

CURRENT CHALLENGES TO THE LIBERAL INTERNATIONAL ORDER

A short introduction

For the past years, the LIO has been subject to numerous challenges both from its core, by populist and sovereign movements in Western countries, as well as from its semiperiphery, by authoritarian governments. One side blame the LIO for undermining or failing to protect historical hierarchies that privileged Western supremacy; the other side blame it for not achieving the long-promised equality and their recognition in the international system. In its core, ideologies range from anti-immigration policy to ultranationalism, anti-globalism and Euroscepticism. The unipolar system based around the USA that resulted from the end of the Cold War has slowly started to fade, entering a new multipolar context; the European Union has also weakened, experiencing economic stagnation, rising inequalities and financial crisis.

Research question

Why are anti-establishment movements' spreading within the European Union?

Theoretical framework – IDEATIONAL LIBERALISM

- domestic social identities and values are a basic determinant of state preferences, influencing interstate conflict and/or cooperation
- territorial integrity, political sovereignty and national security as demands of societal groups influence geographical borders, political decision-making processes and socioeconomic regulations
- societal commitments to particular principles of domestic political order means that social actors may provide (or not) support to the government in exchange for institutions that align with their identity and may impose limits on domestic and transnational markets
- orders coincide with underlying patterns of identity, therefore resulting in possible coexistence and mutual recognition or greater potential for interstate conflicts, therefore realization of legitimate domestic political order in one jurisdiction may be a threat to its realization in others
- social compromises may be required on immigration, social welfare, taxation, religious freedom, health and safety, environmental protection, cultural promotion,...

Dependent variable: Anti-establishment movements' increasing over the years

Independent variables: Sovereign movements and Euroscepticism feelings

Hypotheses

H1: *The more the EU avoids easing the burden on single States – through the implementation of adequate regulations – the more sovereign movements are expected*

H2: *The more slow bureaucracy and dependence on foreign imports will continue to affect the country, the less it will be able to benefit from the EU Recovery Fund*