

This figure uses the 2021 Manifesto Project data set to plot conservative, leftist, liberal, nationalist, and social democratic political parties. It plots their median favorable mentions of peace in their various recorded platforms and manifestos, and the parties are grouped by broad ideology. Each dot represents one party.

It makes two salient points. First, it suggests that nationalist parties are significantly less likely to champion peace than other common party types. If political figures normatively want to advance the cause of peace, perhaps it would be more effective to target nationalist parties and voters for persuasion, since many other common ideologies seem to share similar and already-higher preferences for peace. Second, it suggests that most common ideologies and party types have similar preferences for peace. In addition to the above, for the normative end of increasing peace, it suggests championing peace as a mutually agreed-on cause for united societal action, as opposed to highlighting the commitment of specific common parties and the failings of others. Of course, further research would be required to support these claims, and, as broad statements, they are subject to specific situations within specific states and times.



This figure uses the 2021 Manifesto Project data set to plot conservative, leftist, liberal, nationalist, and social democratic political parties. It plots their median negative mentions of the military, alongside their positive mentions of peace, in their various recorded platforms and manifestos. Each dot represents one party.

This figure’s salient point is methodological rather than normative, highlighting a risk in data analysis. For context, negative rhetoric towards militaries often goes hand in hand with rhetoric in support of peace. For example, shrinking a military’s budget almost necessarily entails a shrinking in the scope of military operation. Given this perspective alignment, one could expect negative military mentions and positive peace mentions to correlate, but if anything, the figure suggests the opposite. Very few parties have high or even moderate median mentions of both, instead prioritizing one, the other, or neither. This disparity implies that, if one only uses one of these measures to gauge support for mutually-desired pacifistic, such as in the first figure, parties expressing these same goals through the other type of rhetoric could have their support wrongly undervalued.