

## European Union: Topic B Primary Sources

The Promotion of Good Governance and Democratic Values in Eastern Europe

*Here are the primary sources that your moderator or legal chair thought would be helpful in gaining an understanding of the topic. These are by no means all of the sources available, just sources we wanted to highlight.*

### **Source #1: European Union Treaties**

This is a helpful resource that contains many of the important treaties that helped establish and reform the European Union. Included are the Treaty of Lisbon, Treaty of Nice, Treaty of Amsterdam, Maastricht Treaty, and the Single European Act, among others. All the treaties also contain when the treaty was signed and came into force, its purpose, and major changes that it brought about. Finally, at the bottom of the page there are links to pages which highlight which treaties are in force, founding treaties, ascension treaties, and other treaties.

[https://europa.eu/european-union/law/treaties\\_en](https://europa.eu/european-union/law/treaties_en)

### **Source #2: Conditions for European Union Membership**

This source is for the European Commission webpage on conditions for membership in the European Union. Broadly, any country that respects the democratic values of Europe and are committed to protecting them can apply, but in reality, the process is much more complicated than that. An applicant nation must meet certain criteria set out in 35 different fields, these are then negotiated as the country advances through the process.

[https://ec.europa.eu/neighbourhood-enlargement/policy/conditions-membership\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/neighbourhood-enlargement/policy/conditions-membership_en)

### **Source #3: Viktor Orbán Speech**

This is a speech from Hungarian Prime Minister, Viktor Orbán, during his swearing into office in 2018. The Prime Minister begins by thanking the “civic, national and Christian forces” voters who had supported Fidesz in the election and recognizing that it had won a 2/3<sup>rd</sup> majority in parliament. He goes on to say that he wishes to recapture the glory and greatness of Budapest (the capital) and Hungary. Orbán continues by calling the 2008 Financial Crisis a “Western crisis” that closed one era and is allowing Hungary to launch a new, better era. Orbán’s speech is filled with populist rhetoric and proposals which play an important part in his policy making and opposition to the European Union.

<https://visegradpost.com/en/2018/05/12/viktor-orbans-full-speech-for-the-beginning-of-his-fourth-mandate/>

### **Source #4: Hungarian Parliament Manipulation**

This academic article that was published by 3 Hungarian researchers in association with Princeton University details the methods that Hungary’s ruling party, Fidesz, has used in order to preserve their electoral super-majority. This electoral law has helped Fidesz maintain its supermajority by drawing parliamentary districts to favor their party. They have done this in order to pass constitutional reforms with little input from opposition parties. Manipulation of the democratic process is a key process through which democracy is being undermined and weakened across Eastern Europe.

<https://lapa.princeton.edu/hosteddocs/hungary/Beyond%20democracy%20-%2027%20Nov%202011.pdf>

### **Source #5: Populism in Europe and Its Russian Love Affairs**

This is a report from the American Enterprise Institute, a right-leaning think tank, published in 2017 about the rise of populism in Europe and its formal and informal links to Russia. The report starts by giving the history of European populism, describing populism and populist rhetoric on the rights and the left, and talking about populists in power in Europe today. The report posits that populism is linked to economic crises and that in order to defeat populism in Europe, current leaders must seek to deepen links to countries invested in the European project and NATO.

<http://www.aei.org/publication/populism-in-europe-and-its-russian-love-affair/>