The Future of Political Stability in Europe: Are mainstream parties becoming marginalised?

12th March 2015

at the British Academy, London

A SEMINAR ARRANGED BY
AXEL AND MARGARET AX:SON JOHNSON FOUNDATION
The rise of a new wave of populist parties across Europe raises questions about political stability in the continent. UKIP in the UK, Sweden Democrats in Sweden, Podemos in Spain and many others are increasingly vocal political movements which are troubling mainstream parties: the recent success of Syriza may inspire such new parties to go further as defections to such parties are eroding their traditional voters.

In Britain, high levels of immigration, and the sense that economic policy is being conducted to improve macro economic performance which is not translating into improvements in living standards for ordinary people may explain the rise of UKIP. In Sweden, the Sweden Democrats are forcing controversial questions of immigration onto the Swedish political stage. In Greece and Spain, the stranglehold of German-led austerity is challenging the fabric of the single currency and of the European Union itself.

Are these differing groups changing the nature of European politics? Are we seeing the emergence of new political circumstances in which mainstream parties are being marginalised in favour of new, populist, single issue political groups? What are the causes of this development? What will it trigger? Is this heralding political instability across Europe? What can be done?"
The Ax:son Johnson London Seminar Series

Monday 12th March 2015

5.30 pm REGISTRATION & DRINKS

5.45 p.m. Opening by Bella Thomas

The Marginalisation of Mainstream Political Parties across Europe

Moderated by Jeremy O’Grady

Vernon Bogdanor Economic Integration & Political Instability
Matthew Goodwin The rise of the Right in the UK: a special case?
Andreas Johansson Heinö The paradoxes of Populism: Case of Sweden
Bruno Waterfield The rational & positive element of populism
Sofia Vasilopoulou The Case of Greece and the EU
Sergi Pardos Prado Three Strategies to deal with populism

7.00 Discussion

7.45 pm DRINKS & DINNER
PARTICIPANTS

Jeremy O’Grady  CEO, The Week; Co-Founder, Intelligence Squared
Vernon Bogdanor  Professor of Government & History, Kings’ College, London
Matthew Goodwin  Professor of Politics, University of Nottingham
Andreas Johansson Heino  Head of publishing at the Swedish liberal think tank Timbro
Sofia Vasilopoulou  Lecturer in Politics, University of York
Bruno Waterfield  Brussels correspondent for the Times
Sergi Pardos Prado  Fellow in Politics, Merton College, Oxford

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Tom Holland  Historian
Peter Jay  Former Ambassador, Journalist, Economist
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Sarah Walden  Art historian
Alexander Woolfson  Defence Analyst