

All Quiet on the Party Front?

Russia's Invasion and Conflict Between and Within European Parties

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Summary

Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine represents one of the most consequential geopolitical shocks to democratic politics in recent decades. It confronted political actors with difficult choices over military assistance, sanctions, energy security, and relations with Russia. Previous research shows that parties' responses to these choices were structured by the Eurosceptic-Europhile dimension and by their degree of populism. But does this tell the whole story? What about party cohesion? And, crucially, do these same dimensions also explain variation within parties?

Data & Methods

- Twitter/X communication by MPs across ten democracies between 2021 and 2023
- Topic, Stance, and Populism Classification
- Network analysis
- Thematic frames analysis
- TSCS & Regression Discontinuity analysis

Open questions

Between parties

- Do left-right ideology and government-opposition status explain differences beyond Euroscepticism and populism?
- Do broader party-family or ideological traditions matter?

Within parties

- How cohesive are parties in their responses to the war?
- Does proximity to the party leadership explain individual-level variation?
- Do ideological position and governmental or organizational responsibility shape dissent from the party line?

Waffenlieferungen im Bundestag

Große Zustimmung, aber keine Einigkeit - und kein Kanzler

Putin's war: Boris rare wave of unity

El Congreso avala aumentar el gasto en Defensa con el rechazo de Unidas Podemos

Socialistas y populares votan juntos el presupuesto militar

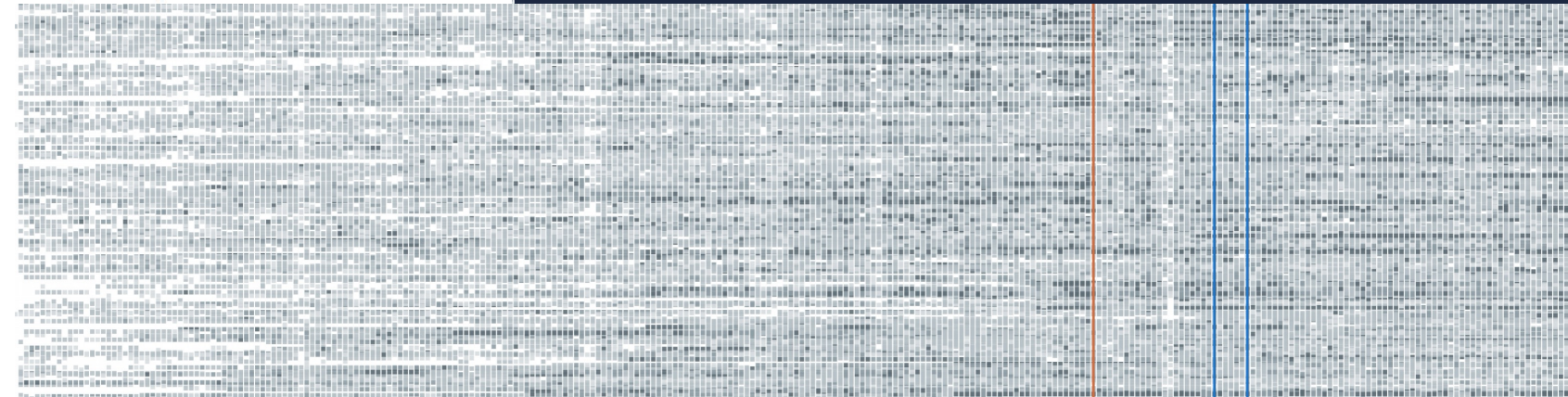
Labour MPs drop backing for statement criticising Nato after Starmer warning

Eleven Stop the War supporters were told they risked losing the whip unless they removed names from document

ANALYSE Debatte um Kampfpanzer

Die Ampel steht auf Streit

on the crisis in woes... for now at



Giuseppe Carteny

Research Interests: party competition, political attitudes and behaviour, gender politics, far-right politics, Euroscepticism, ...



References

- Hooghe, L., Marks, G., Bakker, R., Jolly, S., Polk, J., Rovny, J., Steenbergen, M., & Vachudova, M. A. (2024). The Russian threat and the consolidation of the West: How populism and EU-skepticism shape party support for Ukraine. *European Union Politics*, 14651165241237136. <https://doi.org/10.1177/14651165241237136>
- Wang, C., & Altiparmakis, A. (2025). What happened to Putin's friends? The radical right's reaction to the Russian invasion on social media. *European Union Politics*, 26(2), 393–417. <https://doi.org/10.1177/14651165251321802>