



THE RISE OF FAR - RIGHT IDEOLOGIES: **A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF THE 21ST AND 20TH** **CENTURY**

Pablo Martín Bermejo



20th

DEFINITION

21st

Nationalism

Authoritarianism

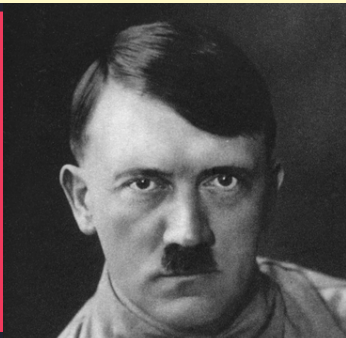
Anti - immigrant sentiment

Anti - liberal stances

Opposition to globalism

Fascism: Hitler, Mussolini, Franco

Right - wing populism: Trump, Bolsonaro, Orban



20th century: Origins and Growth

Post WWI discontent in Europe: Treaty of Versailles, economic hardship

Economic instability: 1930s Great Depression

Fascism and National Socialism as an answer to communism and liberalism

Authoritarian leaders and their promises

20th century: Origins and Growth



1922



1933



1936

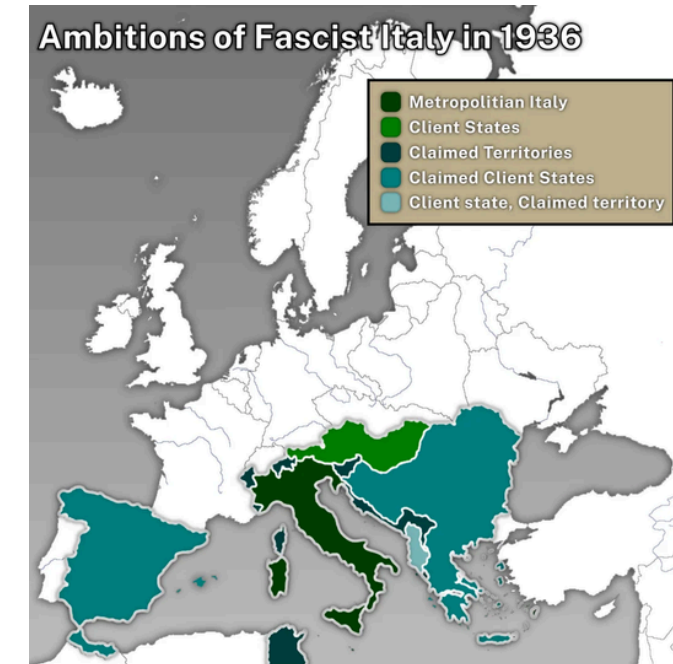
20th century: Key points

