

The paper argues for democratic populism in the form of Chantal Mouffe's agonistic democracy as an effective tool against corruption. First, the mechanisms sustaining corruption in society are identified. Then, agonistic democracy is introduced as a means to limit many of the current systemic flaws that perpetuate corruption. Finally, the frequent dependency of real-life populist movements on strong leadership and its incompatibility with agonistics hint at its possible limits as a practical solution. Instead, political movements that aim to address corruption may lean into aspects of convention populism to appeal to voters, while gradually decentralizing power relations in the system.