

# Image 4 Democracy

International Archives Week Challenge 2024







## **International Archives Week 2024**

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Abbreviations

- A / Archive
- R / Reference code
- T / Title
- D / Description

## Image for Democracy

At the initiative of the Historical Archive Celje (Slovenia) and the Town Archives of Ieper (Belgium), every spring we launch a campaign to select archival material, which we present during the celebration of the International Archives Week. Every year around June 9, when the International Archives Council was founded (1948), archives around the world celebrate and point out the key role of archives in society. Again this year, we sent a call to potential partner archives from all individual countries of the European Union. The concept of the project is such that every year we enhance the campaign by issuing an electronic and printed publication from the "International Archives Week Challenge" series. Namely, only one individual archive from each country of the European Union participates in the publication, which is presented with one example of the archival material it stores. This year too, we estimate that we have been very successful, as the project presents 23 original stories through reproductions of various archival materials.

This year, the International Archives Week also coincides with the elections to the European Parliament. This fact really challenged us to combine the event, which will take place in all the representative countries of the European Union on June 9, as a celebration of free political choice, with a suitable theme. We therefore took the election as a starting point for the selection of material. But we wanted to go further, because we think that with the topic of democracy we can capture even more clear messages. Moreover, we also want to present archives as institutions as bearers of democratic ideas, since free access to archival material enriches our knowledge of human society, promotes democracy and protects citizens' rights. In the appeal, we also called for the selection of material that reflects the expression of free will, calls for the activism and participation to implement changes for peace in society.

The selection of material we received is very diverse. On the one hand, it shows the similarities, and on the other, the diversity and specificity of concrete environments that greatly enrich the common European space. The material reflects the implementation of various levels of suffrage, represents the processes of democratization, mass gatherings in the event of political breakthroughs and changes in the political or social system, shows the processes of women's emancipation, efforts to resolve conflicts peacefully... The range of the material is also very large in terms of time and shows the importance of understanding democracy in a timeline from medieval charter to a website that will be published in the summer of 2024. From its own perspective, each piece of archive material shows the great story of the realization of democratic principles, and the range of topics and individual emphases ennobles and interweaves mutual knowledge of various contents. The catalogue connects various archival institutions in a special way and messages mutually enrich the knowledge of the community. On the one hand the catalogue highlights the collective identity anchors of the individual member states, and on the other hand put in focus the professional decision of the contributors, who participated in the selection of the material.

Sincere thanks to all the participating archives and individuals, because it is precisely with such projects that we jointly contribute to the preservation of values and create the foundations so that we will better respond to the challenges of the future, both on a professional as well as a personal and collective level.



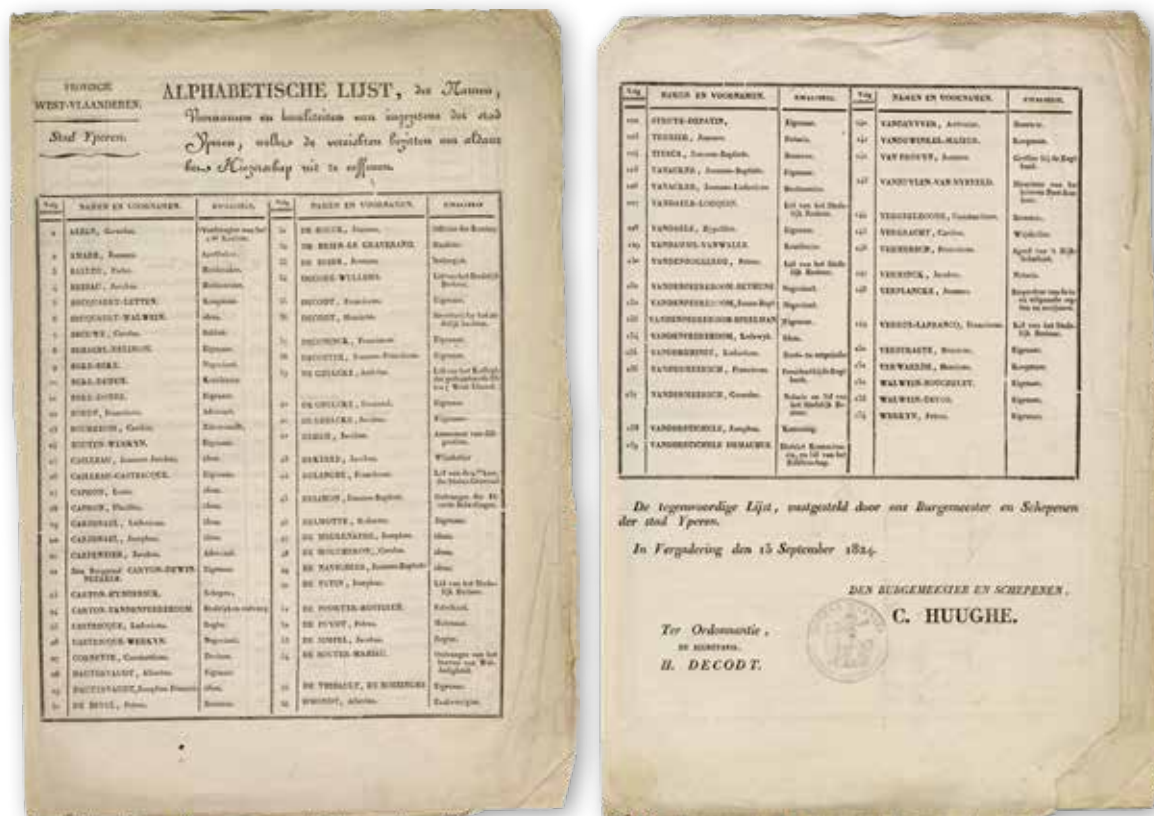
# 01 Avstrija



- A/** Steiermärkisches Landesarchiv / Styrian Provincial Archives, Graz
- R/** AT-StLA-AKS-Graz-Republik-I-003
- T/** The first day of the Republic, 1918.

**D/** The end of the war and the “revolutionary” upheavals sealed the end of the centuries-old Habsburg monarchy. Thus, November 12, 1918 in Austria can be seen as the final break with the old system and the first day of the new republic, both at a national level and for Styria. The picture postcard (based on a photo by Fritz Eckert) shows a demonstration organized by the Social Democrats at “Franzensplatz” in Graz. From the balcony of the local Theater, the Social Democratic councillor August Lindner welcomed the “Republic of German-Austria” proclaimed by the Provisional National Assembly in Vienna. Two days later, “Franzensplatz” was renamed “Freiheitsplatz” at the request of the Social Democrats in the Graz municipal council.





