

This Will Pass: A Journey Through the Turbulent History of Populism

Unveiling the Roots and Consequences of a Global Phenomenon

In an era marked by political upheaval and social unrest, "This Will Pass: A Brief History of Populism" emerges as an illuminating guide to understanding the origins, evolution, and consequences of populism. Spanning centuries and continents, this captivating book delves into the intricate tapestry of events that have shaped the rise and fall of populist movements worldwide.



This Will Pass: A Brief History of Populism by University Press

★★★★☆ 4.8 out of 5

Language : English
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Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
Word Wise : Enabled
Print length : 43 pages
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Screen Reader : Supported



Exploring the Historical Roots of Populism

The book commences its historical journey by tracing the emergence of populism in the late 19th century, a period of rapid industrialization and profound social change. The author provides a vivid account of the challenges faced by ordinary citizens amidst economic dislocation, political corruption, and widening social disparities. These circumstances created a

fertile ground for populist leaders to harness popular discontent and rally support for their promises of change.



The author meticulously examines key populist figures, from Andrew Jackson in the United States to Hugo Chávez in Venezuela. These charismatic leaders shared a common ability to connect with and mobilize the masses, often using rhetoric that appealed to their fears, frustrations, and aspirations. Their rise to power exemplified how populism could tap into the deep-seated anxieties and resentments within society.

Unveiling the Hallmarks of Populist Ideology

Beyond its historical context, "This Will Pass" delves into the defining characteristics of populism. The author highlights the tendency of populist leaders to present themselves as outsiders fighting against a corrupt elite. They often employ simplistic narratives that pit "the people" against an unidentified "other," creating a sense of division and animosity.

I The cultural politics of anti-elitism between populism, pop culture and everyday life

An introduction

Moritz Ege and Johannes Springer

This is a book about anti-elite rhetoric, narratives, imagery and movements. It asks: What is characteristic of anti-elite articulations, be it in populist politics, pop culture or everyday life more broadly? Which kinds of elites are being imagined, caricatured and criticized by whom, through which media and why? What social actors, parties, movements, artists, subcultures, technologies and milieus are involved in producing, shaping and mediating anti-elite articulations? To what ends and with which results? And how are relationships of power and dominance challenged and reconfigured in that process?

In providing answers to these questions, the chapters most of them were finalized in 2021 (they go back to a series of events, including a conference under the title "Against the elites!" The cultural politics of anti-elitism in the current conjuncture held in 2018), contribute to a socio-cultural analysis of current conjunctures.¹ For this purpose, we do not define who "the elite" really are. Instead, we pursue the usages of the term in different contexts and try to understand better what image critics of the elites have of their adversaries. The concept "elite" itself, to us, is a subordinate category of socio-cultural analysis. It can be useful as a heuristic tool and in precisely defined circumstances, but it can also be misleading as an overstretched analytical concept: It allows a dubious self-aggrandisement for those who believe in the existence and rightful claim to power of an elite in the sense of "the select few" (and, usually, consider themselves part of it). For those who decry "the elites", the term may have uses that we would categorise as progressive or reactionary, but it often also leads to questionable slippages, as we will show. It runs the danger of replacing other critical concepts and analyses that are more theoretically grounded or more phenomenologically acute.

