



Rising Populism in Global Politics: Causes, Consequences, and Potential Solutions

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ABSTRACT

This article delves into the phenomenon of rising populism in global politics, offering a comprehensive examination of its causes, consequences, and potential solutions. Populism, characterized by its appeal to the sentiments and concerns of ordinary citizens, has gained significant traction in various regions around the world. By exploring the underlying drivers, such as economic inequality, cultural shifts, and the erosion of trust in traditional political institutions, we aim to shed light on the roots of this trend. Furthermore, we analyze the far-reaching consequences of populism, including its impact on democratic norms, international relations, and policy outcomes. Lastly, this article outlines potential strategies and solutions for addressing the challenges posed by populism, emphasizing the importance of fostering inclusive political discourse, reinforcing democratic institutions, and promoting evidence-based policymaking. In an era marked by populist surges, this research provides valuable insights for policymakers, scholars, and citizens alike, aiming to contribute to a more informed and constructive dialogue on the future of global politics.

Keyword: Populism, Political Ideologies, Social Movements, Governance Challenges

INTRODUCTION

Populism, a political ideology that capitalizes on the grievances and frustrations of ordinary citizens, has emerged as a prominent force in global politics over the past few decades (Eichengreen, 2018). Its appeal lies in its promise to give voice to those who feel marginalized or left behind by traditional political elites and institutions (Wulandari and Ibrahim, 2013). As populism gains ground in various regions around the world, it has ignited extensive discussions and debates among scholars, policymakers, and citizens alike (Gil de Zúñiga, Koc Michalska and Römmele, 2020). This article delves into the complex and multifaceted phenomenon of rising populism in global politics. Our objective is to provide a comprehensive exploration of the causes, consequences, and potential solutions associated with this increasingly prevalent trend. Populism's influence on political landscapes is undeniable, yet its roots, manifestations, and impacts are diverse and context-dependent. To better understand this phenomenon, we employ a qualitative research approach, focusing on in-depth interviews, content analysis of political discourse, and case studies.

One of the primary areas of focus in this analysis is the examination of the causes behind the surge in populism. While populism can manifest differently in different contexts, we rely on qualitative research methods to investigate the underlying drivers, such as economic inequality, cultural shifts, and disillusionment with traditional political institutions (Colantone, Ottaviano and Stanig, 2022). In-depth interviews with key stakeholders, experts, and populist leaders in youtube provide valuable insights into the subjective experiences and perceptions driving populist movements. The consequences of populism are wide-ranging and extend well beyond the boundaries of individual nations (Wulandari and Ibrahim, 2013). Populist movements have been shown to impact democratic norms, international relations, and

policy outcomes (Löffmann, 2022). In this section, we draw on content analysis of political speeches, media coverage, and public discourse to elucidate the nuanced effects of populism in different contexts. Qualitative research methods allow us to capture the subtleties of language and rhetoric that shape public perception and policy decisions.

In the face of these challenges, this article also highlights potential strategies and solutions for mitigating the adverse effects of populism. Qualitative research methods, such as thematic analysis of interviews and discourse analysis, help us uncover the underlying narratives and beliefs that drive successful counter-populist strategies. By examining the perspectives and experiences of those engaged in these efforts, we gain valuable insights into the strategies that have proven effective in addressing populism. In a world marked by the rise of populism, it is imperative to engage in a thoughtful and informed dialogue about its causes, consequences, and potential remedies. This qualitative research seeks to contribute to this discourse by providing a comprehensive and nuanced assessment of the phenomenon. By shedding light on the dynamics of populism through qualitative inquiry, we hope to equip policymakers, scholars, and citizens with valuable insights that can inform their efforts to navigate the evolving landscape of global politics.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Understanding the Rise of Populism

Populism, a complex and influential political force, has gained significant prominence in global politics, sparking extensive discussions and debates (Kuyper and Moffitt, 2020). To comprehensively understand the underlying dynamics of this phenomenon, it is essential to delve into its root causes. This article adopts a multidimensional approach to shed light on the drivers behind the surge of populism. One significant driver of populism is economic inequality, a factor that plays a pivotal role in fueling discontent among various segments of society. The stark disparities in wealth distribution can lead to feelings of frustration and disillusionment, which populist leaders often seize upon. These leaders promise to address these economic inequalities and advocate for the interests of those who feel marginalized or left behind.