A/ Stadsarchief Ieper / Town  
Archives of Ypres

R/ SAI, Ieperse aanwinsten C09\_234

T/ Voter list of the town of Ypres,  
15th September 1824

D/ In the 19th century, only a privileged group had the right to vote. During the Dutch period (1815-1830) there was an indirect electoral system. The members of the national parliament were elected by the provincial estates. The provincial estates were assembled by three separate electoral colleges. In West Flanders the town and city councils elected 33 of its 81 members (5 of them came from Ypres). The Ypres town council was elected by a limited electoral college. The town had approximately 14,000 inhabitants in 1824, but only 154 wealthy men had the right to vote, mostly home and landowners but also doctors, judges, lawyers, civil servants and wealthy traders.



# Bulgaria 03

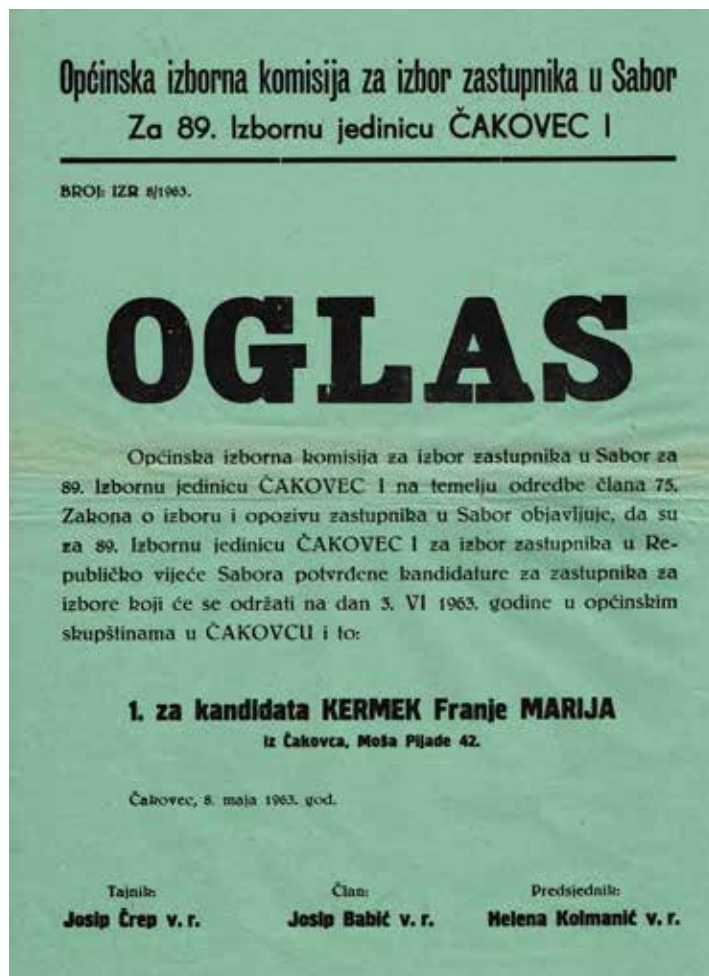


- A/** Централен държавен архив /  
Central State Archives, Sofia
- R/** CSA, fonds 1559, inventory list 1,  
archival unit 47, sheet 4
- T/** Rally on "Orlov Most" in Sofia, 7th  
June 1990

- D/** Right before the first democratic elections in Bulgaria after the end of socialism (10th November 1989), the Union of Democratic Forces (UDF), a coalition of political organizations and movements (established on 7th December 1989), convened one of the largest political rallies in the history of Bulgaria. The UDF mobilized its sympathizers for successful participation in the elections for the VII Grand National Assembly (GNA), which had to adopt a new, democratic constitution of the Republic of Bulgaria. The place where the rally was held – Orlov Most (Eagles' Bridge), is the symbolic gate of the capital Sofia. The photograph reflects the public mood of the masses, typical of the historical moment.





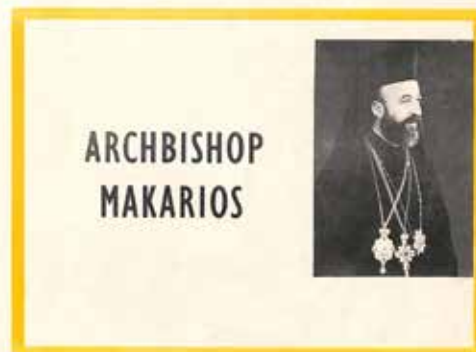
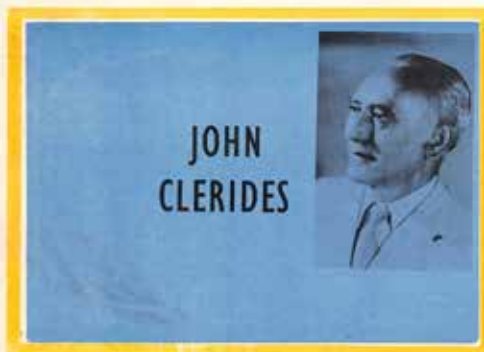


- A/** Državni arhiv za Međimurje / State Archive for the County of Međimurje, Štrigova
- R/** HR-DAM-214, District Committee of the communist party of Croatia Čakovec, 1945-1963
- T/** Elections in socialist self-management. Proclamation (poster, 1963)
- D/** By the Yugoslavian constitution legislated in April 1963, socialist self-management was introduced in legal regulations. Formal changes in election system of the working people for councils of federal and republican assemblies (highest state and self-government authorities) were introduced to general public for forthcoming elections in April and May 1963. The process of candidate enlisting began at conferences attended by citizens and other members of political municipal assemblies. After detailed discussion and confirmation of the candidate, the election process began. In most cases, only one candidate was given almost the whole political support from all members of municipal assemblies and citizens. Croatian Parliament (Sabor) at that time de facto didn't have real political power, the institution was used as a legislature of Communist party of Yugoslavia.

## THE ELECTIONS (PRESIDENT AND VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC) LAWS, 1959.

Notice under Section 24.

