economic protest party

economic protest party is a concept that has shaped political landscapes across various countries, especially during times of financial stress and uncertainty. This article delves deeply into the meaning, origins, and impact of economic protest parties, exploring how these groups arise in response to economic dissatisfaction. You'll discover the historical context, notable examples, core features, and the influence economic protest parties have on mainstream politics. We'll also discuss the reasons behind their appeal, the challenges they face, and their role in shaping policy and public opinion. Whether you're a student, researcher, or simply curious about political movements driven by economic concerns, this comprehensive guide will provide valuable insights and help you understand why economic protest parties matter in today's political climate.

- Definition and Overview of Economic Protest Party
- Historical Background and Origins
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- Impact on Mainstream Politics
- Challenges and Limitations
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Definition and Overview of Economic Protest Party

An economic protest party is a political organization formed primarily to address economic grievances and dissatisfaction with existing economic policies. Unlike traditional parties built on broad ideological platforms, economic protest parties focus on specific economic issues such as unemployment, inflation, wage stagnation, and financial inequality. These parties often emerge during periods of economic turmoil, when large segments of the population feel neglected or harmed by the ruling government's economic decisions. The main goal of an economic protest party is to give a voice to those who feel marginalized by the current economic system, pushing for reforms or radical changes. Their influence can range from shaping public discourse to winning significant electoral victories, depending on the context and severity of economic distress.

Historical Background and Origins

The concept of an economic protest party is not new. These groups have appeared throughout history, often coinciding with economic downturns,

recessions, or financial crises. Their origins can be traced back to periods when mainstream political parties failed to address the economic needs of the population, leading to the rise of alternative movements focused on economic justice and reform. For example, during the Great Depression, several economic protest parties emerged in Western democracies, advocating for policies to combat unemployment and poverty. In many cases, these parties have been instrumental in highlighting economic issues that traditional parties overlooked, prompting governmental responses and policy adjustments.

Key Historical Milestones

- Great Depression Era protest parties in the United States and Europe
- Populist movements in the late 19th and early 20th centuries
- Post-2008 financial crisis protest parties in Europe and Latin America

These milestones show that economic protest parties often arise during periods of significant economic distress, reflecting the public's desire for change and accountability.

Characteristics of Economic Protest Parties

Economic protest parties share several distinguishing features that set them apart from other political groups. Their primary focus is on economic issues, although some may expand their platforms over time. These parties typically adopt populist rhetoric, positioning themselves as champions of the common people against elite interests. They often attract support from those affected by economic hardships and from regions hit hardest by economic decline. Flexibility and adaptability are other hallmarks, as these parties shift their agendas in response to evolving economic conditions.

Core Features of Economic Protest Parties

- Emphasis on economic reform and justice
- Appeal to marginalized or economically distressed voters
- Populist messaging and anti-establishment stance
- Rapid rise during economic crises
- Challenge to mainstream political parties and policies

These characteristics make economic protest parties a powerful force during periods of financial instability, often serving as catalysts for policy debates and reform.

Notable Examples Worldwide

Economic protest parties have appeared in various countries, each reflecting unique local circumstances and economic challenges. Their impact ranges from influencing policy discussions to reshaping entire political systems. Some of the most prominent examples include:

United States: The Populist Party

The Populist Party emerged in the late 19th century, representing farmers and laborers who felt neglected by the major parties. Its platform focused on monetary reform, government regulation of railroads, and direct election of senators. Although it eventually merged with other movements, the Populist Party left a lasting legacy on U.S. economic policy.

Europe: Syriza and Podemos

In Greece, Syriza rose to prominence following the 2008 financial crisis, campaigning against austerity measures and advocating for economic relief. Spain's Podemos similarly gained traction by criticizing mainstream parties' handling of the recession, calling for increased social spending and economic reforms.

Latin America: Various Populist Movements

Economic protest parties and movements have also shaped Latin American politics, with parties emerging in response to debt crises, inflation, and unemployment. These groups often blend economic protest with broader populist and nationalist rhetoric.

