

Abstract

The main motivation of this master thesis is to clarify the normative relation between populism and liberal democracy. The task is not to express a normative statement about populism or liberal democracy, but only to explain the relation between those two concepts. Very common topic about populism is the question if populism represents a corrective or a threat to liberal democracy. The procedure in this thesis is quite straightforward. First of all, the reader will learn about the phenomenon of populism, a part of its history and the reasons why is populism coined as a contested concept. After, there is a clarification of populism for the context of this thesis and a choice of the most useful method that will help us achieve the final goal. As a follow-up, the reader learns more general information about populism. The intent is to explain concepts and goals that are most associated with populism. These include, for example, the people, the elite, the leader, or direct democracy. After clarifying populism and how we approach it, we will shift our focus onto liberal democracy. Here we will proceed in similar way as in the case of populism. As soon as we introduce everything necessary to grasp the idea of liberal democracy, we will deal with the goal of this thesis. The last chapter focuses on clarifying the normative relation between populism and liberal democracy. Last but not least, the thesis offers a brief account of the relation between populism, liberal democracy and the middle class.