

RULE OF LAW BACKSLIDING IN THE EU: LESSONS FROM HUNGARY AND POLAND



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ABSTRACT | Rule of law backsliding may be defined as the process through which elected public authorities deliberately implement governmental blueprints which aim to systematically weaken, annihilate or capture internal checks on power with the view of dismantling the liberal democratic state and entrenching the long-term rule of the dominant party. This address will explain how current Hungarian and Polish authorities have been building electoral autocracies with the aim of establishing de facto one-party states before offering a critical assessment of the EU institutions' so far unsuccessful attempts to prevent or roll back rule of law backsliding in these two countries. It will also be argued rule of law backsliding is a decisive issue for the whole EU because it not only affects the citizens of the country where this phenomenon is happening, but it also affects both EU citizens residing in any such 'illiberal regime' and, indirectly, all residents in the EU through these regimes' participation in the EU's decision-making processes and the adoption of norms that bind all in the EU.

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