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Tiivistelmä-Referat-Abstract The aim of this thesis is to study the electoral success of three extreme right-wing parties on the premises of the political system. The parties in focus are the Belgian Vlaams Blok (VB), the Dutch Centrumdemocraten (CD) and the German Republikaner (REP), which are all undisputed representatives of the 'core' extreme right-wing family in present-day Western Europe. Further, the features of the political system are divided into party system features and features related to the institutional setting of a country. The former include, among other features, the fragmentation of the party system, the electoral volatility and the polarisation and cartellisation of the party system. The latter include, amongst others, the complexity of the system, federal structures, the election system and the legal constraints that can affect the performance of extreme right-wing parties in elections. The study is conducted as a case study in the sense that it aims to an in-depth analysis of the electoral success of three parties on the premises of the political systems of each of countries under which they reside. However, the study takes its starting point in the theoretical discussion concerning the potential impact of various political system features on extreme right-wing parties in general, which enables a systematic analysis of the cases, and the application of a comparative perspective to the findings. The study concludes in that the political systems of the three countries studied, indeed provide different opportunities and restraints for the three extreme right-wing parties to succeed electorally. Some political system features prove, however, to affect the electoral success of the parties differently than the theoretical discussion had led us to expect. In addition, the Belgian system appears to be advantageous for the electoral success of the Vlaams Blok with regard to most political system features studied, whereas the Dutch and the German systems prove to combine multiple disadvantageous and restraining conditions affecting the electoral success of the Centrumdemocraten and the Republikaner. Yet, the German system appears to be the most restraining system, which is due to the fact that some of the political features appear even more restraining for the German extreme right than similar features in the Netherlands.			
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