

[DCU Library](#) subscribes to [The Economist](#), which provides short and well-informed reports and commentary on European politics.

The [Political Data Yearbook](#) provides basic information on European political systems. There is also a useful narrative of politics in each country.

I recommend all the readings below; I highly recommend those underlined. All are available through [DCU Library](#).

IDEOLOGY

Newton, Kenneth, and Jan W. van Deth. "Political Ideologies." *Foundations of Comparative Politics: Democracies of the Modern World*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2021. 293–314. Print. Cambridge Textbooks in Comparative Politics.

Heywood, Andrew. *Political Ideologies : An Introduction*. Seventh edition., Bloomsbury Publishing, 2021.

Lopez-Ruiz, José A. "Social Trust, Political Ideology and Democratic Satisfaction in Europe: A Comparative Analysis 2002–2024." *Methadod : Revista de Ciencias Sociales*, vol. 13, no. 2, 2025, p. m251302a01, [doi:10.17502/mrcs.v13i2.889](https://doi.org/10.17502/mrcs.v13i2.889).

Hloušek, Vít, and Lubomír Kopeček. *Origin, Ideology and Transformation of Political Parties : East-Central and Western Europe Compared*. 1st ed., Ashgate, 2010.

PARTIES

Bale, Tim. 2017. *European Politics: A Comparative Introduction*, 2nd ed. London: Bloomsbury. Ch. 5 & 10.

Mair, Peter. 1997. *Party System Change: Approaches and Interpretations*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. Chs.1-2

Katz, Richard S. and Mair, Peter. 1995. Changing Models of Party Organization and Party Democracy: The Emergence of the Cartel Party, *Party Politics* 1 (1): 5-28

Bartolini, Stefano and Mair, Peter. 2007 [1990]. *Identity, competition and electoral availability: the stabilisation of European electorates, 1885-1985*. Colchester: ECPR.

Kölln, Ann-Kristin. 2016. Party membership in Europe: Testing party-level explanations of decline, *Party Politics* 22 (4): 465-477.

Krouwel, André. 2024. Political Parties in Costello, Rory and Robinson, Neil, eds., *Comparative European Politics*, 2nd ed. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 38-62.

Lipset, Seymour Martin and Rokkan, Stein, 1990 [1967]. Cleavage Structures, Party Systems and Voter Alignments, in Peter Mair, ed., *The West European Party System*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. 91-111

Mair, Peter. 2006. Ruling the Void. *New Left Review* 42. November-December, 25-51.

Van Biezen, Ingrid, Mair, Peter, and Poguntke, Thomas. 2011. Going, going,...gone? The decline of party membership in contemporary Europe, *European Journal of Political Research* 51(1): 24-56.

Van Spanje, Joost. 2011. Keeping the rascals in: Anti-political-establishment parties and their cost of governing in established democracies. *European Journal of Political Research*. 50: 609-635.

Casal Bértoa, Fernando and José Rama. "The Antiestablishment Challenge." *Journal of Democracy*, vol. 32 no. 1, 2021, p. 37-51.

Golder, Matt. 2016. Far Right Parties in Europe, *Annual Review of Political Science* Vol. 19:477-497.

Graziano, Paolo. 2024. Populism and Its Challenges to Democracy. in Costello, Rory and Robinson, Neil, eds., *Comparative European Politics*, 2nd. ed. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 343-360.

Hooghe, Liesbet, Marks, Gary, and Wilson, Carole J. 2002. Does Left/Right Structure on Party Positions on European Integration? *Comparative Political Studies* 35 (8): 965-989.

Krause, Werner, Cohen, Denis, and Abou-Chadi, Tarik. 2022. Copying the far right doesn't help mainstream parties. But it can boost the far right. *Guardian*, 13 April.

Krause, Werner, Cohen, Denis and Abou-Chadi, Tarik. 2023. "Does Accommodation Work? Mainstream Party Strategies and the Success of Radical Right Parties." *Political Science Research and Methods* 11(1): 172–79.

Mudde, Cas. 2007. *Populist Radical Right Parties in Europe*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Mudde, Cas. 2013. Three decades of populist radical right parties in Western Europe: So What?, *European Journal of Political Research*, 52: 1-19.

Norris, Pippa and Inglehart, Ronald. 2019. *Cultural Backlash: Trump, Brexit, and Authoritarian Populism*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, esp. Ch. 6.

Pirro, Andrea. 2015. Populist Radical Right Parties in Central and Eastern Europe: The Different Context and Issues of the Prophets of the Patria, *Government and Opposition*, 49 (4): 599-628.

Przeworski, Adam. 2019. *Crises of Democracy*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, esp Chs. 7 & 8.

Vachudova, Milada Anna 2021. Populism, Democracy, and Party System Change in Europe, *Annual Review of Political Science* 24: 471-498.

Van Elsas, Erika J van, Hahkverdian, Armen and van der Brug Wouter. 2016. United against a common foe? The origins of Euroscepticism among left- and right-wing citizens, *West European Politics* 39 (6): 1181-1204.

PARTY COMPETITION: ELECTIONS & REFERENDUMS

Bale, Tim. 2017. *European Politics: A Comparative Introduction*, 2nd. ed. London: Bloomsbury. Ch. 6.

Farrell, David. 2011. *Electoral systems: A comparative introduction*. 2nd ed. Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan. Chs. 1, 7-8 (and others for definitions)

Gallagher, Michael and Mitchell, Paul eds., 2005. *The Politics of Electoral Systems*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Gallagher, Michael, Laver, Michael, and Mair, Peter. 2011. *Representative Government in Modern Europe*, 5th ed. London: McGraw-Hill. Ch. 11

Lijphart, Arend 1999. *Patterns of Democracy: Government Forms and Performance in Thirty-Six Countries*. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press. Ch. 8

Renwick, Alan. 2011. Electoral Reform in Europe since 1945. *West European Politics*, 34 (3), 456-477.

Gherghina, Sergiu. "How Political Parties Use Referendums: An Analytical Framework." *East European Politics and Societies*, vol. 33, no. 3, 2019, pp. 677-90, [doi:10.1177/0888325418803164](https://doi.org/10.1177/0888325418803164).

[International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance](#)