The Rise of the Far-Right: The French Answer to its Identity Crisis

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Le Front National (FN)

- Jean-Marie Le Pen
- Preserve French Identity
- Xenophobic
- Anti-European Union
- Return to traditional times
- Populist
2002 Presidential Election

- Lionel Jospin (Socialist)
- Jacques Chirac (UMP)
- Jean-Marie Le Pen (FN)
- Chirac receives 80% vote in run-off election
- Wake up call to the French population!

ATTENTION : VIRUS
DECLENCHEMENT PREVU LE 5 MAI 2002 À 20 H

lepen.exe
- réduit votre mémoire vive
- empêche toute connexion avec l’extérieur
- rebascule de l’Euro au Franc
- détruit les applications d’origine étrangère

LE SEUL MOYEN DE VOUS PROTÉGER :
VOTER CHIRAC
Hypothesis

- If questions dealing with culture and national identity due to immigration arise, then far-right parties become more popular.
What caused immigration?

- Algerian War (1954-1962)
  - “la valise ou le cercueil”
- Need for cheap labor
  - Oil crisis (1973)
  - Regroupement familial (1974)

RESULT: More than 2.4 million immigrants from North Africa in 1975
Cultural Clash!

- Different clothing
- Arabic language
- Food & music
- Islam religion
- Different cultural practices (i.e. polygamy)

RESULT: Clash with French culture causes anxiety and fear of the unknown amongst the French population!
Rise in Immigration = Rise in FN’s Success!

- FN promises strict immigration laws
- Links 10% unemployment rate to rise in immigration
- FN promotes ideas on “national preference”
- Immigrants are “dangerous” to French culture
  - *Figaro*
  - Headscarf Affair
# Rise in Popularity of the National Front

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Presidential</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Legislative</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1974</td>
<td>.07%</td>
<td>1986</td>
<td>9.7%</td>
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<tr>
<td>1988</td>
<td>14.4%</td>
<td>1988</td>
<td>9.7%</td>
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<tr>
<td>1995</td>
<td>15.3%</td>
<td>1993</td>
<td>12.7%</td>
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<td>2002</td>
<td>19.2%</td>
<td>1997</td>
<td>15.24%</td>
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<td>2007</td>
<td>11.5%</td>
<td>2002</td>
<td>12.41%</td>
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</table>
Conclusion

- FN has increased in membership and has been more successful in all elections since the 1970s

- Immigration from the non-West has increased since the 1970s

- Anxiety caused by the influx of foreigners contribute to the success of the FN
2007 Presidential Election

- Sarkozy (UMP), Royal (PS), Bayrou (UDF), Le Pen (FN)
- GOAL: Take votes away from Le Pen!
- Run-off: Sarkozy v. Royal