

GOVERNING IN A 'FAKE NEWS WORLD'

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IN THE BEGINNING...



POPULISM

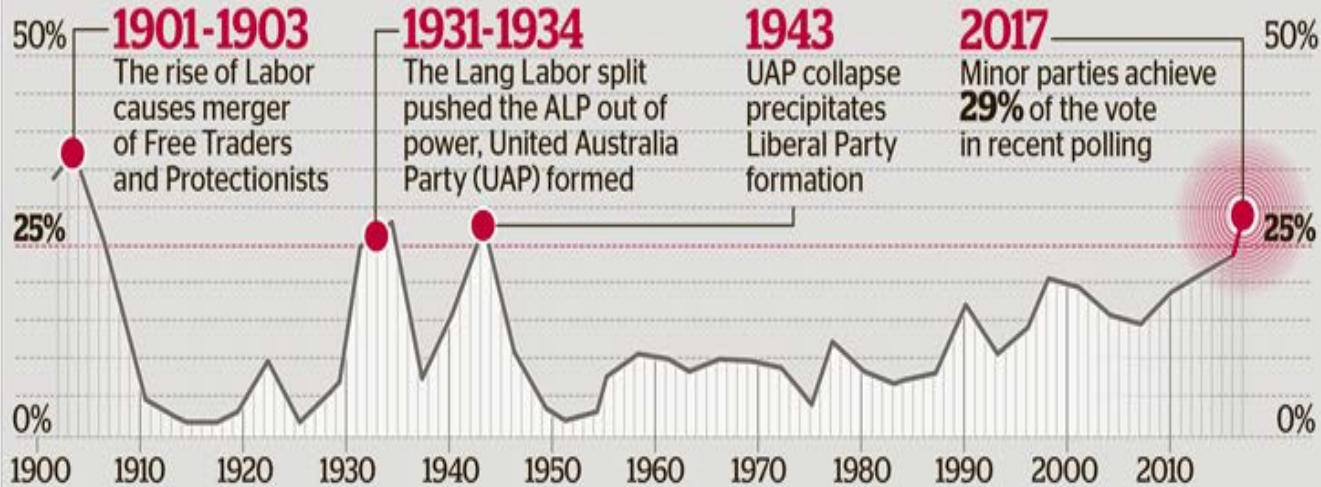
‘Thin-centred ideology that considers society to be ultimately separated into two homogenous and antagonistic camps: ‘the pure people’ versus ‘the corrupt elite’, and argues that politics should be an expression of the general will of the people’

THE DEATH OF LIBERAL DEMOCRACY?

The great tipping point

The 'Protest Vote' has breached 25% only three times in our history - each time coinciding with a major political realignment.

Graph shows the percentage of non-major party votes in Australian federal elections, 1901-2016

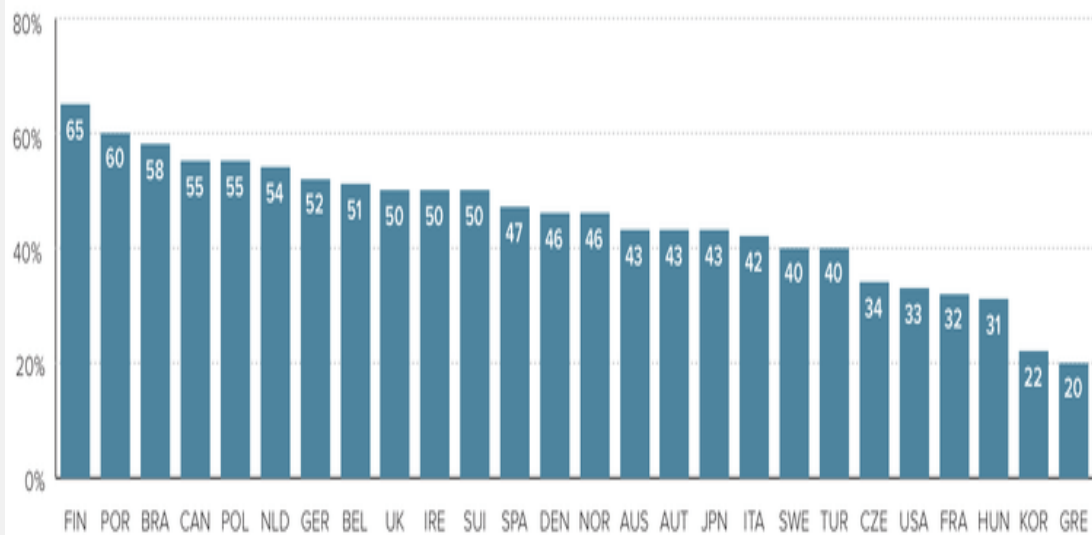


SOURCE: AlphaBeta



TRUST IN INSTITUTIONS

% THAT AGREE 'YOU CAN TRUST MOST NEWS MOST OF THE TIME'



Q6_2016_1. Thinking about news in general, do you agree or disagree with the following statements?: I think you can trust most news most of the time. Base: Total sample in each country

	total trust	A lot of trust	Some trust	A little trust	No trust	Don't know
Federal police	69%	29%	40%	19%	7%	5%
State police	67%	25%	42%	23%	6%	4%
The High Court	62%	23%	39%	23%	8%	6%
The ABC	53%	15%	38%	26%	12%	9%
The Reserve Bank	51%	15%	36%	31%	10%	8%
Charitable organisations	45%	8%	37%	36%	14%	5%
Environment groups	39%	8%	31%	34%	21%	7%
Your local council	38%	5%	33%	37%	19%	5%
The Commonwealth Public Service	36%	5%	31%	37%	16%	10%
State Parliament	31%	5%	26%	32%	31%	6%
Federal Parliament	30%	5%	25%	32%	33%	6%
Religious organisations	28%	5%	23%	27%	38%	6%
Trade unions	27%	5%	22%	30%	34%	9%
Business groups	27%	3%	24%	44%	23%	7%
Political parties	17%	3%	14%	34%	44%	6%

Source: Essential Poll, January, 2017, <http://essentialvision.com.au/?s=trust+in+institutions&searchbutton=Search>

SOME FINAL THOUGHTS

- A perfect storm of age-old phenomenon
 - 'Fake news' not entirely new
 - Nothing new in populism either
- What is new?
 - A frustration with the liberal democratic project
 - A breaking down of the post-war consensus
 - A rise in partisan politics
 - Increased density of information
- So what?
 - Core tenet of liberal democracies is an informed citizenry
 - The breaking down of the post-war consensus creates new challenges for government
 - What is the relationship between decreasing faith/trust in core institutions and the capacity to govern?
 - Populism: asks the right questions, but doesn't have the right answers