Political shocks and online communities

Evidence of asymmetric consolidation in France and Sweden

Muhammad Umer Gurchani | Journal of Information Technology & Politics, 2026

13
political events

2
countries

2014–2021
study period

What the study reports

A relative populist-right advantage in changes to internal concentration in **10 of 13 events**. For inferred tie volume, the count is **7 of 13**. Internal concentration is the share of observed follow ties staying within the same community, compared with changes in other communities.

The cumulative pattern is **clearest in Sweden**. The French pattern is weaker and mixed. Responses vary across events.

Why this is useful

The findings provide a comparative case for research on political shocks, homophily and network polarization. They show why the volume of activity and the concentration of ties should be examined separately.

What the evidence cannot establish

Follow timing is inferred from ordered follow lists and account creation dates. The study is observational, and the country datasets differ. It does not measure changes in political beliefs or identify the mechanism behind the pattern.

Read and cite the article

Gurchani, M. U. (2026). Political shocks asymmetrically consolidate right-wing communities on Twitter. *Journal of Information Technology & Politics*. Advance online publication.

doi.org/10.1080/19331681.2026.2734861

Explanatory summary of the study. This brief is not the full article or accepted manuscript.