

The Nordic Countries and the Extreme Right Challenge



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著者:Widfeldt, Anders

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The Nordic countries enjoy a reputation as consensual, tolerant and peaceful. The mere thought of populist and extremist politics playing a significant role in the Nordic political systems seems far fetched. Yet, in all the four countries studied in this book -- Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden -- anti-establishment parties with an immigration-critical agenda are, or have been, represented in parliament. The Progress Party has been Norway's second biggest party in two successive elections. The Danish People has been able to get key parts of its programme made into public policy, in exchange for parliamentary support for a centre-right minority government. In Finland and Sweden right-wing populism has not yet had the same impact, but support for the True Finns Party and the Sweden Democrats has grown in recent years, and both parties could be on the verge of a political breakthrough. This book provides an analysis of right-wing populism in all four countries. It is argued that the nature of the Nordic political systems can help us to understand the variations in electoral success and political impact of populist right parties, and that these parties are catalysts of political change. This is a unique contribution to a widely studied and fascinating area, which contains important lessons for all concerned.

作者介绍:

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