

POPULISM

Definition: (as a political style)

- tied to four different characteristics
- can occur in any party and / or politician
- not necessarily every characteristic in one party

(as a certain type of party)

- all characteristics at once
- the reference to a demarcated defined nation / folk becomes essential
 - > “*thin-centred ideology*” ~ Michael Freedon

Characteristics: → the nation / people

- presented as a union
- interest differences are consciously denied
- not clearly defined -> as many people as possible can feel like a part of this union
- romantically exaggerated -> ° hard working
 - ° honest
 - ° right-minded
- identity (union by demarcation)
 - the people are not just romantically exaggerated to create an imaginary community, certain ethics are being excluded to get a clearer defined community
 - propaganda against mostly not real enemies
 - > two types of „enemies“:
 - political, economic or cultural elites as antagonists to the common people
 - cultural, social, religious or linguistic minors as antagonists to the common people of the imaginary community
- a leader and representative
 - charismatic
 - convincing
 - attempts to have a direct relation to their audience via media
 - effective attention-grabbing stylistic devices
 - > fast solutions for complex issues
 - > provocation and consciously breaking rules
 - > personalization and emotionalization
 - > stirring up the fear and hate concerning their antagonists
- the organisation: movement ≠ party
 - populists consider themselves more as a movement
 - underlines the leader's position
 - shows their difference to other parties and politicians
 - connotes a deeper connection with their audience
 - no democracy, but a strictly hierarchic decision-making process with the movement's leader as the centre

Group 2: press (Germany)

Populism in Germany: - the party AfD as right-wing populists who stir up the fear and hate concerning immigrants especially from the south-east and Africa
-> e.g.: burned down refugee camps as a result because supporters of the AfD think that this a way to “get rid” of the immigrants
- protests in Dresden to achieve the deportation of immigrants

→ explicit example in the press: Höcke-Rede im Wortlaut –
“Gemütszustand eines total besiegten Volkes”,
Der Tagesspiegel, Konstantin Nowotny, 19.01.2017, 13:30

Sources:

<https://www.bpb.de/politik/extremismus/rechtspopulismus/192118/was-versteht-man-unter-populismus>

<https://www.tagesspiegel.de/politik/hoেকে-rede-im-wortlaut-gemuetszustand-eines-total-besiegten-volkes/19273518.html>