

HOW TO RECOGNIZE POPULISTS



Nowadays the use of populism has got normalized within some political discourses - test now if the political movement or party you support is populist!

DO THEY SUGGEST THEY ARE THE VOICE OF "THE PEOPLE"?

"We are the people"

Populists suggest that there is a homogenous will within the population, which they know. They present themselves as the representatives of the hard-working, reasonable and honest citizens.

DO THEY DIVIDE SOCIETY INTO "WE AND THE OTHERS"?

Populists aim to create a sense of belonging which is reinforced through the exclusion of either the corrupt and self-motivated elite or marginalized groups by using stereotypes and generalization.

"Today there is no left and right side, there are only patriots and traitors"

DO THEY HAVE A CHARISMATIC LEADER?



Populist party or organisations are often lead by a dominant, charismatic and usually male individual who see themselves as an incarnation of "the people" and therefore can speak for them and represents their needs.

DO THEY USE ATTENTION-GRABBING STYLISTIC DEVICES?

Populists offer radical solutions to complex problems and use targeted breaking of taboos, provocations, personalization and emotionalization to stir up fear and hate.

"There are no institutions, only the people exist."

DID YOU ANSWER MOSTLY "YES"?

Populism does not belong to one political ideology, but it contains characteristics which can lead to dangerous assumptions. By creating an image of an homogenous population with one will, they disregard minority opinions and other viewpoints, which are key to modern democracy and should always be balanced. Therefore, it is sometimes needed to make compromises, which can take longer and do not satisfy everyone, but are sensitive to the heterogenous opinions of the citizens and therefore legitimized.

DID YOU ANSWER MOSTLY "NO"?

This is a good thing! Still, if you said "Yes" to a few questions, it is good to critically think about why and what they want to transmit. Even if this political entity is not populist, it is important to research their content in order to build your own opinion.

