

Under the discerning eye of Alexandre Adler

Angela Merkel



In Since the re-foundation of a German state in 1949, public opinion has become accustomed to the local practice of burying leading politicians with a mountain of flowers, that will insist on the notorious qualities of the various leaders involved from Conrad Adenauer to his successors, Brandt, Schmidt, Kohl and even now Schröder, whose achievements on the economic field are now constantly and favourably reassessed.

But this reading may prove itself misleading: irrespective of these favourable comments, German public opinion has nevertheless showed adamant in expelling, when the time comes, these very leaders whose accomplishments she extolled. That might very well be the case again with Angela Merkel whose achievements are popularly undisputed but whose fate seems more or less doomed but her current lack of credence on the present German political issues.

If the worse has been avoided by the approval by the social democrats of a new stint of coalition with the conservatives of CDU, it remains to be seen if Angela Merkel herself can survive the conclusion of a new agreement. No doubt the social democrats are bent on renewing their partnership in the coalition, but with entirely new personalities, presumably more feminine and more oriented to the left. But that evolution authorizes all the more a parallel move on the conservative side: Angela Merkel should maybe withdraw to the favour of her so far excepted successor, the current defence minister, Ursula Von der Leyen.

Although close to the Chancellor so far, miss Von der Leyen has also proven herself to be amenable to new openings on the right, by diminishing the following of a nationalist anti-European AFD, whose success seems anyhow precarious for the future. That evolution would also surge the nagging critics of a Bavarian wing, the CSU, at a time where the representation of “the cousins” have become slightly superior to the numbers of a CDU MP’s proper.

These developments show certainly that the current instability of German politics is about to last for the predictable future, and also that the grand coalition although rescued for the moment, could be replaced by a new polarity in the future. Nothing of this, obviously, does presage so well for the Macron strategy of enhancing the role of a boosted united Europe bathed on a Franco-German permanent understanding.

Alexandre Adler

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