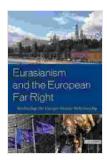
Eurasianism and the European Far Right: A Deep Dive into the Convergence of Nationalism and Geopolitics



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In the ever-shifting landscape of contemporary politics, the rise of far-right extremism in Europe has emerged as a significant and concerning phenomenon. At the heart of this extremist ideology lies a complex and often overlooked intellectual current known as Eurasianism. This essay aims to shed light on the intricate relationship between Eurasianism and the European far right, unraveling their shared histories, ideologies, and geopolitical ambitions.

Historical Roots: From Pan-Slavism to Neo-Eurasianism

The origins of Eurasianism can be traced back to the 19th century, with its roots in Russian nationalism and Pan-Slavism. Prominent thinkers such as Nikolay Danilevsky and Konstantin Leontiev argued for a distinct Slavic civilization, separate from both the West and the East. This idea of a unique

Eurasian identity, distinct from both European and Asian influences, laid the groundwork for the development of Eurasianism.

In the aftermath of the Russian Revolution, Eurasianism underwent a significant transformation, re-emerging in the 1920s and 1930s as a response to the Soviet Union's Marxist-Leninist ideology. Led by thinkers such as Prince Nikolai Trubetskoy and Peter Savitsky, Neo-Eurasianism rejected both communism and Western liberalism, advocating instead for a unique Eurasian path.

Ideological Convergence: Nationalism, Traditionalism, and Anti-Western Sentiment

Eurasianism finds common ground with the European far right in their shared emphasis on nationalism, traditionalism, and anti-Western sentiment. They both view the West as decadent and materialistic, a threat to traditional values and national identity. Eurasianists, in particular, see Europe as a declining civilization, while emphasizing the strength and vitality of Russia and its Eurasian allies.

The far right in Europe, on the other hand, often adopts a more parochial nationalism, focusing on their own nations and rejecting multiculturalism and immigration. However, they share with Eurasianists a disdain for the European Union and a desire to restore national sovereignty.

Geopolitical Ambitions: The Quest for a Eurasian Superpower

Beyond their ideological convergence, Eurasianism and the European far right share geopolitical ambitions. Eurasianists envision a Eurasian superpower, spanning from Europe to Asia, that would challenge the dominance of the United States and its allies. They see Russia as the natural leader of this Eurasian bloc, with a key role for far-right movements in Europe to promote a pro-Russian agenda.

The European far right, in turn, often supports Russia's geopolitical goals, viewing it as a bulwark against Western liberalism and globalization. They see a strategic alignment with Russia as a way to promote their own nationalist agendas and weaken the European Union.

Case Studies: From France to Hungary

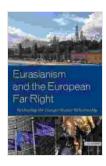
The convergence of Eurasianism and the European far right has manifested itself in various countries across Europe. In France, the far-right National Rally (Rassemblement National) has forged close ties with Russian President Vladimir Putin, supporting his policies in Ukraine and Syria. The party's leader, Marine Le Pen, has openly expressed admiration for Eurasianism.

In Hungary, Prime Minister Viktor Orbán has pursued a pro-Russian foreign policy, aligning his country with Russia on a range of issues. His government has also promoted a conservative and nationalist agenda, with policies restricting immigration and LGBTQ+ rights.

Implications for European Security and Stability

The convergence of Eurasianism and the European far right poses significant implications for European security and stability. Their shared anti-Western sentiment and geopolitical ambitions could undermine European unity and cooperation. The promotion of Russian influence in Europe by far-right movements could also weaken the transatlantic alliance and create divisions within NATO. Moreover, the embrace of extremist ideologies by far-right parties could lead to increased polarization and violence within European societies. Their anti-immigrant and anti-minority rhetoric can create a climate of fear and intolerance, fueling social divisions and threatening the rule of law.

Eurasianism and the European far right are two interrelated phenomena that have profound implications for the political landscape of Europe. Their shared ideologies and geopolitical ambitions have led to a convergence of interests, with far-right movements in Europe aligning themselves with Russia's Eurasianist agenda. This convergence poses significant challenges to European security and stability, undermining unity, promoting Russian influence, and fueling extremism. Understanding the complex relationship between these two movements is crucial for policymakers and researchers seeking to address the rise of far-right extremism and its potential consequences for Europe and beyond.



Eurasianism and the European Far Right: Reshaping the Europe–Russia Relationship by Marlene Laruelle

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