As Europe enters a significant phase of re-integration of East and West, it faces an increasing problem with the rise of far-right political parties. Cas Mudde offers the first comprehensive and truly pan-European study of populist radical right parties in Europe. He focuses on the parties themselves, discussing them both as dependent and independent variables. Based upon a wealth of primary and secondary literature, this book offers critical and original insights into three major aspects of European populist radical right parties: concepts and classifications; themes and issues; and explanations for electoral failures and successes. It concludes with a discussion of the impact of radical right parties on European democracies, and vice versa, and offers suggestions for future research.

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Populist radical right parties in Europe

Cas Mudde
University of Antwerp
For Jan, Sarah and Sivan
“I hate white people.”
“Why?”
“They’re mean.”
“Did white people ever bother you?”
“Hell, naw! I wouldn’t let ’em,” she said belligerently.
“Then why do you hate ’em?”
“’Cause they’re different from me. I don’t like ’em even to look at me. They make me self-conscious, that’s why. Ain’t that enough.”
“If you say so, baby.”


“The enemy is the gramophone mind, whether or not one agrees with the record that is being played at the moment.”

(George Orwell, “Telling people what they don’t want to hear: the original preface to Animal Farm”, Dissent (Winter 1996): 59–64 [63])
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Acknowledgments

At times our own light goes out and is rekindled by a spark from another person. Each of us has cause to think with deep gratitude of those who have lighted the flame within us.

(Albert Schweitzer)

Writing a book with such a broad geographical scope one always has to rely upon the insights from many other scholars. As the literature on populist radical right parties is highly limited in terms of cases and topics studied, e.g. an enormous predominance of studies on France and Germany, I depended for much information upon the personal insights from many of my colleagues of the ECPR Standing Group on Extremism & Democracy. Several of these national experts were willing to fill in my short questionnaire on particular populist radical right parties (see appendix B), the data of which have proved essential for many chapters of this book. Other friends and colleagues helped me with obtaining specific data and translating some primary sources. My special thanks go to Daniele Albertazzi, Florian Bieber, Michaela Grün, Tim Haughton, J. W. Justice, Ioannis Kolovos, Natalya Krasnoboka, Borbala Kriza, Nicole Lindstrom, Miroslav Mareš, Oscar Mazzoleni, Juan Anton Mellón, Daniel Milo, Niall O Dochartaigh, Michael Rossi, Marek Rybár, Maria Spirova, Peter Učeň, and Eric Weaver. They are proof that even in this competitive period of “publish or perish” academic cooperation is still possible. I hope to return the favor in the future.

I also sent out a slightly revised questionnaire to some fifteen populist radical right parties, mostly smaller organizations from Eastern Europe. While some email addresses bounced, most parties must have received the questionnaire. Unfortunately, only two responded. The Irish Immigration Control Platform (ICP) wrote a short email back, of which the key message was: “Since we are not a party and are strictly single issue I do not see how we can fall within your remit.” Despite the reference to Sartori’s minimal definition of political parties in my answer, I did not hear from them again. The only party to send back a completely filled out
questionnaire was the French Front national, ironically the best-studied of all parties. I want to thank Patrick Gaillard, from the communications directorate of the FN, for taking the time to respond to my query.

Over the period of writing this book, I presented various earlier draft versions of chapters to audiences around the globe. It would go too far to mention all of them, so I will provide just a short overview: conferences, such as the tenth annual conference of the Association for the Study of Nationalities (ASN) in New York and the Politicologenetmaal in Antwerp; specialized workshops at the Department of Government of the Ben-Gurion University of the Negev in Beer-Sheva and at the European Center of the Australian National University in Canberra; and lectures at Sciences-Po in Paris, the University of Texas at Dallas, and the Contemporary Europe Research Centre of the University of Melbourne. I want to thank everyone who attended these meetings for their curiosity and valuable feedback.

