

Radical right-wing populism in Europe

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Learning outcomes

By the end of this term, you should have a clear understanding of what populist radical right parties are, and why support for them has grown over the last three decades. You should also know how the rise of the radical right has played out in various European countries.

Your obligations

I expect you to come to class well prepared. If you don't read the assigned texts, participation is pointless. I also expect you to participate in class discussions and other activities.

Learning tools and contact

Moodle

You will find all readings as well as my presentations on our course's Moodle. Please check your Moodle messages regularly, or have them forwarded to your university email account.

Contact

My email is <mailto:arzheimer@politik.uni-mainz.de>. My office hours are normally on Wednesday from 12-1pm. Please book an appointment at <https://sprechstunde.kai-arzheimer.com/>. For your appointment. You can either see me in person, or we can meet online via BigBlueButton <https://bbb.rlp.net/b/arz-bs0-ckv-sjc> or speak on the phone. Just let me know your preferences when you book the appointment.

Outline

Date	Topic	Readings
18.04.2024	Introduction & central concepts	Mudde (2007)
25.04.2024	The Extreme Right before 1980	Prowe (1994); background: Blinkhorn (2000, pp. 8-88)
02.05.2024	The New Right	Rydgren (2005); background: Lange (2007) and Vasilopoulou (2011)
16.05.2024	Why do people vote for them?	Arzheimer (2018)
23.05.2024	France & Belgium	Mayer (2018); Holsteyn (2018)
06.06.2024	Italy/Austria	Ruzza (2018) Backes (2018)
13.06.2024	Scandinavia/Germany	Widfeldt (2018); Backes (2018)
20.06.2024	Netherlands/Great Britain	Holsteyn (2018); Goodwin and Dennison (2018)
27.06.2024	Greece/Switzerland	Ruzza (2018); Backes (2018)

Date	Topic	Readings
04.07.2024	Eastern Europe/Iberia	Bustikova (2018); Ruzza (2018)
11.07.2024	The populist radical right in government	background: Bichay (2022, 2023)
18.07.2024	Summary and reflection	

Readings

Introductory texts

The introductory chapter of Mudde's 2007 book is a required reading, but I would like to urge you to go back to it over the course of this term at least a couple of times. It will help you to gain a better understanding. (Mudde, 2019) is an excellent introduction aimed at a general audience that covers many current developments.

The introduction to the Oxford Handbook of the Radical Right (Rydgren, 2018) is a great starting point for getting a high-level overview of the field. Other chapters in the Handbook provide introductions and literature reviews for issues that we cannot address in detail in this course. On campus or using the JGU VPN, you can access the full Handbook online.

Mudde, Cas (2007). *Populist Radical Right Parties in Europe*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

– (2019). *The Far Right Today*. Cambridge: Polity Press.

Rydgren, Jens (2018). "The Radical Right: An Introduction." In: *The Oxford Handbook of the Radical Right*. Ed. by Jens Rydgren. Oxford University Press, pp. 1–13.

Assigned texts and background

For the first three weeks, there are assigned texts that you need to read — otherwise you will not be able to follow the lectures. You should also aim to read as much of the background literature as you can.

For the six weeks in which we study country examples, I have assigned the relevant case studies (country chapters) from the Handbook, as they provide relevant information for the respective lectures and are often excellent starting points for your essays. Bonus: some of them cover several countries, so you need to read them only once.

Finally the two articles by (Bichay, 2022, 2023) use demanding statistical methods with which you may be unfamiliar, so I have put them into the "background" category. However, they are otherwise quite accessible, and you should try to get as much as possible out of them.

Arzheimer, Kai (2018). "Explaining Electoral Support for the Radical Right." In: *The Oxford Handbook of the Radical Right*. Ed. by Jens Rydgren. Oxford University Press, pp. 143–165. doi: 10.1093/oxfordhb/9780190274559.013.8.

Backes, Uwe (2018). "The Radical Right in Germany, Austria, and Switzerland." In: *The Oxford Handbook of the Radical Right*. Ed. by Jens Rydgren. Oxford University Press, pp. 452–477.

Bichay, Nicolas (2022). "Populist Radical-Right Junior Coalition Partners and Liberal Democracy in Europe." In: *Party Politics*, online first. doi: 10.1177/13540688221144698.

– (2023). "Come Together: Far-Right Parties and Mainstream Coalitions." In: *Government and Opposition*, pp. 1–22. doi: 10.1017/gov.2023.5.

