

(Last Name)

THE EFFECTS OF POPULISM

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The Effects of Populism

The political approach of populism has long been acknowledged as a noteworthy tool in political campaigns across the globe. Populism refers to the strife of appealing to the concerns of ordinary people while opposing political elites. The effects of populism have been frequently analyzed in an array of research studies, which have highlighted the controversial impact of populist approaches. Even though populism may be favorable in terms of electoral concentration in extreme conditions, its adverse effects, such as the focus on emotions rather than reasoning, the development of radical nationalism, and anti-democratic implications, outweigh the benefits.

The first effect of populism is apparent from the perspective of the dominance of emotions over logical argumentation. If to consider the fact that most of the populist appeals are impossible to implement, the agitation from the populist political parties is often misused. In particular, the essence of populism points fingers at existing political elites because of their agreements with big businesses (Global Is Asian, 2018). However, the existence of these claims highlights only a single point in the criticism of existing governments. Other points or political actions are either omitted or neglected—meaning that populist approaches focus firmly on the negative emotions of the broad masses against existing elites. The lack of trust in the government, low engagement in social movements, and a decline in the basics of political science are the inevitable effects of populist approaches that focus more on emotions than logic.

The second effect of populism is the development of radical nationalism. In a variety of cases when populism predominated the society, the emergence of radical nationalism or isolationism policies was irreversible. More precisely, populist slogans and rhetoric primarily rely upon the unity of people against other people. The presence of the antagonist or an enemy is the driving force for strengthening either radical nationalism or anti-globalism. Both

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of these options have a negative correlation with the development of the political system in contemporary reality. In turn, anti-democratic implications are undeniable consequences of populist approaches, which is evident in the context of Italy's newly elected populist government (The Economist, 2019). Even though the representatives of the Italian populist coalition publicly declare that the state is growing economically, Italy is already in recession.

Another example that is worth mentioning is that populist approaches falsely perceive that the achievement of the common good among all members of society is possible, eventually leading to anti-democratic implications. The core of modern populism is the struggle for rule via public opposition towards previous governments. One of the most terrible effects of populism is the direct violation of democratic principles. According to one of the most comprehensive studies on populism, the populist political agenda poses an immediate threat to democracy due to the toxic focus on popular grievances (Kyle and Mounk, 2018). Therefore, compromise is required, but not the enforcement of marginal political parties created by populist moods.

Overall, a brief overview on populism allows one to consider the benefit and numerous drawbacks of its implementation. As a variety of scholars have pointed out, the only favorable use of populist approaches is the unification of the electorate during crises. In other cases, the emergence and further development of populism is detrimental, especially considering its focus on emotions, anti-democratic implications, and the potential for the promotion of radical nationalism or strict isolationism.

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