

# Some Thoughts on What I've Read About Politics Recently

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## 1 The issue

I think populism can do good things, but it is not good in and of itself. Populism is basically eliteism. It seems to be the inverse of eliteism, but it basically puts one group as morally superior to another for seemingly arbitrary reasons. I've heard many political commentators taking the line of populism, and they just fail to make logical sense more often than not. It's always assuming the worst and most absurd motivations of the 'elites', while often complaining of the same behavior.

I think in general, I tend to be a liberal, leaning classical liberal or occasionally libertarian. The upshot of this is that I evaluate people and their behavior individually, generally trying to leave room for best intentions. Populism tends to make assumptions of poor morality and motivations for the 'elites', but good assumptions for 'the people'. This is not too dissimilar from Marxist ideas, as I understand them, asserting one groups as oppressor (morally inferior or compromised, inherently bad), and another as oppressed (morally superior, blameless, inherently good).

## 2 And Another Thing

Incidentally, I think a lot of ideas of philosophy and politics fail to account for people and their choices. I undersand Facism and Marxism both to make this mistake: 'it's better for them, we will make it happen even if they don't want it' sort of thing.

Sometimes these are modified, sometimes not, but any personal (generalizable philosophy of individuals) or especially political philosophy has to pass muster with the people they speak about.