
GERMANY'S MERZ RIPS INTO HIS RIVALS - BUT MIGHT HAVE TO WORK WITH THEM SOON

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By James Angelos

Friedrich Merz took another step toward becoming German chancellor on Monday □ while launching some scathing attacks on the very people with whom he will likely have to govern.

As the conservative leader lined up with most of Germanys lawmakers in a vote of no confidence in the countrys beleaguered current chancellor, Olaf Scholz, Merz accused the heads of the center-left Social Democratic Party (SPD) and the Greens of having humiliated the country and caused its economic decline.

The heated and largely inward-looking parliamentary debate preceding the vote □ the SPD and the Greens are in government now and could be future coalition partners for Merz as well □ suggested the next coalition may be as contentious and ideologically incompatible as the one that just fell.

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