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Abstract

This paper compares the characteristics of four populist parties within the Visegrad Group. The Visegrad group is comprised of the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, and Slovakia. These countries all have an intertwined history as well as distinct political cultures that have paved the way for the rise of populism. Through means such as claiming to attack corruption, promoting conspiracy theories, as well as reinforcing a national identity, these parties have risen to an immense amount of success within each country. However, populism within this region has led to the deterioration of democratic institutions such as a free press and checks and balances. Ultimately, this paper looks to compare the common characteristics and strategies each party employs in order to mobilize support.

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