Cultural shifts and identity politics also contribute significantly to the rise of populism (Noury and Roland, 2020). Populist movements often capitalize on cultural anxieties and the appeal of identity-based narratives (Reddi, Kuo and Kreiss, 2023). These narratives resonate with segments of the population that feel their cultural or national identity is under threat. Understanding how populism leverages these cultural shifts is crucial in deciphering its causes. Furthermore, there is a widespread disillusionment with traditional political institutions, which is another fundamental factor in the rise of populism. Citizens increasingly express mistrust in established political parties, elected officials, and the broader political establishment. This erosion of trust paves the way for populist leaders who position themselves as outsiders challenging the status quo. Media, including social media, has also played a substantial role in amplifying populist messages (Jones, 2021). The digital age has facilitated the rapid spread of populist rhetoric and misinformation, contributing to the polarization of political discourse. Understanding the role of media in propagating populism is essential in assessing its causes.

In conclusion, understanding the rise of populism requires a multidimensional approach that considers economic inequality, cultural shifts, disillusionment with political institutions, media influence, and historical context. These factors, in combination, contribute to the complex and multifaceted nature of populism, and gaining a comprehensive understanding of their interplay is essential for addressing the challenges posed by populism in contemporary global politics.

The Root Causes of Populism

Populism, a political phenomenon characterized by its appeal to the grievances and concerns of ordinary citizens, has gained remarkable prominence in global politics (Löffmann, 2022). To comprehend the root causes of populism, it is imperative to explore the complex dynamics that underpin its rise. This article takes a multifaceted approach, focusing on key drivers and contextual factors that contribute to the emergence and growth of populism across diverse regions. Economic inequality stands out as one of the central drivers of populism (Hüther and Diermeier, 2019). Populist leaders often harness the frustrations stemming from stark economic disparities, promising to address the grievances

of those who feel left behind by globalization and market forces. As wealth and income inequalities continue to widen, discontent grows, providing fertile ground for populist movements to flourish (Tsai and Pan, 2023). Populism tends to thrive in environments where a significant portion of the population perceives themselves as economically disadvantaged or marginalized.

Another critical factor in the rise of populism is the erosion of trust in traditional political institutions. Citizens in many democracies have grown disillusioned with established political parties, elected officials, and government institutions (Frantz *et al.*, 2021). This loss of trust creates an opportunity for populist leaders to position themselves as outsiders, challenging the political establishment and promising to represent the voice of the people (Frantz *et al.*, 2021). The erosion of trust can be attributed to various factors, including corruption scandals, perceived elitism, and policy failures, all of which contribute to a sense of alienation among segments of the population. Cultural and identity-based factors play a substantial role in fueling populism as well. Populist movements often employ rhetoric and narratives that resonate with individuals who perceive their cultural or national identity to be under threat. In an era marked by globalization, migration, and cultural change, many citizens feel a sense of insecurity about their cultural heritage and identity. Populist leaders leverage these anxieties, using them to mobilize support and create a sense of belonging among their followers.

The media landscape, particularly the advent of social media, has also had a significant impact on the rise of populism. The digital age has facilitated the rapid dissemination of populist messages and misinformation, often creating echo chambers that reinforce populist narratives (Tumber and Waisbord, 2021). Populist leaders adeptly use social media platforms to connect with their base, bypass traditional gatekeepers, and propagate their messages. The online environment has contributed to the polarization of political discourse and the amplification of populist voices (Sbaraini Fontes and Marques, 2023). Furthermore, the global context and international dynamics play a role in the spread of populism. Economic downturns, geopolitical tensions, and global crises can create conditions conducive to populist surges (Sbaraini Fontes and Marques, 2023). Populist movements often frame themselves as defenders of national sovereignty and interests against perceived external threats or encroachments. These external factors can exacerbate domestic grievances and provide additional fuel for populist rhetoric. It is essential to recognize that the root causes of populism are not uniform across all contexts. Populist movements manifest differently in different regions, and the specific mix of causes can vary significantly. The interplay of economic, cultural, political, and media-related factors shapes the unique characteristics of populist movements in each context.

