

Rise of Populism

Populism is not new, one can find its roots in the emergence of nation states and modern democracy. During the English war (1642-51) between royalist and anti-royalist groups, people aligned themselves with either forces. In that power struggle, Charles-I was beheaded by the anti-royalist forces, entering into new era of political disparity. The actual rise of populism was witnessed in the twentieth century with the emergence of Hitler in Germany and Mussolini in Italy.

Hitler was one of the leading propagandists history has ever known. He pulled the crowd of thousands of people and assured them of being an actual preserver of the German dignity. He pushed the German forces and allies into two world wars, which culminated in killing of millions of innocent people. Moreover, his ~~charismatic~~^{charismatic} personality and unbeatable oratory helped him to become a nationalist leader who assumed the role of modern autocrat in 20th century.

In the modern era, the world is witnessing once again a rise of populist leaders. The democratic regression and overtake of authoritarianism is result of populist tendencies in politics. Trump in the USA, Putin in Russia, Modi in India, Imran Khan in Pakistan, and many other politicians are leading populists who incite the people against their opponents and provoke them against the existing system.

The book 'What is Populism' by Jane Warner Muller discusses the three basic characteristics of a populist leader.

Firstly, State Colonialism, which means that political leaders appoint favorite bureaucrats on top positions and get favor in every administrative affair. ~~Secondly~~ ^{Secondly} Mass Clientelism, which means that populist leader gives benefits to politico-economic elite to enjoy undefeatable power and political legitimacy.

Lastly, Discriminatory legalism, which means that populist leaders impose legal restriction and strict accountability to opponents despite having numerous corrupt and incapable leaders with himself.