



The Populist Explosion: How the Great Recession Transformed American and European Politics

By John B. Judis

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Featured as one of "Six Books to Help Understand Trump's Win" by *The New York Times*

A Fareed Zakaria GPS Book of the Week: "An intelligent guide to a phenomenon by no means over." -- Fareed Zakaria, CNN

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"Far and away the most incisive examination of the central development in contemporary politics: the rise of populism on both the right and the left. Superb."- Thomas Edsall, *New York Times* columnist

What's happening in global politics, and is there a thread that ties it all together? As if overnight, many Democrats revolted and passionately backed a socialist named Bernie Sanders; the United Kingdom voted to leave the European Union, in a stunning rebuke; the vituperative billionaire Donald Trump became the presidential nominee of the Republican Party; and a slew of rebellious parties continued to win election after election in countries like Switzerland, Norway, Italy, Austria, and Greece.

John B. Judis, one of America's most respected political analysts, tells us why we need to understand the populist movement that began in the United States in the 1890s and whose politics have recurred on both sides of the Atlantic ever since. *The Populist Explosion* is essential reading for anyone hoping to grasp a global political system that is only just beginning what will be a long-running and highly consequential readjustment.

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Editorial Review

Review

"If you read no other political book this year, read **THE POPULIST EXPLOSION** by John B. Judis, which brilliantly sets out the connection to present circumstances." -- Mark Mardell, BBC

"Shows why journalists who have a sense of history, and its irony, need not be bewildered by the astonishing revolt against globalized elites in our time." -- Pankaj Mishra, Bloomberg

"Writing from the left, with a qualified admiration for the populist impulse, Judis contends that populist insurgencies historically have served as warning signs of larger brewing political crises." -- Tory Newmyer, *Fortune*

"A cogent and exceptionally clarifying guide to a political phenomenon that is at once elusive and, yes, explosive."

-- Jonathan Alter, *The New York Times Book Review*

"*The Populist Explosion* is far and away the most incisive examination of the central development in contemporary politics: the rise of populism on both the right and the left. John Judis, whose track record is unrivaled, is the ideal author to tackle the subject, and he has done a superb job, placing contemporary trends, including the rise of Donald Trump, in historical perspective. Judis demonstrates the crucial role of the 2008 recession both here and in Europe in discrediting the neoliberal agenda. This is must reading."

-- Thomas Edsall, *New York Times* columnist

"A sweeping narrative -- rich in historical and political argument -- that ably ties together the insurgencies on both sides of the Atlantic."

-- *The Nation*

"John Judis, in *The Populist Explosion*, has written a terrific short book that is a brisk tour of the horizon, of the right and left versions of populism, their history and current state, with a useful comparison of the populist upsurge in the United States and Europe."

--*The American Prospect*

"*The Populist Explosion* blends groundbreaking reporting with insightful scholarship in the best guide yet to the most important political phenomenon of our time."

--Michael Lind, author of *Land of Promise: An Economic History of the United States*

"John Judis demonstrates again why he is one of America's best political journalists. There is no wiser or better informed analysis of contemporary voter discontent on both sides of the Atlantic than *The Populist Explosion*."

-- Michael Kazin, editor of *Dissent*, author of *The Populist Persuasion: An American History and War Against War: The American Fight for Peace, 1914-1918*

"What does history tell us about the future? John Judis, the author of **THE POPULIST EXPLOSION**, says that America may be just in the first phase of its new populist insurrection." - *Sydney Morning Herald*

[About the Author](#)

John B. Judis was a senior editor of "The New Republic" and recently a senior writer for "The National Journal." He is the author of six books, including "Genesis: Truman, American Jews, and the Origin of the Arab-Israeli Conflict" (Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 2014), "The Folly of Empire: What George W. Bush Could Learn from Theodore Roosevelt and Woodrow Wilson" (Scribner, 2004), "The Emerging Democratic Majority" with Ruy Teixeira (Scribner, 2002), and "The Paradox of American Democracy: Elites, Special Interests, and Betrayal of Public Trust" (Pantheon, 2000). He has written for numerous publications, including "The New York Times Magazine," "Mother Jones," and "The Washington Post." Born in Chicago, he received his B.A. and M.A. degrees in Philosophy from the University of California Berkeley. He lives in Silver Spring, MD.

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