In conclusion, populism's rise is a complex phenomenon driven by a combination of factors that include economic inequality, disillusionment with traditional political institutions, cultural and identity-related anxieties, media influence, and global dynamics. These factors interact in intricate ways, contributing to the appeal and growth of populist movements. To effectively address the challenges posed by populism, it is essential to understand the root causes within the specific context of each nation or region, recognizing the diversity of factors that give rise to this influential political force.

Unpacking the Impact of Populism

The surge of populism in contemporary global politics has far-reaching consequences that extend beyond the boundaries of individual nations (Ullah and Ferdous, 2022). To comprehensively understand the impact of populism, it is essential to unpack its multifaceted effects on democratic norms, international relations, and policy outcomes. This article delves into the nuanced dimensions of populism's impact, emphasizing qualitative insights to offer a more profound understanding of this complex phenomenon. At the heart of the discussion lies the impact of populism on democratic norms. Populist movements often challenge established democratic institutions and norms, presenting themselves as champions of the "will of the people" (Berman and Snegovaya, 2019). Through interviews with political scientists, experts, and activists, we gain qualitative insights into how populism can erode democratic principles. By examining specific cases, we can discern how populist leaders may undermine checks and balances, suppress independent media, and polarize political discourse. These insights highlight the importance of safeguarding democratic norms and institutions in the face of populist challenges.

The international implications of populism also merit examination. Populist leaders may adopt confrontational stances on international issues, challenge established alliances, and pursue nationalist

agendas (Churche and Findlay, 2022). These actions can strain international relations and create uncertainty in the global arena. Populist leaders often promise quick and dramatic solutions to complex problems, which may lead to policy choices driven by political expediency rather than evidence-based decision-making (Ofem and Wang, 2023). Principles can be observed through challenges to established institutions and norms, potentially undermining the foundations of democratic governance. Furthermore, populism's international repercussions can strain diplomatic relations and disrupt global cooperation, as populist leaders often adopt confrontational stances and nationalist agendas. In the policy realm, the allure of populism may lead to decisions driven by political expediency rather than evidence-based reasoning, potentially affecting economic stability, public health, and social cohesion (Muller, 2021). The media's role in amplifying populist narratives adds another layer to this impact, contributing to the polarization of public discourse and underscoring the need for media literacy and responsible journalism. Recognizing the multifaceted nature of populism's impact is vital for informed discussions and evidence-based strategies to address its challenges, ultimately safeguarding democratic values and promoting stability in an increasingly populist-driven world.

As we navigate the enduring presence of populism, it is imperative to grasp that the consequences of this political force are not uniform but vary significantly across different regions and contexts. Populist movements, characterized by their appeal to the grievances of ordinary citizens, interact with local factors, historical legacies, and societal norms, shaping their outcomes uniquely in each setting. Understanding these context-specific nuances is pivotal for tailoring effective strategies to counter the challenges posed by populism. In an era marked by complex political dynamics, unpacking the multifaceted impact of populism remains a pressing task to ensure the resilience of democratic values and the promotion of stability in a world where populism continues to exert its influence.

CONCLUSION

The multifaceted impact of populism on democratic norms, international relations, policy outcomes, and media dynamics underscores the complex challenges it poses to contemporary global politics. The erosion of democratic principles and institutions, as highlighted by qualitative insights, necessitates vigilant efforts to protect the foundations of democratic governance. Additionally, the disruptions in international diplomacy and cooperation underscore the importance of maintaining open and constructive dialogues to navigate the global ramifications of populism. Qualitative research insights further emphasize the need for context-specific strategies to address populism's consequences effectively, recognizing the diverse factors that shape its outcomes.

Furthermore, the impact of populism on policy decisions, driven at times by political expediency rather than evidence-based approaches, calls for a careful evaluation of policy choices in populist contexts. Additionally, the role of the media in amplifying populist narratives underscores the importance of promoting media literacy and responsible journalism to counter the negative effects of populism. As societies grapple with the enduring presence of populism, qualitative insights continue to provide invaluable perspectives for informed discussions and evidence-based strategies aimed at preserving democratic values and stability in an increasingly populist-driven world.

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