

Democracy in danger

In recent years, certain political developments have increasingly infiltrated democracy and now pose a threat to it. This affects not only individual nation states, but the European Union as a whole.

Authoritarianism, populism and right-wing populism

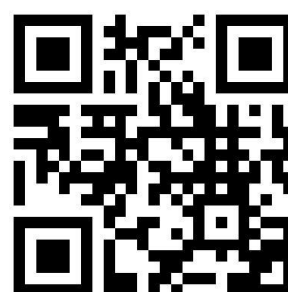
Open an Excel file and make three columns. The headlines of the columns should be: Know, Ask, Learned. In the first column, write down what you already know about authoritarianism, populism and right-wing populism; and in the second column, write questions about what you want to know about these movements. You can leave the third column blank for the moment. You will fill it in at the end of the CLIL lesson.

Right wing extremism in the European Union

- a) Watch the video "[Why the far right is surging in Europe](#)" from May 2024, ahead of the EU elections in June 2024. (23:11 min). If you have difficulties understanding the speaker, switch on the subtitles. Create a vocabulary list (for example using an Excel spreadsheet) with the words you don't know and look them up in the online dictionary. If you have any questions, your teacher will help you.
- b) Create five true/false questions that summarise the main points of the video. Then work in pairs (find a new partner) and answer your partner's questions. Finally, discuss the main message of the video in pairs.



Why the far right is surging in Europe



Online dictionary

Debate in the EU Parliament

The class is divided into groups A and B. Both groups should find arguments for a debate between centre-right and centre-left delegates on climate change, migration and dealing with the financial crisis. Each group needs to find out the delegates' positions on these issues before starting the debate.

- ♦ Group A represents the centre-right delegates
- ♦ Group B represents the centre-left delegates

Modern populism

- a) Watch the interactive videos "[The rise of modern populism](#)" (06:21 min) and take notes on the main facts. Try to characterise a populist leader in a few sentences and find an example.



The rise of modern populism

- b) Work in pairs (find a new partner) and discuss the most interesting (or astonishing or unusual) facts mentioned in the videos. Use your notes to recall how modern populism is explained in the videos.

Understanding what authoritarianism is

- a) Look at the vocabulary list before you continue with task b. Add words from the video to the list for which you don't know the German translation. You can use the [online dictionary](#) again.

to embrace	(gerne) annehmen
judiciary	Justiz
surveillance	Überwachung
xenophobia	Fremdenfeindlichkeit
to counter	entgegentreten, kontern
accountability	Verantwortung (für getroffene Maßnahmen)



Online dictionary

- b) Watch the video "[Understanding what authoritarianism is](#)" (3:05 min) about the emergence of authoritarianism on your mobile device/computer. Don't forget to take notes, as you will need the information for the next task. If you have any questions, your teacher will be there to help you.



Understanding what authoritarianism is

- c) Get into pairs (find a new partner) and try to answer the questions below. Use your notes from task a). When you have answered the questions, switch partners and compare your answers with your new partner.
- ◆ How do authoritarian practices work?
 - ◆ What organisations or states use authoritarian practices? Discuss the examples given in the video and try to find others.
 - ◆ What other trends is authoritarianism linked to?