The names of the two candidates standing nominated for election as President are:—



Under the provisions of sub-section (2) of section 26 Mr. John Clerides has been allotted the colour of light blue (as indicated above) and Archbishop Makarios has been allotted the colour of white (as indicated above).

**A/** Κρατικό Αρχείο / Cyprus State Archives, Nicosia

**R/** Elections Service of Cyprus- Minute papers: KYE1/64

**T/** 1st elections for President and Vice-President of the Republic of Cyprus, 1959

**D/** Notice for the first elections for the President of the Republic of Cyprus, 13th December, 1959. Candidates: Archbishop Makarios (1913-1977) and the lawyer Ioannis Clerides (1887-1961)





- A/** Státní oblastní archiv v Plzni, Státní okresní archiv Cheb / State Regional Archive in Plzeň, State District Archive in Cheb
- R/** Town of Cheb fonds, document No. 305 from 13th April 1412
- T/** By mutual solidarity running across borders to ensure peace and security: The agreement of unity between princes and cities, concluded in Cheb in 1412, to protect regional peace
- D/** During the reign of Wenceslaus IV of Luxembourg, King of the Holy Roman Empire from 1376 to 1400, the power and social crisis broke out in full force. The empire was reeling in internal conflicts, the papal schism continued. The Landfried movement became at least a partial way out of the crisis, which the monarch was unable to manage within his own power. Land peaces were partial agreements in which the parties committed themselves to mutual assistance and joint action against criminals and enemies. Their goal was to establish peace and security in the territories covered by the agreement. The land peace concluded in Cheb in April 1412 far exceeded the borders of the Czech Kingdom. Through the proxies of King Wenceslas IV, the westernmost territory of Bohemia with the regions of Cheb and Loket as well as the areas of the Empire lying beyond the border of the Czech state, namely the Duchy of Bavaria, the Margrave of Miessen, the County of Thuringia, and the territory in Saxony, pledged to mutual help. Even today, just like then, evil can be suppressed only if people learn to communicate with each other.



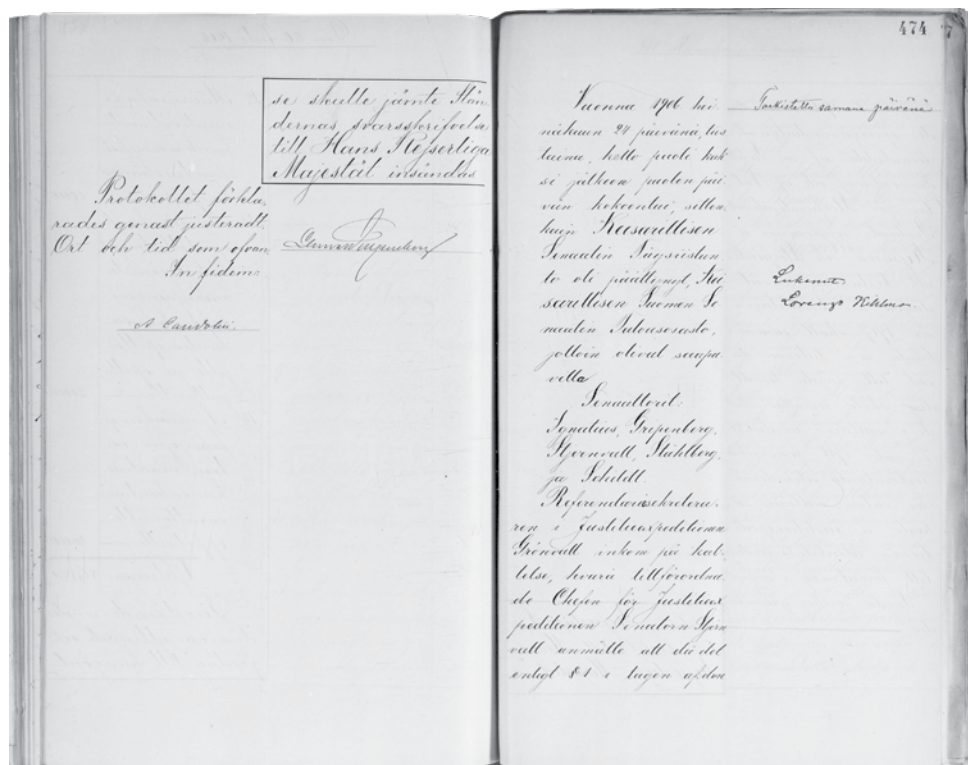


**A/** Rahvusarhiiv Filmiarhiiv / The National Archives of Estonia, unit of the Film Archives in Tallinn

**R/** RA, EFA.250.0.139849

**T/** The Baltic Way, 23 August 1989.  
Photo: Harald Leppikson

**D/** The Baltic Way records the human chain through Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania (from Tallinn to Vilnius) on 23th August 1989, marking the 50th anniversary of the German-Soviet non-aggression pact signed in 1939. It was a peaceful political demonstration which celebrated the aim for freedom and democracy of the nations of the three Baltic states. Approximately two million people joined their hands to form a human chain spanning 690 kilometres across the three Baltic states, which at the time were occupied and annexed by the USSR and had a combined population of approximately eight million. The Baltic Way belongs to UNESCO's Memory of the World Heritage.



08

# Finland

- A/** Kansallisarkisto / The National Archives of Finland, Helsinki
- R/** Ca:567 (Collection ID: 486513439)
- T/** Minutes of the Imperial Senate of Finland Regarding Preparations for the First Modern General Election in Finland (1906)
- D/** In 1907, Finland held its first modern parliamentary elections, pioneering universal suffrage. Both women and most men gained the right to vote in 1906, enhancing societal equality and citizen empowerment. The new unicameral parliament replaced old estate assemblies, broadening participation. Social Democrats won, reflecting diverse political desires, with 19 women among the 200 representatives. Although dissolved within a year, this parliament laid the groundwork for Finland's continuous democratic journey. The documents we presented for the competition were selected from the archives of the Imperial Senate of Finland, specifically from its minutes from the summer of 1906. In these, the Senate discusses for the first time the organization of new types of elections and proposes, in the Emperor's name, a decree based on the new electoral law and parliamentary order regarding preparations for the elections.





