

The Defenders of Western Civilization: Assembling Europe's Transnational Right-Wing Network

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TO CITE

Buzogany, A., & Varga, M. (2022). The Defenders of Western Civilization: Assembling Europe's Transnational Right-Wing Network. In *Proceedings of the Paris Institute for Advanced Study* (Vol. 18). https://paris.pias.science/article/INTEL_2022_02_the-defenders-of-western-civilization

PUBLICATION DATE

02/06/2022

ABSTRACT

Intellectuals against liberal democracy. Academia, media, and culture, Paris IAS, 2-3 June 2022 - Panel 1 - The formation and circulation of illiberal ideas

The paper discusses how “civilisation” is defined and defended by an influential illiberal network in Central Europe and North America, working to establish a global national-conservative movement. This network's influence helps understanding the broader shift away from liberalism characterising parts of the political and intellectual elite throughout the world. It originates both in the North American post-liberal conservatism and the networking initiatives of Central European (mainly Polish and Hungarian) right-wing intellectuals and think tanks. It aims to “renew” Western politics, institutions, and ultimately “civilisation”, understood as opposed to liberalism and grounded in Western Christianity and classical antiquity. The renewal network constructs a civilisationist discourse replacing Huntingtonian references with Straussian and Voegelinian notions allowing to divorce the “West” from liberalism.

