

'Populist Radical Right Parties in Europe'
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'Populist Radical Right Parties in Europe' is a path-breaking work. It is the most systematic comparative study to date on this family of parties, and covers Western Europe as well as Central and Eastern Europe. Mudde defines populist radical right parties by nativism, authoritarianism and populism. The book is based on extensive empirical research by the author, who interweaves profound knowledge of the parties being studied with analytical and typological perspectives. The book sets a very high standard for all subsequent work on parties of the right. It is not only a major contribution to the description and empirical and theoretical explanation of these parties, it will also serve as a prominent reading requirement in any course on political parties in Western, Central and Eastern Europe.

Mudde analyses both the demand side and the supply side of populist radical right parties, explores their organizational features, and studies in detail their voters and members. In addition, he investigates the policy dimension. Mudde's conclusions draw on an impressively broad data base and masterful knowledge of the literature in various languages. The book deconstructs a large number of myths. 'It's *not* the economy, stupid!', chapter 5 argues; it is mistaken to see neo-liberalism as a constituent element of right wing populism; and these parties are not such pronounced 'Männerparteien' as many claim. Mudde emphasizes that these parties are not only a product of their socio-economic and political environment; rather they are active in developing programs and ideologies and in shaping and moulding their position in the political systems and societies in Europe.

Mudde echoes the Rokkanian approach by being highly sensitive to peculiarities of the countries under study and to history. At the same time he is courageous and ambitious in forging generalisations and theoretical advances. Mudde's work is not only an outstanding contribution to comparative social research but also a marvellous example of a Rokkanian approach.