

Standalone articles

“They all are the red plague”: anti-communism and the Romanian radical right populists

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ABSTRACT

This paper examines how a radical right populist party uses anti-communism to produce an anti-establishment discourse and consolidate ultra-conservative political values. At the end of 2020 The Alliance for the Unity of Romanians (AUR) entered the Romanian Parliament, taking many by surprise. We indicate how they have capitalised not only on the “normalisation” of radical right themes, but also on pre-existing anti-communist discourses. After demonstrating how anti-communism has structured the post-socialist Romanian politics, we reveal how it was used as an identifier of the political establishment and how AUR operated a gradual replacement of “communism” with “neo-Marxism” in their discourse.

Q KEYWORDS: [Populism](#) [radical right](#) [post-socialism](#) [ideology](#) [Romania](#) [post-communism](#)

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