

POLS 227

Africa in World Politics

Class 13:
Populism

What is populism?

Populism



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=loISHWFhfug>

What is populism?

Populism

- Populist rhetoric:
 - Criticism of elites
 - Antipluralism
 - Identitarianism
- Populist governance:
 - State capture
 - Corruption
 - 'Mass clientelism'



How does populism serve the interests of the powerful?

Populism as a tool of the powerful according to Kendall-Taylor and Frantz

- Autocrats' playbook:
 - Harnessing popular discontent to:
 - Undermine institutional constraints on authoritarian rule
 - Marginalize the opposition
 - Erode civil society
 - Installing loyalists in positions of power
 - Neutralizing media

How Democracies Fall Apart

Why Populism Is a Pathway to Autocracy

By [Andrea Kendall-Taylor](#) and [Erica Frantz](#) December 5, 2016



Is populism necessarily
a tool of the powerful?

What is Economic Freedom Fighters?



Is Economic Freedom Fighters
a populist party?



What makes Economic Freedom Fighters a populist party?



EFF as a populist party

- Criticism of elites
- Antipluralism
- Identitarianism



Has South Africa's experience of populism been similar to those of other countries?

Is populism a weapon of the weak or of the powerful?

In what conditions is populism a tool of the powerful?

In what conditions can it serve the weak?