**A/** Archives de la Communauté d'Agglomération du Pays de Saint-Omer / Archives of Saint-Omer Urban District

**R/** Fonds Raymond Dufay, 3Z 171

**T/** The arrival of the glassmakers at the sub-prefecture of Saint-Omer, Friday, 24th May 1968. Drawing by Jack Robert, 1984.

**D/** On May 1968, a political, social and cultural protest movement arise in France, which notably gave rise to new thoughts on democracy. It results in student demonstrations and global strikes throughout the territory, as in the Saint-Omer area: demonstrations, stepping at the sub-prefecture (state service), are organized every day, sometimes gathering thousands of people, as on May 24th, when nearly two thousand people attended the inter-union meeting. The same evening, Arques's Glass and Cristall factory staff organized a demonstration which brought together nearly four to five thousand people, melting teachers, workers, and local government officials and civil servants.







- A/** Stadt- und Stiftsarchiv Aschaffenburg / City Archives Aschaffenburg
- R/** <https://dialogcity.eu/project/citizen-archive-platform-cap/> (webpage)
- T/** Citizen Archive Platform: A Participatory Digital Archive for Europe (Summer 2024)
- D/** Archives play a crucial role in ensuring legal security in democratic societies, providing access to information for all citizens. The upcoming Citizen Archive Platform (CAP) is set to launch in summer 2024 with the goal of creating a comprehensive digital repository for various data-based objects, including images, videos, audios, texts, as well as hybrid and digitized analogue materials. These items will be curated by responsible museums and archives and integrated into a professional, non-profit archival system that complies with industry standards. The CAP is developed by the Stadtmuseum Graz as part of the Dialog City project (<https://dialogcity.eu/>) and co-funded by the European Union, with the City of Aschaffenburg (Stadt- und Stiftsarchiv) serving as the lead partner. It aims to provide a platform where diverse forms of cultural heritage can be preserved and shared with the public in an accessible and engaging manner.



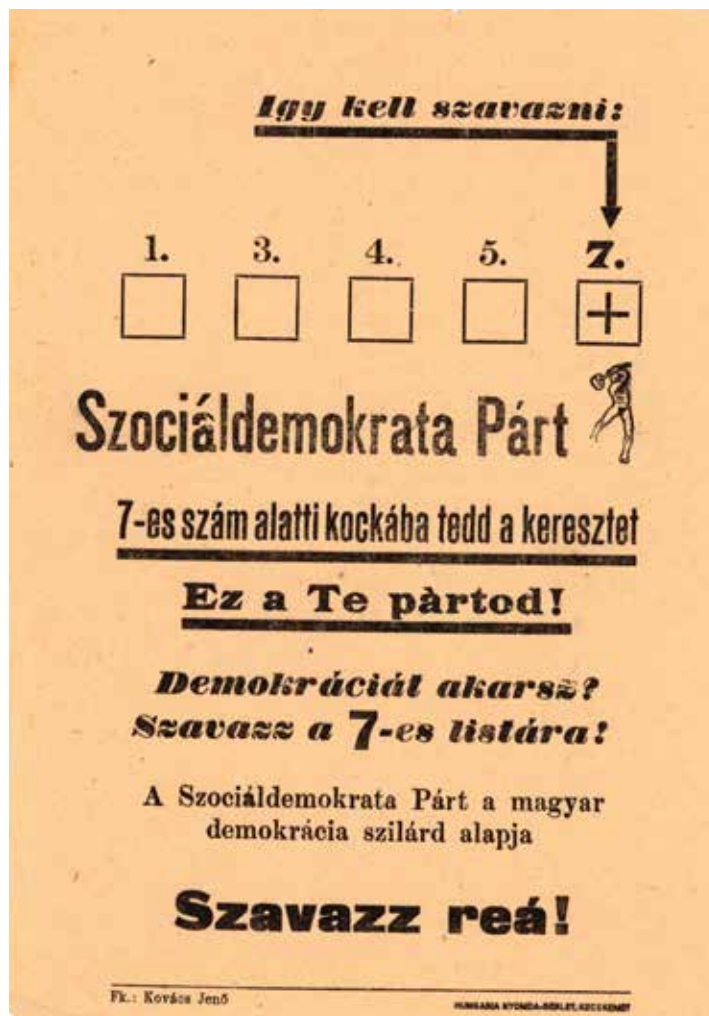


**A/** Γενικά Αρχεία του Κράτους /  
General State Archives of Greece.  
Central Service, Athens

**R/** Archive of Yiorgos Anomeritis,  
file 1

**T/** Ballots of the participating  
political parties in the Greek  
parliamentary elections of  
November 1974.

**D/** The November 1974 elections were the first parliamentary  
elections in Greece after the fall of the seven-year dictatorship of  
the colonels (1967-1974) and the restoration of the democracy.  
The photograph shows ballots of the parties that participated in  
the elections (New Democracy, United Left, Centre Union - New  
Forces Party, Pan-Hellenic Socialist Movement (PASOK), National  
Democratic Union, Revolutionary Communist Movement of  
Greece, Coalition of the Liberal Democratic Union) and the  
decision of a leftist organization to abstain from the elections.  
The elections were won by the New Democracy party, which  
formed a government with Konstantinos Karamanlis as Prime  
Minister.



**A/** Magyar Nemzeti Levéltár  
Bács-Kiskun Megyei Levéltára  
/ Hungarian National Archives,  
Bács-Kiskun County Archives,  
Kecskemét

**R/** HU-MNL-BKML-XV.76.a.  
1. sor. 7.t. 25.

**T/** Election leaflet of the Social  
Democratic Party, 1945

**D/** In Hungary, which was preparing for elections after the Second World War, society hoped for the arrival of a new democratic world. Few suspected that the victory of the democratic forces – under the shadow of Soviet weapons – was only temporary. The leaflet of the Social Democratic Party called its followers to action as follows: »This is how you should vote. Social Democratic Party. Put a cross in the box under number 7. This is your party! Do you want democracy? Vote for list 7! The Social Democratic Party is the solid foundation of Hungarian democracy. Vote for this!«







