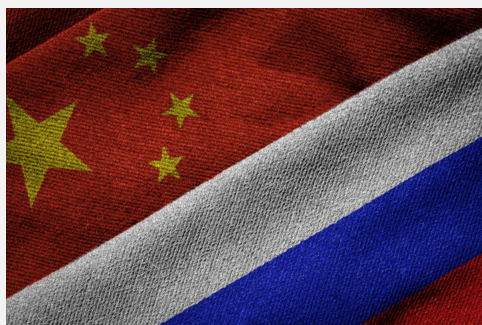




Research Projects

[Transnational History of the Far Right](#)[Russia and China as Service Providers of Illiberal Governance](#)[Russian Conservatism](#)

AT THE PROGRAM

**[The Impact of COVID-19 on the Italian Far Right: The Rise of Brothers of Italy](#)**

by Giovanna De Maio

A study on the impact of COVID-19 on the Italian far right and the rise of The Brothers of Italy and decline of The League.

[Interview with Noah Tucker](#)

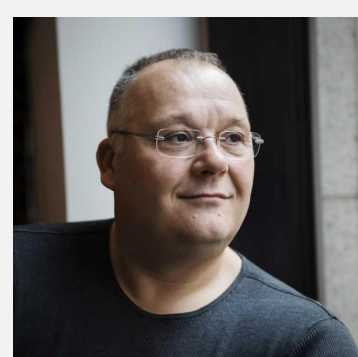
An interview with Central Asian scholar and expert on violent extremism, Noah Tucker, on jihadist ideology and potential comparisons between it and global far-right and populist movements.

**[Interview with David Lewis](#)**

An interview with author David Lewis on his latest book on Russia's "politics of order", the role of illiberal ideas, and Carl Schmitt's legacy in Russia's thinking and policy.

[Interview with Cas Mudde](#)

An interview with prominent scholar on populism and political extremism, Cas Mudde, on the transformation of the far right, the impact of the pandemic on it, and how to deal with the current threats to democracy.



IN THE NEWS

- Globally, the far-right has been [greatly benefiting](#) from the rise of social media and the idea of 'post-truth' to spread racist ideas and conspiracy theories.
- The new social media platform Parler, funded by the famous conservative billionaire Robert Mercer and his daughter, Rebekah, [allows](#) for radical far-right groups to create a new virtual space to spread racist discourses and amplify new [misinformation](#) related to U.S. politics that attracts mainstream conservatives.
- On November 19, [Political Capital](#) with the support of the [Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom](#), hosted a conference discussing the findings of their forthcoming report on the use of COVID-19 narratives by populist and far-right parties in the Visegrad countries. Speakers Bulcsú Hunyadi, Roman Máca, and Grigorij Mesežnikov walked through five primary narratives that they identified as being present in the region (anti-west/anti-democracy vs pro-east/pro-autocracy, pandemic as a tool of global control, anti-vaccine narrative, anti-migrant narrative, pandemic denial). For more details, we strongly recommend following their work and reading the report once it is released.

RESOURCE HUB

Examining voter support for the Hungarian FIDESZ party and voter satisfaction with the government, Bermond Scoggins argues that economic factors, rather than cultural factors such as anti-migrant and anti-EU attitudes, are a [better predictor of support for FIDESZ](#).Heino Nyssönen and Jussi Metsälä compare and evaluate liberal democracy in contrast with Viktor Orban's illiberal critiques of it. They argue that, based on speeches given by Orban, rhetoric used to critique liberal democracy is a [shallow guise for increasing authoritarian behavior](#).Jeffrey Haynes examines the growth of right-wing populism in Europe and the United States in the post-9/11 period. He argues that strategic adoption of rhetoric alienating and othering Islam and Muslims while promoting Christian values is an [opportunistic strategy preying on public opinion during a period of uncertainty, instability, and insecurity](#).Studying *The Guardian's* coverage of populism, Katy Brown and Aurelien Mondon explore how modern media coverage of populism tends to liberally use the term and conflate it with far-right politics in general in addition to other phenomena. They argue that [this has led to the mainstreaming of the far right](#) by surrendering the agenda-setting power of the media and politicians; trivialization of racist, nativist, and far right movements through euphemistic language; and amplification of marginal actors or ideas.Fabio De Sa Silva analyzes the legal aftermath of Brazil's anti-corruption initiative, Operation Car Wash. He finds that while the initiative and the lawyers leading it were lauded as "champions of transparency, accountability, and the 'rule of law'," much of the [language used in the proceedings by the prosecution team was symptomatic of illiberal ideas](#) and warrants concern.Julia Mourão Permoser and Kristina Stoeckl consider the strategy of a [network of conservative pro-homeschoolers](#) using human-rights claims to forward a traditionalist agenda. They argue that the network's primary objective is to amplify conservative values prioritizing the role of the family in society and that the growing presence of this particular advocacy movement is evidence of moral conservatism evolving into a transnational ideology.A separate paper by Kristina Stoeckl uses the case study of the World Congress of Families to illustrate how [growing transnational networks of conservative and right-wing actors](#) are developing between Russia and the United States and how they influence each other.Rahul Mukherji cautions that India's implementation of emergency measures as a response to the COVID-19 global pandemic has led to a [hollowing-out of civil liberties](#) and has hurried India's slide toward authoritarian rule.Qingming Huang similarly addresses the impact of the global pandemic on democracy and looks at the implications for the liberal international order. Demonstrating that increasing uncertainty and the global health crisis have increased entrenchment of authoritarianism, the rise of nationalism, and widened a space for great power competition, he argues that [China in particular has played a key role](#) using the opportunity to "extend its networks and expand international space for its model."Mihai Varga argues that the [turn to economic nationalism in Central Europe](#) is based in a belief among right-wing intellectuals that the liberal order has failed in its primary goal, as perceived by them, of producing a radical break from communism.Mitchell A. Orenstein and Bojan Bugarić similarly focus on the rise of economic populism in Central Europe documenting how populist parties in Poland and Hungary have broken from liberal economic policies and have [adopted conservative and populist economic programs](#) emphasizing nationalism, nativism, and sovereignty.Johanna Kantola and Emanuela Lombardo [identify strategies used by right populists to oppose gender equality](#), arguing that the rhetoric used contributes to a goal of making gender equality and feminist politics more contentious.Andrea Pető contributes to the discussion by documenting the Hungarian government's recent revocation of a license accrediting a master's program in gender studies and the pressure provoking the Central European University to leave the country showing how the [Hungarian government has become a source of attacks on academic freedom](#).

For more resources on illiberal, populist, and authoritarian trends across the globe, consult our growing **Resource Hub** aggregating hundreds of published academic articles on illiberalism and other topics relating to illiberal movements. From security and international affairs, to democratic backsliding and public policy, this center of longstanding and recently-published literature continues to document ongoing global trends of growing illiberal movements around the world.

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