wiersbinski, N. (Eds.). (2015). *Naturschutz und Rechtsradikalismus: Gegenwärtige Entwicklungen, Probleme Abgrenzungen und Steuerungsmöglichkeiten*. Bonn: BfN.
- Heinze, A.-S. (2022). Dealing with the populist radical right in parliament: Mainstream party responses toward the Alternative for Germany. *European Political Science Review*, 14(3), 333–350.
- Heinze, A.-S. (2024). Drivers of radicalisation? The development and role of the far-right youth organisation 'Young Alternative' in Germany. *International Political Science Review*. Online First.

- Heinze, A.-S., Höhne, B., & Wortmann Callejón, F. (2023). What drives the intra-party democracy of the 'Alternative for Germany': Populist ideology, low institutionalisation or lacking party unity? *Party Politics*. Advance online publication. <https://doi.org/10.1177/13540688231183594>
- Heinze, A.-S., & Weisskircher, M. (2021). No strong leaders needed? AfD party organisation between collective leadership, internal democracy, and 'movement-party' strategy. *Politics and Governance*, 9(4), 263–274.
- Herkenhoff, A.-L. (2016). Rechter Nachwuchs für die AfD – die Junge Alternative. In A. Häusler (Ed.), *Die Alternative für Deutschland* (pp. 201-217).
- Hölig, S. (2023, June 14). Digital news report: Germany. Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism, University of Oxford. <https://reutersinstitute.politics.ox.ac.uk/digital-news-report/2023/germany>
- Hooghe, M., Stolle, D., & Stouthuysen, P. (2004). Head start in politics: The recruitment function of youth organizations of political parties in Belgium (Flanders). *Party Politics*, 10(2), 193–212.
- Junge Alternative. (2022, April 19). »Die Ökologische Frage« Jonas Schick (»Die Kehre«) zu Gast bei der Jungen Alternative [Video]. YouTube. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oZw0bVRUYEw>
- Knopp, V. (2017). *Die Junge Alternative für Deutschland (JA) in Nordrhein-Westfalen – Rekonstruktion einer parteipolitischen Profilbildung*. Universität Siegen.
- Langer, N. (2021). *Ökologie und die Neue Rechte: Eine Analyse des Magazins "Die Kehre – Zeitschrift für Naturschutz"*. Fachstelle Radikalisierungsprävention und Engagement im Naturschutz (FARN).
- Lenz, J. (2019). Populism and media in Germany: How different newspapers report about the AfD. In *MaRBL* Vol. 1: *Democracy and Resentment: Why are so many people angry nowadays?*
- Lubarda, B., & Forchtner, B. (2022). Far right and environment: Past-present-future. In *Populism and Far Right: Trends in Europe* (pp. 85-113). Milano: EduCATT.
- Manno, J. (2004). Political ideology and conflicting environmental paradigms. *Global Environmental Politics*, 4(3), 155-159. <https://doi.org/10.1162/1526380041748038>
- Margulies, M. (2021). Eco-nationalism: A historical evaluation of nationalist praxes in environmentalist and ecologist movements. *Consilience: The Journal of Sustainable Development*, 23(VI), 6226. <https://doi.org/10.7916/CONSILIENCE.VI23.6226>
- Maurer, M., Kruschinski, S., & Jost, P. (2024). *Fehlt da was? Perspektivenvielfalt in den öffentlich-rechtlichen Nachrichtenformaten*. Institut für Publizistik, Universität Mainz.
- Melissa, A. (2023). Branding the nation in the era of climate crisis: Eco-nationalism and the promotion of green national sovereignty. *OSF Preprints*. <https://doi.org/10.31219/osf.io/sbf74>

- Nurmukhambetova, Z., & Kadyrbekova, D. (2023). Organization of hiking trips in the context of improving patriotic education. 58-64. <https://doi.org/10.59649/2959-5185-2023-1-58-64>
- Olsen, J. (1999). *Nature and nationalism: Right-wing ecology and the politics of identity in contemporary Germany*. Basingstoke: Palgrave.