Reasons for Emergence

Economic protest parties arise for several interrelated reasons, most commonly during times of economic hardship. When mainstream political organizations fail to address pressing economic issues or appear complicit in policies causing distress, protest parties offer an alternative. Discontent with rising inequality, unemployment, and declining living standards serves as fertile ground for these movements.

Factors Contributing to Formation

- Economic downturns and recessions
- Government inaction or unpopular policies
- Widespread unemployment and poverty
- Growing income inequality
- Loss of trust in traditional political parties

These factors help explain why economic protest parties often gain momentum rapidly during periods of financial instability and public frustration.

Impact on Mainstream Politics

The rise of economic protest parties can significantly affect mainstream political dynamics. By bringing neglected economic issues to the forefront, these parties force established political organizations to reconsider their platforms and policies. In some cases, economic protest parties win seats in legislatures or even form governments, leading to substantive policy changes. Even without electoral success, their presence in the political arena can pressure mainstream parties to address economic concerns or risk losing support.

Influence on Policy and Debate

- Introduction of new policy proposals focused on economic reform
- Increased public debate about inequality and unemployment
- Pressure on government to adopt more inclusive economic measures
- Greater accountability for economic decision-makers

This influence often leads to a more responsive and dynamic political system, as mainstream parties adapt to changing public sentiment.

Challenges and Limitations

While economic protest parties can have a significant impact, they also face numerous challenges. Limited resources, lack of political experience, and difficulty building broad coalitions can hamper their effectiveness. Many struggle to maintain momentum after immediate economic crises subside, as voters return to established parties or lose interest. Additionally, protest parties sometimes face skepticism regarding their ability to govern, especially if their platforms lack detailed policy solutions.

Common Obstacles Faced

- Short-lived popularity tied to economic cycles
- Difficulty in transitioning from protest to governance
- Limited access to funding and media coverage
- Internal divisions and leadership disputes
- Challenges in broadening appeal beyond core economic issues

These limitations underscore the importance of strategic planning, coalition-building, and effective communication for economic protest parties seeking lasting influence.

Future Outlook for Economic Protest Parties

The future of economic protest parties depends largely on global economic conditions and the responsiveness of mainstream political organizations. As economic inequality and financial uncertainty persist in many regions, the potential for new protest parties remains strong. Advances in technology and social media have also made it easier for these groups to mobilize support and disseminate their messages. While some may fade as economic conditions improve, others could evolve into major political forces or influence long-term policy changes. Monitoring economic protest parties offers valuable insights into shifting public sentiment and emerging trends in political activism.

Potential Trends and Developments

- Use of digital platforms for grassroots mobilization
- Expansion of protest party platforms to include social and environmental issues
- Greater collaboration with other political movements
- Increasing role in shaping economic policy at local and national levels

As societies continue to face economic challenges, economic protest parties are likely to remain an important part of the political landscape.

Questions and Answers about Economic Protest Party

Q: What is an economic protest party?

A: An economic protest party is a political group formed primarily to address economic grievances, often arising during periods of financial distress or dissatisfaction with existing economic policies.

Q: Why do economic protest parties emerge?

A: Economic protest parties typically emerge in response to economic downturns, government inaction, rising unemployment, and widespread dissatisfaction with mainstream political organizations.

Q: Can economic protest parties become mainstream political forces?

A: Yes, some economic protest parties have transitioned into mainstream politics by winning elections, forming governments, or influencing major policy debates.

Q: How do economic protest parties differ from traditional parties?

A: Economic protest parties focus mainly on specific economic issues and tend to adopt populist rhetoric, while traditional parties usually have broader ideological platforms.

Q: What are some examples of economic protest parties?

A: Notable examples include the Populist Party in the United States, Syriza in Greece, and Podemos in Spain, all of which were formed in response to economic crises.

Q: What challenges do economic protest parties face?

A: Common challenges include short-lived popularity, limited resources, difficulty building coalitions, internal divisions, and skepticism about their ability to govern.

Q: How do economic protest parties impact mainstream politics?

A: They can influence mainstream parties by bringing economic issues to the forefront, prompting policy changes, and increasing public debate about economic reform.

Q: Are economic protest parties only active during economic crises?

A: While they are most prominent during times of economic hardship, some economic protest parties persist and evolve even after immediate crises subside.

