

**Committee/Council:** Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Committee

**Issue:** Combating social conflicts and the growing far right ideology in refugee - hosting countries

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**Position:** Chair

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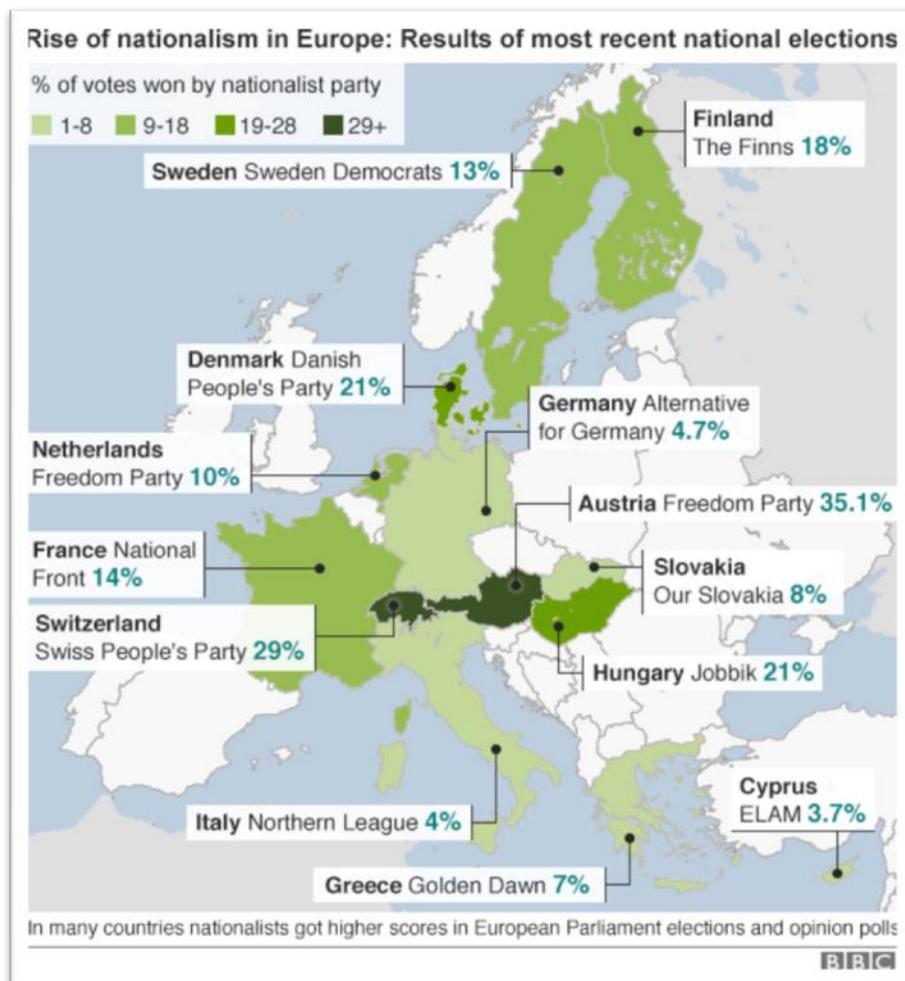
## Introduction

Nowadays right-wing ideologies are not just a national phenomenon. Following the 1929 Great Depression, the 2008 economic crisis, the refugee wave and the extremist actions, the far right policies have been on the rise. First and foremost, the “far right-wing” refers to political parties that advocate traditional politics and the superiority of certain groups of people. It should be pointed out that due to the refugee crisis xenophobia, racial discrimination, prejudices, and intolerance are more than present in many countries especially in refugee hosting countries and as a result, the far-right parties, which support an anti-immigrants and nationalist policy, have started gaining supporters. These groups may favour a racial group above others and cause as a result inequality in the society and the creation of social conflicts. Moreover, such political movements have recently become increasingly violent towards minorities, refugees, and other social groups and thus the growing of such parties can put democracy at risk.

After the devastating results of the rise of far right in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, such parties ceased to exist for a long period until their reappearance in 1970. From the 1970s until the mid-1980s, the far right wing hardly existed and their popularity did not surpass 5% of the vote in general elections. A few years later though, despite the fact that the rise of far right ideologies had resulted in the outbreak of the World War II and despite the global impact of the World War II, far right wing started again to gain supporters especially in Europe. Nowadays, their popularity has come to the extent where some parties take positions in the European Parliament and pose a threat of replacing the current governments in power.