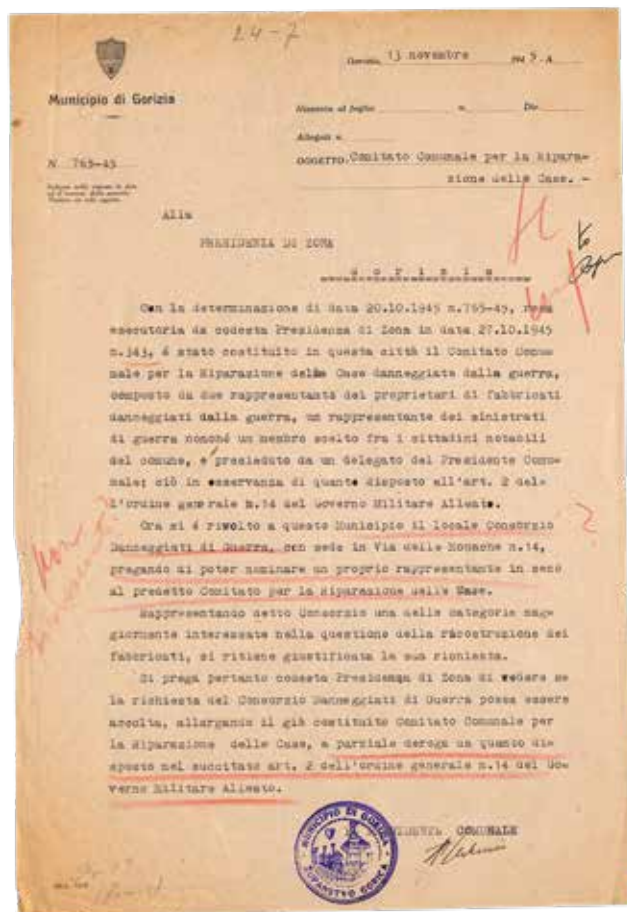
**A/** Seirbhís Chartlainne Chathair agus Chontae Phort Láirge / Waterford City and County Archives Service

**R/** IE-WCA-P-44-04 (Lumley collection)

**T/** Redmond's Fight at Waterford, 1918

**D/** Photograph of Captain William Redmond campaigning for election in the 1918 elections in Waterford. The photograph is framed with a caption "I voted for your father 27 years ago and I'll vote for you". Waterford was one of the few places in Ireland in 1918 that returned a candidate from the Irish Parliamentary Party in an election that was dominated by Sinn Féin and which resulted in the establishment of Dáil Éireann. Captain Redmond was contesting the seat left vacant by the death of his father John Redmond, leader of the Irish Parliamentary Party, who had represented Waterford from 1891. The 1918 election was very contentious in Waterford with factions from the Irish Parliamentary Party and Sinn Féin party clashing on the streets. The photograph shows the close relationship that the Redmond family built with the people of Waterford. When Captain Redmond himself died in 1932 his wife Bridget Redmond was elected for Waterford in the general election of 1933.





- A/** Archivio di Stato di Gorizia / State Archive of Gorizia
- R/** Prefettura di Gorizia, Archivio di Gabinetto (1945-1986), box 271, file 608
- T/** Letter sent by the President of the Municipality of Gorizia to the President of the Gorizia Area (under Allied Military Government 1945-1947) about the organization of the Municipality Committee for the repair of buildings damaged during the WWII (1945)
- D/** At the end of the World War II, the allied army militarily occupied the so-called Zone A of the Julian March, which the city of Gorizia was part (12th June 1945). The Allied Military Government (AMG) issued general orders also encouraging the establishment of democratic customs through the collaboration and participation of local administrators and ordinary citizens. Order no. 14 announced criteria for the repair of buildings damaged by war and for the organization of committees provided with citizen representation. Article 2 reads as follows: "In each Commune, within the Occupied Territory, which contains an appreciable number of damaged houses a Housing Repair Committee shall be appointed by the Comunal President, who shall be the Chairman thereof, to be composed of not less than 4 members, chosen as follows: two from the owners of war-damaged houses, one as a representative of the persons rendered homeless, and the fourth to be a person of high standing in the community. For the purpose of assisting the Housing Repair Committee, the Area President may also appoint an advisory committee, composed of experts or others belonging to economic organizations or other interested groups."





**A/** Latvijas Nacionālais arhīvs – Latvijas Valsts Kinofotofonodokumentu arhīvs / The National Archives of Latvia – Latvian State Archive of Audiovisual Documents, Riga