Q: What role does technology play in the success of economic protest parties?

A: Technology and social media help economic protest parties mobilize supporters, spread their messages, and gain visibility in political discussions.

Q: What is the future outlook for economic protest parties?

A: As economic challenges continue globally, economic protest parties are likely to remain influential, adapting their platforms and strategies to address new issues and public concerns.

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Economic Protest Parties: A Rising Tide of Discontent?

Are you tired of feeling unheard? Do you believe the established political systems are failing to address the economic anxieties of everyday people? The rise of economic protest parties worldwide suggests you're not alone. This comprehensive guide delves into the phenomenon of economic protest parties, exploring their motivations, strategies, successes, and potential impact on the future of global politics. We'll examine their diverse approaches, analyze their effectiveness, and consider the long-term consequences of their growing influence.

Understanding the Roots of Economic Protest

Economic protest parties emerge from a confluence of factors. A sense of economic injustice, fueled by widening income inequality, job insecurity, and the perceived failures of neoliberal policies, forms the bedrock of their appeal. These parties often tap into a deep-seated frustration with mainstream political parties, seen as unresponsive to the concerns of ordinary citizens. They often articulate the grievances of those left behind by globalization and technological advancements, voicing concerns about stagnant wages, rising living costs, and the erosion of social safety nets.

The Defining Characteristics of Economic Protest Parties

While diverse in their ideologies and specific platforms, economic protest parties share several common traits. They typically:

Focus intensely on economic issues: Unlike parties with broader platforms, their primary agenda

revolves around addressing economic inequality and injustice.

Embrace populist rhetoric: They often employ simple, emotionally charged messaging that resonates with disenfranchised voters.

Challenge the established political order: They portray themselves as outsiders fighting against the corrupt or ineffective status quo.

Exhibit varying degrees of organization: Some are tightly structured political organizations, while others operate more as loosely affiliated movements.

Analyzing the Successes and Failures of Economic Protest Parties

The success of economic protest parties varies greatly depending on several factors, including the specific political context, the strength of their messaging, and their ability to mobilize voters. Some have achieved significant electoral breakthroughs, forcing mainstream parties to address their concerns. Others have remained niche players, struggling to translate their popular support into tangible political power.

Examples of Successful and Unsuccessful Movements

Examining both successful and unsuccessful examples provides crucial insights. Consider the rise of populist movements in Europe and the Americas. Some achieved remarkable success by effectively harnessing public anger and frustration, while others, despite significant initial support, failed to maintain momentum or translate their popularity into long-term influence. Analyzing the reasons for their success or failure highlights the importance of factors such as strategic alliances, effective campaign strategies, and consistent messaging.

The Long-Term Implications of Economic Protest Parties

The continued rise of economic protest parties poses significant challenges and opportunities for the established political order. Their influence can lead to policy changes, forcing mainstream parties to adopt more populist or economically progressive platforms. However, their presence can also destabilize existing political systems, leading to increased polarization and political fragmentation.

The Future of Political Landscapes

The long-term impact of these parties remains uncertain. Their potential to reshape political landscapes is undeniable, but their sustainability depends on their ability to adapt to changing circumstances, maintain internal cohesion, and offer credible long-term solutions to the economic

anxieties they represent. The future may see a continued fragmentation of the political spectrum, with more parties focusing on specific economic grievances. Alternatively, mainstream parties may adapt, integrating some of the economic concerns of protest parties into their own platforms.

Conclusion

Economic protest parties are a powerful manifestation of growing economic anxieties worldwide. Their rise reflects a deep-seated dissatisfaction with traditional political systems and their perceived failure to address the economic needs of ordinary citizens. While their success varies greatly, their impact on political discourse and policy-making is undeniable. Understanding their emergence, strategies, and impact is crucial for navigating the evolving political landscape of the 21st century. Their future success hinges on their ability to offer sustainable solutions and effectively manage their growth and internal dynamics.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

