

SOURCES

Sheet 1

Cas Mudde and Cristóbal Rovira Kaltwasser *Populism: A Very Short Introduction*, Oxford University Press, 2017.

Populism is a central concept in the current media debates about politics and elections. However, like most political buzzwords, the term often floats from one meaning to another, and both social scientists and journalists use it to denote diverse phenomena. What is populism really? Who are the populist leaders? And what is the relationship between populism and democracy? This book answers these questions in a simple and persuasive way, offering a swift guide to populism in theory and practice. Cas Mudde and Cristóbal Rovira Kaltwasser present populism as an ideology that divides society into two antagonistic camps, the 'pure people' versus the 'corrupt elite,' and that privileges the general will of the people above all else. They illustrate the practical power of this ideology through a survey of representative populist movements of the modern era: European right-wing parties, left-wing presidents in Latin America, and the Tea Party movement in the United States. The authors delve into the ambivalent personalities of charismatic populist leaders such as Juan Domingo Perón, H. Ross Perot, Jean-Marie le Pen, Silvio Berlusconi, and Hugo Chávez. If the strong male leader embodies the mainstream form of populism, many resolute women, such as Eva Perón, Pauline Hanson, and Sarah Palin, have also succeeded in building a populist status, often by exploiting gendered notions of society. Although populism is ultimately part of democracy, populist movements constitute an increasing challenge to democratic politics. Comparing political trends across different countries, this compelling book debates what the long-term consequences of this challenge could be, as it turns the spotlight on the bewildering effect of populism on today's political and social life.

Jan-Werner Müller, *What is populism?* Penguin Books, London 2017.

From Donald Trump to Recep Erdogan, populists are on the rise across the globe. But what exactly is populism? Should everyone who criticizes Wall Street or Washington be called a populist? What precisely is the difference between right-wing and left-wing populism? Does populism bring government closer to the people or is it a threat to democracy? Who are "the people" anyway and who can speak in their name? These questions have never been more pressing. In this provocative book, Jan-Werner Müller argues that at populism's core is a rejection of pluralism. Populists will always claim that they and they alone represent the people and their true interests. Contrary to conventional wisdom, populists can govern on the basis of their claim to exclusive moral representation of the people: if populists have enough power, they will end up creating an authoritarian state that excludes all those not considered part of the proper "people". Proposing a number of concrete strategies for how liberal democrats should best deal with populists, Müller shows how to counter their claims to speak exclusively for "the silent majority".

Both books are in the Carleton Library.

SOURCES

Sheet 2

The English newspaper **The Guardian** is a mine of information on populism in Europe. Their website has no paywall and is ALWAYS FREE.

www.theguardian.com and enter “populism” OR “Mudde” in the newspaper’s own search box. Cas Mudde (see above, sheet 1) writes frequently for The Guardian.

Example: **‘We the people’: the battle to define populism**

<https://www.theguardian.com/news/2019/jan/10/we-the-people-the-battle-to-define-populism>

People’s Party of Canada:

<https://www.peoplespartyofcanada.ca/platform>

[https://www.hilltimes.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/013019 ht.pdf?uid=14,157&utm_source=pdf_issue&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=20190130&utm_source=Subscriber++++Hill+Times+Publishing&utm_campaign=61cb4dca99-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2019_01_30_08_00&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_8edecd9364-61cb4dca99-90759805&mc_cid=61cb4dca99&mc_eid=240481170c](https://www.hilltimes.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/013019_ht.pdf?uid=14,157&utm_source=pdf_issue&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=20190130&utm_source=Subscriber++++Hill+Times+Publishing&utm_campaign=61cb4dca99-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2019_01_30_08_00&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_8edecd9364-61cb4dca99-90759805&mc_cid=61cb4dca99&mc_eid=240481170c)

Brexit Party

<https://www.thebrexitparty.org/policy-platform/>

UKIP

<https://www.ukip.org/> ; <https://www.ukip.org/ukip-manifesto.php>; some individual sections of the manifesto demonstrate the populist and nativist side of the party, e.g. “Brexit”, “British Culture”, “Immigration”, “Crime and Justice”.