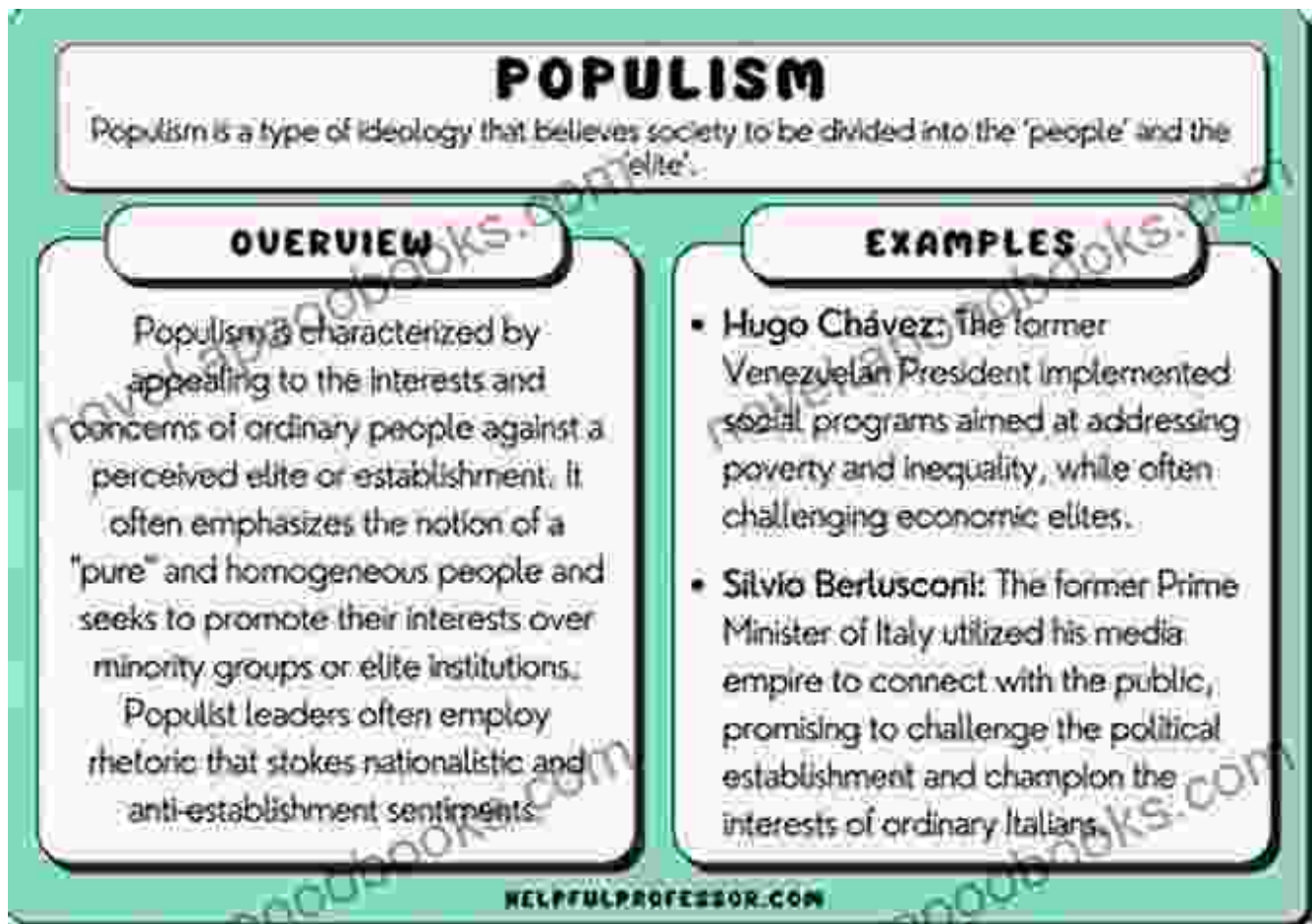
In focusing on anti-elite articulations of different types, the book also aims at circumventing the "programmatic bias" (Catan and Polman, 2020, p. 6) of many studies into populism that neglect the spheres of cultural production, ways of life, aesthetics or affects. And, at the same time, it also intends to avoid a mere culturalism that ignores the role of politics and the economic sphere or reduces them to mere cultural dynamics. In this introduction, we will sketch out the overall concerns of the book and present the argument that anti-elitism is a crucial, cross-domain theme of contemporary societies that can serve as an entry point for new, interdisciplinary analyses of the

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Populism also frequently appeals to national identity and nostalgia for a perceived golden age. Leaders seek to evoke a sense of community and shared heritage, contrasting it with the failures of the present. This tactic serves to strengthen their connection with the electorate and legitimize their claims to power.

Analyzing the Enduring Impact of Populism

The author explores the profound impact of populism on societies throughout history. While some populist movements have achieved meaningful reforms, others have led to authoritarianism, social division, and economic decline. The book examines case studies from various countries, demonstrating the diverse outcomes of populist rule.

