

POPULIST CHALLENGES ON ROMANIA'S SECURITY

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***Abstract:** Populism is the modern challenge of democratic countries, particularly challenging through its ability to adapt and reshape its discourses based on local problems. In a country where most of the citizens already feel at odds with the local authorities, the A.U.R. party's ascension still caught many by surprise. The danger here is that the local socio-political context can help this success change from a once-in-a-lifetime event to a very stable and dangerous presence in the Romanian political world.*

***Keywords:** populism, Romanian populism, neo-populism, A.U.R.*

Introduction

Populist challenges on the countries and institutions following democratic procedures are already widely known these days. Since leaders do not always follow a path of transparency, particularly when a threat is as volatile and everchanging as that of populism, this can sometimes give birth to wonder-actors that spring from nowhere and end up at the very top of the political ladder. Romania's A.U.R. (The Alliance for the Union of Romanians) is one such example. In this paper, we are going to use its ascension to prove that a lack of communication and trust between the government and the people can be exceptionally good for populist threats to thrive, particularly in Eastern Europe's younger breed of democracies.

To settle things from the start, the definition used in this paper will follow the generally accepted ideas of much more established researchers, whose vision is also shared by the author. On a general level, populism is seen as the ideology splitting the society "into two homogenous and antagonistic groups, 'the pure people' versus 'the corrupt elite'", so citizens require a strong leader that will be able to return politics to the

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