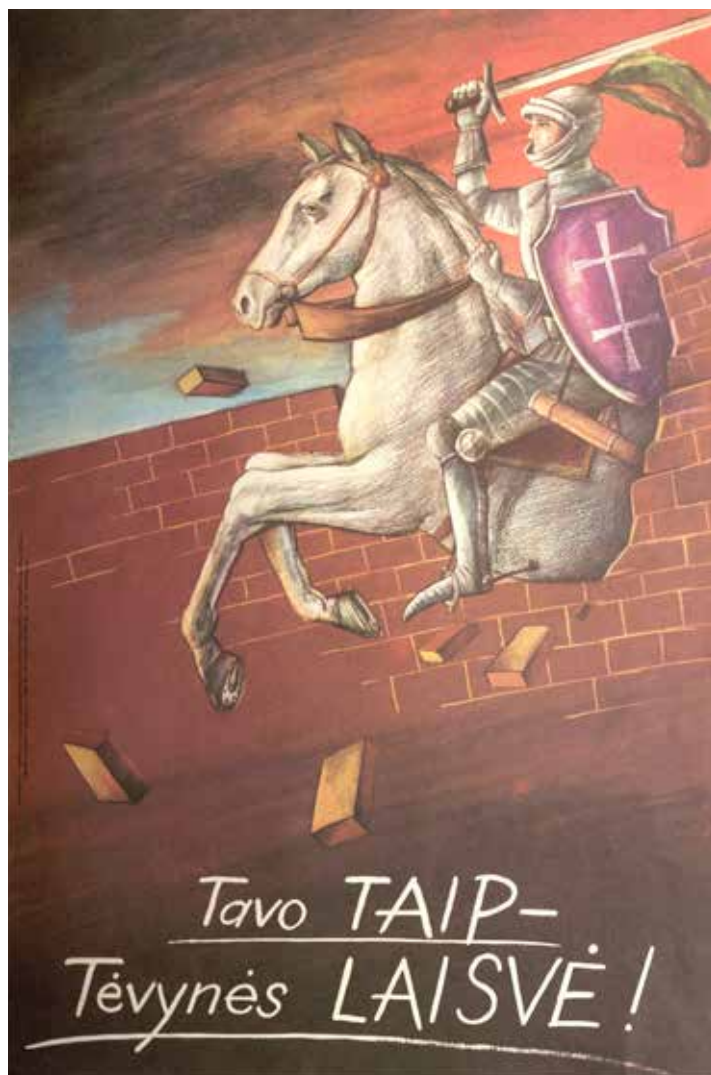
**R/** LNA\_KFFDA\_F182

**T/** The Baltic Way, 23 August 1989.  
Photo: Arnis Blumbergs

**D/** On 23 August 1989, the 50th anniversary of the infamous Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact, the peoples of Latvia, Lithuania, and Estonia joined hands in a human chain spanning across the Baltic States, calling for the end of the Soviet occupation and restoration of the independence of the three countries. Surpassing all expectations, an estimated 2.000.000 people or a quarter of the total population of the Baltic States participated in the event, which was not a small feat to organize in the times before mobile phones and internet but was nevertheless achieved in just a month by the popular movements of the three countries – Tautas Fronte, Sajūdis, and Rahvarinne. The Baltic Way was a pivotal event of the Singing Revolution, becoming a symbol of the unity of the Baltic nations and the power of peaceful demonstration, as well as an inspiration for similar events around the world.



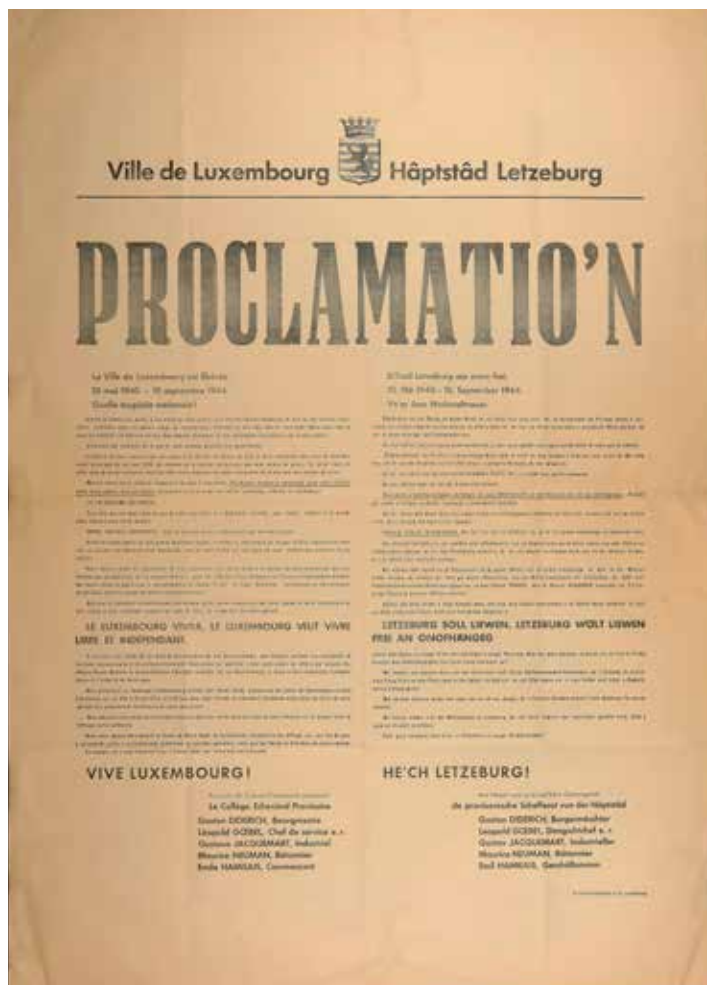




- A/** Kauno regioninis valstybes archyvas / Kaunas Regional State Archives, Kaunas
- R/** Fond No. 2058; The Lithuanian Reforms Movement Kaunas Branch. Collection of posters
- T/** The Knight (Vytis) Breaking the Wall (Author: G. Gesevicius, 1990. Paper, 57 x 38 cm)
- D/** On March 11, 1990 the Parliament of the Republic of Lithuania declared restoration of Independence of Lithuania. The main political organization which led Lithuania to Independence was The Reform Movement of Lithuania (Lithuanian: Lietuvos Persitvarkymo Sąjūdis) - a political organization which led the struggle for Lithuanian independence in the late 1980s and early 1990s. It was established on June 3th, 1988 as the first opposition party in Soviet Lithuania. Its goal was to get free from the Soviet Russia occupation (which lasted from 1940 until the beginning of 1990) and to seek the restoration of Independence of the Republic of Lithuania. An armoured knight on the horse called Vytis is actually the coat of arms of the Republic of Lithuania and it symbolizes Lithuania breaking the wall of occupation and oppression.



# 17 Luxembourg



- A/** Archives municipales de Luxembourg / Luxembourg City Archives
- R/** LU Imp. IV/4\_4
- T/** Luxembourg is free and democratic again, 10th December 1944
- D/** On September 10th 1944 the American army liberated the city of Luxembourg from German occupation. Immediately the pre-war democratic elected members of the city council and its aldermen under the mayor Gaston Diderich resumed their role representing the city. This proclamation in French and Luxemburgish calls on all citizens to participate in the task to rebuild a free and independent Luxembourg: "Long live Luxembourg – Vive Luxembourg – He'ch Letzeburg!"