- Schürmann, L. (2023). The impact of local protests on political elite communication: evidence from Fridays for Future in Germany. *Journal of Elections, Public Opinion and Parties*, 1–21. <https://doi.org/10.1080/17457289.2023.2189729>
- Sloam, J., Pickard, S., & Henn, M. (2022). Young people and environmental activism: The transformation of democratic politics. *Journal of Youth Studies*, 25(6), 683–691. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13676261.2022.2056678>
- Staudenmaier, P. (1996). Fascist ecology: The "Green Wing" of the Nazi Party and its historical antecedents. In *Ecofascism: Lessons from the German Experience* (pp. 5-11).
- Uekötter, F. (2017). *The greenest nation? A new history of German environmentalism*. The MIT Press.
- Yılmazoğlu, M. (2022). Nature as Nation. 15-28. doi: 10.4324/9781003243991-3

7 Annex: Social Media Posts: Title Page and Title Page Translated

Title Page	Title Page Translated*
"Patrioten lieben die Natur"	"Patriots Love Nature"
"Heimat verliebt"	In Love with Homeland
"Wer für Windräder hessischen Urwald rodet, der vergeht sich an der Natur und unserem kulturellen Erbe!"	"Those who clear Hessian primeval forest for wind turbines violate nature and our cultural heritage!"
Jäger sind echte Naturschützer!	
Picture of young adults, hiking with a germany flag	///
Video of Annalena Baerbock stating to vote for the greens on the first of september for the climate with a JA member stating to vote for blue (AfD) for the environments protection.	///
"#Windkraft in NRW Stoppt die Verschandelung von Kulturlandschaften"	"#WindPower in NRW Stop the Disfigurement of Cultural Landscapes"
"Unser Unwort des Jahres: Klimaleugner. *Substantiv, maskulin (der) Eine Person, die sich der staatlich verschriebenen Panikmache nicht verschreibt und einfach bei der CO2-austoßenden Zigarre das warme Wetter genießt."	Our Unword of the Year: Climate Denier. *Noun, masculine (der) A person who does not subscribe to the government-prescribed panic and simply enjoys the warm weather with a CO2-emitting cigar.
"#Fridaysforfarmers Erntehelfer gesucht"	"#Fridaysforfarmers Harvest Helpers Wanted"
"Heimateverbunden statt wurzellos."	Rooted in Homeland instead of Rootless
"Tierschutz statt qualvolles Schächten"	Animal Welfare instead of Cruel Slaughter
"Naturschutz statt Waldrodung und Tiersterben"	Nature Conservation instead of Deforestation and Animal Deaths
"#Brauchtum Mögen die Maibäume stehen!"	"#Tradition May the Maypoles stand!"
"#EndeGelände Schulterchluss zwischen Klimabewegung und Linksradi kalen!"	"#EndoftheRoad Unity between Climate Movement and Left Radicals!"
picture of the back of two girls in a field of rapeseed with tshirts of the JA Brandenburg	///
"Echter Umweltschutz statt ideologischem Klimaschutz"	"Real Environmental Protection instead of ideologic climate protection"
Pictures of 3 male JA members	///
"Klimaziele nur mit Atomenergie erreichbar! Der deutsche Weg der Sackgasse?"	"Climate Goals Achievable Only with Nuclear Energy! Is the German Path a Dead End?"
