

Germany: Farmer's Agitation

January 13, 2024

January 13, 2024: **Berlin, Germany:** Germany's Chancellor said in a video message that **“we took the farmers' arguments to heart”** and insisted the government came up with **“a good compromise,”** though farmers continue to insist on fully reversing the subsidy cuts. He warned of **extremists stoking rage as farmers protest** and called for calm and a readiness to accept compromises.

“Arguments belong to democracy,” Scholz said. **“But I know, including from personal experience of recent months, that arguments can wear people down and stoke uncertainty. We must improve this year”**



Olaf Scholz, (b. 14 June 1958) Chancellor of Germany (from 8 December 2021)

Vice Chancellor of Germany (14 March 2018 – 8 December 2021)

Minister of Finance (14 March 2018 – 8 December 2021)

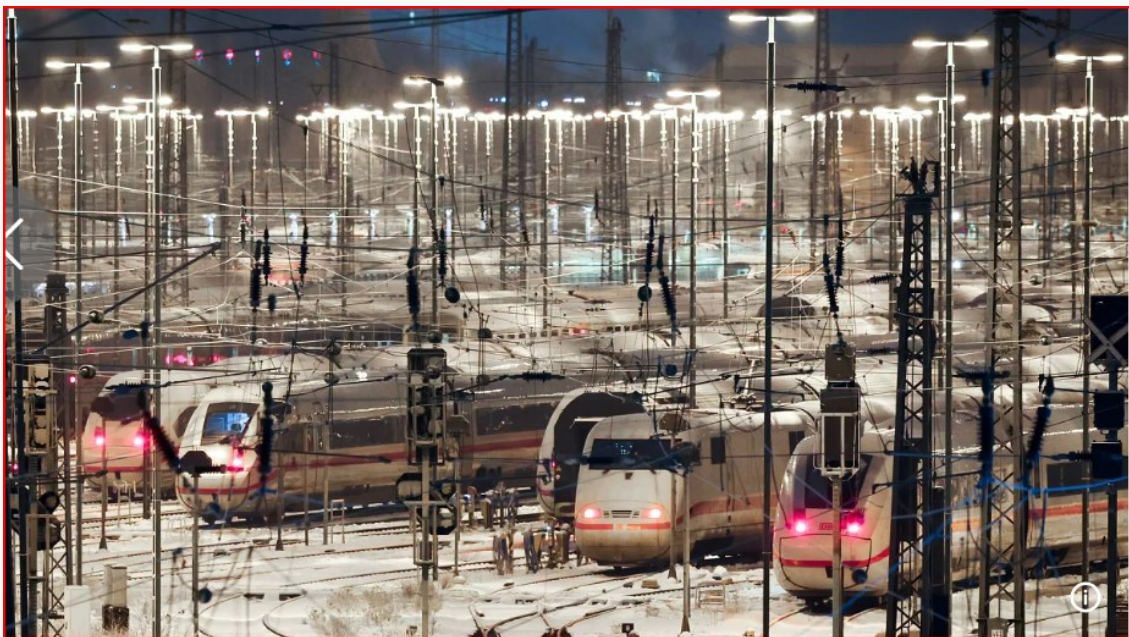
First Mayor of Hamburg (7 March 2011 – 13 March 2018)

Ukraine war and the Israel-Hamas wars have caused inflation all over the world. This has also led to a large deficit in the budget of Germany. Therefore, the Scholl's Government decided to scrap the subsidy cuts for fuel usage by farmers and tax breaks for farming vehicles, against which the farmers are protesting.

The center-left Scholz's three-party government, including Scholz's party **Social Democratic Party**, suffers from frequent public squabbles. This has led to dissatisfaction with the Government.

The protests have caused nationwide disruption, with farmers blocking major roads and snarling traffic across the country with their tractors. **The German Farmers' Association (DBV)** has called for a general strike, which has disrupted movement of trains. The farmers enjoyed support for their cause from road freight companies who are against a proposed increase in truck tolls.

The far-right **Alternative for Germany** party has gained strength over the past year and is currently in second place in national polls, with support of over 20% — behind the mainstream center-right opposition bloc but ahead of the parties in Scholz's coalition. Germany faces European Parliament elections in June 2024 and three state elections in September 2024 in the formerly communist East, where **Alternative for Germany** is particularly strong.



January 10, 2024: German Train DRIVERS on Strike

The state premier of Germany's most populous state **North Rhine-Westphalia, Hendrik Wüst**, has expressed understanding for the protests but urged farmers to stay within the law. Wüst said it was important that burdens were distributed "fairly" across all sectors and not placed disproportionately on one social group.