Blinkhorn, Martin (2000). *Fascism and the Right in Europe, 1919-1945*. Harlow: Pearson.

Bustikova, Lenka (2018). "The Radical Right in Eastern Europe." In: *The Oxford Handbook of the Radical Right*. Ed. by Jens Rydgren. Oxford University Press, pp. 565–581.

Goodwin, Matthew J. and James Dennison (2018). "The Radical Right in the United Kingdom." In: *The Oxford Handbook of the Radical Right*. Ed. by Jens Rydgren. Oxford University Press, pp. 521–544.

Holsteyn, Joop J. M. van (2018). "The Radical Right in Belgium and the Netherlands." In: *The Oxford Handbook of the Radical Right*. Ed. by Jens Rydgren. Oxford University Press, pp. 478–504.

- Lange, Sarah L. de (2007). "A New Winning Formula?: The Programmatic Appeal of the Radical Right." In: *Party Politics* 13.4, pp. 411–435. DOI: 10.1177/1354068807075943.
- Mayer, Nonna (2018). "The Radical Right in France." In: *The Oxford Handbook of the Radical Right*. Ed. by Jens Rydgren. Oxford University Press, pp. 433–451.
- Mudde, Cas (2007). *Populist Radical Right Parties in Europe*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Prowe, Diethelm (1994). "'Classic' Fascism and the New Radical Right in Western Europe: Comparisons and Contrasts." In: *Contemporary European History* 3.3, pp. 289–313.
- Ruzza, Carlo (2018). "The Radical Right in Southern Europe." In: *The Oxford Handbook of the Radical Right*. Ed. by Jens Rydgren. Oxford University Press, pp. 505–520.
- Rydgren, Jens (2005). "Is Extreme Right-Wing Populism Contagious? Explaining the Emergence of a New Party Family." In: *European Journal of Political Research* 44, pp. 413–437.
- Vasilopoulou, Sofia (2011). "European Ingegration and the Radical Right. Three Patterns of Opposition." In: *Government and Opposition* 46.2, pp. 223–244.
- Widfeldt, Anders (2018). "The Radical Right in the Nordic Countries." In: *The Oxford Handbook of the Radical Right*. Ed. by Jens Rydgren. Oxford University Press, pp. 545–564.

Assessment

1. Assessment is based on your essay (32 000-48 000 characters for BA students, 40 000-60 000 characters for MA students). Your essay title/topic *must* be chosen from the list below
2. Plagiarism is the most serious academic offence. It is both morally and legally a form of fraud and will not be tolerated. Students who cheat in this way will be awarded a mark of zero and referred to the Dean of Studies.
3. Essays must be entirely students' own work, and any passages from the work of others that are *quoted directly, or paraphrased or summarised*, must be acknowledged and accompanied by full references.
4. Internet content that is not from scientific books or journals may be used as a *source* (e.g. party manifestos, speeches, newspaper articles), but that is a entirely different from research literature. If you use such material from the internet, you must give the full URL and the date on which the website was accessed.
5. Essays must be typed on a computer. They must include an introduction and a bibliography (list of references) that adheres to the usual bibliographic standards. The American Political Science Association's style manual (<https://connect.apsanet.org/stylemanual/>) is a useful but somewhat verbose guide. You will find the most important information on pages 37-50 of the linked PDF file.
6. For German speaking students: there is no difference between an essay and a *Hausarbeit*

Essay titles

- Is the Radical Populist Right after 1980 really completely different from the old, interwar right?
- Why was there no successful Radical Rightwing Populist Party in Spain or Portugal? Why are VOX and Chega so successful all of the sudden?
- Why was the VB in Flanders so much more successful than the NF/D\`{e}mocratie Nationale in Walloon?
- Is the AfD a Radical Rightwing Populist Party?
- Was there ever a chance to stop the rise of the Austrian FPÖ?
- How does/did UKIP fit into the Radical Rightwing Populist party family?
- How does the Swiss SVP fit into the Radical Rightwing Populist party family?

- Does PiS fit in to the Radical Rightwing Populist party family?
- Is populism a necessary condition for Radical Right-Wing success?
- Has the FN really changed under Marine Le Pen? If yes, how?
- How can we explain what happened in the Netherlands over the last 25 years?
- How does Fratelli d'Italia fit into the Radical Rightwing Populist party family?