**A/** L-Arkivji Nazzjonali ta' Malta /  
National Archives of Malta, Rabat

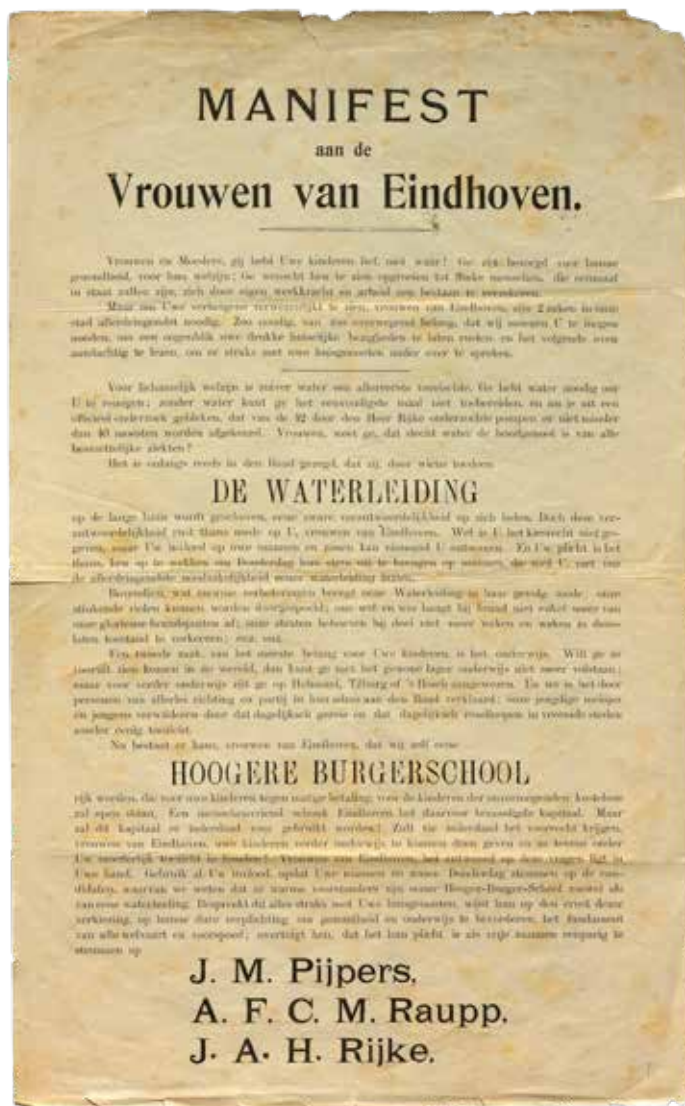
**R/** CSG01, vol. 1, 118/1867

**T/** Ballot paper, 1867

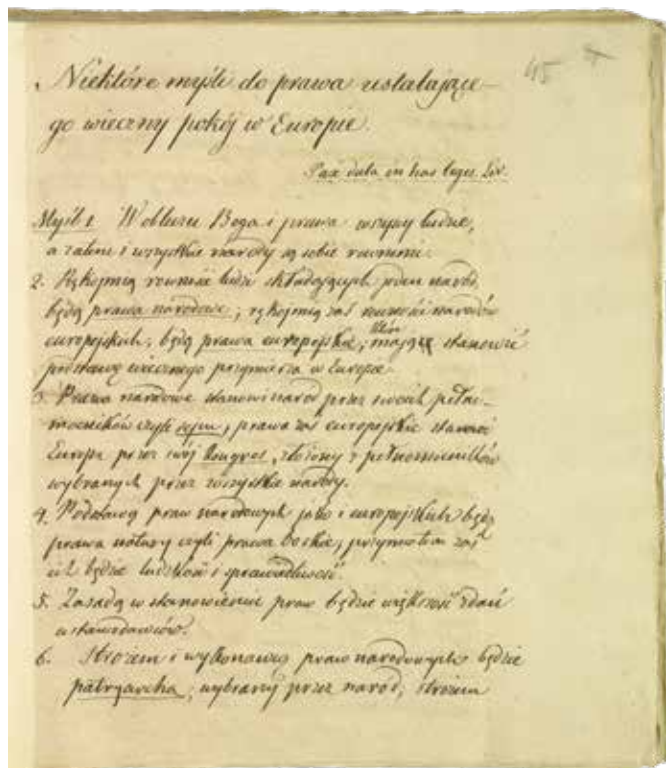
**D/** A vote cast in the 1867 election for the district committee, second countryside district (Żebbuġ and Siġġiewi), where the electors where to write the name of the three candidates of their choice. This vote was declared invalid as the voter did not indicate the Filippo Zammit he was voting for when there were two candidates with the same name.







- A/** Regionaal Historisch Centrum Eindhoven / Regional Historic Center Eindhoven
- R/** Collectie beeld- en geluid RHCE, nummer archiefinventaris 20096, inventarisnummer 32045
- T/** Election pamphlet Women of Eindhoven circa 1905
- D/** It is not so long ago that women's suffrage was introduced: in the Netherlands it became a fact in 1918. But that does not mean that women had no influence on the election outcome before that time. It is not without reason that the Dutch saying goes: behind every strong man there is a strong woman. That is the reason why an election pamphlet circulated in Eindhoven in 1905, specifically addressed to female residents. The manifesto calls for action: "There are two things that are most urgently needed in our city. So necessary, of so paramount importance, that we think we may invite you to take a break from your busy domestic duties for a moment and read the following carefully, in order to discuss it in more detail with your housemates." These pressing issues were the poor quality of drinking water and the lack of higher education in Eindhoven. Apparently the women managed to convey the messages well. The first water pipe was installed in 1904 and the Higher Citizen School was founded in 1910.



- A/** Archiwum Główne Akt Dawnych / The Central Archives of Historical Records, Warsaw
- R/** Towarzystwo Królewskie Przyjaciół Nauk / Royal Society of Friends of Science, no. 78, p. 45–67
- T/** 1831, Treaty of Eternal Covenant among Civilized Nations. A Constitution for Europe.
- D/** Wojciech Bogumił Jastrzębowski (1799–1882) was the author of the project of Constitution for Europe written in 1831. During the November Uprising of 1830 (Polish independence uprising against the Russian Empire), Jastrzębowski joined the Warsaw National Guard. His war experiences led him to contemplate the immeasurable suffering that wars bring, which he included in his treaty. He proposed the creation of an alliance between nations to ensure eternal peace in Europe based on fair legal norms (included in the draft constitution). He identified the main sources of evil as the abuse of power by those in authority, insubordination of subordinates, envy, pride, or greed between nations and their rulers. According to his proposals, the fate of nations and their way of life should be decided not only by rulers and monarchs, but by all people. His vision for Europe is that of a federation of nations that speak different languages but are subject to the same general rules of the political system, while fully respecting national identities. He also advocated for the abolition of state borders, freedom of movement, and equality for all dispersed nations, including Jews and Gypsies.

# Portugal 21



**A/** Arquivo Nacional da Torre do Tombo / National Archive Torre do Tombo

**R/** PT/TT/SNI/ARQF/RP-003/35013

**T/** "April 25th in Lisbon" - Freedom Day. Photo: A. Tavares, 25th April 1974

**D/** Freedom Day is celebrated in Portugal on April 25 marked the beginning of democratic life in Portugal. This date commemorates the Portuguese Democratic revolution, who on April 25, 1974 carried out a military coup d'état, putting an end to the fascist regime, which was led by António de Oliveira Salazar and opened the way for resolving the problem of the colonial war and for the democratization and development of the country.







