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Event Recording

AT GW'S INSTITUTE FOR EUROPEAN, RUSSIAN, AND EURASIAN STUDIES



New Concept Corners Concept Corner is a series of short interviews with academics focused on a specific idea or concept.





Publications

Bukele's Electoral Hegemony in El Salvador and its Implications for **Democracy**

Jonatán Lemus on the appeal of El Salvador's populist president Nayib Bukele, what his consolidation of power has meant for the country, and what it may mean for Salvadoran democracy going forward.



Looking Back to the Future: <u>Uncovering the (Neo)fascist</u> Origins of Today's Italian Far <u>Right</u>

Joseph Cerrone on the Italian conservative think tank Nazione Futura and what the organization tells us about the nature of Italian



Ideological Emigration to Russia John Chrobak on the emigration of western

Dreaming of Russia: Western

The Rise of Chega and

Portugal's Looming

Political Earthquake

Portuguese democracy.

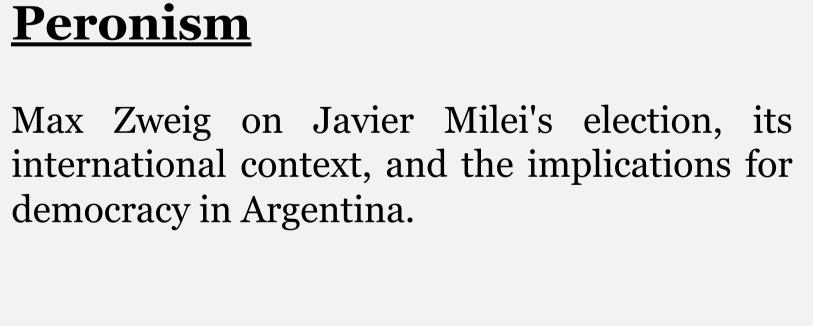
Riccardo Marchi on the rise of the far-

right Chega party in Portugal, its history

and ideology, and its potential to disrupt

conservatives to Russia and plans to build an

American Village.



iChe Milei! Argentina, the Far

Right, and the Politics of anti-





of the Fiuggi Turn Giulia Chielli on the historical ties of the Fratelli d'Italia and the persistence of fascist

Fratelli d'Italia and the Failure

politics in Italy 30 years after the Fiuggi turn.



ideological beliefs, and its activities.

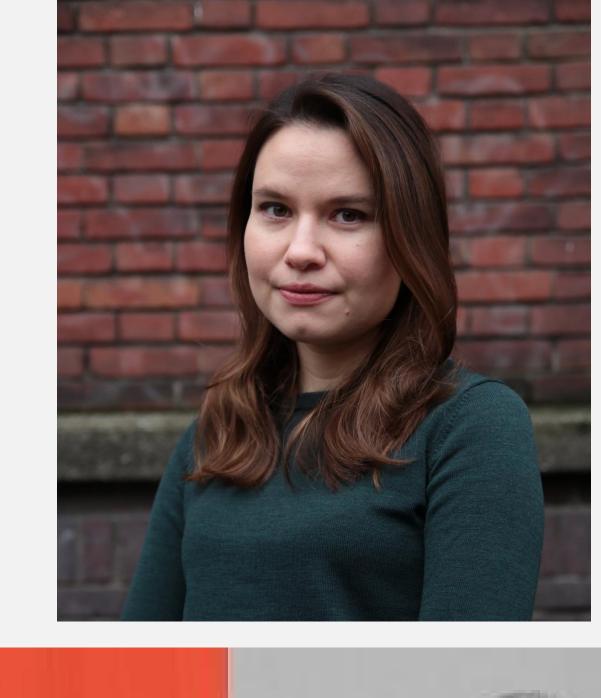


Agora Eviane Leidig on the Women of

the Far Right, Social Media, and **Transnational Illiberalism** Eviane Leidig on the role of women in the far-

the transnational nature of the modern far right.

right movement, particularly online, as well as





support."

RESOURCE HUB

How the Radical Right Has Changed Capitalism and Welfare in Europe and the USA charts the socioeconomic transformation of radical right parties since their electoral breakthroughs in the 1970s and 1980s. It tackles the complex intersection of sociocultural and socioeconomic issues, demonstrating how the radical right's sociocultural values shape its economic policies, and how diverse welfare state contexts "mediate the radical right's social and economic policy impact in office." It also reveals the economic winners and losers of the radical right in power and shows how policy is used to manufacture consent for democratic backsliding. Julia Simon and Jared Sonnicksen highlight the continuing challenges to the constitutional, social, and political stability of democracy in the United States by outlining "several dimensions of an enabling environment in which Trump(ism) could thrive." They

focus most heavily on the long-term influences, institutions, etc. that have created the

present moment, such as asymmetric polarization, economic inequality, and the rise of