Attention should also be paid to the growing of social conflicts. Especially due to the economic crisis and the adoption of austerity policies, social conflicts have appeared between the poor and the rich but also between people and the government, mainly due to the harsh political measures. Social conflicts may also arise because of the refugee crisis. They can be present between refugees and natives due to xenophobia, between government and refugees but also among governments

because of the far right mentality. All in all, it is more necessary than ever to combat social conflicts as well as the growing of far right ideologies in refugee-hosting countries so as to preserve democracy and human rights, establish an environment suitable and ideal for the refugees in hosting countries but also to avoid repeating past mistakes.



This map is of great magnitude for this topic since it presents the results of recent national elections and especially the results of the far right parties. It is to be seen that the far right ideologies are strongly present in Europe and one could say that they are also on the rise in European countries compared to other decades. All in all this map provides us with useful information so as to get a clear picture of the situation of far right ideologies in Europe as well as the votes they received in the most recent elections.

## Definition of Key-Terms

### Social conflict

The concept of social conflict, in anthropology, covers various aspects of social disintegration involving individuals, groups or social classes. It is a general feature of human relationships and exists when two sides wish to carry out acts which are mutually inconsistent. These may be of various forms: personal violence, rebellions, industrial strikes, warfare and perhaps even sport (in which there is an institutionalized and constrained form of conflict).

(<http://www.encyclopedia69.com/eng/d/social-conflict/social-conflict.htm>)

### Social conflict theory

Conflict theory states that tensions and conflicts arise when resources, status, and power are unevenly distributed between groups in society and that these conflicts become the engine for social change. In this context, power can be understood as control of material resources and accumulated wealth, control of politics and the institutions that make up society, and one's social status relative to others (determined not just by class but by race, gender, sexuality, culture, and religion, among other things).

(<http://sociology.about.com/od/Sociological-Theory/a/Conflict-Theory.htm>)

### Ideology

An ideology is a set of opinions or beliefs of a group or an individual. Very often ideology refers to a set of political beliefs or a set of ideas that characterize a particular culture.

(<http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/ideology>)

### Far right ideology

The far right or extreme right is a political label used to identify parties and movements based on fascist, racist and/or extremely reactionary ideologies. Officially those on the far right embrace the concept of the "inequality of outcome", meaning that one group is naturally better than another.

([http://rationalwiki.org/wiki/Far\\_right](http://rationalwiki.org/wiki/Far_right) )

### Political Spectrum

A system of classification of different political systems. The main distinction between the groups is left-wing and right-wing. Specific political movements, groups, and

parties may fall into a specific margin on the spectrum. This spectrum is helpful in identifying the position of a political group in general.

([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Political\\_spectrum](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Political_spectrum))

### Extremism

The tendency or disposition to go to extremes or an instance of going to extremes, especially in political matters.

(<http://www.dictionary.com/browse/extremism>)

### Fascism

The way of organizing a society in which a government ruled by a dictator controls the lives of the people and in which people are not allowed to disagree with the government; very harsh control or authority.

(<http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/fascism>)

### Racial Discrimination

Any distinction, exclusion, restriction or preference based on race, colour, descent, or national or ethnic origin which has the purpose or effect of nullifying or impairing the recognition, enjoyment or exercise, on an equal footing, of human rights and fundamental freedoms in the political, economic, social, cultural or any other field of public life.

(As defined by the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination)

### Xenophobia

Dislike of or prejudice against people from other countries.

(<http://www.oxforddictionaries.com/definition/english/xenophobia>).

### Refugee hosting countries

Refugee hosting countries are the countries that refugees migrate to, seeking for a better future. Such countries are especially European countries and play a significant factor on the confrontation of the refugee crisis.

## Background Information

### Historical Background

The history of the far right ideologies is a major key in order to understand their rise. It is of great importance that it is not the first time that far right parties are gaining support; the 20th Century has already witnessed rightwing extremism in the past.

The roots of the growing of the far right ideologies can be found in the 1920s, after the detrimental results of the catastrophic World War I. Those results had a great impact on the stability as well as the economy of many involved countries. Such economic chaos increased social unrest and social conflicts and this unstable situation led to the rise of many radical right wing parties especially in Germany. The rise of far-right ideologies in this period was something unusual and it was not only present in Germany but also in Italy with the rise of the Italian fascist party.

Both abovementioned parties but especially the takeover of Germany by Hitler and his Nazi party (1933) played a significant role in the outbreak of the World War II. However, after the catastrophic impact of World War II, such political movements were eliminated.

The German political scientist Klaus von Beyme has divided the development of far right parties in Europe after World War II into three historical phases.

