
FORMER GDR COMMUNISTS TAKE POWER IN GERMAN STATE

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04.11.2014

05.11.2014

EuroNews

Germany's far-left Die Linke party, heir to the communist-era Socialist Unity Party (SED) of East Germany (GDR) is set to take charge of a regional government for the first time following coalition talks.

Leader Bodo Ramelow is to be appointed as federal state prime minister in Thuringia.

The party has participated in regional coalitions in the former East German states, but only as a junior partner.

Critics shun Die-Linke for its communist links and the presence in its ranks of former members of the Stasi, the GDR's security police.

Die-Linke is considered a political pariah by Angela Merkel's CDU.

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