Rise of New Populism Stations Activity

Directions: We will be looking at the rise of populism in four countries: the United States, the Philippines, Hungary, and Poland. We will look at factors contributing to the rise of populism, the current populist leaders in each country, and policies and ideas they have pushed. Rotate around to each of the four stations and answer the accompanying questions on your packet. You can go to each station in whichever order you would like, but try not to have more than 4 people at a station. Be prepared to apply what you have learned during a class discussion at the end.

Additional information: This is a silent activity. There will be time for a whole class discussion later. I recommend using headphones when watching the video. If you focus better with music, you can listen to music through your headphones while completing the activity. HOWEVER, if I see that you are spending more time on your phone than the worksheet, I will take the right away. You will turn in this worksheet at the end of class.

Station 1: The United States
Part 1: Look at the president’s tweets and answer the following questions:

1. Based on the tweets you read and your knowledge of events, what is the president trying to do? How do you know this?
   The president is trying to ban Middle Eastern refugees from entering the country. I know this because the second tweet says that an influx of refugees would cause “death and destruction.”

2. Who does the president believe is a threat to our country’s national security?
   The president believes that immigrants, particularly Muslim immigrants, are a threat to the country.

3. How do these tweets show populist ideologies?
   The tweets are demonizing a group of people, whom the president claims is a security threat to the country.

Part 2: Part 2: Charlottesville
Jewish people have been scapegoated during times of economic downturns and called “globalists” and “elites” during times of conflict. This was seen during the Holocaust, but can be dated back to at least Napoleon’s days in France. Watch this clip and answer the questions. (Warning: This video depicts a group of neo-Nazis marching through Charlottesville, VA and may be upsetting.)

1. What do neo-Nazis mean when they chant, “Jews will not replace us”?
   “Jews will not replace us” is a nativist chant pushing back against multiculturalism and globalism that is perceived to be taking over the white majority.
2. How does the chant show populist ideologies?
The chant illustrates the vitriol and dissatisfaction some white people fear about a changing socio-cultural environment. The nation is becoming more diversified and they are rejecting that.

3. How are the messages in the president’s tweets and the neo-Nazi chant similar? How are they different?
Both scapegoat and demonize groups of people; the tweets attack Muslims, while the chant attacks Jewish people. They are also similar because the Charlottesville rally was inspired by the president’s rhetoric. They are different because the tweets are coming from the most powerful man in the world, while the counter-protesters in Charlottesville outnumbered the neo-Nazis.

Station 2: The Philippines
Watch the clip from 2:40-4:30 and answer the following questions. (QR codes are provided.)

1. What is President Duterte’s rationale for his war on drugs?
   He says that the huge number of drug addicts in the Philippines is dragging down the country.

2. How does the President justify “illegitimate” killings perpetrated by the police?
   There is no Filipino law that criminalizes threatening criminals with death.

3. How is the idea of populism conveyed in this clip?
   Duterte is exploiting one social issue (drug use) to justify authoritarian rule.

Station 3: Hungary
Viktor Orbán came to power in Hungary in 2010 after he won 2/3 majority vote. He swiftly enacted radical new changes, including limiting power of the press and the judiciary, exacerbating the 2008 financial crisis by blaming “elitists,” and threatened to jail political opponents. Look at the graph and answer the following questions. (source: https://www.cidob.org/en/articulos/cidob_report/n1_1/hungary_populism_or_politics)

1. What happened in 2009 that helped bring victory to Orbán?
   GDP declined exponentially because of the financial crisis.

2. Would you consider economic factors the driving force behind populism in Hungary? Why, or why not?
   Yes because Orbán used the financial collapse as the justification for enacting other populist laws, like limiting the powers of institutions.

3. Based on what you see in the graph, and what you know about Hungary, how is populism displayed?
   Populism is displayed through Viktor Orbán. He manipulated a global crisis to stir up anger at perceived group of “elitists” to consolidate power for himself.
Station 4: Poland
Read this article from the *New York Times*. Then, answer the following questions:

1. **How is populism currently practiced in Poland?**
   The Polish government packed the courts with loyalists and sympathizers, restricted free speech by pushing out critical media sources, and criminalized the suggestion that Poland was even partially responsible for the Holocaust.

2. **According to the article, what is one reason Poles are supporting populism?**
   They believe the European Union is “trying to impose an elitist, secular vision.”

3. **Based on what you read in the article, why do civilians agree with a lot of the populist decisions?**
   One reason civilians support some of the populist decisions is because Poland is a highly Catholic country, and they want to reject the secularism the EU is pushing.