- From 1945 to the mid-1950s: Far right ideologies were on the decrease due to their recent existence and their defeat after the World War II. Thus they struggled to survive as political parties.
- The mid-1950s to the 1970s: Right-wing political groups began to appear again, and some were able to gain hold of enough support to have seats in the parliament but none were able to last long. The citizens had lost their trust to such far-right parties because of the World War II that the German Nazi party and the Italian Fascist party had provoked.
- Beginning of the 1980s until today: The far right parties of European countries started to gain electoral success. From representing barely 1 percent of the vote, the average has shot up to approximately 7 per cent. The economic instability, the austerity policies, the refugee wave, and Euroscepticism are some of the factors that can explain this rapid increase of far right parties.

## Social conflicts in refugee hosting countries

One of the most recent problems that the international community has failed to address is certainly the refugee crisis. We are currently experiencing the greatest refugee wave of all times. However, we are not capable of dealing with it in the correct manner. Many social conflicts arise due to this situation.

The one and the most crucial type of social conflict arises among governments. The European countries cannot find a common ground so as to tackle this issue since not all of the European countries are willing to help the tackling of the refugee crisis. One example is the fact that many countries, among them also the Visegrad group which consists of Poland, Hungary, Slovakia and the Czech Republic, have rejected the plans to redistribute asylum-seekers under a quota system proposed by the European Commission. As a result of their unwillingness to provide assistance to this complex problem, they left the entire burden on the refugee hosting countries. (e.g. Greece, Italy, France, Germany etc.)

Another type of social conflict that is present because of this issue is the one between governments and refugees. Another typical example for this is the fact that many governments decided to turn their backs on refugees and close their borders. (e.g. Austria, Hungary, Poland, Slovakia etc.) Furthermore, many far right parties have supported extreme anti-refugee policies and created xenophobic feelings to their supporters. As a result, many refugees can't be accepted and integrated into societies and thus not find a better future.

Last but certainly not least, attention should be paid to the social conflicts between natives and refugees. Due to the terrorist actions and the far right propaganda, xenophobia, as well as racial and religious discrimination are present in hosting countries and thus make the living conditions of refugees even harsher.

## Major Countries and Organizations Involved

### Austria

The Freedom party constitutes the far right party of Austria. In the 1999 elections FPO, led by Nazi sympathiser Jörg Haider, came second supporting an anti-immigration and anti-European policy. After those results, the freedom party formed part of a coalition government, which attracted EU sanctions against Austria for "legitimizing the far right". However, in recent years the FPO has gained great support. Austria is the first European country that was so close to elect a far right head of state in the 2016 elections, but it only made it to the first round.



### Austria

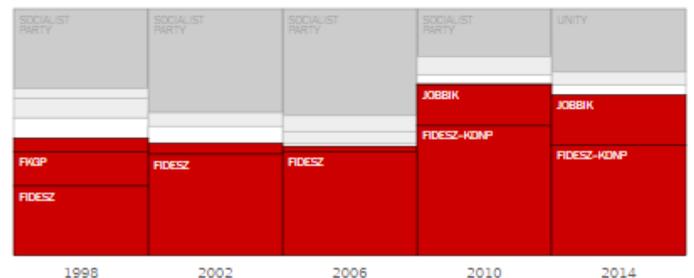


### Hungary

Jobbik is a far-right, anti-immigration, populist and economic protectionist party of Hungary. Jobbik is now the third biggest party in Hungary's parliament. Despite the fact that one time in 2012 the party's leader described all people of Jewish descent as "a national security risk" and wanted to put their names on a list, it rejects the label of "radical nationalist" and the party also denies the labels "racist" and "anti-Semitic". Jobbik is relatively powerful in Hungarian politics and owns 12% of parliamentary seats. Attention should also be paid to the fact that the party while targeting homosexuals proposed that homosexuality should be punished with prison terms of up to eight years.



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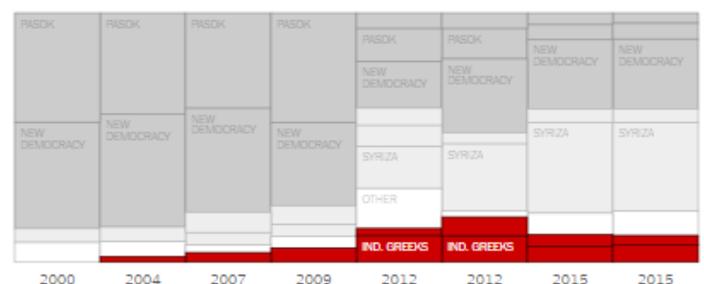


### Greece

Because of the economic crisis and the harsh austerity measures that were adopted by the Greek government so as to combat it, social conflicts and social unrest are more than present in Greece. The austerity demanded by Greece's creditors turned many Greeks away from the political establishment. Thus, the rise of Golden Dawn could be considered as a



### Greece



reaction of the Greek citizens. The far right party holds 18 seats in the Greek parliament. Despite claiming to have moved beyond its neo-Nazi roots, the movement uses a swastika-like logo and puts its members through military-style training. Although its members have been accused of committing serious crimes including murder in the past and some members are but also have been imprisoned, their supporters have not been greatly eliminated.



