I.Right Wing Populism: Too Close For Comfort

A. Populism

1. Definition: grassroots social movement organized by the people to redress grievances

2. Characteristics

a. “the people”

b. shared grievances

c. anti-elite

d. example: Populist Movement 1870s-1890s

i. “the people”:small farmers, tenants, farm laborers

ii. supported other labor movements

iii. shared grievances: high interest, high railroad charges

iv. anti-elite: bankers, merchants, railroads

iv. by 1892: 2 million

v. tactics: co-ops, music, books, poems, schools,

local political associations

vi. cooptation: electoral politics and affiliation

with Democrats

B. Repressive Populist movements

1. Definition: grassroots social movement organized to redress grievances

but coopted by the elite.

2. Characteristics

a. reactionary or backlash movment (response to social change)

b. goal: status quo

c. concept of “the people”: exclusionary

i. producerism

ii. racist

d. shared grievances

e. coopted by elite

f. conspiracist

i. demonization

ii. scapegoating

g. apocalyptic

3. Example

1. American revolution
2. Anti-Chinese andAnti-Immigrant movements
3. Henry Ford and the “Producerist Movement”
4. George Wallace and the American Independent Party

e. Great Fear: Anti-communism

II. RWP: New Right

A. Time: 1970s to present

B. Backlash movement

1. against rights movements of 60s/70s

a. civil rights

b. gay rights

c. women’s rights

2. deindustrialization

3. internationalism

4. threats to traditional values/norms

a. family

b. patriarch

c. sexuality

C. “the people”

1. evangelical/fundamentalist Protestants

a. 60-80 million

b. 200,000 pastors

2. conservative Catholics (mainly middle class)

3. white working class (semi-skilled and unskilled)

4. downwardly mobile white middle class

D. Shared grievances

1. downward mobility

2. fear of downward mobility

E. Conspiracism, Demonization, Scapegoating

1. Liberals
   1. (aka secular humanists, liberal elite, jews, defeated communists, and America haters)
   2. Control American society
2. Goal: transform American
   1. from: land of opportunity and traditional values (God, family, country) “War on Christmas”

b. to: land of give aways to lazy, non-working minorities (parasites)

1. to: land of illegal immigrants (parasites)

d. to: land of liberal values (abortion, homosexuality, sex, and political correctness)

F. Apocalypticsim

1. Armageddon

2. Rapture

III. Political Process and New Right

A. Social Strain

1. Downward mobility

2. Globalization

3. Fear: Communism/Terrorism

4. Immigration

B. Political Opportunity

1. legitimation crisis

2. coalition of elites: New Right

a. Big Business

b. Christian Right

c. Reagan Republicans

d. Neo-conservatives

3. no opposition

C. Indigenous organizations (members, leaders, and resources)

1. religious churches and organizations

a. fundamentalist and evangelical churches

b. organization: Christian Anti-Communists

b. organization: American Council of Christian Churches

2. anti-communist: John Birch Society

3. corporate think tanks: Heritage Foundation

4. foundations: “Four Sisters”

5. political parties

a. American Independent Party

b. Goldwater Republicans

6. neo-conservative groups: PNAC

D. cognitive liberation

1. right wing talk radio: conspiracism, scapegoating, demonization

2. fundamentalist religious ideology: 200,000 ministers and priests

3. political parties righward movement

4. mainstream media: balance

E. formal movement organizations

1. grass roots organization
   1. Moral Majority (1979)
   2. Christian Coalition

c. National Association of Evangelicals

2. mega-churches

3. think tanks

a. web sites, research, magazines, newspapers

b. Family Research Council, Focus on the Family,

Reagan Information Exchange

4. television networks

a. CBN

b. 700 Club

5. radio networks and stations

6. publishing/book stores

F. External resources

1. Foundations: Four Sisters

a. $1 billion to top 20 think tanks

b. Bradley, Scaife ($350 million),

Richardson, Olin + Coors and Koch

2. Corporations

G. Goals:

1. Conservatives

a. role back New Deal

b. free market and anti-tax

c. one party control

d. anti-immigration

e. political ideologues in all positions of government

2. Christian Right

a. Free market:

i. anti-New Deal

ii. anti-social welfare

b. theocracy

i. Biblical law

ii. Biblical norms

iii. Patriarchy

iv. home schooling or religious education

v. prepartio for second comming

3. Neo-conservatives: U.S. global hegemony

H. Tactics

1. mass mobilization

a. marketing techniques

b. mass mailing

2. youth: indoctrination

a. home schooling

b. youth camps

3. university system

4. control Republican party

1. mass media
   1. think tanks and experts

b. “Flak”: Media Research Center

I. Success

1. Government

a. parties

b. positions of power

2. Policy

a. economic

i. tax

ii.de regulation

b. education

i. sex education

ii. religion in school

iii. law schools, science schools

c. mass media

i. concentration

ii. decency

d. foreign policy

i. Middle East

ii. Israel: Chrisitian Zionists

e. health

i. women and reproduction

ii. global aids

iii. global birth control

f. family

i. anti-gay marriage

ii. anti-welfare

g. science: intelligent design