



Euroscepticism

Barbora, Bojan & Pinja



What is Euroscepticism?

- the term emerged in 1980s in the UK
- a “catch-all” synonym for any form of opposition, criticism or reluctance towards the EU
- the meaning of term varies from country to country, the base is always the same (some form of opposition towards the EU), but it does not always apply to the same level of EU integration -> Euroscepticism in Austria vs. Turkey’s accession to the EU; UK vs. “European superstate” and EMU...
- like populism, compatible with any ideological position (but it is not an ideology!)



History of Euroscepticism in a nutshell

Eurocrats -> anti-marketeers / nationalists / communists / Gaullists
-> Eurosceptics



Soft Euroscepticism

- Seeking reforms while remaining part of the EU.
- Far more common in EU than the Hard Euroscepticism.
- Greek SYRIZA, Spanish Podemos, and Dutch SP.



PODEMOS - Eurosceptic or Eurocritic?



- Far-left wing party founded as a result of the anti-austerity movement
- Eurocritic party and an example of Soft Euroscepticism
- The difference with the far-right parties on Euroscepticism.
- Criticism and reformist views towards the European Union.
- Reforms focused on the financial and migrant crisis, but also on social problems.
- Calls on withdrawal of the Euro and the Eurozone.
- Pointing out at Brexit, as a consequence of the policies in the EU.

PODEMOS - Eurosceptic or Eurocritic?

The logo for the Spanish political party Podemos, consisting of a purple square with the word "PODEMOS" in white capital letters, enclosed in a white border.

PODEMOS

Pablo Iglesias's comment on Twitter after Brexit:

“It’s a sad day for Europe. We must change course. Nobody would want to leave a Europe of fairness and solidarity. We need to change Europe”.



VOX



VOX

- Far-right wing party founded in 2013, in the parliament since 2019
- Eurosceptic view of the European Union
- Sovereignty as primary clash with the EU
- Assuring of not having an intention to leave the EU
- Santiago Abascal signed the 'Joint Declaration on the Future of Europe' with Viktor Orbán, Marine Le Pen, Jarosław Kaczyński, Giorgia Meloni.
- The leader compared EU with China, The Soviet Union or Europe by Hitler.

VOX - far-right Euroscepticism in Spain



Santiago Abascal's comments on the EU:

“They are not going to impose a progressive and globalist tyranny on us. Throughout Europe there is an awakening that is gaining ground in defense of its sovereignty and in defense of its Western identity, which claims the Nation State as an irreplaceable unit and as the supreme space of democracy”.

Described EU as a “federal mega-state that is too similar to the People's Republic of China, the Soviet Union and even Europe. dreamed by Hitler”.



Hard Euroscepticism

- Rejection of the entire project of European political and economic integration
- Parties opposing their country joining or remaining in the EU
- Currently a highly marginal position in EU politics
- Golden Dawn (Greece), Italexit (Italy), People's Party Our Slovakia (Slovakia) , Party For Freedom (Netherlands), Freedom and Direct Democracy (Czech Republic) etc.



Freedom and Direct Democracy

(Czech Republic)



- Founded in 2015, led by Tomio Okamura
- **20** seats in the Chamber of Deputies, **2** MEP's & 35 regional councils
- Member of Identity and Democracy in EP
- Far-right, populist, anti-immigration
- Hard Euroscepticism - advocates a referendum on EU and NATO membership, **Czexit**



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