

## **Bibliographic note**

Putensen, J., 2019. *Fortress Europe? Evaluation of Ideas for the Future of the EU*. Master's thesis. Charles University, Prague.

## **Abstract**

This thesis explores the use of the symbolic term Fortress Europe by political parties and movements in Austria, Germany, and Italy who are in favor of establishing a Fortress Europe and their ideas for what a Fortress Europe should look like. While the use of the term by left-wing critics of European immigration policies has been well covered in the literature, no author has yet analyzed the use of the term by political parties and movements that have started to demand a Fortress Europe since 2015. Based on an analysis of the appearance of the term Fortress Europe in European media coverage conducted via the Factiva database, three countries with a relatively high use of the term in their media were selected for in-depth case studies. In particular, the ideas of the following three extreme right groups were analyzed and compared: the Identitarian Movement Austria (IBÖ), the National Democratic Party of Germany (NPD), and Fortezza Europa (literal translation from Italian: Fortress Europe). It was found that their visions of a Fortress Europe are very similar and aim to prevent any type of foreign immigration on a large scale in order to preserve the ethnic and cultural identities of European nations. The extreme right vision of Fortress Europe is still far away from the status quo of current EU immigration and border protection policies, which on the other hand are already labeled by left-wing critics as being Fortress Europe. This discrepancy is potentially dangerous and calls for a more sensitive use of the term because it could mislead parts of the electorate into sympathizing with the symbolic term Fortress Europe without realizing the extreme right vision that is hidden behind it.

## **Keywords**

European Union, immigration, border-hardening, Fortress Europe, Austria, Germany, Italy