"Tierschutz statt qualvolles Schlachten"	Animal Welfare instead of Cruel Slaughter
"Tierschutz statt qualvolles Schächten"	Animal Welfare instead of Cruel Slaughter
"Naturschutz statt Waldrodung und Tiersterben"	The current events regardin+F15g the VS (Federal Office for the Protection of the Constitution) observation of our mother party are currently taking over. Especially in these politically wild times, in which our foundation of values is constantly being questioned, it is important that we remember what brought us all

	<p>here: love of our homeland. This is what we stand for every day:</p> <p>The Young Alternative sees itself as a conservative-freedom force whose primary goal is the preservation of our nation and our culture. We stand for the Christian Western values of our country, such as tradition, family, honor and loyalty.</p> <p>These are non-negotiable for us. Freedom, prosperity, security as well as democracy and sovereignty are the cornerstones of our society. We will fight ideologies and supranational organizations that undermine them with the necessary determination. We see ourselves as an essential part of the future of our nation, as it is precisely the youth who will experience this. Your most important right is to shape this future. The love for our country serves as our inspiration and driving force. Defending and maintaining it is the self-image of our patriotism.</p> <p>From these findings we gain the self-confidence to actively engage in political and social shaping. We serve our mother party as a source of renewal and as a source of support against attacks by the VS or any other mainstream authorities.</p> <p>#YoungAlternative #YoungAlternativeBayern #GenerationNation #GenerationDeutschland #AfD #Heimat #Tradition #Heimatschutz #Deutschland #Patrioten #Patriotismus #Freiheit #Freiheitliche #Heimatliebe #Fatherland</p>
"Bezahlbarer Strom statt Energiewende um jeden Preis."	Affordable Electricity instead of Energy Transition at Any Cost
"Ökologie von Rechts, Folge 2, Jonas Schick, mit offenem Visier"	
"Heimateverbunden statt wurzellos."	Rooted in Homeland instead of Rootless
picture of 3 JA party members	///
<p>"EIN PROGRAMM FÜR DIE ZUKUNFT - TEIL 3/5 IMPULSE ZUM BUNDESTAGSWAHLPROGRAMM DER AFD</p> <p>Die Ökologische Frage wird, wenn sie es nicht schon ist, zur elementaren Frage. Nicht nur vor dem Hintergrund der medialen</p>	<p>"A Program for the Future - Part 3/5: Impulses for the AfD's Federal Election Program.</p> <p>The ecological question, if not already, becomes fundamental, especially considering the media's resonance on the theme of nature conservation and</p>

<p>Resonanz des Themas Naturschutz und Ökologie muss sich eine echte Alternative viel grundsätzlicher damit befassen und diesem Feld endlich die Bedeutung beimessen, die ihm gebührt. Unsere aktuelle Wirtschaftsweise zerstört die Natur und unsere Heimat. GANZER BEITRAG AUF BLOG.JA- SACHSEN.DE</p>	<p>ecology. A genuine alternative must fundamentally engage with this issue and attribute to it the importance it deserves. Our current economic system is destructive to nature and our homeland.</p> <p>For the full post, visit BLOG.JA-SACHSEN.DE."</p>
"Alles Gute Robert Habeck!"	"All the Best Robert Habeck!"
"Umweltschutz ist Heimatschutz"	"Environmental Protection is Homeland Protection"
"Für unsere heimische Landwirtschaft"	"For Our Domestic Agriculture"
Picture of party member in a swamp landscape	
Picture of the newspaper "die Kehre" and a chicken"	///
"Patriotische Wanderung bei Nürnberg. Sa., 26.06.-11 Uhr"	Patriotic Hike near Nuremberg. Sat., 26.06.-11 AM
Picture of a woman holding an election campaign sign stating "Local beats global""	///
