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Restrained Radicals

The entry of populist radical right parties into positions of power has generated anxious debate regarding the potential consequences for liberal democracy. Their activities in local government, however, have been largely overlooked. This comparative analysis of populist radical right-led local governments in Western Europe makes an important contribution to a crowded field through the study of so far uncharted terrain. Comparing cases in Austria, France, Italy and Switzerland, Fred Paxton details the extent of ideological impact in local politics and the various restraints that are placed on their radicalism. Drawing from a wealth of new data, he explains the varying degree of radicalism with recourse to two principal factors: the constraints of the local government institutional setting and the national party leaders' strategies towards the local arena. This book broadens our understanding of populist radical right parties in Western Europe and the subnational processes through which they are developing.

FRED PAXTON is a postdoctoral research fellow at the University of Milan. He was awarded his PhD at the European University Institute. His work has been published in various academic journals including *Political Science Research and Methods* and *Government and Opposition*. This is his first academic monograph.

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