

## **Rise of Extreme Right in Europe**

### **Introduction**

The concepts of democracy, equality, and social justice are frequently perceived as being threatened by the emergence of extreme right-wing parties in Europe. The parties are antagonistic to marginalized groups, including immigrants, refugees, and racial and ethnic minorities. Additionally, these are motivated by nationalist, authoritarian, and xenophobic ideas that endanger the values of plurality and diversity. The rise of these extreme right parties is deeply concerning. The rise in popularity of far-right political groups, which support nationalism, bigotry, and white supremacy, is gravely disturbing.

### **Causes of the Rise of the Extreme Right**

The economic crisis that began in 2008 can be considered the cause of the development of radical rights in Europe and the subsequent unwavering pursuit by the EU and national authorities of neoliberal deficit control and austerity measures. Such economic measures widen the divide between the privileged élite and the majority of the populace, giving the far-right opportunities to capitalize on their discontent.

Conventional democratic politics has adapted itself to the interests of high finance, the government offers no real alternatives in terms of economic models, but rather subtle variations on a single immutable pattern that seems to strip representative institutions of meaning and reduce pluralist elections to mere empty rituals.

The far-right profits from public disapproval of a political elite that is crooked, privileged, and oligopolistic, even while true democracy appears helpless in the face of the untouchable big business and financial institutions.

### **How the far right is surging in Europe?**

The consequences of the extreme right's expansion in Europe are grave. It can be contended that the far-political right's philosophy is inherently antithetical to the ideas of social justice, equality, and human rights. The policies of the far-right pose a threat to undoing the progress accomplished in these areas over the previous century and expose vulnerable people to prejudice and violence. The nationalist agenda of the far-right poses a threat to undermine the foundation for peace and stability in Europe.

Since, the early 1980s, far-right groups have been steadily but gradually gaining political influence and support throughout Europe. They transitioned from the political periphery to the

political center during that time. As a result, the biggest threat to liberal democracy in Europe today is posed by far-right parties.

On this front, attention should be paid to five European countries in particular. The world should pay close attention to Hungary, Poland, Italy, Sweden, and France, in order from the most serious threat to the least. Far-right parties are electorally successful and dominant in each of these nations.

The center-left Social Democrats' electoral victory in Germany last year and the hard-right Alternative for Germany's electoral defeats signaled the reactionary forces were losing ground. Then came the second round of the French presidential election, where Marine Le Pen of the far-right received a record 13.3 million votes or more than 41% of the total. Despite coming up short in the presidential vote, Marine Le Pen, the head of France's radical right, came close this time, as her party gained a record number of seats in the parliamentary elections.

In Italy, Giorgia Meloni's Brothers of Italy political party as described by CNN as "the most far-right government since the fascist era of Benito Mussolini", is set to claim victory.

Brothers of Italy, which received little more than a quarter of the vote, will take control of the government as part of a right-wing coalition with other parties.

After focusing on immigration, a topic that nativist and populist politicians all over the world find particularly appealing, she is ready to declare success. Meloni has proposed a "naval blockade" to restrict the flow of people into Europe from the Mediterranean, in contrast to former US President Donald Trump, who ran on a platform of building a wall between the US and Mexico.

Other traits that Italy's extreme right shares with its European counterparts include animosity for "elites," authoritarian inclinations, contempt for gender equality and multiculturalism, and a fixation on national identity rooted in racism. The same has been propagated to Poland, the Netherlands, Austria, Spain, and Serbia, among other countries.

In elections that happened last year in Sweden, a party with "neo-Nazi roots" was able to capitalize on anti-immigrant fervour and garner more than 20% of the vote, giving it significant sway over the country's next government.

Poland has seen an increase in far-right political groups and movements in recent years. Nationalist and anti-immigrant viewpoints, rejection of multiculturalism, and a heavy emphasis on traditional values and religious conservatism are characteristics of Poland's far-right. The far-right in Poland has been linked to a variety of contentious deeds and remarks, such as speech that is anti-Semitic and anti-Muslim, attacks on LGBTQ+ rights, and hostility to EU

membership.

In Hungary, the harm the far right can cause when in power is painfully obvious. Viktor Orbán, the country's pro-Moscow prime minister, and his Fidesz party have thwarted EU action on Ukraine and undermined freedoms in the judiciary, academia, minority communities, and the media. The European Parliament ruled that Hungary was no longer a democracy.

## **Conclusion**

The social and political stability of Europe is seriously threatened by these trends, which have the potential to exacerbate polarisation and intolerance and to undercut the core tenets of democracy and human rights. Extreme right-wing parties' xenophobic and racist views can lead to discrimination and violence against marginalized communities which is a direct attack on the principles of equality and social justice. These trends in Europe could lead to increased tensions and conflicts with other countries, particularly those that are seen as being different or foreign.

In order to combat this trend, it is crucial for governments and civil society organizations to endeavor to promote inclusivity, tolerance, and respect for diversity.

