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Experts from Around the World Say a Global Green New Deal Could Help Stop the International Far-Right Movement

A new report finds the global far-right is succeeding in linking economic anxiety to racist anti-immigrant sentiment, but they have no answer to our climate crisis

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(Washington, DC) -- Donald Trump's undermining of the rule of law in the United States, Nigel Farage's rebuilding of the Brexit Party, the ousting of Evo Morales in Bolivia, and Narendra Modi's security crackdown of Kashmir are all recent examples proving that far-right nationalism is an international problem.

A new report by the Institute for Policy Studies, [The Progressive Response to the New Right](#), explains how right-wing populists came to rule some of the world's largest nations, the narrative that unites them, and their Achilles heel. Report author John Feffer interviewed 80 experts from around the world, and the majority pointed to the global climate crisis as a major liability for the far-right and an opportunity for progressives to contest their global power.

The report found:

- It's a misconception that the far right is an exclusively nationalist movement. Autocrats share best practices and funding streams across borders and cooperate with a well-funded global network of right-wing civil society organizations and corporations.
- An international reaction to economic globalization has been key to the right's success. Far-right political actors took advantage of the vacuum created by the financial crisis, using feelings of alienation to create a shift in working-class loyalties.
- The institutional powerbase that once sustained the left -- union membership -- is dwindling. In the U.S., union membership has gone from 34.2 percent to 11 percent—only 6 percent in the private sector. In the Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development—36 of the wealthiest countries in the world—trade union membership has [fallen by half since 1985](#), from 30 percent to 16 percent.
- Key to the new right's success has been a story that can be applied effectively across borders: the "great replacement" of white people by non-white people. The "great replacement" has been taken up by white nationalists across Europe and North America

and inspired the mass shootings in Christchurch, New Zealand in March 2019 and El Paso, Texas in August 2019.

- The new right has a key failing: It has nothing to say about an ever-worsening climate crisis.
- The 80 international experts overwhelmingly identified the school climate strikes as the present moment's most promising international action and the Green New Deal as a framework that could defeat the right's global narrative.
- A Global Green New Deal wouldn't just address the environmental crisis. By creating enormous numbers of well-paying jobs, it would also speak to those left behind by economic globalization. Such a narrative would undermine the new right's anti-globalist appeals while offering up a positive vision to rally around within and across borders.

“The world faces two sets of urgent threats,” says John Feffer, the report's author. “There's the climate crisis and the new right's attack on democracy and the rule of law. A Green New Deal applied globally would address the first threat and also build support for political alternatives that can defeat the second.”

Several of the experts from around the world who contributed to these findings are available for interviews, along with report author John Feffer. To learn more about these findings and for a list of additional available sources for interviews, please see [this press brief](#).

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