

THE (NEW) RISE OF RIGHT-WING POPULISM AND EXTREMISM IN EASTERN EUROPE

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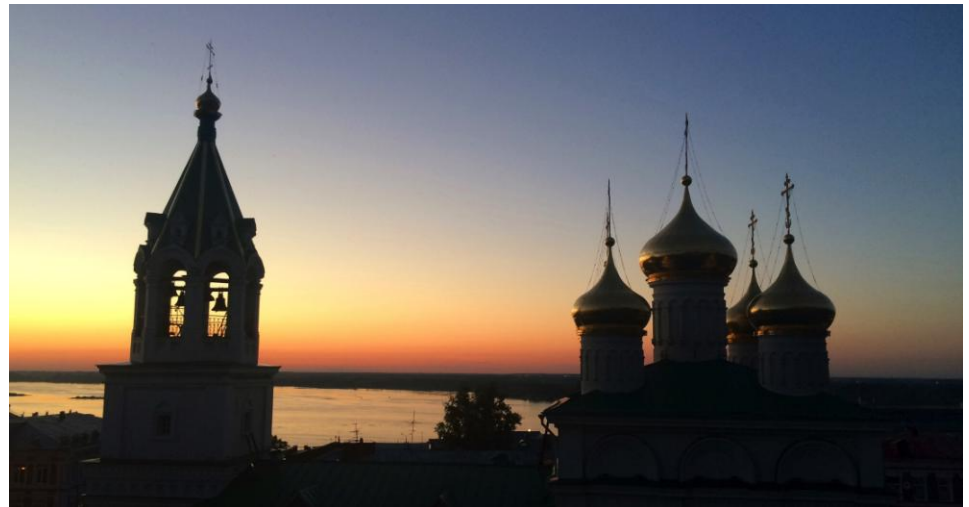
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Ideological vacuums

- First wave: post-1989
- Second wave: currently ongoing
 - Move away from democratic and liberal values
 - “illiberal democracy” (Orban) and “traiditonalism”
 - Ideological divide:
 - Russia as the emerging ideological counterbalance to the West
 - Russian traditionalism:
 - Patriotism
 - Morality
 - Religion
 - Traditional families
 - Traditional values



General disappointment, disillusionment

- Perceived challenges of the recent years
 - Economic crisis (2007/8)
 - Loss of national identities/national distinctiveness
 - Brain-drain
 - Refugee crisis
- Role and involvement of the US (globally, regionally)
 - “Imposed” multiculturalism
 - malfunctioning democracy
 - global neoliberalism
- Rejection of political correctness (seen as a more daring, honest politics)
 - Open scapegoating (Roma, Jews)
 - Conspiracy theories
 - Xenophobia
 - Anti-Western sentiments

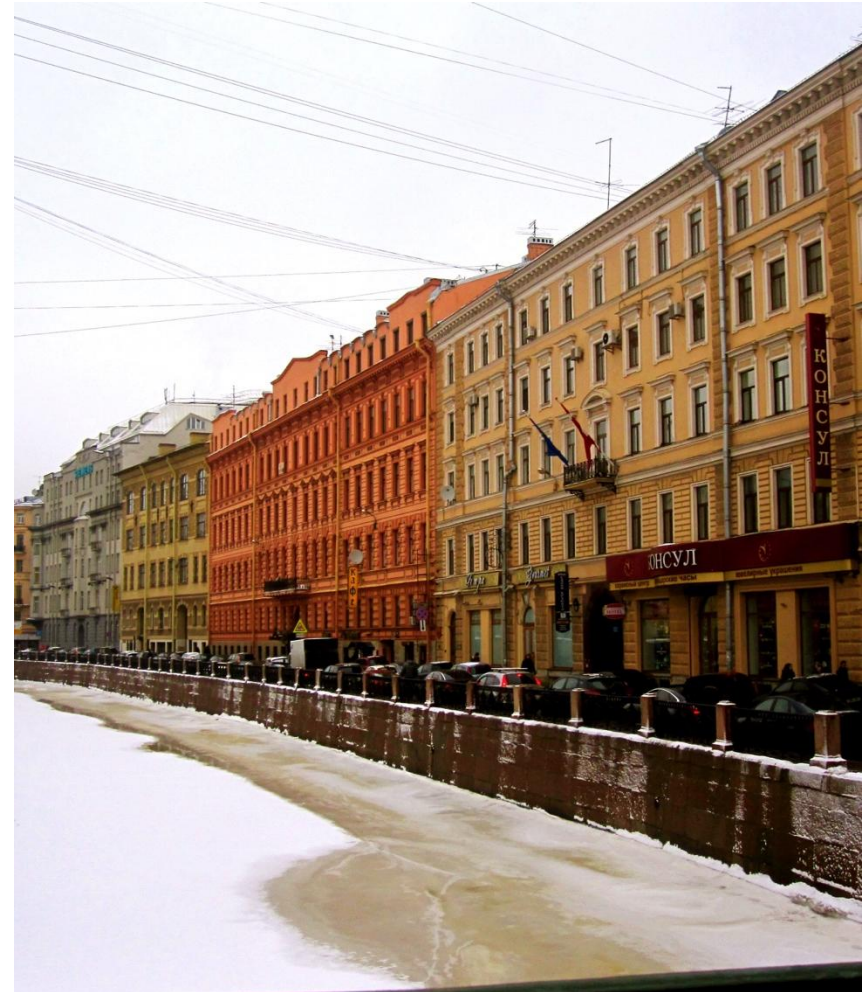
Answer of the far-right

- “New” approach: conservatism, traditionalism, nationalism
- Russia as the emerging ideological model/leader and an ally
 - Increasing links with European far-right parties—economic assistance from Russia, political support from Europe



A new union...

- St Petersburg, Russia: in March 2015 many representatives of European far-right parties converged, organized by radical right-wing party Rodina
 - “first forum of the national-oriented political forces” — Rogozin, founder of Rodina
 - Establishment of permanent committee to coordinate Russia's and Europe's conservative political forces



Russia as a model for right-wing European movements

“Hungary is being forced to defend the same values as the West lapses into moral relativism, multiculturalism and same-sex marriage. Sometimes, according to the logic of Hungarian foreign policy, the only way to defend the traditions of Christianity is to make an alliance with the East, joining Vladimir Putin’s crusade against the decadent West.”

Istvan Rev, NY Times

“Putin’s appeal to Europe’s far right is (...) to do with the Russian strongman’s combination of imperialist ambition, moral conservatism, and military might. In challenging the global role of the U.S. and EU, the Kremlin is pursuing an anti-globalist agenda (...). And in developing a political system in Russia characterized by authoritarianism, nationalism, and populism, Putin is providing an ideological and political template for right-wing parties throughout Europe.

Andrew Foxall, New Republic

Challenges, questions, considerations

- Conceptualization of the far-right in the 21st century Europe
- Place of national far-right movements within the politics of the EU
- Handling of the far-right – constructive criticism, incorporation, outlawing, repressing?
- Boundaries and limitations of European democracy
- Role of Russia in European (far-right) politics
 - What is the Russian model?
 - What is the appeal of the Russian model?