### United Kingdom

In the UK, UKIP was campaigning for Britain to leave the EU in a referendum on 23 June. Ukip is a eurosceptic party and after the results of the referendum, in which it was decided for the UK to leave EU, the leader of Ukip felt the need to resign as he had achieved his goal. At this point, it is expected that far right ideologies will grow even more in Britain. Furthermore, Brexit caused social unrest as it gave the opportunity to many far right leaders to propose the exit of their country as well from the European Union.

### France

The national Front is a far-right, nationalist party which supports anti-immigration and anti-European Union policies. It was established in 1972 and many of its members and founders include Nazi supporters and collaborators. The national front was led by Jean-Marie Le Pen in the beginning, but now it is led by his daughter Marine Le Pen, who is expected to make it as her party's candidate to the second round of voting in the 2017 presidential election. After Brexit, the national Front was the first party that proposed Frexit but also the exit of other European countries from the European Union.



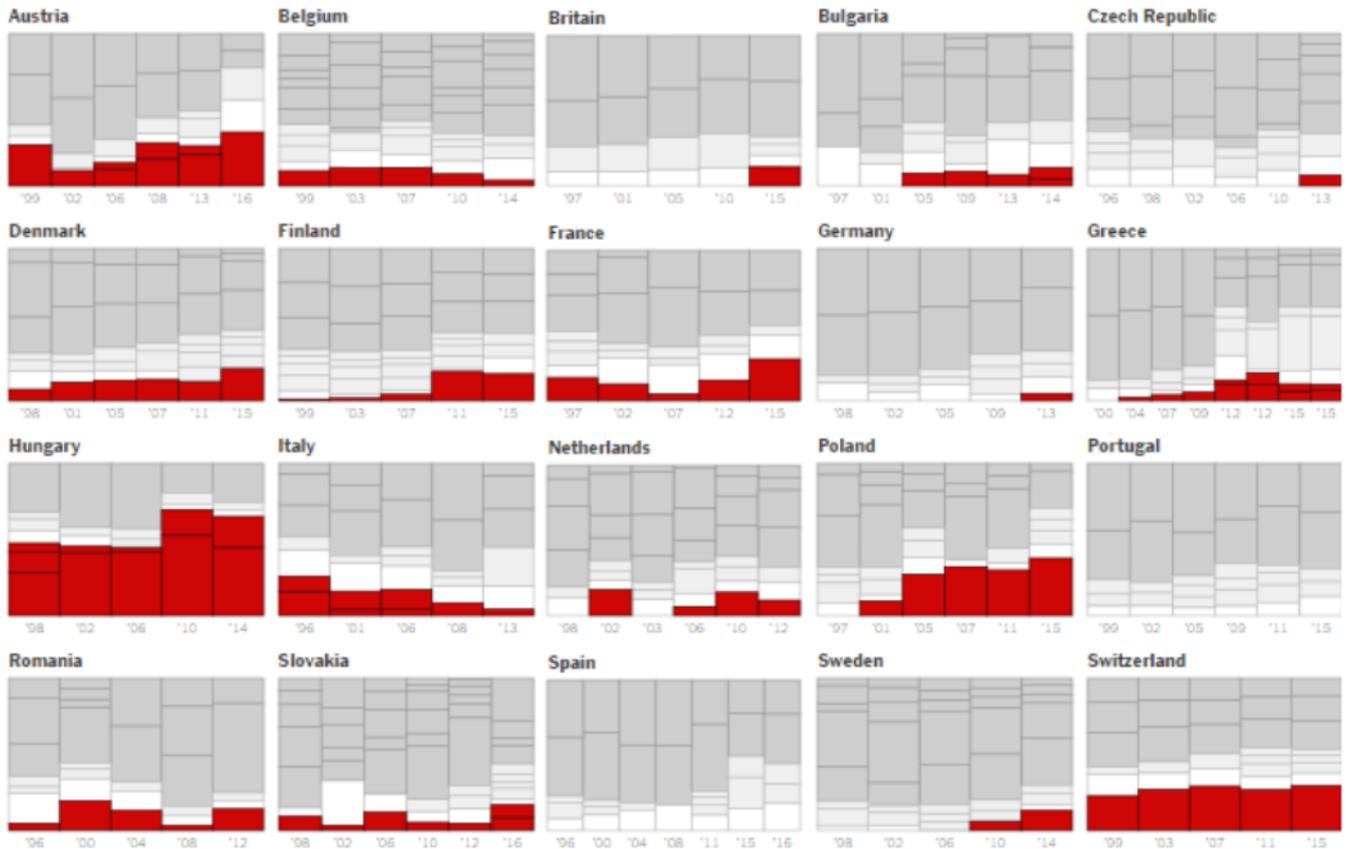
### Pegida

It is a far-right anti- Islam political movement whose name stands for Patriotic Europeans against the Islamisation of the West. It was first created in Germany, in Dresden in 2014 but now many other countries have created similar political movements. Such far right movements take the opportunity given to them by the refugee crisis to express and broadcast their anti-immigrant and anti-Muslim policies through protests.

Those were some of the most important countries that face the rapid rise of far right ideologies. It is important though to take a look at the following diagram that presents the situation in 20 different countries.



Party ideology in parliamentary elections\*  Center-left, center-right  Other parties  Right-wing and far-right



\*The 2016 Austrian presidential election and the 2015 French regional elections are included to add a more recent result for those countries.

The charts above show election results in 20 European countries,

## Timeline of Events

Date	Description of event
1918	The period after the Word War I, political, financial and social unrest. The appearance of far-right parties.
1919	The creation of the Fascist Party in Italy ran by Benito Mussolini.
1933-1934	The rise of Hitler's Nazi Party in Germany and Hitler becomes chancellor.

1945	End of World War II. The decline of far-right supporters to the point where far-right parties struggled to exist.
1950-1970	Right-wing political groups began to appear again, and some were able to gain hold of enough support to have seats in the parliament but none were able to last long.
1990-2000	The rapid growth of the far right parties in Europe.
2008	Ban Ki-moon expresses his concern about right-wing extremism.
2016	Brexit. Far right parties propose all European countries to leave EU.

## Relevant UN Treaties, Resolutions and Events

- International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination

