

Abstract

Thesis title: **Contemporary populism in Europe**

This thesis maps the development of populism across Europe and investigates its manifestations and core elements in its complexity, which is the groundwork for analysis of populist party, movement or individual. Populism is not considered solely as the relieving strategy meant to maximize the voter's votes by comprehensible, straightforward and hardly feasible promises. Without this attitude in mind, we would hardly be able to put some reason behind the populist boom, which we had chance to witness during the last decade.

Therefore this thesis considers populism as the ideological construct, the way politicians present themselves, the rhetorics, the mastered political style or the structure, which provides the foundations of programme documents of political movements and parties. It would be a mistake to a priori consider it as some kind of purely negative phenomenon, but more of as the reflection of various and continuously changing demands of European electorates. Desperation, which mainstream parties evoke in their voters, is toxic and continues to spread across all society classes. This creates a space for various populists to dominate. Thus while tracking their activities, specific kind of critical thinking is necessary, because populists undoubtedly played a significant role, continue to do that and will persevere.

Study of manifestations of contemporary European populism views the phenomenon by looking into the parliamentary benches of the European parliament and the author compares on the grounds of each European parliament political group. Last European election took place a year ago in May. Year 2019 will be forever remembered in the history of European integration as the year, in which most eurosceptic and populist European parliament was conceived. These populists come from very all parts of political spectrum.

It's obvious that none of the established, all the more so newly founded, groups in the European parliament are immune to expansionist tendencies of populist practices. In every one of them they take different forms and manifestations – we could say very individually. How? That will be the concern of this thesis.