- 1. What distinguishes economic protest parties from other political parties? Economic protest parties primarily focus on economic inequality and injustice, often neglecting other policy areas that mainstream parties address. Their core message centers on economic grievances.
- 2. Are economic protest parties always left-wing? No. While many lean left, some espouse right-wing populist economic agendas, focusing on issues like protectionism and anti-immigration sentiment. Their economic focus is the common denominator, not a specific ideological position.
- 3. What are the potential negative consequences of the rise of economic protest parties? Potential negative consequences include increased political polarization, instability, and the erosion of trust in established political institutions. Extreme versions can even lead to social unrest.
- 4. How can mainstream parties respond effectively to the rise of economic protest parties? Mainstream parties need to address the underlying economic concerns driving the protest movements, demonstrating responsiveness to the needs of ordinary citizens and adopting more inclusive policies.
- 5. Can economic protest parties effectively govern? Their success in governance varies. Some have demonstrated competence, while others have struggled to translate their electoral success into effective policy implementation due to internal divisions or a lack of experience in government.

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contention that shook the EU following the 2008 economic crisis. It discusses how protests against austerity and free trade agreements manifested a wider discontent with the constitutionalization of economic policy and the way economic decisions have been insulated from democratic debate. It also explores the differentiated politicization of these issues and the diffusion of protests across Western as well as Eastern Europe, which has often been neglected in studies of the post-crisis turmoil. Julia Rone emphasizes that far from being an automatic spontaneous process, protest diffusion is highly complex, and its success or failure can be impacted by the strategic agency and media practices of key political players involved such as bottom-up activists, as well as trade unions, political parties, NGOs, intellectuals and mainstream media. This is an important resource for media and communications students and scholars with an interest in activism, political economy, social movement studies and protest movements.

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candidates won victories in the November 2010 elections. Even as activists demonstrated their strength and entered government, the future of the movement's influence, and even its ultimate goals, are very much in doubt. In 2012, Barack Obama, the movement's prime target, decisively won re-election, Congressional Republicans were unable to govern, and the Republican Party publicly wrestled with how to manage the insurgency within. Although there is a long history of conservative movements in America, the library of social movement studies leans heavily to the left. The Tea Party movement, its sudden emergence and its uncertain fate, provides a challenge to mainstream American politics. It also challenges scholars of social movements to reconcile this new movement with existing knowledge about social movements in America. Understanding the Tea Party Movement addresses these challenges by explaining why and how the movement emerged when it did, how it relates to earlier eruptions of conservative populism, and by raising critical questions about the movement's ultimate fate.

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Natural resource extraction has fueled protest movements in Latin America and existing research has drawn considerable scholarly attention to the politics of antimarket contention at the national level, particularly in Ecuador, Bolivia, and Argentina. Despite its residents reporting the third-highest level of protest participation in the region, Peru has been largely ignored in these discussions. In this groundbreaking study, Moises Arce exposes a long-standing climate of popular contention in Peru. Looking beneath the surface to the subnational, regional, and local level as inception points, he rigorously dissects the political conditions that set the stage for protest. Focusing on natural resource extraction and its key role in the political economy of Peru and other developing countries, Arce reveals a wide disparity in the incidence, forms, and consequences of collective action. Through empirical analysis of protest events over thirty-one years, extensive personal interviews with policymakers and societal actors, and individual case studies of major protest episodes, Arce follows the ebb and flow of Peruvian protests over time and space to show the territorial unevenness of democracy, resource extraction, and antimarket contentions. Employing political process theory, Arce builds an interactive framework that views the moderating role of democracy, the quality of institutional representation as embodied in political parties, and most critically, the level of political party competition as determinants in the variation of protest and subsequent government response. Overall, he finds that both the fluidity and fragmentation of political parties at the subnational level impair the mechanisms of accountability and responsiveness often attributed to party competition. Thus, as political fragmentation increases, political opportunities expand, and contention rises. These dynamics in turn shape the long-term development of the state. Resource Extraction and Protest in Peru will inform students and scholars of globalization, market transitions, political science, contentious politics and Latin America generally, as a comparative analysis relating natural resource extraction to democratic processes both regionally and internationally.

