

The thesis “Origin and development of the Vlaams Blok - Vlaams Belang. Extreme right-wing or populist party.” deals with a Belgian political party Vlaams Blok/Vlaams Belang, which has been often accused of right-wing extremism. That was the main reason behind the dissolution of the Vlaams Blok in 2004 by the verdict of Ghent, but it was soon substituted by a similar political party Vlaams Belang, which has an identical program and leadership. VB’s primary goal remains the division of the country, mainly because Flanders, the richer part of Belgium, are feeling that the poorer part of the country (Valonia) are holding them back. Another reason behind the fight for division is the language differences. The party often uses the division of Czechoslovakia as a reference. Even though VB has a constantly growing base of supporters, the traditional parties refuse to accept it into a dialogue or share the ruling of the country with it. Paradoxically, this can turn out to be a helpful act for VB, as it might turn the party into a sort of a martyr in the eyes of the public. More than that, those who voted for VB, might become angry, because the party they voted for cannot officially take part in ruling the country. Thus, VB is gaining more and more popularity among general people, mostly because of their immigration policies and requests for stronger security. The unifying element in Belgium and the main reason why is the country holding together is the personality of the ruler and also the major opinion of general public, both Walloon or Flemish. This paper examines the party of Vlaams Blok and its successor Vlaams Belang. It reveals the political program of the party and its success, while trying to illustrate why is the party constantly getting more popular. The paper will also reach a conclusion, if the party can be called extreme right-wing or populist. I will be using an abbreviation VB for both names Vlaams Blok and Vlaams Belang, which comes from the original name of both parties.