



SPECPOL

The Questions of The Rise in Political Extremism



Committee: **SPECPOL**

Topic: **The Question of The Rise of Political Extremism**

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Summary

There are many interrelated factors that drive Political Extremism, such as a (non)democratic nature of the political system, the prevailing political culture, the system of values, ideology, political goals, personal characteristics and experiences, ethnocentrism, and many others. Extremism in terms of terrorism, racism, xenophobia, interethnic and inter-religious hatred, left- or right-wing political radicalism and religious fundamentalism is essentially a political term which determines those activities that are not morally, ideologically or politically in accordance with written (legal and constitutional) and non-written norms of the state; that are fully intolerant toward others and reject democracy as a means of governance and the way of solving problems; and finally, that reject the existing social order.

In short Political Extremism aims to:

1. Negate or destroy the fundamental rights and freedoms of others
2. Undermine, overturn or replace the country's system of liberal parliamentary democracy and democratic rights

One of the most common ways political extremism is attempted to be reduced is through early intervention to encourage and challenge extremist and terrorist ideology and behaviour. This can involve: support in schools, youth hubs and community groups.

Definition of Key Terms

Political Extremism: Occurrence of activities that are not in accordance with norms of the state, are fully intolerant toward others, reject democracy as a means of governance and the way of problem solving and also reject the existing social order.

Far-right: The extreme right wing of a political party or group that may hold extreme nationalist ideology accompanied by anti-immigrant sentiments, authoritarianism, and a rejection of liberal democratic values

Far-left: A political ideology that advocates for radical social and economic reforms, often emphasizing socialism, communism, or anarchism, and seeks to address issues of inequality and promote collective ownership of resources

Major Countries / Organisations Involved

Countries where a rise in political extremism is prevalent in:

- United States: Both far-right and far-left in response to political polarization and social issues
- Brazil: Both far-right and far-left due to the rise of populist leaders and political polarisation
- Hungary: Through the emergence of far-right parties and nationalist movements

Organisations associated with a rise in political extremism:

- National Front: A far right-wing party known for its anti-immigrant and nationalist policies and based in France.
- Fidesz: The ruling party in Hungary that adopts authoritarian measures and nationalist rhetoric leading to the growth of far-right parties and xenophobic and anti-immigrant movements
- The Bolsonarismo Phenomenon isn't an organisation but it refers to the political movement surrounding Brazil's former president which has been associated with far-right extremist elements, rhetoric and actions

Organisations involved in preventing a rise in political extremism:

- SPLC (Southern Poverty Law Centre): Based in the U.S and monitors hate groups and extremist organisations, providing resources and education to counteract their influence
- ADL (Anti-Defamation League): Based in the U.S and fights Anti-Semitism and other forms of hate, advocates for civil rights
- Search for Common Ground: An international organisation aiming to reduce polarization and promote understanding among different groups
- ISD (Institute for Strategic Dialogue): UK based organisation focused on researching and countering extremism, promoting social cohesion, and providing resources for communities to combat radicalisation