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Leading the life of an academic “Gypsy” does involve many a lonely moment, but I feel blessed to have some true friends among my colleagues. Petr Kopecký, Luke March, Ami Pedahzur, and Joop Van Holsteyn all share an interest in “my” topic, but work (mainly) on other topics. This notwithstanding, all have in their own way contributed more to this book than they will ever know. I hope I will be able to repay them for many more years to come.

Much of the secondary literature was collected during my (too) short stints as visiting scholar at various institutions. In the summer of 2001 I fought off the many lures of beach life in California to make full use of the extensive facilities of the University of California, Santa Barbara (UCSB). I want to thank Peter H. Merkl for helping me set up this visit and the Department of Political Science for hosting me. In April 2005 I stayed for three weeks at the Center for European Studies of New York University (NYU). I owe Leah Ramirez and Martin Schain eternal gratitude for enabling me to experience the wonderful world of the Elmer Holmes Bobst Library. Housed at the buzzing Washington Square in The Village, the Bobst Library is an intellectual oasis for scholars and students alike; not just for its fantastic collection, but even more importantly for
its accessibility. It serves as an enlightening example for all university libraries.

Similarly, working a few weeks in the highly personal and surveyable library of my old institution, the Central European University in Budapest, in the summer of 2005, was a treat. I thank Zsolt Enyedi, Éva Lafferthon, and Krisztina Zsukotynszky for helping me arrange this trip, and my many old colleagues and students for our trips along memory lane.

More new, but definitely as exciting, is my current experience as Fulbright EU Scholar-in-Residence at the Center for Comparative European Studies of Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey, in New Brunswick. Here, Jan Kubik, Susanna Trish, and Audrey Boyd have helped me adjust in an extremely short period, so that I could still meet my deadline, despite the rather hectic move from Belgium to the US. Special thanks go to my new personal editor, Amy Linch, who unselfishly put her PhD on hold to edit my manuscript. Amy introduced words I had never encountered before and forced me to clarify many of my assumptions and thoughts. Without her, this book would truly not be the same.

Working at a small university in Europe, which the University of Antwerp undoubtedly is, has many advantages, often outweighing the disadvantages. However, when writing a book such as this, extensive library facilities are essential. The trips to other universities were vital for getting access to all the articles and books I had seen referred to in other works, yet did not have access to in Antwerp. I can only hope to have more opportunities to visit them in the future. Whether this will be the case depends to a large extent on the generosity of academic funding bodies, to which I already owe a great gratitude.

During my time at the Department of Politics of the University of Edinburgh (2000–2002), my research was supported by the British Academy and the Carnegie Trust for the Universities of Scotland. Since I moved to the Department of Political Science at the University of Antwerp in the summer of 2002, a grant from the Flemish Fonds voor Wetenschappelijk Onderzoek (Fund for Scientific Research, FWO) has enabled me to go to New York. Finally, the Fulbright Fellowship has enabled me to work during the last stage of the book in the US, shielded from the daily administrative and teaching duties of my home university.

Special thanks go to my many former colleagues and students from all over the globe. While working on this book, I have taught courses on “Extreme right parties in Europe” in many different countries and at various universities. Without both the encouragement of my colleagues and the criticism of my students I would have neither embarked upon
writing this book, nor finished it. More importantly, my students have often forced me to reconsider the few certainties I thought we held in the field.

Finally, my deep gratitude goes to my first group of (former) PhD students at the University of Antwerp: Sarah De Lange, Sivan Hirsch-Hoefler, and Dr. Jan Jagers. They have given me the energy and intellectual stimulation to bite through the (many) moments of despair and self-doubt. All three have very different backgrounds and personalities, but share the wonderful combination of intellectual curiosity and personal warmth. I dedicate this book to them.
Abbreviations

