

The Media and the Far Right in Western Europe

This book examines the fascinating interplay of party and media behavior to explain one of the most important phenomena in Western Europe: the rise of Far Right parties. To account for the divergent electoral fortunes of these parties, this book examines how political parties and the mass media have dealt with growing public concerns over national identity. Mainstream politicians chose to “play the nationalist card,” creating opportunities for the entry of Far Right parties into the political system. In some cases, the media gave outsized exposure to such parties, allowing them to capitalize on these opportunities; in other cases, they ignored them, blocking their entry into the political system. Using elite interviews, content analysis, and primary documents to trace identity politics since the 1980s, this book presents an original interpretation of identity politics and media behavior in Austria, Germany, Greece, and France since the 1980s.

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Playing the Nationalist Card

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Acronyms and Abbreviations

BZÖ	Alliance for the Future of Austria
CD	Center Democrats
CDU	Christian Democratic Union
CNCL	National Commission for Communication and Freedom
CP	Center Party
CSA	High Council for Broadcasting
CSU	Christian Social Union
DVU	German People's Union
FAZ	<i>Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung</i> (German newspaper)
FDP	Free Democratic Party
FN	National Front
FPÖ	Freedom Party of Austria
FYROM	Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
LAOS	Popular Orthodox Rally
LN	The Northern League
LPF	Pim Fortuyn List
MNR	Republican National Movement
MP	Member of Parliament
MPF	Movement for France
MSI	Italian Social Movement
ND	New Democracy
NKZ	<i>Neue Kronen Zeitung</i> (Austrian newspaper)
NPD	National Democratic Party of Germany
ÖVP	Austrian People's Party

PASOK	Pan-Hellenic Socialist Movement
PCF	French Communist Party
PFN	Party of New Forces
PS	Political Spring
PVV	Party of Freedom
REP	Republikaner
RPR	Rally for the Republic
SPD	Social Democratic Party of Germany
SPÖ	Social Democratic Party of Austria
UDF	Union for French Democracy
UMP	Union for a Popular Movement
VdU	Federation of Independents
VVD	Party for Freedom and Democracy
WJC	World Jewish Congress