



Radical right support as a condition for erosion of government strength in Eastern and Western Europe

Maria Ravlik, Olga Basmanova, Aleksey Domanov

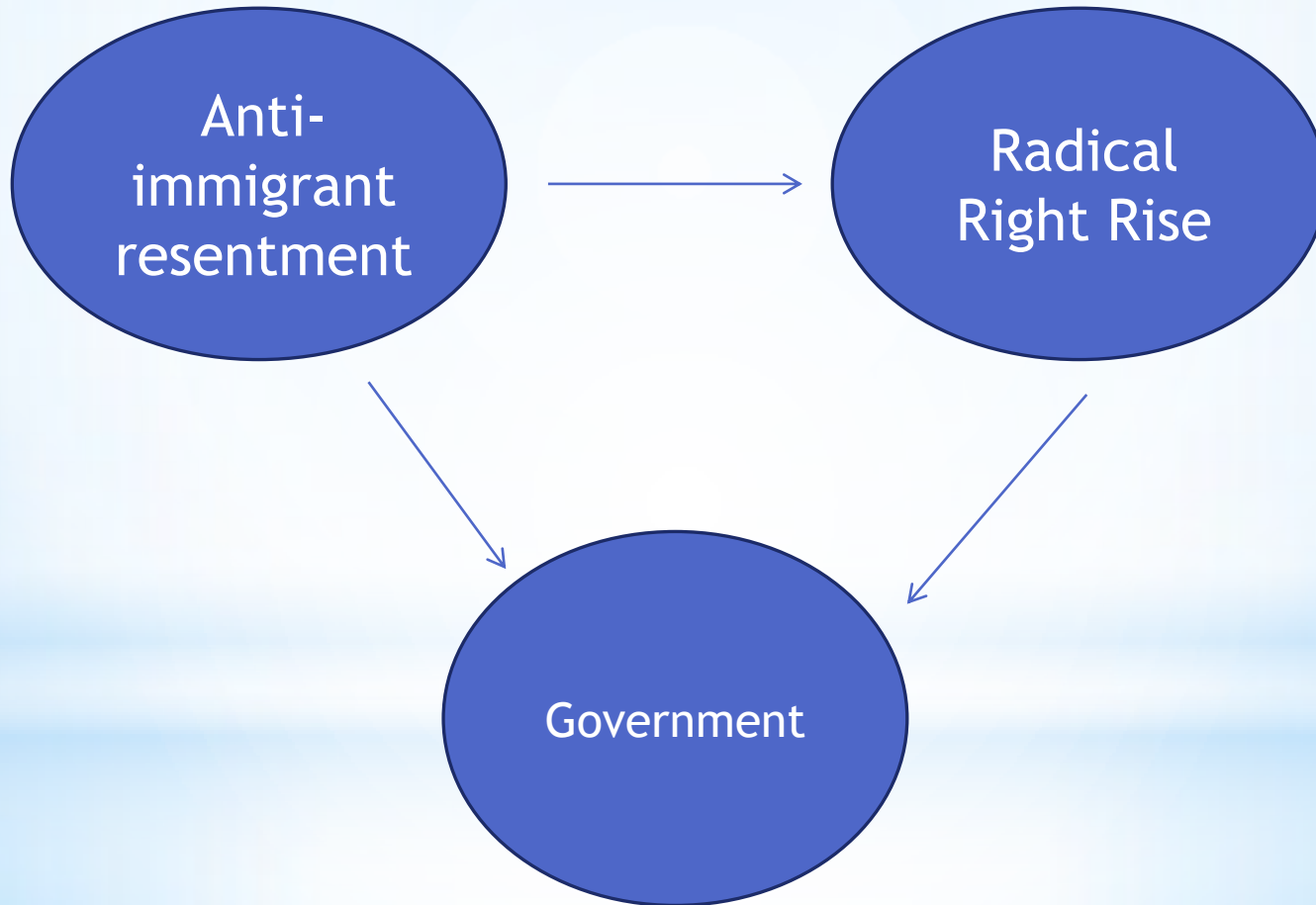
November 9, Moscow

RQ: to determine whether migration has an influence on government stability through the rise of the radical right politics

Due to the difference in fundamental human rights perception there is a visible difference between political popularity and potential of radical right sentiments in Western and Eastern Europe

The question here is whether political extremism has a chance to grow into social extremism and violence creating danger for countries political and social stability

Possible directions



Radical right vote rise

- Emphasis on “protecting national values”
- The success of the radical right may, in many cases, be dependent upon the behavior and politics of mainstream parties (Stiftung 2009; Goodwin et.al. 2012)
- Broader phenomenon of voter rejection of mainstream elites (Pop-Eleches 2010)
- Comparison between East Europe and the “West” provides important insights about democracy in general (Minkenberg 2011)
- Radical right parties are a best option for protest voting, especially for Eastern Europe: rejection of elites and opposition to political establishment

