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Voting Radical Right in Western Europe

The economic and political conditions that have led to the rise of radical right parties exist in similar form and intensity all over Europe. Yet, radical right parties have only been successful in a few countries. In Germany, the *Republikaner's* less than 2% of the vote is much lower than the National Front's high of 15% and the Freedom Party's 27% of the vote in national legislative elections. Why do such a small percentage of voters choose the radical right in Germany? Why is the radical right winning more seats in Austria than in France and Germany? The main argument in this book is that radical right parties will have difficulty attracting voters and winning seats in electoral systems that encourage strategic voting and/or strategic coordination by the mainstream parties. The analysis demonstrates that electoral systems and party strategy play a key role in the success of the radical right.

Terri E. Givens is a professor in the government department at the University of Texas at Austin. She has held fellowships from the Ford Foundation and the European Union Center at the University of Washington. She has conducted extensive research in Europe, particularly in France, Germany, Austria, and Denmark. Her articles have appeared in *Comparative Political Studies*, the *Policy Studies Journal*, and *Comparative European Politics*. She is an active member of the American Political Science Association, the European Union Studies Association, and the Council for European Studies.

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