

Introduction to the course; the concept of radicalism and interconnected terms

Miroslav Mareš

Course **EUP 408 Radicalism in Europe**

School of Social Studies of the MU in Brno

Fall Semester 2005

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Lectures of the Course

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Course objective and description

- The goal of the course is to introduce students to the study of radicalism in Europe. The course provides a broad overview of the most important forms of radicalism, their ideological backgrounds and their organizational structures. In addition to radical and extremist ideologies, the course also discusses the policy against antidemocratic and violent forms of radicalism.
 - The course gives an overview of the various forms of radicalism. The first seminar describes the concept of radicalism and several interconnected terms. The following seminars focus on different types of radicalism (religious radicalism, right-wing radicalism, left-wing radicalism, ethnic radicalism). The last two seminars analyze the policy against intolerant radicalism.
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Course Requirements

1. Students are expected to read the required reading(s) for each seminar. If there are two or three required readings rather than one, students are expected to read all of them.
2. Students are encouraged to actively participate in the seminars by posing questions of clarification or bringing up problems for discussion.
3. Students are expected to write six short position papers (300-600 words each) on six different seminar topics. The papers should include a summary of the main points of the required reading(s), a critique of these readings, questions of clarification, and possible questions for discussion.

To enable the organization of the in-class discussion, papers must have three clearly identified sections:

- a) a summary section entitled "Summary";
- b) a critique section entitled "Critique";
- c) a section containing questions for discussion entitled "Questions".

Papers that do not have this structure and contain different points scattered throughout the text will be rejected and will not count towards the student's grade.

The position papers should be sent via e-mail to the lecturer responsible for the respective seminar. The papers should be submitted no later than 1 p. m. of the day before the seminar for which the paper is written.

4. At the end of the semester students should submit a 10-page long final paper on a topic relevant to the course.
 5. There will be a final in-class written exam, consisting of four questions based on the required readings and the discussions in class.
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Grading

- The final grade will be calculated as a composite evaluation consisting of three parts:
 - 1) evaluation on the six position papers
 - 2) evaluation on the final paper
 - 3) evaluation on the final exam
 - Students will be awarded 18 points for the submission of six position papers of acceptable quality, in compliance with the required structure of position papers, and in the specified deadline. The points are awarded as a bulk evaluation for the submission of all papers; separate papers do not get points. This means that no points at all will be awarded for the submission of less than six position papers. Late submissions and submission of papers that do not meet the minimal requirements of quality and structure are not acceptable.
 - Students will be awarded 18 points for the submission of a final paper of acceptable quality.
 - Each final-exam question gets between 0 and 6 points (max. 24 points overall for the final exam).
 - The grade will be calculated on the basis of the number of points collected. In order to complete the course, students must collect at least 36 points (60% of the max. points for all parts, i.e. 60 points).
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Class Schedule

29.9. Mareš	Introduction, definition of terms
6.10. Čejka	Religious radicalism I.
13.10. Čejka	Religious radicalism II.
20.10. Mareš	Radical right I.
27.10. Čejka	Radical right II.
3.11. Císař	Radical left I.
10.11. Císař	Radical environmentalism, radical feminism
17.11. Císař	Radical left II.
24.11. Zetocha	Ethnic a regional radicalism
1.12. Zetocha	Policy against radicalism on national level
8.12. Zetocha	Policy against radicalism on European level
15.12. Mareš	Písemný test

Definition of radicalism

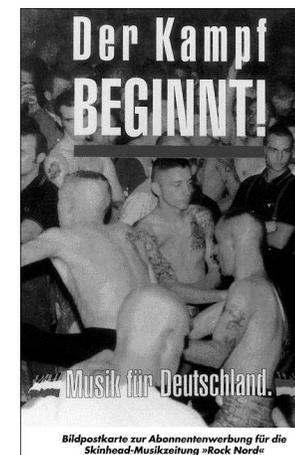
- Radix – in Latin meaning „root“
 - Oxford Advanced Learner’s Dictionary of Current English: „belief in radical ideas and principles. Radical – concerning the most basic and important parts of something, thorough and complete; new, different and likely to have a great effect; in favour of thorough and complete political and social change“.
 - Oxford Concise Dictionary of Politics (Iain McLean, Alistair McMillan): „Radical means pertaining to a root- and-branch reform. However, the etymology also leads to a famous satirical comparison between the French Radicals (radis in French) – red outside and white within“.
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Traditional Radicalism (18- 19th centuries)

- Radical Philosophy: liberal critiques of politics and society. Jeremy Bentham: each individual was the best judge of deciding what his happiness entailed, and government was obligated to allow individual routes to happiness.
 - Radical Parties: demands: favour of extending the franchise, popular participation in politics, civil liberties, and greater social welfare.
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Contemporary Radicalism

- ❑ Radicalism stands in opposition to main established political forces and it tries to change important attributes of the political system.
- ❑ Radicals have specific goals and/or methods
- ❑ There exist various forms of radicalism (left-wing, right-wing, ethnic and territorial, religious, environmental etc.)



Extremism

- Sometimes the term extremism is used as a synonym to the term radicalism.
- Theory of Extremism: Extremism is against constitutional democratic state, radicalism criticizes the established forces, but it finds itself at the end of democratic continuum. Extremism wants dictatorship, while radicalism wants democracy.
- Radicalism has often a positive image in public, extremism mostly negative image in the public.



Methods of radicalism

Non-violent methods:

- non-violent demonstrations
- strikes
- blockades
- boycotts
- civic disobedience

Violent methods:

- violent demonstrations
- violent insurgency
- terrorism
- guerilla
- violent coup d' Etat
- violent revolution;
- War etc.



Gewalttätige Demonstration am 16.3.1996, am deutsch-niederländischen Grenzübergang Elfen (Bilder: dpa)

Forms of radicalism

- Individuals
- Subcultures
- Social Movements
- Legal interest groups
- Political parties
- Militant groups
- Regimes
- International organizations



Causes of radicalism

- Non-represented interests
- Insolvable conflicts
- Fundamental cleavages
- „Anomies“ in society
- Radical historical traditions and political culture



Literature

- Mareš, M. (2003): Pravicový extremismus a radikalismus v ČR. Brno: Centrum strategických studií.
 - Mareš, M. (2005): Terorismus v ČR. Brno: Centrum strategických studií.
 - Mc Lean, I., Mc Millan, A. (ed.) (2003): Oxford Concise Dictionary of Politics. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
 - Wehmeier, S. (ed.): Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
 - Photos: Verfassungsschutz Nordrhein-Westfalen.
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