

Populism in Poland

by

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Populism

- „An ideology that considers society to be ultimately separated into two homogeneous and antagonistic groups, „the pure people“ versus „the corrupt elite“, and which argues that politics should be an expression of the generall will of the people“

Cas Mudde 2004

- Charismatic leadership
- Direct communication

Populism in Poland

- Before 2001
 - *Solidarność* (Movement)
 - Lech Wałęsa, Stan Tymiński (Populist leaders)
 - Self-Defence, Alternative (From movement to party)
- After 2001
 - Self-Defence (Sociopopulism)
 - League of Polish Families (Populist radical right-wing)
- 2005 and later
 - Law and Justice
 - Self-Defence
 - League of Polish Families

„The most profitable areas of Polish economy are dominated by a "network", a network connected with the people from the former and current secret service. This is specific feature of the Polish reality in the last 17 years (...)

All governments of III RP, except from the cabinet of Jan Olszewski, were connected in some ways with that network, (...). Today, it is not so easy to lie. We need to look for other methods. Thus, we want to break this “curtain” off. And this does not only mean discrediting the network and its defenders, it also means transforming Poland into the country of Polish citizens. (...)

We will not allow defenders of criminals to succeed. There will be no dictatorship in Poland, there will be not authoritarian governments, only stupid people can believe otherwise. There will be law and order. There will be law and order in Poland because this is in the interest of ordinary Polish citizens. And PiS is a party of ordinary Polish citizens.”

16 March 2006, speech of Jarosław Kaczyński at the parliamentary meeting summing up 100 days of cabinet of Kazimierz Marcinkiewicz

Populist moment(s) in Poland

- Quick economic and political transformation
- Slowdown in the Polish economy : 1998-2003
- Process of European integration
- Corruption scandals
- Settlement with communism - Lustration

Conclusions

- „Soft” and „hard” populism in Poland since 1989
 - „Soft populism” – a way of doing politics
 - „Hard populism” – a radical direction
- Populism and democracy
 - Popular democracy – „power to the people”
- Media
 - Mediatisation of politics



„I was the biggest populist in neighborhood till this blockhead has not entered”