Twitter Thread by Cas Mudde ■



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This is an absolutely excellent article by @TobiasBuckFT on the decline of the German Social Democrats with ramifications for SD parties throughout Western Europe. Some quick thought. #thread

1. I still think it buys a little bit too much into the packaging excuse. In essence, it is not about "charismatic leader" or "we didn't tell our story well enough", it is about not having a convincing story!

2. What is making Social Democratic parties irrelevant throughout Europe is not a lack of personnel or policies, but of ideology!

3. Only after Social Democrats have reinvented social democracy for the 21st century, as a modern(ized) left-wing ideology), not a blitzy packaged collection of slogans or a weak verion of right-wing policies, can they win voters (back).

4. But even then it has to accept that it lives in a different time, in which true social democratic values are no longer obvious or even popular.

5. Consequently, the electoral resurgence of Social Democratic parties have to be preceded, and accompanied, by a "cultural revolution" initiated by non-party groups, deeply rooted in societies and sucultures.

6. Most accounts on the decline of Social Democratic parties also implicitly assume that European populations are white. This is, obviously, still in majority the case, but "non-white" groups are becoming an ever larger part of the electorate.

7. In past decade(s), "immigrants" have played a major role in stopping, or at least slowing down, the decline of Social Democratic parties in cities. I assume many have shifted to centrist and Green parties in recent years (or non-votes).

8. The growing group of "immigrants" are, or should be, as much the future of Social Democratic parties as the decline group of white workers, particularly now most mainstream right parties have made a nativist turn.

9. The decline of Social Democratic parties is primarily about the decline of the white working class, but there is much more to it, including the non-white working class and the white middle class, which rarely gets mentioned.

10. I am happy that Social Democratic parties and ideology are getting (somewhat) more attention again in academia, among others by @SLdeLange and @tabouchadi , and hope many more will follow and move beyond simplistic "immigration realism" solution. #TheEnd