

THE RADICALIZATION OF SOCIETIES

Michał Nowosielski, A Sociological Reflection on Social Movements

The article is a theoretical introduction to the problem of social movements. Its objective is to draw attention to the fact that the various theories of social movements should not be treated as rival but complementary theories, since each brings into relief a different set of problems pertaining to the same broadly defined subject matter. The following issues are discussed: beginnings of sociological reflection on social movements, theories of collective action, mobilization of resources, social constructionism and theories of new social movements. The last part of the article brings an overview of the areas of interest of particular theories of social movements.

Sebastian Wojciechowski, The Sources of Contemporary Political Extremism. A Hybrid Connected of Reasons for Extremism

The objective of the study is to present the main causes of contemporary political extremism, their interdependencies and ways of classifying them. The causes are analyzed by reference to two basic assumptions. The first one explains the sources of contemporary extremism according to the so-called connected vessels model, i.e. as the sum total of a variety of determinants (e.g. political, social, cultural, economic, etc.) and their interrelations as well as external influences originating in other factors. The second assumption refers to the hybrid concept of extremism which presupposes numerous similarities and connections between particular forms of extremism, such as: nationalism, separatism or fundamentalism. When considering the problem of the causes of contemporary political extremism one needs to ask a series of key questions. For example: What are the crucial determinants of the studied phenomenon? Can we identify a single or several dominant factors among the sources of contemporary extremism? Is there one universal model for classifying the sources of extremism? To what extent do the sources of contemporary nationalism, terrorism or separatism converge?

Artur Wejkszner, The Salafi Movement of Global Jihad. The Birth and Evolution of a Radical Islamic Religious Movement

The author's reflections focus on the so-called Salafi movement of a global jihad. It is a radical Muslim religious movement which surfaced at the turn of the 20th and 21st century. Its members opt for a revival of Islam and reject external influences so as to maintain their identity and cultural distinctiveness. They promote political independence of Muslims and the reinstatement of caliphate. The political and religious radicalism of the movement follows from its adoption of an extremist interpretation of the doctrine of the jihad. In Western, especially Anglo-Saxon terminology, those views are regarded as fundamentalist. Eminently extremist actions resort to terrorist attacks as the basic tactic and according to members of the movement they also fulfill their role by carrying out simultaneous spectacular suicide attacks. The structure of the movement has undergone an evolution during the last two decades. Currently it comprises the following elements: the core of the movement (in the form of Al Qaeda), independent terrorist organizations cooperating with the core structure, autonomous terrorist units and their networks. The scope of the movement's activity is worldwide.

Jadwiga Kiwerska, The Reaction of the USA to Terrorism

The Al Qaeda attack on the United States, the most dramatic and spectacular manifestation of radicalism that changed the Americans' attitude to security, was also a significant turning point in American foreign policy. War on terror was declared and its strategy, the so-called Bush doctrine, was defined, throwing the international scene into turmoil. America's determination in fighting terrorism led it to resort to methods contrary to the standards of a democratic state. In consequence the USA's position in the world became weaker, hampering international cooperation in effective dealing with threats to security.

Iwona Jakimowicz-Ostrowska, Political Radicalism as a Reaction to One's Own Country. Central and Eastern Europe in the 21st Century

The aim of the article is not so much to convince readers about the significance and validity of the presented opinions on contemporary radicalisms in Europe, especially its central and eastern part, but rather to trigger a discussion and ask several questions that flow from the observation of this phenomenon. The biggest doubts arise in connection with the question about the role of a

contemporary European state in the creation and stimulation or facilitation of the emergence and functioning of radical attitudes and movements on its territory. To what extent is this phenomenon a natural outcome of a variety of views characteristic of democratic (or democratizing) states, and to what extent is it an unwanted and increasingly difficult to control byproduct of the contemporary politics of European countries? Focus on a selected group of European states, the central-eastern states in this case, allows to somewhat simplify the complex issue, analyzed by the most prominent scholars, of European citizens seeking the significance of their nation and country and its identity.

Maria Tomczak, The Germans' Attitude to Political Violence, Terrorism and Attacks on Individuals

The purpose of the study is to describe the political violence used in Germany by radical movements from the 1960s to the present day. Special emphasis is placed on attacks on individuals, since this form of violence accompanied the German political life predating reunification until the 1980s. Attacks carried out by the extreme left and extreme right are presented against a backdrop of the German society's changing attitude to violence. The article shows that the shift from a "culture of violence" to pacifism did not bring any substantial change of attitudes. Difference pertains more to the forms than the scope of actions. Militant political radicalism remains a constant element of the German political life.

Aleksandra Moroska-Bonkiewicz, Right-wing Extremism in the Federal Republic of Germany – A Threat to Democracy?

The significance of the extreme right-wing parties on the political scene of the FRG is analyzed in an attempt to answer the question whether today's right-wing extremism poses a threat to democracy in Germany and what are the prospects of its further development. The focus is set on the electoral and parliamentary scene as well as on the parties' organizational and personal potential. In order to assess adequately the possibilities of development of right-wing extremism the sources of previous successes and failures of the studied parties – NPD, DVU and REP – are first defined. Analysis shows explicitly that those parties are a marginal phenomenon both on the electoral and parliamentary arena, with occasional successes on the local scene as the only exceptions. At present the NPD, which is strongest in the eastern federal states, enjoys the biggest popularity. The source of the weakness of the extreme right lies with the cultural factor (condemnation and isolation of right-wing extremism) and the agency factors (the parties' organizational drawbacks). By comparison, the

mainstream and extreme left-wing parties manifest a somewhat smaller though also significant integrative strength. Currently the NPD is the only extreme right-wing group capable of operating in Germany. The stigma of National Socialism and staunch extremism of the NPD deprive the party of chances to win broader support and enter the Bundestag at any predictable time. Thus, at present and in the perspective of the near future the extreme right does not pose a threat to democracy in Germany.

