

NEO SITHOLE

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A Reviewal of the EU's Populist Trinity 's Communication in Response to the Ukraine Crisis

Just over a year ago, the Russian invasion of Ukraine introduced Europe to what many at the time would have thought difficult to imagine, a war on the doorstep of Europe. In conjunction with this, the region's fast-growing populist influence has been affirmed with the re-election of Europe's bad boy in Budapest, Viktor Orban from FIDESZ, Italy's most recent victory of the election of Georgia Meloni from the right-wing Brothers of Italy party in the national elections and lastly Poland's Law and Justice party led by Andrzej Duda.

The proposed paper/presentation seeks to review the attitudes of the three populist actors with regard to their stance on Europe's approach to the ongoing war in Ukraine. It would be difficult to lump together the populist communication of the three actors so the paper will look at the populist communication of each populist actor separately before providing a brief comparison. The paper takes into consideration the (populist) historical stances in each state, the circumstances each state finds itself in line with its positionality with the EU, Russia and Ukraine as well as reviewing the relationships these populist actors have with each other. The aim is to evaluate what stances/narratives these populists take, what informs these narratives and ultimately what these could mean for populism and populist communication in the EU going forward.