

The Rise of the Extreme Right in Europe

Europe has always been at the crux of polarising factors. As it pushed for greater integrity among European states fueled by fears of previous devastating conflicts the involvement of external factors have made this idea a belligerent factor in the region.

Europe was the battleground for two of humanity's most devastating wars so it was natural for European nations to not look forward to such similar events in its future. It has strived towards this goal by strengthening ties between the major European countries in terms of trade and throughout the years evolved its goals and ambitions by including other smaller countries into its fold creating what we know today as the European Union. But today this institution faces hurdles to its integrity in the form of growing protectionism and inward-looking policies undertaken by its members. The growing intolerance towards outsiders which is often extended towards the perceived 'non-western Europeans' which included most of eastern Europeans namely, the Russians has reanimated itself due to the ongoing Russo-Ukrainian war which has fueled and reinvigorated the far-right capitalising on the fears and uncertainties to further its populist and polarising politics at the cost of the idea pan Europeanism.

The article is an attempt at understanding how a conflict in mainland Europe has reinvigorated the extreme right and whether the actions of 'western' Europe has been short-sighted in its actions, prolonging war in Ukraine and the dangerous consequences it may hold for Europe or rather the idea of Europe as one entity. The involvement of NATO and its expansion in Europe and the realist response of Russia is also a factor which has been brought about by most liberal critics of the war shying away from the critique of a world order which has led to or rather gave way for countries like Russia to exploit the international system to wage war in the region.

The External Factor

The US's current President Joe Biden in his speech on the expansion of NATO in 1997 had remarked that "to admit the Baltic states now" was "going to tip the balance were it to be tipped in terms of a vigorous and hostile reaction and I don't mean military in Russia it would be that". To quote the President of the United States and others like George Kennan who remarked "I think it's the beginning of a new cold war" and "it is a tragic mistake", gives an idea on how even decades earlier prominent political experts and leaders had predicted war in mainland Europe if the expansion of NATO did not cease. But the events of today are a reminder of this reality and how the call for the inclusion of many more countries into NATO has provoked an

unjust war over the people of Ukraine who find themselves at a tug of war between the East and the West.

The US has also been found guilty of meddling in the internal politics of numerous nations and Russia unsurprisingly is also a victim of the US's action. The article argues that the involvement of the US in funding Boris Yeltsin's political campaign and the dissolving of the USSR in the manner it did left for Russia to never actually realise a democratic precedent and was only ever given the choice of lesser evils, Putin being one of them who today is the epitome of bonapartism.

Why the rise of the right?

The idea or rather the false idea of Russia being a communist state is still rampant in western liberal and far right media. It perpetuates the idea of a righteous fight against communism in war torn Ukraine. The war provoked by Russia is seen as an attempt at eradicating the ideals of western democracies and elimination of freedom by an authoritarian regime. Albeit the claims of an authoritarian regime does hold some truth it cannot justify the disproportionate support or rather improvident measures in arming, providing aid, and training of groups that have been identified as being on the extreme right of the political compass.

Drawing lessons from Ukraine's past specifically during world war two and the years after that, we can conclude how such actions may hold greater consequences. Ukraine's past is marred with its espousal with fascism and nationalism when Nazi Germany was welcomed as liberating force from the Soviets and had given rise to local movements such as Organisation of Ukrainian Nationalist (OUN) and Ukrainian Insurgent Army (UPA) who collaborated with the Nazi's in prosecution and killings of Jews, Poles and Russians among many others who were seen as enemies of Ukraine's freedom. This is an important historical fact as contemporary rhetoric threads very close to these claims which could be devastating to ethnic Russians living in the eastern part of the country. It is incumbent to raise caution in the arming and training of groups by the west and the United States of America namely the Azov battalion which has been integrated into the ranks of the Ukrainian army as being a repeat of what had been done in several countries in attempt to fight so called "oppressive" regimes and in turn funding fundamentalist like the Taliban in Afghanistan who today have subjugated a nation and its people threatening the very West that helped create it.

In conclusion the misplaced rhetoric and the misuse of this liberal rhetoric by the far right has given rise to fundamentalist not just in Ukraine but elsewhere in mainland Europe which is evident with calls for more militarisation of Europe while maintaining a xenophobic stance on perceived 'outsiders' and creation of fortress Europe. The end to such wars may never be realised if the causes of such disparities in human societies are never identified