nationalist and anti-government tendencies. They close the article by ruminating on how the above trends will broadly affect European states, transatlantic relationships, and the global multilateral system. American Fury: Essays on Moral Outrage in Culture and Politics offers the first interdisciplinary study of the myriad ways that moral outrage is articulated, invoked, and mediated in contemporary U.S. society. It looks at examples ranging widely from feminist and indigenous activism to climate protests, school curriculum debates, alt-right action, and more. In the process, it claims that moral outrage is "the affective currency that drives collective action in a democracy," and essays in this volume "underscore its vital function

as a galvanizing force in identity politics, social change, policymaking and civic engagement." Democracy Fatigue: An East European Epidemy takes up the task of explaining why democracy has deteriorated in the 21st century, explaining the rise of populist forces in the process. Contributors to this volume consider the 2008–2012 economic crisis to lie at the heart of populist parties' success and the backlash against liberal values. The austerity policies of this era, often imposed by the European Union and IMF, "made the wider public feel that they were being left out of politics, and populist parties promised to return power to them." Contributors also detail how Eastern and Western Europe differ, arguing that "authoritarian attitudes in the East explain why people feel more satisfied with a

defective democracy that empowers the populist-authoritarian political actors that they

Using Hungary as a case study, Andrea Éltető and József Péter Martin show how today's

autocracies distort traditional institutions' principles and craft state-business relations for

their benefit. The authors argue that the Hungarian "regime's longevity depends on three

main factors: alternative institutional arrangements, perceived individual economic welfare and support of business actors." Though dealing with foreign and domestic business differently, the "creative and effective" practices of the Hungarian government have "result[ed] in a long-term conciliation of different players and the stabilisation of the ruling power even in case of economic difficulties." Max Steuer offers a case study focused on Slovakia's first criminal conviction of an incumbent far-right MP for hate speech. He notes that the far right tried to "weaponize the legal process to cement their electoral base," which proved a challenge for experts trying to implement mitigation strategies. Steuer suggests that this analysis "points to the relevance of global legal pluralism not only in approaches to hate speech, but also regarding the

interaction between the legal doctrine, the humanities and social sciences, and local legal regulation." Tom Junes puts forward a historical reflection on the roots of the populist-driven "illiberal" turn" in Poland. He begins by acknowledging the contingency of such a turn, pointing to an explanation that centers the interplay of three historical factors: the dynamics of Cold War-era student politics, the demise of communism in 1989, and the implosion of the strong post-communist center-left in the mid-2000s. Junes asserts that these processes suggest that Poland's political trajectory 'has been more sui generis than understood through the general prism of the rise of populism" and that it is more accurately seen as

the result of an entrenched political class whose worldviews were forged decades ago.

Using the European Union's 2021 decision to punish democratic backsliding in Hungary and Poland as a backdrop, Michael Blauberger and Ulrich Sedelmeier theorize two distinctive processes that can account for why EU policy changed from inaction to enforcement. First, backsliding became a more salient issue in the domestic politics of various EU member states, incentivizing their governments to support sanctions against illiberal governments abroad. Second, backsliding governments increasingly disrupted "intergovernmental policy cooperation and threaten[ed] common policies at the EU level," leading initially reluctant actors to favor the use of sanctions. The authors support these theories using empirical data collected from the newspapers of the EU's largest states and the proceedings of Europe's highest political bodies. Michal Mužík and Jan Šerek chart the pathways through which authoritarianism

translates into intolerance among Czech youth. They find that, in addition to the perceived threat from immigration and a general alienation, trust in alternative media can be seen as a potential mediator. Mužík and Šerek use two-wave longitudinal questionnaire data from Czech adolescents and find that "authoritarianism longitudinally predicted perceived threat, which in turn mediated the negative effect of authoritarianism on tolerance. Authoritarianism also predicted higher trust in alternative media, but alternative media trust did not translate into young people's tolerance." However, no longitudinal effects of authoritarianism on political alienation were found. Looking to Indonesia, Muhammad Asfar et al. ask why populist rule persisted during the challenging times of COVID-19, despite democracy being unfavorably affected. The

authors observe that populist governments did poorly during the pandemic because they took "simplistic and anti-science actions," but despite this fact "populism remains popular and populist leaders continue to stay in office." They go on to analyze the social realities enabling populist regime sustainability and assert that "complex and dynamic statesociety power relations shape the ground on which populist rule survives the crisis, but democracy declines." South Korea's Democracy in Crisis: The Threats of Illiberalism, Populism, and Polarization traces the sources of illiberalism in today's Korea, including political polarization, the politicization of civil society and the courts, and the role of structural

inequality, education, and social media. These sources compound in what the volume's

contributors agree is the troubled state of Korean democracy. The volume also tackles the symptoms of this democratic decline: the demonization of political opponents, the erosion of democratic norms, and the whittling away of the courts' independence. Using Israel as a case study, Nitzan Perelman elucidates "the decoupling practice of 'democratic washing' within contemporary political discourse." Perelman explains that this practice manifests as anti-democratic actions concealed behind democratic rhetoric. Looking to Israel since 2009, this study provides a comprehensive understanding of "how democratic washing contributes to the erosion of democratic elements in states usually considered as democracies in the global arena." It concludes by abstracting outward toward democratic governance worldwide while proposing a new tool for analyzing the

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