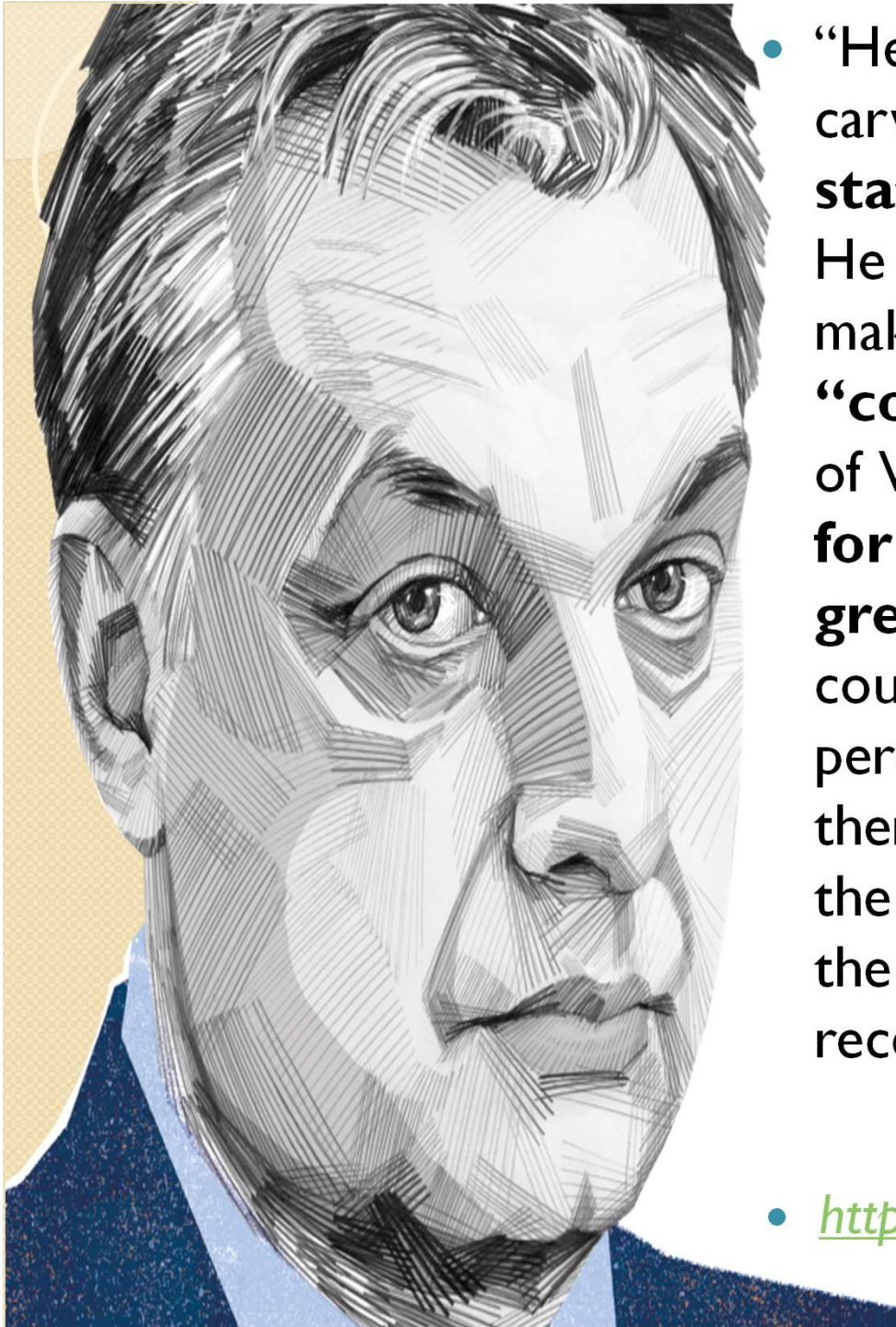🇭🇺

Quo Vadis, Hungariae: Descent into Authoritarianism, or Just a Short Episode of Populism?

- "He is an **economic populist** who carves out a **strong role** for the **state**, and also a social conservative. He invokes **"Christian values,"** and makes clear his **contempt for the "corruption, sex and violence"** of Western societies. His **contempt is for "liberal elites," the media and greedy bankers.** "In most European countries — I could honestly say 90 percent of European countries — there is a gap between the opinion of the people and the policy pursued by the elite," he told Hungarian diplomats recently." (Copyright by Politico)

- https://www.politico.eu/list/politico-28/viktor-orban/

- Orbán **was elected PM in 1998**, thus becoming **the youngest PM of HU in the 20th century**

- His party **FIDESZ** (founded by the end of the 1980s; in English: Alliance of Young Democrats) is **national conservative and right-wing populist** and has dominated politics since 2010

- In **2014 elections**, the party had about **45% of vote** and has remained **the most influential** in the country

- *https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vW4T918rfy4*

- *https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eKIYXe8mga4*

- *https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xp7-9Q_bMZM*

- The **party's rise** has followed an **illiberal path (values)** that has seen an increase of **authoritarian tendencies** in Hungarian society

- This particular **uncivic increase** has come in the time when such **illiberal perspectives** may be **witnessed all over Europe and the US**

- It was the **immigration crisis**, coupled with previous **financial turmoil** and still **still considerable differences between old and new EU states**, that has seen the rise of **anti-liberal discourses** threatening Europe

- """Hungarian **democracy is imperiled**," he told me. "We're moving towards a **Putinesque situation**." As Human Right Watch's Lydia Gall puts it: "What we've seen in the last six years is essentially a continued undermining or **deterioration of the rule of law and human rights protection**."" (Copyright by the Guardian)

- This has influenced **further divisions** in Hungarian society and has produced **tensions** in this regard (as in many other Central European states)

- Orban's since been accused of masterminding this process and weakening Hungarian democracy **for his own benefit**: "In the current edition of the "Freedom in the World" ranking by Freedom House, **Hungary lags not only behind** its Visegrad neighbors (Poland, Czech Republic and Slovakia) **but also behind** Bulgaria, Romania and Tunisia. " (Copyright by the Washington Post)

- *https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FkiCKIjBxsk*

- *https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ryBhrBLEXUs*

- *https://www.vox.com/world/2017/4/4/15164274/hungary-orban-ceu-liberal-democracy-soros-protests*

- Unfortunately, the decline of democracy has resulted in **fascist-like (far-right) politics being on the rise** in the country and in the region in general (*Is this a world-wide trend perhaps?*)

- While claiming to be **"defending national interests," returning to a "normal state," "restoring the national pride/undoing historical injustices," and similar,** these groups/organizations/parties have become **significant (political) players** in Central Europe

- *https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c4o5vYIA_ck*

- *https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zxOKZ5sYW18*

- *https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ryBhrBLEXUs*

- Is there **a way out of this "mess"** in your opinion?

- If yes, **what kind of a path** should be followed in that regard?

- If no, **isn't democracy at peril**? Is Hungarian case, in **Trencsényi's** words, "**indicator of the direction European political culture will take** in the decades to come"?

- *https://www.vox.com/world/2017/4/4/15164274/*

- *hungary-orban-ceu-liberal-democracy-soros-protests*

- *https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3ecNPAyff_4*