This is EXACTLY right: the Left has always understood progress to move ever-more-Left. Hungary is a challenge to their worldview.

As a person who is not a registered foreign agent, it strikes me that much of the criticism of Hungary and Poland by American elites is directly due to the challenge those countries governing parties make to the idea that only left liberal solutions are possible in a ‘democracy.’

I have more than once, in two countries, voted for parties/candidates whose mottos were essentially, ‘Not right, not left. Forward.’

This is EXACTLY right: the Left has always understood progress to move ever-more-Left. Hungary is a challenge to their worldview.

Also, Hungary and Poland challenge their default worldview setting of "We need to be more like Europe"

And why Brexit gave the U.S. Left conniptions

Maybe, but limiting free speech & freedom of association, along with outright racism might challenge your characterisation – unless you're down with limiting freedoms.