Radical right voting - immigration

Correlation between immigration and radical-right parties:

- Emergence of these parties relates to the increase of immigrants, the spatial concentration of migrants and the changing composition of immigrant groups (Skenderovic 2007)
- Certain groups cannot be integrated into society and represent a fundamental threat to the values, way of life and cultural integrity of the “indigenous” people (Betz and Johnson 2004)

Anti-immigrant resentment

- Immigration is also one of the policy areas in which radical-right parties can present themselves as the voice of the ordinary people (Betz 2001)
- Ongoing salience of issues related to immigration has given radical-right parties the chance to pursue their strategic goals and to underline their ideological principles (Skenderovic 2007)
- Discrimination and prejudice toward immigrants lie in the basis of the relations between the presence of out-group populations and attitudes toward immigrants (Semyonov et.al. 2008)
- The number of foreigners living in a country matters less than the way in which immigration and immigrants are pictured by political actors and framed by the general public discourse (Skenderovic 2007)

Theoretical approach

Globalization theory

globalization moves the locus of real political decision-making away from the nation-state


Realistic conflict theory

limited resources  conflict/prejudice/discrimination

Scapegoat Theory

problems occur  seeking scapegoats onto whom displace aggression

Social identity theory

belong to a group  in-group as superior to ethnic out-groups

Theory of a crisis of identity (within social identity theory)

The often traumatic experiences of the Eastern European transformation brought about social tensions and frustrations, political conflicts and crises of identity

Hypotheses

H1: As the prejudice of state existence against foreigners and strangers spread more widely over the Eastern Europe, radical right statements and politics are a breeding ground for social pessimism concerning its future there.

H2: If the level of perceived stability of national political system is high the society have strength to counter radicalism and compensate threats by radical right ideas and political parties

Eurobarometer, Eurostat, ESS, Party Manifesto Data, Elections data

DV:

I. Failed States Index

II. Perception of strong government index

- trust to the government (“For each of the following institutions, please tell me if you tend to trust it or tend not to trust it: The national Government”)
- confidence in the future of the government (“At the present time, would you say that, in general, things are going in the right direction or in the wrong direction, in your country?”)
- current situation satisfaction (“How would you judge the current situation in the (NATIONALITY) economy?”; “How would you judge the current situation in the (NATIONALITY) democracy?”)

<i>Country-level IV</i>	<i>Individual-level IV</i>
GDP	Anti-immigrant attitudes
Inequality	Radical right parties support
Unemployment	Trust to the government
rule of law	Politically active population
civil liberties and political rights index	Expectations from the future of your country
HDI	Expectations from the future of EU
HSI	EU potential threats
% of radical right ideology supporters	

Control variables: age, education, gender

Case selection

Differences: the gap between Western and Eastern Europe

Similarities: common threats and common democratic values

Western Europe:

Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, UK

Eastern Europe:

Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Ukraine

Future plans

- Theoretical analysis review and improvement
- Analyze the institution of the European Union role and potential in countering radical right ideas
- Search and identification of data sources and variables
- Database construction
- Data analysis (multilevel regression)
- Results interpretation

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!*

***We will appreciate your comments and suggestions!**

Correlation Matrix					
		Trust to the national government	Things are going in the right direction	Satisfaction with national democracy	Current situation in national economy
Correlation	Trust to the national government	1,000	0,829	0,803	0,853
	Things are going in the right direction	0,829	1,000	0,700	0,746
	Satisfaction with national democracy	0,803	0,700	1,000	0,839
	Current situation in national economy	0,853	0,746	0,839	1,000
Sig. (1-tailed)	Trust to the national government		0,000	0,000	0,000
	Things are going in the right direction	0,000		0,000	0,000
	Satisfaction with national democracy	0,000	0,000		0,000
	Current situation in national economy	0,000	0,000	0,000	

KMO and Bartlett's Test			
Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin Measure of Sampling Adequacy.			0,834
Bartlett's Test of Sphericity	Approx. Chi-Square		86,698
	df		6
	Sig.		0,000

Total Variance Explained						
Component	Initial Eigenvalues			Extraction Sums of Squared Loadings		
	Total	% of Variance	Cumulative %	Total	% of Variance	Cumulative %
1	3,387	84,673	84,673	3,387	84,673	84,673
2	0,325	8,121	92,795			
3	0,163	4,085	96,880			
4	0,125	3,120	100,000			
Extraction Method: Principal Component Analysis.						

Component Matrix ^a	
	Component
	1
Trust to the national government	0,948
Things are going in the right direction	0,888
Satisfaction with national democracy	0,908
Current situation in national economy	0,935
Extraction Method: Principal Component Analysis.	
a. 1 components extracted.	