Stellungnahme zum Bericht des IPCC! "Der Klimawandel ist eine Tatsache, die niemand abstreitet. Wie groß indes der Einfluss des Menschen auf ihn ist, bleibt strittig." Carlo Clements, Bundesvorsitzender JA Deutschland	Statement on the IPCC Report! "Climate change is a fact that no one denies. However, the extent of human influence on it remains disputed." Carlo Clements, Federal Chairman of JA Germany
<p>UNSER PROGRAMM FÜR MV. ERNÄHRUNG SICHERSTELLEN! Unsere Bauern, Fischer und Jäger arbeiten seit Jahrhunderten in und mit der Natur. Sie sind keine Umweltsünder, sondern stellen unsere Ernährung sicher. Dafür gebührt ihnen unsere Wertschätzung. Die Düngeverordnung gefährdet die Wettbewerbsfähigkeit unserer Landwirte. Das Nitratmessstellennetz muss daher repräsentativer gestaltet werden. Landeseigene Gewässer werden wir nur an ortsansässige Fischer verpachten. Fischverarbeitung und -vermarktung wollen wir fördern. ABER MV NORMAL AfD</p>	<p>OUR PROGRAM FOR MV. ENSURING NUTRITION! Our farmers, fishermen, and hunters have been working in and with nature for centuries. They are not environmental sinners but ensure our nutrition. They deserve our appreciation. The fertilizer regulation endangers the competitiveness of our farmers. Therefore, the nitrate measuring network must be made more representative. We will only lease state-owned waters to local fishermen. We want to promote fish processing and marketing.</p>
<p>UNSER PROGRAMM FÜR MV. BEZAHLBARE ENERGIEPREISE! Die explodierenden Strompreise müssen ein Ende haben. Wir brauchen wieder bezahlbare und verlässliche Energie statt der immer schlimmeren Verspargelung unserer schönen</p>	<p>OUR PROGRAM FOR MV. AFFORDABLE ENERGY PRICES! The skyrocketing electricity prices must come to an end. We need affordable and reliable energy again instead of the increasingly worse cluttering of our beautiful landscape. That's why we want to</p>

Landschaft. Deshalb wollen wir das sinnlose und teure Erneuerbare-Energien-Gesetz" abschaffen.	abolish the senseless and expensive Renewable Energy Sources Act."
UNSER PROGRAMM FÜR MV. NATUR SCHÜTZEN UND PFLEGEN! Wir wollen unseren heimischen Artenreichtum erhalten. Zurückkehrenden Arten wie Wolf, Wisent und Elch soll Platz geboten werden. Eine ungehinderte Ausbreitung in die auch vom Menschen genutzte Kulturlandschaft lehnen wir jedoch ab. Unser Wald soll wachsen, deshalb werden wir Aufforstung und Forstwirtschaft mehr Bedeutung beimessen. MVABER NORMAL. AfD	OUR PROGRAM FOR MV. PROTECTING AND MAINTAINING NATURE! We want to preserve our native biodiversity. Returning species such as wolf, bison, and elk should be given space. However, we reject unrestricted expansion into human-used cultural landscapes. Our forest should grow, therefore we will give more importance to reforestation and forestry. MV BUT NORMAL. AfD
UNSER PROGRAMM FÜR MV. WINDKRAFTAUSBAU STOPPEN! Wir wollen nicht, dass es bald nirgendwo mehr einen freien Blick auf unsere Heimat gibt. Deshalb werden wir die 10H-Regelung einführen. Damit sind große Abstände zu Wohnhäusern einzuhalten, und eine weitere Verspargelung unserer Landschaft ist gestoppt. Windräder im Umfeld von Wald- und Schutzgebieten werden wir untersagen, um die Gefährdung von Vögeln und Fledermäusen auszuschließen.	OUR PROGRAM FOR MV. STOP WIND POWER EXPANSION! We don't want there to be no more open views of our homeland anywhere soon. That's why we will introduce the 10H rule. This means large distances to residential buildings must be maintained, and further cluttering of our landscape is halted. We will prohibit wind turbines in the vicinity of forest and protected areas to exclude the endangerment of birds and bats.
"Motorrad statt Elektro-Roller. Deutschland, aber based!"	"Motorcycle instead of Electric Scooter. Germany, but based!"
Blue Deal statt Grean Deal!	Blue Deal instead of a Green Deal!
"Vaterlandsliebe statt Heimathass. Deutschland, aber based!"	"Love for Fatherland instead of Hatred for Homeland. Germany, but based!"
