
The volume maps and explores extreme-right parties, organizations and movements in a number of European countries and regions. Its editors and authors determine that the radical right had escaped from their political ghettos and in the last few decades had adjusted to the particular political situations of their respective countries or regions. Although the extreme right movements use the rhetoric of nationalist or racist exclusion and argue to be rooted in a particular territory or state they bear striking similarities. They cooperate with each other and share similar values as well as the common aim of transforming Europe into a white continent composed of homogenous national states.

The volume is divided into five parts devoted to different regions or aspects. The first part concentrates on local and regional perspectives. It starts with Mathew J. Goodwin’s article on the British National Party (BNP). Goodwin ascertains that the BNP finds more voters in areas in which the number of foreign-borne people has risen over recent years. John Veugelers studies the impact of post-colonialism on the radical right in France. Nitzan Shoshan explains how young Berliners impacted by racist ideologies operate in this multi-ethnic city. Jérôme Jamin compares the radical right movements in Wallonia, Brussels and Flanders. Giorgia Bulli and Filippo Tronconi scrutinize the Italian Lega Nord, its regionalism based on the mythology of the Celtic origins of the Padanian peoples, its opposition against the Italian state, the European Union and immigrants and its cooperation with Italian neo-fascist parties.

The second part contains articles by Riccardo Marchi, José L. Rodríguez Jiménez and Antonis A. Ellinas. These authors explain how the radical right has functioned in Portugal, Spain and Greece after the fascist or authoritarian regimes collapsed in these countries in the middle of the 1970s. The three specialists clarify the differences between the diverse groups and factions in the respective countries like the neo-fascist and neo-Francoists in Spain or demonstrate how the far-right leaders in Greece argue on TV that their ‘country is run by Jews’.

The third part is devoted to Eastern Europe. Věra Stojarová examines the radical right in Croatia, Bosnia-Herzegovina and Serbia which on the one hand compete for the same territories and on the other develop similar conspiracy theories. Gabriela Borz illuminates the incubation and successful
development of the radical right in Rumania. Miroslav Mareš and Richard Stojar introduce several Eastern European paramilitary organizations. They pay attention to their traditions, their post-communist activities in foreign military conflicts like in Serbia and their violence against Roma, Albanians, people from the Caucasus and other minority groups. Per Anders Rudling deals with the antisemitic components of the Ukrainian fascist movement and the revival of this tradition in post-Soviet Ukraine. Very interesting in this context is the Inter-Regional Academy of Personnel Management (Mizhrehionalna Akademiia Upravlinnia Personelom), the largest Ukrainian private University which ‘uses the Holocaust denial as tool to express its hostility to the Western world and liberal democratic values’.

The fourth part includes articles dealing with national and comparative perspectives. Damir Skenderovic challenges the notion of ‘Swiss exceptionalism’. He concludes that ‘Switzerland can hardly be viewed as an exceptional case among Western democracies’. Ekin Burak Arik analyses the Turkish Nationalist Action Party (Milliyetçi Hareket Partisi, MHP) which by the 1990s had adopted democratic rhetoric but has not changed its radical right core values. Marie Demker ponders the question of why extreme-right parties have not developed in the same way in Sweden as in the two other Scandinavian countries of Denmark and Norway. Michelle Hale Williams compares the Freedom Party of Austria (Freiheitliche Partei Österreichs, FPÖ) to the French National Front (Front National, FN).

Articles in the final section address the notion of ‘local’ and ‘transnational’. Mark-Anthony Falzon and Mark Micallef scrutinize the radical right activists in contemporary Malta. In addition to denying the Holocaust, one of these activists, Norman Lowell proposes an ethnic cleansing of the whole of Europe. Andrea Mammone and Timothy Peace compare the BNP to the Italian Social Action (Azione Sociale, AS). They elucidate how these and other far-right parties have a tendency to reject the authority of the European Union and how they modernize their language by replacing terms like ‘race’ with ‘identity’. Marina Peunova expounds on how the European New Right influenced the thinking of Alexander Panarin, one of the main ideologists of the Russian empire-oriented form of nationalism known as Eurasianism. In the last article of the volume Michael Whine addresses the question of collaboration between European radical right movements and asks how the opening of the inner-European borders and the development of information and communication technologies has contributed to this process.

The volume presents a broad perspective on diverse radical right phenomena. It draws attention to the common values and strategies of the European
extreme right through a thorough and comprehensive presentation of its features. One shared by the majority of European far-right parties is the instrumentalization of foreigners or ethnic minorities in order to spread fear and gather new voters. Very popular is the denial and obfuscation of the Holocaust, nostalgia for the Second World War or for fascist leaders like Ante Pevelić in Croatia, Francisco Franko in Spain or Benito Mussolini in Italy. The former KKK Grand Wizard David Duke has been invited among others by the Spanish and Ukrainian nationalists. Also the rejection of ‘egalitarianism’, the wish to protect the ‘ancestral culture’, rehabilitation of war criminals or the desire for new charismatic leaders to emerge seems to unite the radical right which, as the volume convincingly illuminates, impacts the politics, culture and even education on a local, state and European level.

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