Karolina Churska-Nowak, Michał Kuś, Regional Mass Media and Radical Nationalistic Movements in Basque Country

The activity of the Basque separatist movements, especially of the best known of them – the terrorist organization ETA, has been among the key issues on the Spanish political agenda since the second half of General Franco's rule. During transition to democracy, despite various attempts and national authorities' policies (especially in terms of increasing Basque Country autonomy), the problem remained unsolved. Furthermore, due to attacks organized by the Basque terrorists already nearly a thousand people have lost their lives. Thus, Basque separatism continues to be one of the major obstacles in the consolidation of Spain's political system and unity of this ethnically and culturally diversified country. A good example of the distinctiveness and specificity of the Basque Country are the regional mass media, which as almost all social institutions of the region are involved in the political conundrum. The main reason of this is that on account of their social function (providing information, creating an arena for public debate) mass media are usually in the centre of ongoing discussions on the national and regional level about different visions of the future development of the Basque Country.

Grażyna Strnad, Radicalism of the South Korean Student Movement (1980-1989)

Student activism has been a prominent feature of the South Korean political landscape since the founding of the nation in 1948. During the 1980s, in the aftermath of the brutal repression of the Kwangju Uprising and the naked seizure of political power by Chun Doo Hwan, thus creating yet another military dictatorship, South Korean students engaged in a complex array of ideological debates throughout the first half of the decade, exploring radical ideologies. The period 1980-1989 was a time of dramatic changes as South Korea took the first steps in its transition to democracy.

Student movement organizations, many with radical ideologies and violent tactics attempted to hasten the process of democratic change. Continued student violence, changes in geo-politics, and the tangible, though imperfect progress of the democratic transition process caused radicalism in the South Korean student movement to lose its appeal and relevance by the end of that momentous decade.

Marzena Pomorska, Political Extremism from a Political-Psychological Perspective

The article deals with the problem of political extremism, outlining terminological issues and highlighting difficulties in defining the notion of political extremism within the framework of political sciences – it is a highly dynamic term, its understanding being determined by the political and historical context. The author also focuses on the problem of the extremist as a person and describes the basic research trends in political psychology that seek to answer such questions as: Who is an extremist? What drives people to engage in political activity in its extreme form?

Witold Ostant, Cooperation between the European Union and the Russian Federation in Fighting Terrorism

The article discusses the cooperation between the European Union and the Russian Federation in the area of fighting terrorism. Attention is drawn especially to the implementation of joint declarations adopted at UE-RF summits. The discrepancy between the legal systems of the two subjects and the ensuing differences are highlighted. The author underscores a lack of explicit political will on the part of the RF administration to introduce substantial changes in the Russian law-making procedures and to ratify international agreements, particularly in the domain of protection of human rights and personal data. A forecast for cooperation between the UE and RF in the nearest years is also presented.

Jakub Koralewski, Political Radicalism in Ukraine

For the last twenty years Ukraine has been struggling for its position in the European democratic order. After the collapse of the USSR, the Ukrainian elites began to build a democratic state which incessantly dodges between the Russian Federation, the former members of the Soviet Union and

Europe. Ukraine is among the few former USSR republics, now independent states, where there are no flourishing local and ethnic extremisms, terrorist attacks or military conflicts that jeopardize state institutions and citizens. Irrespective of their political background, Ukrainian state elites have managed to solve the most vital problems connected with the status of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, the Black Sea Fleet and repatriation of the Crimean Tatars. The situation of the internal political system is less favorable, being for years the scene of a fierce conflict between the main rivals over the shape of the Ukrainian state. In the periphery of this conflict a range of parties and political movements are emerging which in the long term might pose a threat to the ones currently in power.

Rafael Cambinda, *The Radicalization of Societies in Africa* Book Reviews

The main aim of the publication is to present four stages of the radicalization of the African society: the pursuit to abolish the colonial system, the time of building the states' independence, the era following the end of the Cold War and contemporary developments at the beginning of the 21st century.

In the first stage protests were addressed against, among others, a repressive law of the colonizers, appropriation of private life, restrictions of personal freedom and the use of different forms of discrimination of native Africans. The rise of radical movements to oppose the colonizers resulted in the obtaining of independence by many African countries.

However, this did not mean the end of instability or the elimination of discrepancies between the standards of living of particular social strata. The governments of the newly created states were unprepared to rule and manage economy independently, so the result was even greater poverty of the citizens. This in turn caused a radicalization of the society and intensification of social conflicts. Eventually, societies rebelled against their own governments which were corrupted and unable to deal with the emerging problems. Numerous civil wars and international conflicts broke out. A lack of democratic responsibility on the part of many of the leaders who ruled in Africa accounted for many bloody civil wars.

Ruthless and long lasting dictatorship regimes in many African countries combined with persisting poor conditions of living led to prolonged tensions in the society. The effect was another wave of radical movements that triggered armed protests against the presidents in power. An example of this can be seen in the developments in North Africa at the beginning of the 21st century.