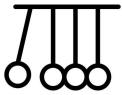


# Unpopular Populism: An Opinion On The Real Hold Of Extremist Policies

POLITICS

EGE İŞERİ



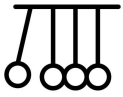
## Abstract

Today's political atmosphere almost always repeats the same cycle: Democracies acting as nurseries for totalitarian regimes to take hold. The questions of how and why this happens are, in my opinion, soundly answered, and are not the subject of what this essay will linger on. Primarily, I will go on to argue if these rising totalitarian movements are as powerful and ever-dominant in the current political atmosphere as claimed. For this, I will attempt to resurface practicality in politics, i.e. "*How to conduct statecraft?*" I will walk through the current forecast made for such extremist movements from various countries. Then, I will analyse their platform choices to similar platforms that were established in the past. I argue that if the policy platforms of these movements mimic those that are impractical for statecraft, my thesis supporting their success amounts to nothing but cheap promises. Thus, I will conclude by assuming the clock of these movements to be limited and only rest upon the momentary shifts of public opinion to sensible politics.

To understand the true value of such movements this paper will discuss, one must first accustom themselves to distinguishing practical solutions to rather complex problems that are often the case in statecraft. Though the subject at hand can be expanded upon many questions, such as ethics, I will keep my points succinct and only focus on the characteristics of practical policies which are separated from impractical policies. For this, I will go over several policy decisions based in the UK.

## Body

Perhaps the best example of a blunder in policy choice for statecraft is what keeps plaguing British politics afloat on this day is Brexit. The UK's withdrawal from the EU is a particularly niche example here. Although the ideas of Euroscepticism are old, execution of the policy was not just a 'solution' to a 'problem', it was a move that catapulted the now-reform UK into its staggeringly popular position. To touch briefly on the topic of Brexit, numerous issues the Britons face today can be traced back to their certainly misguided will of 51-48 that saw once the strongest empire cast away as she flinched out of the largest socio-economic alliance post-war Europe has, and took years out of legislative calendars that would have been benefited to be used elsewhere.

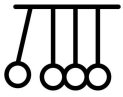


Therefore, take the Brexit example and consider the following: it was a policy choice that was ambiguous at what it targeted, wasted the precious time of state, and brought in instability whilst fulfilling none of its aspirations. Though it is debated at a tiring length, effective policies in statecraft are usually clearly visible with common sense. Times are no longer medieval when words were few and good advice was rare. Instead, modern political institutions (regardless of their ideological alignment) have garnered an ever-extensive network of knowledge that is more effective than ever seen.

Hence, a question on the rising popularity of extremist movements was raised. How could these impractical implications be able to position themselves as true champions of the people? I argue that for these movements to rise, there can only be a grand achievement made; not in the practicality of their nature, but in the rhetoric the masses find convincing. Considering Fairclough's words, media's prevalence in mainstream politics gave rise to charmers instead of policies. This serves a sensible answer to the predicament of what could otherwise be worded as society going haywire. After all; the root of populist movements, regardless of their success, never lied within their sensibility, but only resonated with the common mass which stood up to defend it. Sensibility of these ideals (i.e. *to be practical in statecraft*) and their ability to be adopted fondly by people is always a possibility. Yet this shall be regarded as coincidental rather than to be taken as the norm.

Which leads me to question the last subject of this paper, that is the true half-life remaining of these movements. To which, what history can provide as uncomfortable, and what current ones are viable even less. Though, such movement's eradication only comes truly (although this is to say ignorant of the fact for splits and spillovers) upon the success of these movements. Yet, it was without a doubt that such radicalisation was never put down upon success, but lit it up even more.

Just like the most radical idea of them all: democracy, which regardless of the setbacks it faced and will face, keeps developing and expanding into charters that are now deemed impossible. However, such movements of this paper's topic, just as democracy develops, do not remain static. Take the reality of what happens in the UK, where the Brexit movement only gave a more rooted will to pursue more radical reforms, just as Whigs of the 1800s once did for the Reform.



## Conclusion

The rather repugnant outlook that current developments bring are not the bells of doom, but rather a mere speck in the grander timeline of human societies. The uncomfortable fact history brings to this argument; is that the said movement of democracy acts just like the current movements in question, only on a grander scale and as the host of this movement rather than of something independent. The world of Inter-War Europe was a nightmare, yet not the true end to sanity, as it prevailed over not just the regime of a German tyrant, but of a Russian too. Time, for once, is an ally. Albeit the slowest one man will ever get in his lifetime.

Therefore, to answer whether populism is as popular as it claimed to be: one can surely say yes for his time, yet would be in grave error to consider his time on this planet to be the last hours of mankind. Reason compels sensible policies to take hold, which shall be the case regardless of how many more dubious ideas humanity will get to debate upon for its existence. Humanity has shown that we are feeble beings, susceptible to simple hopes and momentarily unreasoned acts, yet history shows for now none will be a force that'll grapple man.