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## **FAR RIGHT POLITICAL PARTIES IN SWEDEN: FROM MARGINALITY TO SUCCESS**

***Abstract.** For a long time Sweden was treated as an exception as far right political parties slowly but steadily gained influence in many others European countries, including neighboring ones but not in Sweden. Despite the fact that such parties emerged and participated in political life of this country, none of them gained enough support to become an influential part of the party system. They remained marginalized and managed to get very limited representation and only on the local level. The situation changed in 1991 when rather unexpectedly newly established far right party New Democracy was elected to the parliament, gaining 6.7 percent of votes. It was a major success and a first breakthrough for a far right political party in a country, considered to be traditionally leaning towards public consensus and tolerance. However, the New Democracy did not sustain gained support and lost representation in the parliament after the next elections in 1994. Gradually, it lost representation in regional and local councils as well. Nevertheless, such breakthrough was very important as it brought previously marginalized issues, such as immigration, to public agenda. As a result, a demand for political parties that would not ignore polarizing issues but rather present possible solutions became more and more visible. The Sweden Democrats successfully occupied this niche. Starting from 2000s, the party gained enough support for entering municipal and regional councils and, in 2010, it crossed the threshold and became elected to the parliament. Unlike the New Democracy, the party succeeded in using its momentum to the fullest. Currently its support is only rising. In 2014, the party became third largest in the parliament. The study is devoted to distinguishing main factors that contributed to such success as well as discussion of the ideology of Swedish far right political parties with the most emphasis on Sweden Democrats.*

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