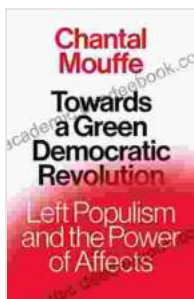


Left Populism and the Power of Affects: Exploring the Emotional Foundations of Political Mobilization

In the contemporary political landscape, left-wing populism has emerged as a significant force, mobilizing a diverse spectrum of citizens who feel disenfranchised and dissatisfied with the status quo. This article delves into the emotional foundations of left populism, examining how affects—non-cognitive bodily sensations and experiences—play a crucial role in shaping political beliefs and collective action.

Understanding Left Populism

Left populism is a political ideology that combines elements of left-wing economics with a critique of elites and an appeal to the common person. It is characterized by a belief in economic equality, social justice, and the need for fundamental change in the political system. Left populists often express a distrust of established institutions and the traditional political elite, arguing that they have failed to address the needs of ordinary citizens.



Towards A Green Democratic Revolution: Left Populism and the Power of Affects by Chantal Mouffe

★ ★ ★ ★ ☆ 4.7 out of 5

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The Power of Affects

Affects are non-cognitive experiences that encompass bodily sensations, emotions, and moods. They influence our thoughts, decisions, and actions in profound ways. In the context of left populism, affects play a vital role by:

* **Creating a sense of solidarity:** Affective experiences, such as anger, frustration, and hope, can create a shared sense of identity and purpose among left populists, fostering a sense of belonging and collective empowerment. * **Framing political issues:** Affects shape how people perceive and interpret political issues. For example, feelings of economic injustice and political alienation can intensify support for left-wing policies that are perceived as addressing these grievances. * **Mobilizing political action:** Affective experiences can motivate individuals to engage in political action. Hope, anger, and fear can drive participation in protests, campaigns, and political organizations.

Affective Dimensions of Left Populism

Left populism is characterized by several distinct affective dimensions, including:

* **Anger:** Left populists often express anger at the perceived injustices and failures of the current political system. This anger can be directed towards economic elites, political establishment, or perceived threats to social equality. * **Frustration:** Left populists frequently experience frustration over the lack of progress in addressing social and economic problems. This frustration can lead to a sense of despair or cynicism but can also motivate

political engagement. * **Hope:** Left populism is often fueled by a sense of hope and belief in the possibility of a better future. This hope is based on a vision of a more just and equitable society that can be achieved through collective action. * **Solidarity:** Left populists value solidarity and a sense of belonging to a wider community. Affective experiences, such as shared grievances and aspirations, contribute to building a sense of camaraderie among left-leaning individuals.

Examples of Left Populist Movements

Contemporary left-wing populist movements have emerged in various countries, including:

* **Syriza in Greece:** Led by Alexis Tsipras, Syriza is a left-wing populist party that gained power in 2015 on a platform of economic austerity resistance and social justice. * **Bernie Sanders in the United States:** A self-described democratic socialist, Bernie Sanders campaigned for the US presidency in 2016 and 2020 on a message of economic inequality and political reform. * **Podemos in Spain:** Founded in 2014, Podemos is a left-wing populist party that opposes austerity measures and advocates for social and economic equality.

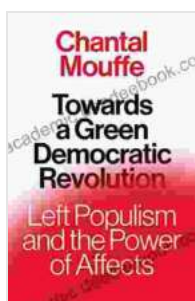
Impact of Left Populism

Left populism has had a significant impact on politics and society, including:

* **Shifting political discourse:** Left populism has brought issues of economic inequality, social justice, and political accountability to the forefront of public debate. * **Challenging the status quo:** Left populists have questioned the legitimacy of established institutions and elites, creating space for alternative political visions. * **Mobilizing marginalized**

groups: Left populism has attracted support from marginalized groups who feel ignored or underrepresented by the traditional political system.

Left populism is a complex and multifaceted political phenomenon that draws its strength from the power of affects. By understanding the affective dimensions of left populism, we gain a deeper comprehension of the emotional foundations that drive political mobilization and shape the contemporary political landscape.



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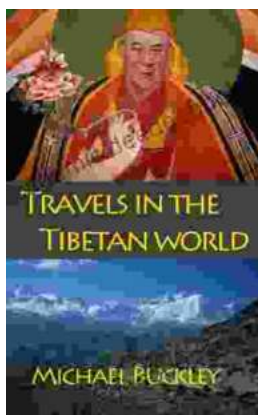
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