
WHO WANTS TO BE A SOLDIER? GERMANY GRAPPLES WITH FAR-RIGHT EXTREMISM IN ITS RANKS

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05.03.2021

Politico (5 March 2021)

By James Angelos

In many nations around the world, those who serve their country in uniform are honored with parades and adulated as heroes. Not so in Germany.

In a country where any semblance of militarism calls to mind the Nazi past, the notion of a German soldier raising a gun in a foreign land remains for many uniquely abhorrent.

Thats why, when Germanys elite commando force, the Kommando Spezialkräfte(KSK), was established 25 years ago, many Germans were apprehensive. But following a humiliating incident during the Rwandan civil war □ when a group of German citizens became stranded amid heavy fighting and had to be rescued by Belgian paratroopers □□□□ then conservative government had reasoned that Germany could not continue to lean almost entirely on its NATO allies for many aspects of its security.

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