Nationalist Political Movements in Western and Central Europe

Cheryl Koos, Professor of History, Cal State LA
American Council on Education Fellow, Cal Poly Pomona
Objectives:

- Provide an overview of current right-wing nationalist/populist political movements and parties in Western and Central Europe

- Situate populist nationalism/nationalist populism in Europe within our current political situation in the U.S.
Driving Forces of Nationalist/Populist Politics

- Anti-Elitist, Anti-Intellectual, Anti-Establishment, Anti-Globalist/International Politics
- Economic Insecurity and Fear of Downward Mobility
- Politics of Resentment and Fear directed against Outsiders and Perceived Elites
- Obsession with National Decline and Degeneration
- Underestimated by Political Establishment and Media
- Populism aided by Conservative Elites
- Politics of Racial Resentment and Scapegoating
- Politics of Gender Resentment and “Traditional Family Values”
- Support of Conservative Religious Institutions and Adherents
• Great Britain: Brexit and UKIP (Nigel Farage)
  • UKIP established 1991/3 (Anti-Federalist League)
  • Anti-EU, Anti-Immigration, Anti-Islam, “Traditional Family Values”
  • Success in 2013, 2014, 2015 elections
  • Gambit by Conservative PM David Cameron in 2015
  • 23 June 2016 Referendum
  • 52%-48%
  • Initiated 29 March 2017 (2 Years)
Heinz-Christian Strache and the Austrian Freedom Party

- Founded in 1956 by former Austrian Nazis
- Eurosceptic, Austrian Nationalism, Anti-Immigration, Anti-Islam
- Alliance with Wilders, Le Pen, Petry, and other nationalist populist movements and parties
- 54%-46%
The Netherlands: Geert Wilders and Party for Freedom

- Established 2004
- Anti-Muslim/Islam, Anti-Immigration, Anti-EU, “Dutch Values”
- Dutch Nationalism
- General Election, March 2017 – Finished Second
• France: Marine Le Pen and the National Front
  • Founded 1972 by Jean-Marie Le Pen
  • Marginal until 2002
  • Marine Le Pen takes over FN in 2011 – “de-demonisation”
  • Anti-Europe, Anti-Islam, Anti-Immigration, Anti-Establishment, Anti-Marriage Equality, Pro-Russia and Putin
  • 2014 European Parliament Election
  • Presidential Election: First Round: 23 April, Second Round: 7 May
Frauke Petry and Alternative for Germany (AfD)

- Founded 2013

- Anti-Europe, Anti-Immigration, Anti-Islam, Anti-Feminist, Anti-LGBT Rights, Climate Change Denial, Pro-Russia

- Federal Election 24 September 2017
• What Next For Europe?