Economic situation: Great Depression and mass unemployment

Fear of Communism: Against the Russian Revolution and bolshevism

Social Unrest: Class struggles, strikes and political polarization

Cultural Backlash: Traditionalism vs Modernism



21st century: Origins and Growth

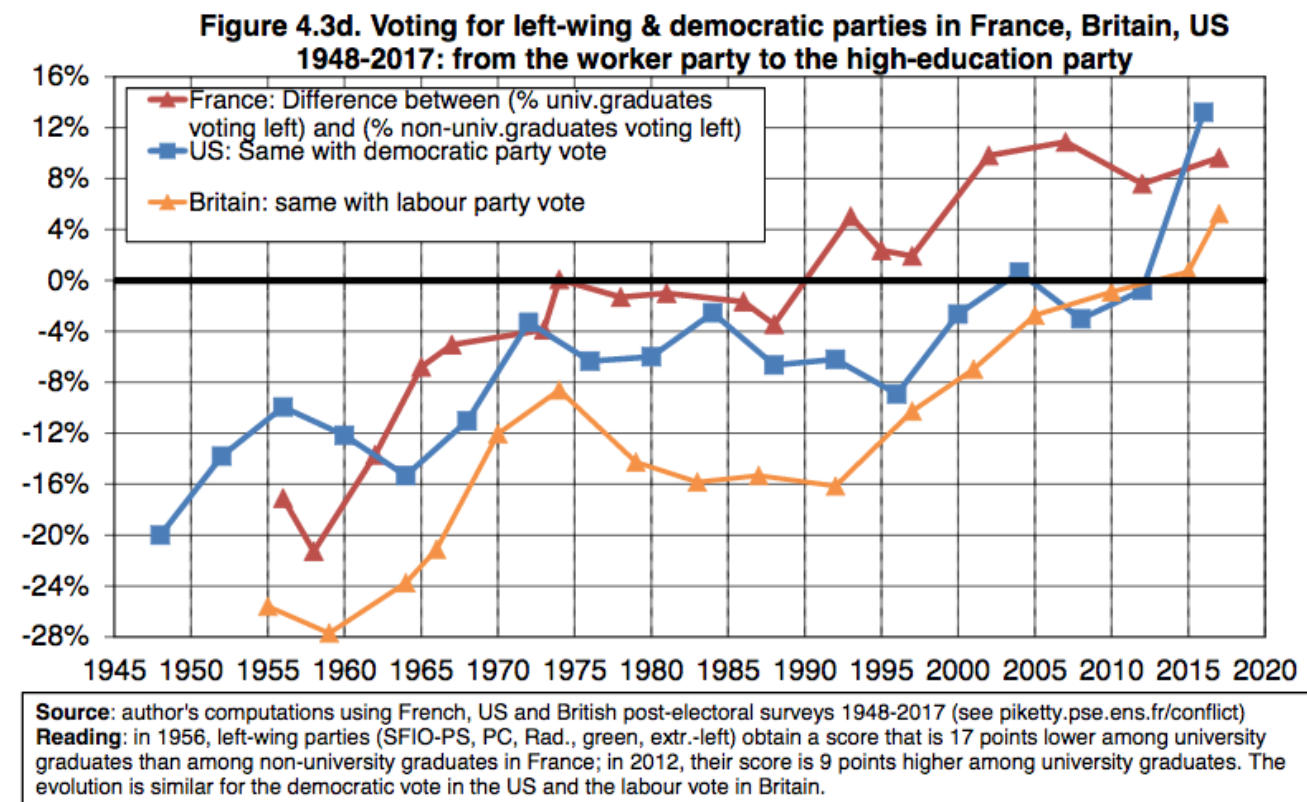
Rise of populism: 2008 financial crisis, austerity measures and economic inequality

Immigration Crisis: Conflicts in the Middle East, Africa, and economic disparity.

Globalization Backlash: Perception of cultural dilution, job loss, and sovereignty erosion.

Social Media and Disinformation: The role of social media in amplifying far-right messages.

20th century: Origins and Growth



Graph of economic inequality trends and populist vote share over time.