Picture of the newspaper "die Kehre"	///
Picture of young people hiking through a forest	///
picture of a man holding a sign "Keine Zukunft ohne Atomkraft #spührbarmehrKLIMASCHUTZ	picture of a man holding a sign "No Future Without Nuclear Power #FeelMoreCLIMATEPROTECTION"
"Energieversorgung: Ohne Atom in Zukunft kein Strom!"	"Energy Supply: No Electricity in the Future Without Nuclear!"
"Klotzen statt Hüpfen! Klimajugend lehnt Waldprojekt ab – Wir übernehmen gern!"	Bricks instead of Bouncing! Climate Youth Rejects Forest Project – We'll Gladly Take Over!
"Trotz Ukraine-Konflikt: Nord Stream 2 in Betrieb nehmen!"	Despite Ukraine Conflict: Nord Stream 2 to be Put into Operation!
Picture of Castel Neuschwahnstein	///
Picture of a protest to uphold the Reinhard forest	///
Picture of people holding a sign "Märchenwald bleibt! Mythos Wald statt Klimawahn"	Picture of people holding a sign "Enchanted Forest Stays! Myth of Forest instead of Climate Hysteria"
Landwirtschaft, Umwelt- und Verbraucherschutz	Agriculture, environmental protection, and consumer protection.
Vorstellung unseres Wahlprogramms zur Landtagswahl in Schleswig Holstein. Heute: Sichere Kernkraftwerke	Presentation of our election program for the state parliament election in Schleswig-Holstein. Today:

bauen	Building safe power plants!
Vorstellung unseres Wahlprogramms zur Landtagswahl in Schleswig Holstein. Heute: Tiere von unnötigem Leid schützen!	Presentation of our election program for the state parliament election in Schleswig-Holstein. Today: Protecting animals from unnecessary suffering!
"WEIL HEIMAT KEINE UMDEUTUNG BRAUCHT, SONDERN DICH."	"BECAUSE HOMELAND DOESN'T NEED REINTERPRETATION, BUT YOU."
"Klima-Extremisten in die Haftanstalt"	Climate Extremists to Prison
"Du gehst zur grünen Jugend um das "Klima" zu retten... Ich gehe zur Jungen Alternative um Deutschland zu retten. Wir sind nicht gleich!"	You join the Green Youth to 'save the climate'... I join the Young Alternative to save Germany. We are not the same!
Pictures of a group of young hikers	///
Picture of Young adults hiking in the mountains	///
Picture of Lake in mountains	///
"HEIMAT IM RECHTEN ROMAN 10.12.2022 Lesung mit Buchautor Volker Zierke in Memmingen"	HOMELAND IN THE RIGHT-WING NOVEL 10.12.2022 Reading with author Volker Zierke in Memmingen YOUNG ALTERNATIVE BAVARIA
"Wie rechte für Naturschutz demonstrieren" vs "Wie Linke für Naturschutz demonstrieren"	"How rightists protest for nature protection" vs "How leftists protest for nature protection"
"ARTENSCHUTZ: Heimische Raubkatzen in Gefahr!"	"SPECIES PROTECTION: Indigenous Big Cats in Danger!"
jungealternative-Isa.de 03. Juni 23 HISTORISCHE SAALE-UNSTRUT WANDERUNG Das Geheimnis des Vorwärtkommens besteht darin, den ersten Schritt zu tun.	jungealternative-Isa.de June 03, 23 HISTORICAL SAALE-UNSTRUT HIKE The secret of progress is to take the first step.
"Die Klima-Sekte "Letzte Generation" blockiert Deutschland! Ich stehe für die nächste Generation. Wir bewegen Deutschland! Jurij Kofner, Landtag Listenplatz 23, Oberbayern.	"The climate sect 'Last Generation' is blocking Germany! I stand for the next generation. We are moving Germany forward! Jurij Kofner, State Parliament Candidate, List Position 23, Upper Bavaria."