**A/** Zgodovinski arhiv Celje /  
Historical Archives Celje

**R/** SI\_ZAC/1581/105 Novi tednik  
Photo Library, archive box 18

**T/** Elections, Trnovlje pri Celju, 8  
April 1990. Photo: Edo Einspieler

**D/** The first multi-party and democratic elections in Slovenia were held on 8 April 1990. In this photo, a photojournalist for the newspaper Novi tednik captures a voter at a polling station in Trnovlje near Celje. Alongside the elections to the three chambers of the Assembly, elections were also held at that time for members of the Presidency and the President of the Presidency of Slovenia. The elections were a very important step in the democratization of Slovenia, the creation of a plural political space and, ultimately, an important step towards Slovenia's independence. The elections were also the last to be held in Slovenia in Yugoslavia, as is also illustrated by the photograph of former Yugoslav President Josip Broz Tito (1892-1980) on the wall. The scene thus simultaneously points to a watershed event in the democratization process, but at the same time shows that all watersheds are in fact linked to longer-term processes and transitions.

# Spain 23



**A/** Archivo General de la Administración / Spanish State Archives. General Administration Archive, Madrid

**R/** AGA,33,01629,00002.

**T/** Citizens voting at a polling station in Madrid in the General Elections of June 1977 (Photo Europa Press)

**D/** The General Administration Archive holds several photographic collections that richly document many aspects of social and political life in Spain during the 20th century. One of these is held in the State Social Communication Media collection, an organization created during the years of the political transition with the aim of liquidating the companies and media that made up the Press of the Movement, an enormous conglomerate of newspapers, magazines and radio stations that during Franco's regime were attached to the single party. This organization includes various photographic collections, intended to illustrate the aforementioned media, in the form of dozens of photographic reports on the massive turnout of the Spanish population (almost 80% of the electoral roll) for the General Elections held on Wednesday 15 June 1977, which for the first time since 1939 allowed free democratic participation by political parties to elect the members of Congress and the Senate. The winning parties in these elections were Adolfo Suárez's Unión de Centro Democrático and Felipe González's Partido Socialista Obrero Español. The big losers were the Communist Party of Spain, which had been predicted to win big, and Manuel Fraga's Popular Alliance.



## IMPRESSUM

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**Gintaras Druckus** / Kauno regioninis valstybes archyvas / Lithuania

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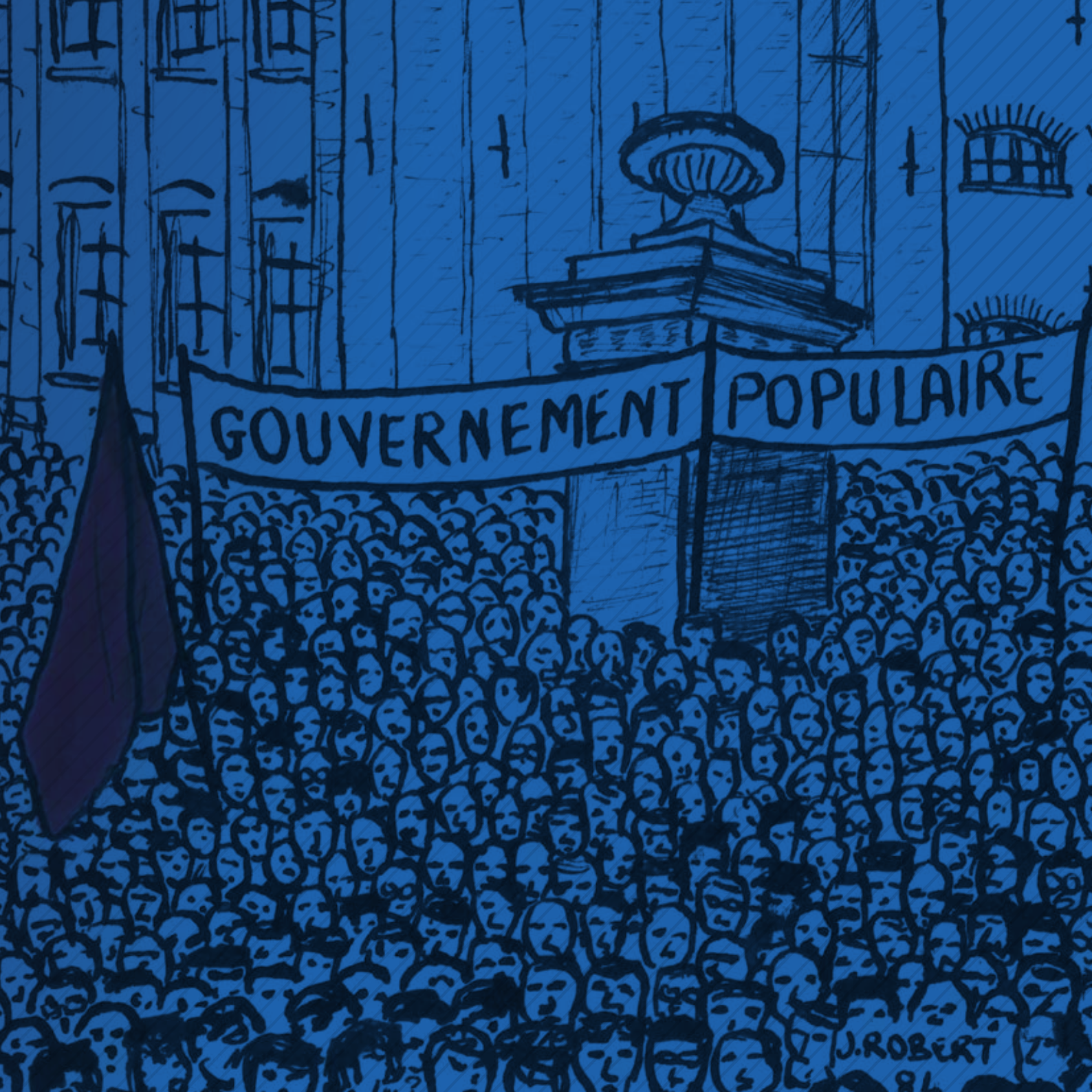




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