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World Affairs

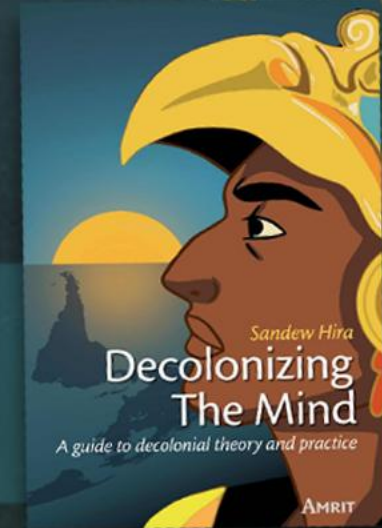
A decolonial analysis of current world affairs



The extreme right in France



Decolonizing The Mind,
the final frontier of colonialism
with Sandew Hira



#050
08-07-2024

The extreme right in France: causes of its rise

1. Crisis of the political system:
 - ❑ It fails to improve the standard of living and the security
 - ❑ The loss of trust in leaders and the dominant system
2. Crisis of the alternative left
 - ❑ The ideological weakness of the left
 - ❑ The political weakness of the decolonial movement

The political landscape of France

1. The extreme right
2. The extreme center
3. The white left
4. The decolonial movement

The political system of France

- ❑ Executive branch, a legislative branch, and a judicial branch
- ❑ Executive power: exercised by the president and the Government.
- ❑ President: executive head of state of France, and the commander-in-chief of the French Armed Forces
- ❑ The prime minister is appointed by the president, and is responsible to Parliament
- ❑ Parliament consists of the National Assembly (lower house, 577 members) and the Senate (upper house, 340 senators)

Elections for president and National Assembly

- President: elected by direct universal suffrage with a two-round system for a five-year mandate
- National Assembly: elected by direct universal suffrage with a two-round system by constituency (100,000 inhabitants) for a five-year mandate.

The extreme right: presidential elections

- ❑ Front National founded in 1972 by Jean Marie Le Pen (born 1928).
- ❑ 1974 presidential elections: 0,75% of the votes
- ❑ Father Le Pen first round presidential elections: 1988 (14%), 1995 (15%), 2002 (17%), 2007 (11%)
- ❑ Daughter Marine Le Pen first round presidential elections: 2012 (18%), 2017 (21% , second round 34%), 2022 (23%, second round 42%).

The extreme right: 577 seats National Assembly

- ❑ 1986 (father Le Pen): 35
- ❑ 1988, 1993, 1997: 1
- ❑ 2007: 0
- ❑ 2012 (daughter Le Pen): 2
- ❑ 2017: 7
- ❑ 2022: 81
- ❑ 2024: 143

The extreme right: their program

- ❑ Wavering between extreme right and center right
- ❑ Anti-immigration and anti-islam: climate of hate
- ❑ Initially anti-capitalist, now liberal and protectionist policies, pro welfare state
- ❑ Climate change not a priority
- ❑ Feminist party: 49% female candidates
- ❑ Against European Union, against NATO, pro-Israel, against NATO war in Ukraine

Renaissance, party of Macron

- ❑ Founded 2016 by former Socialist and Republicans led by Macron
- ❑ Presidential elections
 - ❑ 2017: first round 24%, second round 66%
 - ❑ 2022: first round 28%, second round 59%
- ❑ National Assembly seats
 - ❑ 2017: 308
 - ❑ 2022: 175
 - ❑ 2024: 163

Renaissance, party of Macron

- ❑ Extremism from the centre
- ❑ Pro NATO
- ❑ For the war against Russia in Ukraine
- ❑ For Zionism
- ❑ Pro-capitalist

Crisis of Macron's policies

- ❑ Africa: Since 2020 declining influence in Africa: anti-colonial military coups in Mali, Burkina Faso, Niger, Gabon. French military withdraws
- ❑ War in Ukraine and economic crisis in France/Europe
- ❑ 2018: protest of Yellow Vest against economic policies

Yellow Vest

- ❑ Mixture of right and left
- ❑ Different spokespersons, including black woman Priscillia Ludosky. Organize online petition for lower taxes on essential goods, the implementation of the citizens' initiative referendum, lower pensions and salaries of senior officials and elected officials; 1,2 million signed
- ❑ Living in France means becoming French (French language course, History of France course and civic education course with certification at the end of the course)
- ❑ Mass demonstrations outside trade unions (fighting for economic rights)

Jean-Luc Mélenchon: the new white left

- ❑ Left wing member of Socialist Party
- ❑ 2009: founded the Left Party
- ❑ 2016 founded LFI: La France Insoumise (France Unbowed)
- ❑ Presidential elections:
 - ❑ 2017: first round 20%
 - ❑ 2022: first round 22%
- ❑ 2024 elections: 2024 elections NA: Nouveau Front populaire (New Popular Front): coalition of leftwing parties including LFI against Macron and Marine Le Pen. National Assembly seats: 182. Required absolute majority: 289

Jean-Luc Mélenchon: program

- ❑ France out of NATO
- ❑ Critique of Russian invasion of Ukraine
- ❑ Supports Venezuela
- ❑ Denounces Iran as a theocracy that wants to destroy Israel
- ❑ In favor of two state solution in Palestine

Decolonial movement

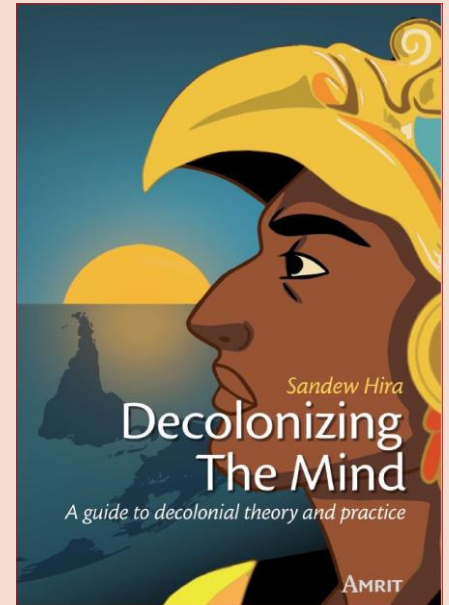
- ❑ Mainly in academia and activism
- ❑ No political party that contest elections
- ❑ Enormous potential for decolonial movement because of the crisis of the political system
- ❑ Way forward: combining the movement for a multipolar world with progressive movements in France based on social justice concept
- ❑ Working on unity within the left

Elections in the UK

- ❑ Arzu Merali analysis in three parts: Revolutionary Politics in the Time of Genocide: Beyond the Fantasy of a Muslim Vote
- ❑ <https://www.arzumerali.com/>
- ❑ How the political system of the UK works and the experience of the Muslim vote

Sources

Download the PDF of the PowerPoint on www.sandewhira.com



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