

# Democrazia e anti-rappresentanza: dai partiti di massa ai movimenti populistici

LORENZO DEL SAVIO E MATTEO MAMELI

*Democracy and Anti Re-representation: from Mass Parties to Populist Movements*

*Abstract:* Representative democracy tends to distribute political power in ways that favor the socioeconomic élites. In some stages of their history, mass political parties constituted an attempt to resist and correct the oligarchic features of representative democracy. This attempt failed, at least partially, and is in any way no longer viable in contemporary societies. Populism is the way in which nowadays the desire for popular control over political institutions manifests itself. It constitutes a different kind of attempt to resist and correct the oligarchic features of representative democracy. There are risks associated with populism. These are tribalism (etno-tribalism in particular) and despotic leaderism. But the risks are not inevitable, and the democratic potential of populism should be recognized.

*Keywords:* Populism, Representative democracy, Direct democracy, Political parties, Imperative mandate, Inequality, Oligarchy.

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