The Convention on the Elimination of All forms of Racial Discrimination is a United Nations convention that was adopted by the General Assembly on 21 December 1965 by resolution 2106 (XX). It entered into force on 4 January 1969 and as its name reveals it calls for the elimination of racial discrimination. By the Convention, States parties condemn racial discrimination and undertake to pursue by all appropriate means the articles of the convention with the aim to combat all forms of racial discrimination.

- The 1951 Refugee Convention

The 1951 Refugee Convention is the key legal document that determines the Status of Refugees. Signed by 144 State parties it defines the term 'refugee', sets out the rights of individuals who are granted asylum as well as the legal obligations of States to protect them and the criteria under which nations should grant asylum.

- European Convention on Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms (ECHR)

The European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) is an international treaty to protect human rights and fundamental freedoms in Europe. The convention was

drafted in 1950 and it entered into force on 3 September 1953. To ensure the observance of the engagements undertaken by the Parties, the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg has been set up, which deals with individual and inter-State petitions.

### **Previous Attempts to solve the Issue**

The growth of far-right ideologies has taken great dimensional in this period, but due to the complexity of the issue, the UN or the EU have not taken any drastic measures so as to address it properly. However, it is up to the public's discretion to vote and opt for the party that it trusts and supports. Only in right wing extremism and in cases like the Golden Dawn in Greece, where criminal actions are involved can the international community take significant action.

### **Possible Solutions**

As already mentioned a solution to such a problem is of great importance. A key solution to this problem is the education. Educational seminars and events should be held in schools so as to inform children about human rights, the meaning of racial discrimination and racism and how important their elimination is. The basis of far right ideologies is the belief that a country is superior to other countries and the anti-immigration policies. When people learn from a young age about equality and human rights, they might not support such ideologies in the future, given the fact that they will be raised in a democratic environment. Previously some of the factors that favored the rise of far right parties were mentioned. (economic crisis, terrorist attacks, refugee crisis etc.) In order to prevent and tackle the growth of far right ideologies, to those problems should be tackled first. Last but not least, NGOs and other organizations should check the preservation of human rights in refugee hosting countries and report their results so as to prevent hate crimes, discrimination and intolerance.

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