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## **Une pandémie sournoise : le populisme et ses avatars**

**Abstract:** The historical manifestations of populism show both a big degree of diversity and of difference among them. Thus, it is a difficult task for a scholar to quickly summarize its expressive energies and the fluctuation of its content. It becomes necessary to go back to the cultural sources of populism and to the societies where it has emerged from in order to get a better idea about its power and its limits. The populism becomes an issue when the accumulated resentment of the people leads to hate and to a collective desire to end the conflicts and the contradictions that were maintained by the social contract. As a political force, the populism is tightly connected to charismatic leaders, to moments of profound crisis of representation and legitimacy and, as a consequence, to the urge of transformation.

**Keywords:** populism, charismatic leader, governmental crisis, legitimacy crisis, political power