

ANNOTATED SOURCE 1

Ambrose, Emma, and Cas Mudde. 2015. "Canadian Multiculturalism and the Absence of the Far Right." *Nationalism and Ethnic Politics* 21 (2): 213–36.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/13537113.2015.1032033>.

It is discussed in a recent journal article by researchers from the University of Georgia about the radical right's failure in Canada, which they believe is primarily due to Canada's unique multiculturalism policy, which is based on a combination of selective immigration, comprehensive integration, and strong state repression of dissent against these policies. This article analyses how a unique combination of policies has resulted in a very low degree of hostility to multiculturalism and a limited amount of legal and political space for far-right parties in Canada. In particular, they highlighted how far-right political viewpoints in social and political policies are oppressive, particularly when taking into account Canada's plurality electoral system and the country's longstanding multiculturalism. Moreover, they asserted that the country's growing and concentrated foreign-born population may have slowed the rise of far-right social groups and political parties in the nation. The electoral system in Canada has, in the long run, contributed to the political agenda of the extreme right in the country's politics being weak. This could be one of many reasons why far-right parties in Canada do not gain political representation in the Canadian parliament. Although this essay emphasises

the premise that multicultural policies have prevented far-right politics in Canada, it does not go into detail about the specific weakness in the Canadian parliamentary system that needs to be addressed.

ANNOTATED SOURCE 2

Westlake, Daniel. 2018. "Multiculturalism, Political Parties, and the Conflicting Pressures of Ethnic Minorities and Far-Right Parties." *Party Politics* 24 (4): 421–33.
<https://doi.org/10.1177/1354068816678881>.

Daniel Westlake, a researcher at the University of British Columbia, investigated the link between the notion of multiculturalism and the democratic process of the single-member district (SMD) and proportional election system for both left and right parties. This article investigates the impact of ethnic minorities and far-right parties on party positions on multiculturalism. It does so by tying electoral incentives to political parties' multicultural stances. He contrasts the dominance of far-right parties with the influence of ethnic minorities in particular. Far-right parties do not exist in a vacuum, and they vie for policy influence with proponents for diversity, such as ethnic minorities. This leads to the conclusion that mainstream parties, particularly those on the right, co-opt far-right parties' anti-multiculturalism beliefs, and that the development of far-right parties diminishes mainstream right wing party support for multiculturalism. This article gives a thorough examination of the link between Canadian far-right parties and the electoral system. The stances taken by parties reflect a balance of competing influences from ethnic minorities and far-right groups. In SMD systems with significant ethnic minority populations, the good impact of ethnic

minorities on multiculturalism can wipe out the negative impact of far-right parties. Ethnic minorities have significantly less authority under proportional systems. This is especially true for mainstream right parties, which are more sensitive to not only far-right parties, but also changes in ethnic minority vote power under SMD election systems. All of this implies that while studying multiculturalism politics, the electoral strength of a country's ethnic minority population, its electoral system, and the presence of far-right groups are critical aspects to examine. As a result, this article explains why far-right parties in Canada, with having a SMD electoral system, have a tough time winning electoral representation in Parliament, particularly in ridings with a strong ethnic minority population.

ANNOTATED SOURCE 3

Dow, Jay K. 2011. "Party-System Extremism in Majoritarian and Proportional Electoral Systems." *British Journal of Political Science* 41 (2): 341–61.
<https://doi.org/10.1017/S0007123410000360>.

Researcher Jay K. Dow of the Department of Political Science at the University of Missouri studied the idea that more proportional representation in a country's election system will result in greater ideological dispersion between the political stances of political parties. This study examines the extent to which party-system extremism exists in thirty-one electoral democracies as a function of the proportionality of the election system. It makes use of data from the Comparative Studies of Electoral Systems project to evaluate the level of party-system compactness or dispersion among polities in order to prove if more proportional systems generate greater ideological diversity among political parties. Using empirical

evidence, it has been demonstrated that more proportional systems foster more ideological dispersion, whilst less proportional systems encourage parties to cluster closer to the centre of the electoral field. Following Dow's research, it has been shown that the majoritarian system in Canada has a substantial association with the dispersion of political beliefs in the country. Considering that far-right movements and political parties are geographically distributed across the country, this article provides another thorough reasoning of how the Canadian electoral system fails to take these groups into account. However, as indicated in this article, Dow highlighted that there are not enough variances in proportionality and the effective number of parliamentary parties to account for the disparities between our various conclusions in terms of proportionate representation. This indicates that the findings of this article might indicate that there are some faults in the final conclusions that are deemed to be inconsequential or insignificant.

ANNOTATED SOURCE 4

Henderson, Ailsa. 2006. "Consequences of Electoral Reform: Lessons for Canada." *Canadian Public Policy* 32 (1): 41–58. <https://doi.org/10.2307/3552242>.

Ailsa Henderson of Wilfrid Laurier University's Department of Political Science in Canada studied the notion that establishing the proportional representation system in Canada would strengthen the country's democratic institutions. Although proponents of reform argue that proportional representation will increase proportionality, assist smaller parties, increase the number of female representatives, increase turnout, and improve attitudes toward politics, there is inconclusive evidence that a change in the electoral system will produce such

changes. Although a mixed system is likely to boost the proportionality of results and assist minor parties achieve seats in any legislature, it may also have some unanticipated effects. The following article distinguishes between assertions made by advocates that we could assume to be accurate and those that we should be wary about. Henderson examines the aggregate discrepancy between the proportion of seats and votes in the last first-past-the-post election and the last mixed compensatory election using data from New Zealand, Scotland, and Wales. Henderson discovered that the proportionality gap shrinks dramatically in mixed systems and that the fraction of previously unrepresented parties grows with each succeeding election. Henderson implicitly argues how the existing electoral system is the reason why minor political parties, such as the far-right People's Party of Canada, would never achieve seats in Parliament by citing the reasons that Canada uses the first-past-the-post system. The problem with Henderson's results is that this study only looks at three democracies and ignores many more nations that switched from a first-past-the-post system to a mixed system. There may be disparities in the influence of small party representation in the national legislature.

ANNOTATED SOURCE 5

Boix, Carles. 1999. "Setting the Rules of the Game: The Choice of Electoral Systems in Advanced Democracies." *American Political Science Review* 93 (3): 609–24.
<https://doi.org/10.2307/2585577>.

Carles Boix of the University of Chicago investigates the circumstances under which ruling parties, anticipating the effects of various electoral regimes on voters and candidates, choose

different sets of electoral rules to maximise their chances of securing parliamentary representation as well as cabinet positions. Boix demonstrates that election systems are the result of decisions made by ruling parties to maximise their representation under the following conditions. The election system remains unchanged as long as the electoral arena does not change and the current electoral regime supports the ruling parties. They would change the election system based on the creation of new parties and the coordination capacities of existing parties. When new parties are weak, regardless of the structure of the existing party system, a system of non-proportional representation is maintained. Boix specifically highlighted the Canadian electoral system, stating that the proportional representation system is not used since it is deemed unnecessary to ensure political participation of any ethnic or linguistic minority, such as Quebecois, in Ottawa. Even though a country is extraordinarily varied on a national level, if its regions and local districts have a solid division of powers, the electoral system can ensure the representation of political minorities, rendering PR obsolete. This article is significant because it reflects the ruling political party's bias, which has eliminated the potential for minor parties to achieve electoral representation. According to Boix, these far-right groups have equal opportunities to be represented. However, Boix fails to recognise the spatial dispersion of certain groups with common political goals, such as far-right political parties, and hence fails to explain why such organisations are unlikely to acquire seats in parliament.