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oppositional and radical parties that should be benefitting from public disenchantment with politics are suffering. But different forms of political activity are emerging to replace representative politics: instant politics, direct action, insurgent politics. We are leaving behind traditional representation, and moving towards a politics without representatives. In this provocative new book, Simon Tormey explores the changes that are underway, drawing on a rich range of examples from the Arab Spring to the Indignados uprising in Spain, street protests in Brazil and Turkey to the emergence of new initiatives such as Anonymous and Occupy. Tormey argues that the easy assumptions that informed our thinking about the nature and role of parties, and 'party based democracy' have to be rethought. We are entering a period of fast politics, evanescent politics, a politics of the street, of the squares, of micro-parties, pop-up parties, and demonstrations. This may well be the end of representative politics as we know it, but an exciting new era of political engagement is just beginning.

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of the voting process to understand their different effects on vote outcomes. The SAGE Handbook of Electoral Behaviour is an essential benchmark publication for advanced students, researchers and practitioners in the fields of politics, sociology, psychology and research methods.

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sociology and attitudes of the FN-voters.

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economic protest party: Karl Polanyi Gareth Dale, 2010-06-21 Karl Polanyi's The Great Transformation is generally acclaimed as being among the most influential works of economic history in the twentieth century, and remains as vital in the current historical conjuncture as it was in his own. In its critique of nineteenth-century 'market fundamentalism' it reads as a warning to our own neoliberal age, and is widely touted as a prophetic guidebook for those who aspire to understand the causes and dynamics of global economic turbulence at the end of the 2000s. Karl Polanyi: The Limits of the Market is the first comprehensive introduction to Polanyi's ideas and legacy. It assesses not only the texts for which he is famous - prepared during his spells in American academia - but also his journalistic articles written in his first exile in Vienna, and lectures and pamphlets from his second exile, in Britain. It provides a detailed critical analysis of The Great Transformation, but also surveys Polanyi's seminal writings in economic anthropology, the economic history of ancient and archaic societies, and political and economic theory. Its primary source base includes interviews with Polanyi's daughter, Kari Polanyi-Levitt, as well as the entire compass of his own published and unpublished writings in English and German. This engaging and accessible introduction to Polanyi's thinking will appeal to students and scholars across the social sciences, providing a refreshing perspective on the roots of our current economic crisis.

economic protest party: The Economic Origin of Political Parties Christopher Kam, Adlai Newson, 2020-12-31

economic protest party: Why Nations Fail Daron Acemoglu, James A. Robinson, 2012-03-20 NEW YORK TIMES AND WALL STREET JOURNAL BESTSELLER • From two winners of the 2024 Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences, "who have demonstrated the importance of societal institutions for a country's prosperity" "A wildly ambitious work that hopscotches through history and around the world to answer the very big question of why some countries get rich and others don't."—The New York Times FINALIST: Financial Times and Goldman Sachs Business Book of the Year Award • ONE OF THE BEST BOOKS OF THE YEAR: The Washington Post, Financial Times, The Economist, BusinessWeek, Bloomberg, The Christian Science Monitor, The Plain Dealer Why are some nations rich and others poor, divided by wealth and poverty, health and sickness, food and famine? Is it culture, the weather, or geography that determines prosperity or poverty? As Why Nations Fail shows, none of these factors is either definitive or destiny. Drawing on fifteen years of original research, Daron Acemoglu and James Robinson conclusively show that it is our man-made political and economic institutions that underlie economic success (or the lack of it). Korea, to take just one example, is a remarkably homogenous nation, yet the people of North Korea are among the poorest on earth while their brothers and sisters in South Korea are among the richest. The differences

between the Koreas is due to the politics that created those two different institutional trajectories. Acemoglu and Robinson marshal extraordinary historical evidence from the Roman Empire, the Mayan city-states, the Soviet Union, the United States, and Africa to build a new theory of political economy with great relevance for the big questions of today, among them: • Will China's economy continue to grow at such a high speed and ultimately overwhelm the West? • Are America's best days behind it? Are we creating a vicious cycle that enriches and empowers a small minority? "This book will change the way people think about the wealth and poverty of nations . . . as ambitious as Jared Diamond's Guns, Germs, and Steel."—BusinessWeek