AN National Alliance
ANL Anti-Nazi League
ANO Alliance for a New Citizen
AP Swiss Car Party
AS Social Alternative
ASN Association for the Study of Nationalities
AUNS Action Society for an Independent and Neutral Switzerland
AWS Solidarity Electoral Action
BBB Bulgarian Business Bloc
BNP British National Party
BNRP Bulgarian National Radical Party
BZÖ Alliance for Austria’s Future
CAP Common Agricultural Policy (EU)
CD Centre Democrats
CDU Christian Democratic Union
CEEC Central Eastern European country
CP’86 Centre Party ’86
CSU Christian Social Union
DFP Danish People’s Party
DLVH German League for People and Homeland
DN National Democracy
DPNI Russian Movement against Illegal Immigration
DUP Democratic Unionist Party
DVU German People’s Union
EC European Communities
ECPR European Consortium for Political Research
EK National Party (Greece)
EM Hellenic Front
ENU European National Union
EPEN National Political Union
EPP European People’s Party
List of abbreviations

ERSP Estonian National Independence Party
EU European Union
EUMC European Monitoring Centre on Racism and Xenophobia
F Freedonites
FA Freedomite Academy
FI Go Italy
FIDESz-MPS Alliance of Young Democrats–Hungarian Civic Movement
FN National Front (France)
FNb National Front (Belgian)
FNB New Front of Belgium
FNJ Youth National Front
FP Freedom Party
FPd Progress Party (Denmark)
FPÖ Austrian Freedom Party
FPS Freedom Party of Switzerland
FRP Progress Party (Norway)
FWO Fund for Scientific Research
HB People Unity
HDZ Croatian Democratic Movement
HF Hellenic Front
HOS Croatian Defence Force
HSP Croatian Party of Rights
HSP–1861 Croatian Party of Rights–1861
HZDS Movement for a Democratic Slovakia
ICP Immigration Control Platform
IKL Patriotic National Alliance
IRA Irish Republican Army
KE Greek Hellenism Party
KSČM Community Party of Bohemia and Moravia
LAOS Popular Orthodox Rally
LDPJ Liberal Democratic Party of Japan
LN Northern League
LNNK Latvian National Independence Movement
LPF Lijst Pim Fortuyn
LPR League of Polish Families
MDF Hungarian Democratic Forum
MEP Member of European Parliament
MHP Nationalist Action Party
MILEP Hungarian Justice and Life Party
MNR National Republican Movement
List of abbreviations

MS-FT Social Movement–Tricolor Flame
MSI Italian Social Movement
NBP National Bolshevik Party
ND New Democracy
NDP National Democratic Party
NF National Front (Britain)
NOP National Rebirth of Poland
NPD National Democratic Party of Germany
NS National Party (Czech Republic)
NSA National Union Attack
NWO New World Order
ODS Civic Democratic Party
ONP One Nation Party
PASOK Panhellenic Socialist Movement
PiS Law and Justice Party
PRM Greater Romania Party
PRO Constitutional Offensive Party
PSM Socialist Labor Party
PSNS Real Slovak National Party
PUNR Party of Romanian National Unity
RBF Republican League of Women
REP The Republicans
RMS Republicans of Míroslav Sládek
RNE Russian National Unity
SD Sweden Democrats
SF We Ourselves
SNP Scottish National Party
SNS Slovak National Party and Slovene National Party
SP Socialist Party
SPÓ Serbian Renewal Movement
SPR-RŠČ Association for the Republic–Republican Party of Czechoslovakia
SPS Socialist Party of Serbia
SRS Serbian Radical Party
SSP Scottish Socialist Party
SVP Swiss People’s Party
TB Fatherland and Freedom
TDI Technical Group for Non-Attached Members – Mixed Group
UCSB University of California, Santa Barbara
UDMR Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania
UEN Union for Europe of Nations
List of abbreviations

UKIP       UK Independence Party
UNA-UNSO   Ukrainian National Assembly–Ukrainian People’s Self-Defense
UPR        Union for Real Politics
VB         Flemish Block/Flemish Interest
VU         People’s Union
VVD        People’s Party for Freedom and Democracy
WASPs      White Anglo-Saxon Protestants