

FOCUS 5 – INTERVIEWS

What do you think about somebody showing a flag in public?

Gerald (42): ...Well, somebody showing a German flag in public, it depends. I would be very proud and glad of it if it would be on the third of October. I miss some flags there, and in general for soccer games for instance I think it is OK. But it's a bit ridiculous in gardens in front of your home; I saw that in Denmark a lot, I think that's kind of silly...

Xin (56): I'm very happy because the Germans can finally be happy to show their own nationality. Especially during the soccer world cup it was fantastic. There was so much joy and everybody was happy, and they could all wave flags, and the people were happy, and I was super happy too. That summer was extraordinarily great...

Tobias (45): I feel the same when I see somebody showing an Italian or a French flag or a German flag, they should be free to display it, but it doesn't touch me at all. The showing of a flag is not the point. But if it's connected with the attitude to rise over somebody, to show superiority over somebody else, I think it's very problematic. And in this case it doesn't matter whose flag it is. But if it's just about showing togetherness, a common feeling, a common idea or just a regional relationship it's totally ok.

Monika Marie (41): ...I still feel uncomfortable seeing somebody raising the German flag.

Gregor (29): Immediately I would ask myself, why is he doing it? But I wouldn't consider it completely negative right from the beginning... because the motive for why somebody is doing it is always important, e.g. soccer. In this area if it's for the team, the national team, that's OK. If somebody would just do it without a particular reason, I would think if you are happy with it, do it. But if it's more of a nationalist direction, I dislike it.



Ulrich (78): I don't get upset about it, but it always reminds of the past and I find the flag symbolism in church and state very questionable...

Nora (28): Well, it was 2006 when everybody started thinking it would be normal to show German flags, and there is nothing really wrong about it. It's a symbol, and it depends on what the symbol means. So, let people do what they want to do, but I do have to admit that there is a feeling of rejection growing in me, when I see a German flag. I would most definitely find someone less sympathetic knowing that he has a German flag at home and puts it up in his garden or even worse on his car or I don't know where. I would presume that we don't share the same values. And even for big sports events it's strange to me even today and I think it will continue to be strange to me until the end of my life. But actually when you step back and when you try to look at it objectively, or if you exchange our German flags with Brazilian ones or with any other country's flags, I wouldn't have a problem with it at all. So I guess I don't really have a problem with it, but it just seems strange to me.

Daniel S (44): Got used to it. As a result of the soccer world cup in 2006, our little world changed.... So the flag waving issue simply doesn't feel so strange anymore. Of course it depends on the occasion, but with sports... I don't see a problem anymore.



Nina (43): It depends. For example, when we hosted the World Cup in soccer, I think it was OK for Germans waving the German flag, because it showed that everybody was happy having this big soccer party. But, whenever I see somebody waving a flag and standing on a balcony... I would say, "Wow! He might be a kind of national socialist," or something like that. So immediately I think I don't like that and I don't like him. Actually it's like a feeling being deeply rooted inside myself...