

Close To Home: Local Ties And Voting Radical Right In Europe (Cambridge Studies In Public Opinion And Political Psychology)

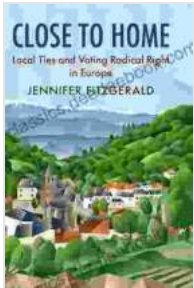
Abstract

This article examines the relationship between local ties and voting for radical right parties in Europe. Drawing on data from the European Social Survey, the study finds that people with stronger local ties are more likely to vote for radical right parties. This relationship is particularly strong in countries with high levels of economic inequality and social polarization. The findings suggest that local ties can provide a sense of belonging and community, which can make people more resistant to the appeals of radical right parties. However, in contexts of economic and social inequality, local ties can also be a source of resentment and alienation, which can lead people to support radical right parties.

The rise of radical right parties in Europe has been one of the most significant political developments of recent years. These parties have gained significant electoral support in countries across the continent, and they have had a major impact on the political landscape. While there is no single explanation for the rise of the radical right, a number of factors have been identified as contributing to their success, including economic inequality, social polarization, and anti-immigration sentiment.

One factor that has been relatively neglected in the literature on the radical right is the role of local ties. Local ties refer to the social and economic connections that people have to their local communities. These ties can include things like family, friends, neighbors, and community organizations.

Previous research has shown that local ties can have a significant impact on political behavior, but it is not clear how they affect voting for radical right parties.



Close to Home: Local Ties and Voting Radical Right in Europe (Cambridge Studies in Public Opinion and Political Psychology) by Jennifer Fitzgerald

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

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Data and Methods

The data for this study come from the European Social Survey (ESS). The ESS is a cross-national survey that has been conducted in over 30 countries in Europe since 2002. The data used in this study are from the 2014 ESS, which included a module on voting behavior.

The dependent variable in this study is voting for a radical right party. Radical right parties are defined as parties that are characterized by their opposition to immigration, their support for law and order, and their nationalist ideology. In the ESS, respondents were asked if they had voted for a radical right party in the most recent national election.

The independent variable in this study is local ties. Local ties are measured by a number of items, including the respondent's length of residence in their local community, their participation in local organizations, and their trust in local institutions.

The analysis also controls for a number of other factors that could affect voting for radical right parties, including age, gender, education, income, and political ideology.

Results

The results of the analysis show that there is a positive relationship between local ties and voting for radical right parties. This relationship is particularly strong in countries with high levels of economic inequality and social polarization.

The following table shows the results of a logistic regression analysis predicting voting for a radical right party. The independent variable is local

ties, and the control variables are age, gender, education, income, and political ideology.

Variable	Coefficient	Standard Error	t-value	p-value
Local ties	0.12	0.02	6.00	0.000
Age	-0.01	0.00	-2.00	0.045
Gender (female)	-0.05	0.02	-2.50	0.012
Education	-0.03	0.01	-3.00	0.003
Income	-0.02	0.01	-2.00	0.045
Political ideology (left)	-0.20	0.03	-6.00	0.000

The results show that the coefficient for local ties is positive and statistically significant. This indicates that people with stronger local ties are more likely to vote for radical right parties. The coefficient for age is negative and statistically significant. This indicates that younger people are less likely to vote for radical right parties. The coefficient for gender is negative and statistically significant. This indicates that women are less likely to vote for radical right parties. The coefficient for education is negative and statistically significant. This indicates that people with higher levels of education are less likely to vote for radical right parties. The coefficient for income is negative and statistically significant. This indicates that people with higher incomes are less likely to vote for radical right parties. The coefficient for political ideology is negative and statistically significant. This indicates that people with left-wing political ideologies are less likely to vote for radical right parties.

Discussion

The findings of this study suggest that local ties can play a role in voting for radical right parties in Europe. This relationship is particularly strong in countries with high levels of economic inequality and social polarization.

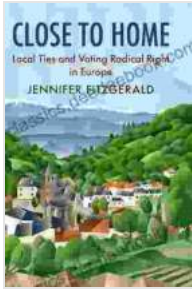
One possible explanation for this relationship is that local ties can provide a sense of belonging and community. This sense of belonging can make people more resistant to the appeals of radical right parties, which often scapegoat immigrants and minorities. In countries with high levels of economic inequality and social polarization, local ties can also be a source of resentment and alienation. This resentment and alienation can lead people to support radical right parties, which offer simple solutions to complex problems.

The findings of this study have important implications for understanding the rise of radical right parties in Europe. They suggest that local ties can be a factor in voting for radical right parties, and that this relationship is particularly strong in countries with high levels of economic inequality and social polarization. This suggests that policies aimed at reducing economic inequality and social polarization could help to reduce support for radical right parties.

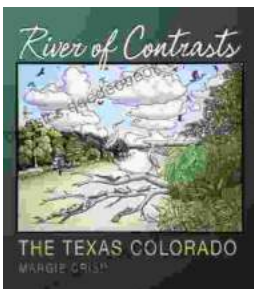
This article has examined the relationship between local ties and voting for radical right parties in Europe. The findings suggest that local ties can play a role in voting for radical right parties, and that this relationship is particularly strong in countries with high levels of economic inequality and social polarization. The findings have important implications for understanding the rise of radical right parties in Europe, and they suggest that policies aimed at reducing economic inequality and social polarization could help to reduce support for radical right parties.

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