

# Populism

The global race to vaccinate is having a use beyond the narrowly medical. It is delineating two populisms that my trade likes to group into a Nationalist International.

The first kind is serious about the business of government. "Authoritarian" in the roundest sense, it turns the brawn of the state on social ills, real or perceived, not just political rivals.

...  
President Jair Bolsonaro of Brazil embodies [the other populism], as do the US Republicans, some of whom took until last week to commend the vaccine to their voters. This is populism as cussed and near anarchic defiance of received opinion. It is ruthless in the pursuit of power but lax to the point of dereliction in its exercise.

...  
Distinguish these ... as Old World and New World ... or as "heavy" and "light", but distinguish them.

**Janan Ganesh, Financial Times, July 27, 2021**