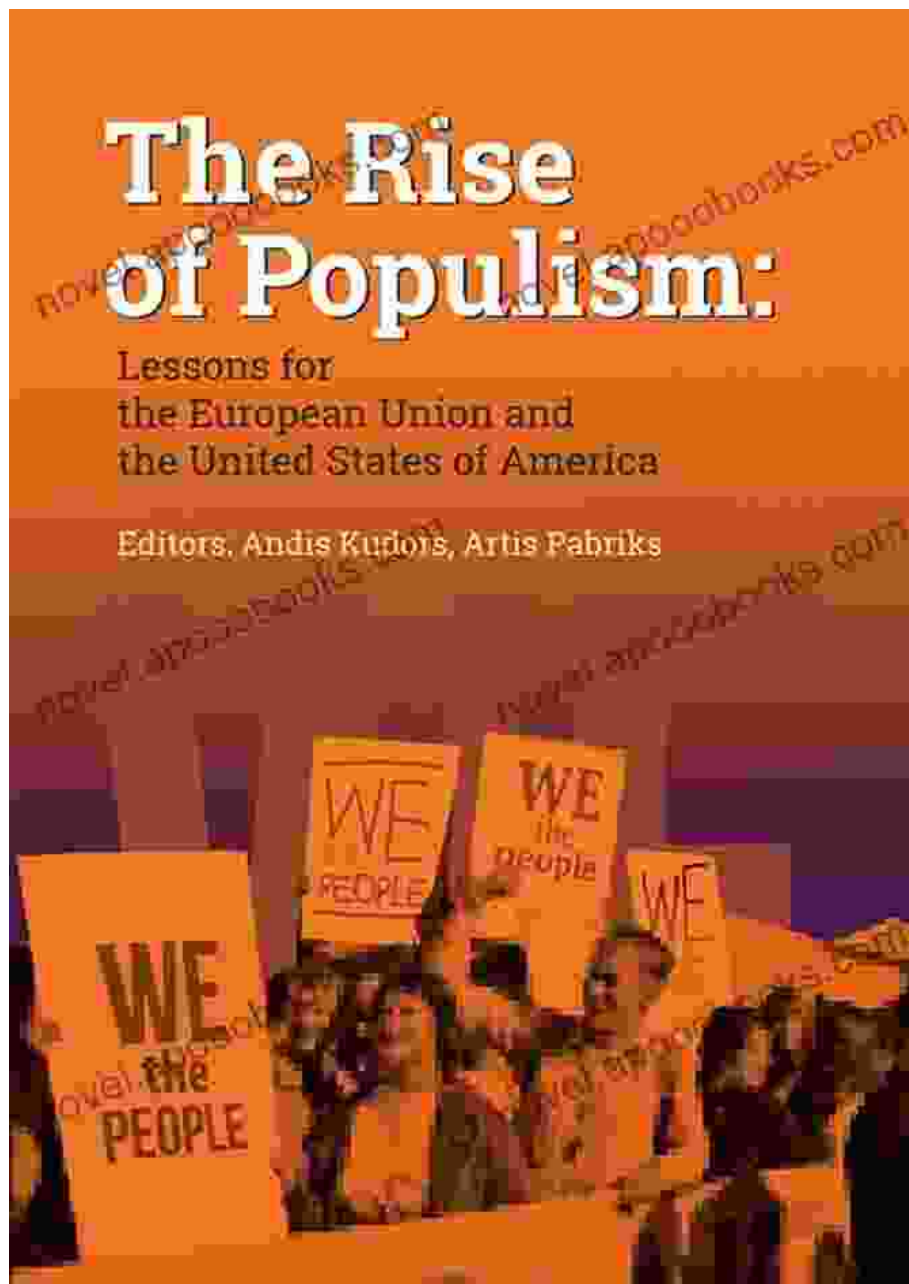


Incisive analysis is provided on the consequences of populist policies, from economic protectionism to restrictions on civil liberties. The author sheds light on how these measures can have far-reaching effects on economic growth, social cohesion, and democratic institutions.

Lessons for the Present and the Future

"This Will Pass" concludes by drawing parallels between historical populist movements and contemporary political landscapes. The author cautions

against dismissing populism as a mere aberration, arguing that its underlying causes persist in societies today.



By examining the successes and failures of past populist regimes, the book offers valuable insights for policymakers and citizens alike. It emphasizes the importance of addressing the root causes of discontent, promoting dialogue and compromise, and upholding democratic principles.

: A Timely and Thoughtful Examination of a Global Phenomenon

"This Will Pass: A Brief History of Populism" is a timely and thought-provoking journey through the tumultuous history of this global phenomenon. With its masterful synthesis of historical analysis and contemporary insights, the book provides an essential framework for understanding the origins, dynamics, and challenges of populism in the 21st century.

For anyone seeking to unravel the complexities of populism, its impact on societies, and its relevance to our present time, this book stands as an invaluable resource. It serves as a powerful reminder that while populism may wax and wane, its echoes will continue to resonate in the corridors of power, the hearts of citizens, and the shaping of our collective future.

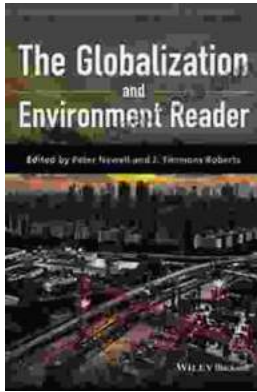


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