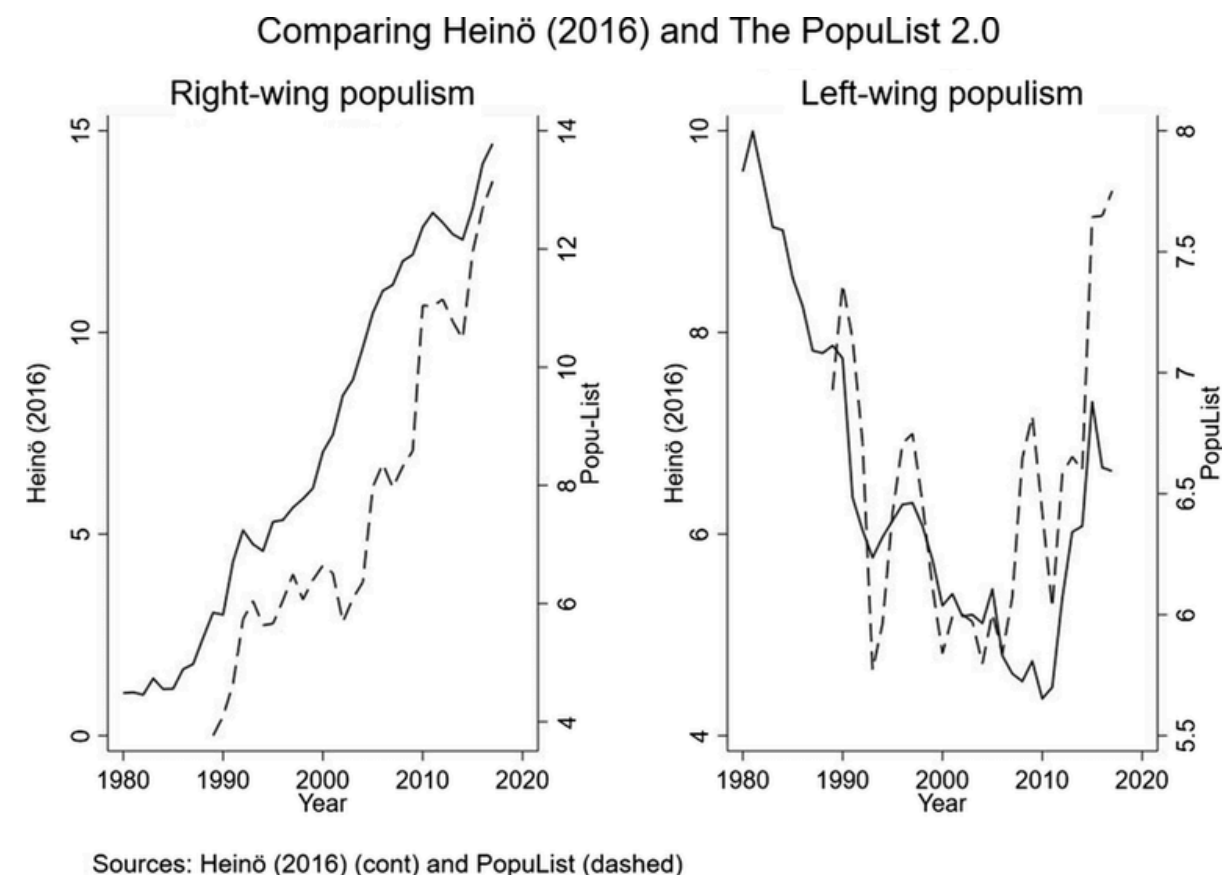
21st century: Key points

Economic situation: Post-2008 financial crisis recession, job insecurity, stagnation

Cultural Shifts: Fear of demographic changes, particularly in Europe, due to immigration.

Political Polarization: Increased division between left-wing and right-wing ideologies, amplified by media

Globalization and Sovereignty: The loss of control over borders and national identity.



COMPARING THE 20TH AND 21ST CENTURY FAR-RIGHT MOVEMENTS

Ideological Similarities: Nationalism, authoritarianism, anti-immigration, anti-establishment rhetoric.

Differences in Context:

20th century: Reaction to direct economic collapse, war, and communism.

21st century: Reaction to globalized economy, migration, and technological disruption.

Role of Technology: Social media and the internet in spreading far-right ideology today vs. the role of propaganda and mass media in the past.

CASE STUDIES – 20TH CENTURY VS. 21ST CENTURY

Aspect	Hitler's Rise (1930s)	Trump's Election (2016)
Context	Post-WWI Germany: Economic hardship, humiliation after Versailles, rise of Nazi ideology.	Post-Great Recession U.S.: Economic anxiety, cultural shifts, frustration with elites.
Populist Appeal	Exploited national humiliation, blamed Jews & communists, promised national revival.	Promised to "Make America Great Again", blamed immigrants & elites for America's decline.
Media Strategy	Used propaganda (speeches, rallies, films) to unify and radicalize public.	Mastered social media, particularly Twitter, to bypass media and energize supporters.
Scapegoating	Blamed Jews, communists, and the Weimar Republic for Germany's problems.	Targeted immigrants, Muslims, and media as threats to American identity.
Violence & Extremism	Organized violence (SA, SS), suppressed opposition, led to WWII and the Holocaust.	Rhetoric emboldened far-right groups, but no state-sponsored violence during his rise.
Path to Power	Appointed Chancellor in 1933, dismantled democracy via the Reichstag Fire and Enabling Act.	Won through the Electoral College, no dismantling of democratic institutions.
Global Impact	Led to WWII, genocide, and global devastation.	Divisive domestic politics, but no military conflict or genocide.

WHY IS THE FAR-RIGHT RESURGENT?

KEY POINTS:

Economic Anxiety: Stagnation, inequality, and the failure of neoliberal policies.

Identity Politics: The quest for cultural, national, and religious identity amidst globalization and migration.

Media and Polarization: The role of social media in amplifying divisive rhetoric and misinformation.

Perceived Threats: Economic, cultural, and demographic changes perceived as existential threats.

CONCLUSION

Far-right ideologies have risen in both centuries due to a combination of economic, political, and cultural factors.

While the specifics of each rise are different (20th century fascism vs. 21st century populism), both are rooted in fear of change, loss of identity, and economic discontent.

The role of media and technology in modern far-right movements has amplified the speed and scope of these ideologies' spread.