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economic protest party: Exit, Voice, and Loyalty Albert O. Hirschman, 1970 An innovator in contemporary thought on economic and political development looks here at decline rather than growth. Albert O. Hirschman makes a basic distinction between alternative ways of reacting to deterioration in business firms and, in general, to dissatisfaction with organizations: one, "exit," is for the member to quit the organization or for the customer to switch to the competing product, and the other, "voice," is for members or customers to agitate and exert influence for change "from within." The efficiency of the competitive mechanism, with its total reliance on exit, is questioned for certain important situations. As exit often undercuts voice while being unable to counteract decline, loyalty is seen in the function of retarding exit and of permitting voice to play its proper role. The interplay of the three concepts turns out to illuminate a wide range of economic, social, and political phenomena. As the author states in the preface, "having found my own unifying way of looking at issues as diverse as competition and the two-party system, divorce and the American character, black power and the failure of 'unhappy' top officials to resign over Vietnam, I decided to let myself go a little."

economic protest party: Liberty and Security Conor Gearty, 2013-04-03 All aspire to liberty and security in their lives but few people truly enjoy them. This book explains why this is so. In what Conor Gearty calls our 'neo-democratic' world, the proclamation of universal liberty and security is mocked by facts on the ground: the vast inequalities in supposedly free societies, the authoritarian regimes with regular elections, and the terrible socio-economic deprivation camouflaged by cynically proclaimed commitments to human rights. Gearty's book offers an explanation of how this has come about, providing also a criticism of the present age which tolerates it. He then goes on to set out a manifesto for a better future, a place where liberty and security can be rich platforms for everyone's life. The book identifies neo-democracies as those places which play at democracy so as to disguise the injustice at their core. But it is not just the new 'democracies' that have turned 'neo', the so-called established democracies are also hurtling in the same direction, as is the United Nations. A new vision of universal freedom is urgently required. Drawing on scholarship in law, human rights and political science this book argues for just such a vision, one in which the great achievements of our democratic past are not jettisoned as easily as were the socialist ideals of the original democracy-makers.

economic protest party: POLITICAL PARTIES NARAYAN CHANGDER, 2024-02-22 THE POLITICAL PARTIES MCQ (MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS) SERVES AS A VALUABLE RESOURCE FOR INDIVIDUALS AIMING TO DEEPEN THEIR UNDERSTANDING OF VARIOUS COMPETITIVE EXAMS, CLASS TESTS, QUIZ COMPETITIONS, AND SIMILAR ASSESSMENTS. WITH ITS EXTENSIVE COLLECTION OF MCQS, THIS BOOK EMPOWERS YOU TO ASSESS YOUR GRASP OF THE SUBJECT MATTER AND YOUR PROFICIENCY LEVEL. BY ENGAGING WITH THESE MULTIPLE-CHOICE QUESTIONS, YOU CAN IMPROVE YOUR KNOWLEDGE OF THE SUBJECT,

IDENTIFY AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT, AND LAY A SOLID FOUNDATION. DIVE INTO THE POLITICAL PARTIES MCQ TO EXPAND YOUR POLITICAL PARTIES KNOWLEDGE AND EXCEL IN QUIZ COMPETITIONS, ACADEMIC STUDIES, OR PROFESSIONAL ENDEAVORS. THE ANSWERS TO THE QUESTIONS ARE PROVIDED AT THE END OF EACH PAGE, MAKING IT EASY FOR PARTICIPANTS TO VERIFY THEIR ANSWERS AND PREPARE EFFECTIVELY.

economic protest party: PEGIDA and New Right-Wing Populism in Germany Hans Vorländer, Maik Herold, Steven Schäller, 2018-03-08 This book provides the first systematic and comparative analysis of the German right-wing populist protest movement "PEGIDA". It offers an in-depth reconstruction of the movement's historical development, its organisational structure and its programmatic orientation. It depicts the protestors and their motivations, reactions in politics, media and society, and PEGIDA's European network. The volume presents and compares the results of scientific surveys among PEGIDA-participants and brings them into the context of long-time studies on political culture in Germany, representing a comprehensive study of the emergence of contemporary right-wing populist movements. The book will be of interest to researchers, academics and students focusing on comparative politics, (right-wing) populism, protest movements in western democracies, and political culture in Germany, as well as journalists, political educators and policy makers.

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interested in South European politics, comparative politics, and democracies.

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