1. Record Nr. UNINA9910280879403321

Titolo	Populism, Populists, and the Crisis of Political Parties : A Comparison of Italy, Austria, and Germany 1990-2015 / / Gunther Pallaver, Michael Gehler, Maurizio Cau, editors
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Bologna : , : Societa editrice il Mulino Spa, , 2018
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (384 pages)
Disciplina	321.8
Soggetti	Populism Political science
Lingua di pubblicazione	Italiano
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
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Sommario/riassunto

The last decades have witnessed a renaissance and a new boom in the concept of populism. What was decisive for this trend was the electoral success of various populist political parties and leaders. Scholars of history and social sciences have attempted to define, delineate, and categorize populism, which has resulted in different theoretical approaches and explanatory models. One approach understands populism as a "thin centered" ideology, i.e. one that is slim and unfinished. A second approach views populism as a strategic concept for political mobilization primarily concentrated on three strategic aspects: policy choices, political organization, and forms of mobilization. A third approach describes populism as a form of communication based on the dichotomy between the positively perceived collective and the negatively perceived elites.