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978-1-107-02385-7 - Populism in Europe and the Americas: Threat or Corrective for Democracy?

Edited by Cas Mudde and Cristóbal Rovira Kaltwasser

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Populism in Europe and the Americas

Although 'populism' has become something of a buzz word in discussions about politics, it tends to be studied by country or region. This is the first book to offer a genuine cross-regional perspective on populism and its impact on democracy. By analysing current experiences of populism in Europe and the Americas, this edited volume convincingly demonstrates that populism can be both a threat and a corrective to democracy. The contributors also demonstrate the interesting similarities between right-wing and left-wing populism: both types of populism are prone to defend a political model that is not against democracy per se, but rather at odds with liberal democracy. *Populism in Europe and the Americas* offers new insights into the current state of democracy from both a theoretical and an empirical point of view.

Cas Mudde holds a Ph.D. from Leiden University and teaches in the Department of International Affairs of the University of Georgia. His most recent book, *Populist Radical Right Parties in Europe* (Cambridge University Press, 2007), won the Stein Rokkan Prize and was named a *Choice* Outstanding Academic Title in 2008.

Cristóbal Rovira Kaltwasser holds a Ph.D. from the Humboldt University of Berlin, has worked for the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and was a post-doctoral fellow at the Social Science Research Center Berlin (WZB). He is the recipient of the Marie Curie Intra-European Fellowship for a two-year research project on populism in Europe and Latin America, which he is currently undertaking at the University of Sussex. His research interests include populism, democracy, and Latin American politics, and his work has been published in *Democratization* and the *Latin American Research Review*, among others.

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Cas Mudde & Cristóbal Rovira Kaltwasser

University of Georgia and University of Sussex



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To Peter Mair (1951–2011)

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CAS MUDDÉ is Assistant Professor in the Department of International Affairs at the University of Georgia. His previous publications include *Populist Radical Right Parties in Europe* (2007), which won the 2008 Stein Rokkan Prize and was a *Choice* Outstanding Academic Title. He is currently working on various projects related to the overarching question: How can liberal democracies defend themselves against political challenges without undermining their core values?

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Preface

As holds true of so many things today, the origins of our scholarly collaboration and of this edited volume can be traced to a random match on the Internet. In 2009 Cristóbal had just started a post-doc – financed by the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation – on populism in Europe and Latin America at the *Wissenschaftszentrum Berlin für Sozialforschung* (WZB) and was surfing the Web for scholars of and texts on this topic. He came across the page of Cas, who had just started a similar project as a visiting fellow at the Helen Kellogg Institute for International Studies at the University of Notre Dame. We started an extensive exchange of e-mails, in which we discussed the challenges of undertaking cross-regional research on populism. Beyond these virtual discussions, we met in the fall of 2009 in Berlin and decided to collaborate on various related topics, one being this book.

After developing a rough theoretical framework, of which a significantly revised version is published as Chapter 1, we started to apply for funding and to invite potential collaborators. We were very lucky not only to find such a great team of esteemed experts, but to convince everyone we invited that this was worth their time. Thanks to the financial support of the *Volkswagen Stiftung*, we organized a workshop titled “Populism in Europe and the Americas: Threat or Corrective for Democracy?” at the WZB in Berlin in August 2010, where all collaborators presented the first versions of their chapters, which were discussed by the collaborators and a broad group of colleagues from Germany and beyond. Our workshop discussants all took their role very seriously and provided invaluable feedback to all authors. We want to thank Carlos de la Torre, Wolfgang Merkel, Emilia Palonen, Karin Priester, Hans-Jürgen Puhle, Paul Taggart, Peter Učeň, and Kurt Weyland once again for their great and thoughtful contributions to this project. We also want to thank the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, the *Volkswagen Stiftung*, and the *Wissenschaftszentrum Berlin für Sozialforschung* for their generous financial and practical support for the workshop.

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After the workshop we gave all contributors a couple of months to re-write their chapters for the edited volume. While not everyone made the original deadline, all contributors not just stayed close to the deadline, they also provided excellent second drafts of their respective chapters. This was confirmed by the two anonymous reviewers of Cambridge University Press, who addressed problems in the framework chapter rather than in the individual country chapters. We want to thank all authors for being so engaged with and so open to our project, despite legitimate concerns about, and differences of opinions on, the key definitions used in this volume. It truly was a pleasure to work with all of you. Similarly, we want to thank the people at Cambridge University Press, in particular editor John Haslam, for their cooperation and support for our book. Moreover, we discussed the subject of this book with different friends and colleagues, who gave us invaluable comments and ideas. In this regard, we are particularly grateful to Martin Beckstein, Nancy Bermeo, Giovanni Capoccia, Matias Dewey, Klaus Eder, Raimundo Frei, John Keane, Alan Knight, Kirk Hawkins, Herfried Münkler, Pierre Ostiguy, and Laurence Whitehead.

As we were in the final stages of editing this book, we were, like many in the discipline, shocked by the devastating news of the sudden death of Peter Mair. Peter was a professor of comparative politics at the European University Institute and one of the leading scholars on parties and party systems and European democracy. Most of the collaborators of this book knew Peter and/or were heavily influenced by his work. Peter was also the Ph.D. supervisor of one of the editors at Leiden University, who remembers him not just as an exceptional scholar, but also as a kind and warm *Doktorvater* who will always be an inspiration to him. We dedicate this book to him.

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