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## **Democracy in today’s world – Challenges and Opportunities**

## **Abstract**

In Democracy, people demand institutions that can represent their wishes, wants and needs. Populism spreads over people’s frustrations, when there’s lack of governance or uncertainty about the future. So if populism rises when citizens are more inclined to go to extremes to get what they need, maybe we should start by defining and differentiating governance, nationalism and patriotism from populism in order to understand what’s in stake.

The paper tests the hypothesis that Democracy has advantages and disadvantages as a political regime. That populism is a political phenomenon with three main characteristics: it's against the system, it’s extremist and opportunistic. Populism is different from being popular. Democratic political leaders need to be charismatic and follow certain patterns in order to be elected. But populists go overboard, are expected to mobilize emotions with dramatized speeches and radical political programs, while using democratic guarantees and freedoms to put the system in question, sometimes moving towards Authoritarianism, Dictatorship with the support of the masses, reason why it’s so dangerous.

This paper tests the hypothesis that governance is an evolving subject of analysis. It used to be about ruling a State and distributing public goods to its citizens, with a centralized or even nationalist or patriotic strategy based on well-defined hierarchies in a stable and traditional settings. In today’s world, governance, especially in the European Union, is more about public management, as well as adapting to a continuously changing and multicultural environment of different people with complex needs, with a multilevel strategy increasingly shaped by civil society. If regime complexity rises and distance between politicians and its citizens becomes a problem, general dissatisfaction or emotional frustration may open the door to extremisms of all sorts, including xenophobia and populist movements.

Hypothesis are tested using literature review and statistical analysis. It’s considered a very important and useful subject of analysis.

Keywords: Populism, Democracy, Governance, Nationalism, Patriotism.



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