Simulation – Coalition Building, Germany

After reading and studying the German party system, we will attempt to simulate it in class. Students will be assigned to one of the German Parties listed below as represented following the 2017 elections:

* Christian Democratic Union (CDU) – 200 seats in the Bundestag
* Social Democrats (SPD) – 153 seats
* The Alternative (AfD) – 94 seats
* Free Democrats (FDP) – 80 seats
* The Left (Left) – 69 seats
* The Greens (Green) – 67 seats
* Christian Social Union (CSU) – 46 seats

Once you have your party assignment, you are free to meet and discuss the issues presented to you. You also are then able to discuss with other parties and attempt to create a coalition. The point is to create a majority (355 seats) and then attempt to get as many points as possible for the issues your party finds important. The simulation will end when two or more parties, making up a majority of seats, reach an agreement on all of the issues on your sheet.

**To win:**

You will add up your game points given on issues that were passed, along with any bonus points. Counting both positive and negative points, every 6 game points your party earns gets you all **one extra credit point on the final.** The points you will receive per issue for each party is listed on your individual sheet.

**Bonus Points:**

1. The largest party in the coalition gets 8 game points; any other parties in the coalition get 6 points.
2. If the AfD are in the government, every opposition party loses 2 points.
3. If the CDU or the CSU joins a government **without** the other, both lose 3 points

**Special Rules:**

1. Party Organizations
   1. AfD, CDU, CSU, FDP, Left need to elect a Chairperson by majority at some point; that person should listen to their party members but they get to make final decisions on coalitions as they see fit.
   2. SPD needs to take a vote before approving any deal, must be a majority
   3. Greens need to take a vote before approving any deal, must be unanimous
2. If no majority coalition is reached by the end of the simulation time, we simply work out the results of party line votes and nobody gets bonus points for being in government.