

Lecture 10

Ethnic/national intolerance and
radical right in Europe
Building a united EU

What is radical right?

- Movements, political parties or regimes of ‘organised intolerance’ who are ready to use violence in order to assert the exclusive primacy of ‘traditional values’ over all other competing ideologies (Ramet)
- Radical right groups or parties share a lot of common characteristics and ideology: nationalism, anti-Semitism, racism, intolerance of ethnic minorities, etc.

Assumption:

(Scheuch & Klingemann)

- The potential for radical right exists in all industrial societies
- There are always certain people who cannot cope with fast economic and cultural developments
- There are always certain people who can be mobilised by right-wing movements or parties who promise them a better, simpler society
- It is a 'normal pathological' condition

‘Rebirth’ of radical right

- Mobilisation of radical right usually happens in times of social and cultural change
- The rebirth of the radical right in the West can be understood as a result of a general modernisation shift in the wake of ‘1968’ (Minkenberg)

New radical right

- New radical right is different from the old because its antidemocratic rhetoric is less harsh, it is ‘playing by the rules’, emphasises ethnocentrism rather than classical biological racism
- New radical right does not only represent ‘modernisation losers’
- Not concentrating on the Jews anymore

New radical right

- Scapegoating immigrants (and asylum-seekers) as a threat to the national community (Le Pen's *Front National* in France; Haider's Freedom Party in Austria; the Flemish Bloc in Belgium...)
- Using nationalistic myth of organic and ethnically pure nation (supposedly under threat from immigration); emphasis on 'traditional values'

European union

- 25 member states + Bulgaria, Rumania
- Where are the borders of the EU? Where does the EU end? What about candidate countries? Western Balkans, Turkey,...?
- Who are the 'Europeans'?
- European supra-national identity?
- National identity and the question of belonging

Exam

16.12.2005

20.12.2005

6.2.2006

8.2.2006

Revise

- **Basic concepts and definitions**
- Nationalism
- Xenophobia
- Racism
- Ethnocentrism
- Ethny (ethnic group), nation, 'race'
- Post-communism and intolerance