"50KM-Wanderung durch die Börde 30.09.2023"	50KM Hike through the Börde 30.09.2023
Pictures with banner on the highway staing "Klimakleber in den Knast"	Pictures with banner on the highway staing "Klimakleber (Climate activists glue themselves to streets to raise awareness of climate change) into prison"
"50 km Wanderung, Junge Alternative Sachsen-anhalt "	50 km Hike, Young Alternative Saxony-Anhalt
Picture of young people cleaning a monument	///
"Regional statt Global. Rettet unsere Bauern!"	"Regional instead of Global. Save Our Farmers!"
"OHNE TRAUBEN, KEIN WEIN! SOLIDARITÄT MIT ALLEN WINZERN, WIR SIND DABEI!"	"NO GRAPES, NO WINE! SOLIDARITY WITH ALL WINEMAKERS, WE ARE WITH YOU!"
"OHNE PROTEINE, KEINE MUSKELN! SOLIDARITÄT MIT ALLEN LANDWIRTEN, WIR SIND DABEI! EIN BAUER, TROTZDEM SAUER? WIR LEISTEN TÄGLICH WIDERSTAND JETZT MITGLIED WERDEN!"	"NO PROTEINS, NO MUSCLES! SOLIDARITY WITH ALL FARMERS, WE ARE WITH YOU! NOT A FARMER, STILL MAD? WE RESIST DAILY, JOIN NOW!"

<p>"FRÜHJAHR'S WANDERUNG ANMELDUNG UNTER: POSTSTELLE@JUNGEALTERNATIVE.BAYERN SAMSTAG, 09. MÄRZ UM 10:00 UHR NÄHE HERSBRUCK"</p>	<p>SPRING HIKE REGISTRATION UNDER: POSTSTELLE@JUNGEALTERNATIVE.BAYERN SATURDAY, MARCH 09 AT 10:00 AM NEAR HERSBRUCK YOUNG ALTERNATIVE BAVARIA</p>
<p>"WIR STEHEN ZUM SCHUTZ VON KULTURLANDSCHAFT UND UMWELT. Unser Heimatbegriff bezieht sich nicht nur auf die deutsche Nation, sondern ganz konkret auf unsere Natur: die tiefen Wälder der Mittelge- birge, die Flusstäler von Rhein, Elbe und Donau, die Hochgebirge im Süden und das Wattenmeer im Norden. Die kargen Böden und rohstoffarmen Gebirge spornten Fleiß und Erfindergeist der Deutschen an. Lange, dunkle Winter förderten die deutsche Innerlichkeit und Seelentiefe. Die Altparteien sprechen gerne davon, Ökonomie und Ökologie miteinan- der zu versöhnen. Doch im Ergebnis treibt die ökologische Agenda wirtschaftliche Gesichtspunkte bloß vor sich her und verengt sich selbst einseitig auf den sog. Klimaschutz. Von Umweltschutz dagegen ist in der öffentlichen Debatte kaum noch die Rede. Tatsächlich stehen sich beide teilweise diametral entgegen: Umweltschutz ist konkret und regional, Klimaschutz abstrakt und global."</p>	<p>"WE STAND FOR THE PROTECTION OF CULTURAL LANDSCAPE AND ENVIRONMENT. Our concept of home does not only refer to the German nation, but specifically to our nature: the deep forests of the Mittelgebirge, the river valleys of the Rhine, Elbe, and Danube, the mountain ranges in the south, and the Wadden Sea in the north. The barren soils and resource- poor mountains spurred the diligence and ingenuity of the Germans. Long, dark winters fostered German introspection and depth of soul. The established parties like to talk about reconciling economy and ecology. But in practice, the ecological agenda merely pushes economic considerations ahead and narrows itself unilaterally to the so-called climate protection. Environmental protection, on the other hand, is hardly discussed in public debate anymore. In fact, both sometimes stand diametrically opposed: Environmental protection is concrete and regional, climate protection abstract and global."</p>

*translated by Maren von Schwiderski, the author of this thesis