

REASONS FOR AUTHORITARIAN RULE

REASONS FOR AUTHORITARIAN RULE ARE MULTIFACETED AND OFTEN ROOTED IN A COMBINATION OF POLITICAL, SOCIAL, ECONOMIC, AND HISTORICAL FACTORS. UNDERSTANDING WHY AUTHORITARIAN REGIMES EMERGE AND PERSIST REQUIRES AN EXAMINATION OF THESE UNDERLYING CAUSES THAT COMPEL SOCIETIES OR LEADERS TO ADOPT CENTRALIZED, OFTEN OPPRESSIVE GOVERNANCE STRUCTURES. THIS ARTICLE EXPLORES THE PRIMARY DRIVERS BEHIND AUTHORITARIANISM, INCLUDING POLITICAL INSTABILITY, ECONOMIC CRISES, SOCIAL DIVISIONS, AND EXTERNAL INFLUENCES. IT ALSO ADDRESSES HOW FEAR, PROPAGANDA, AND INSTITUTIONAL WEAKNESSES CONTRIBUTE TO THE CONSOLIDATION OF AUTHORITARIAN POWER. BY ANALYZING THESE REASONS FOR AUTHORITARIAN RULE, POLICYMAKERS AND SCHOLARS CAN BETTER COMPREHEND THE CONDITIONS THAT FOSTER SUCH REGIMES AND THE CHALLENGES THEY POSE TO DEMOCRACY AND HUMAN RIGHTS. THE FOLLOWING SECTIONS DELVE INTO THESE COMPLEX FACTORS AND THEIR IMPLICATIONS.

- POLITICAL INSTABILITY AND WEAK INSTITUTIONS
- ECONOMIC FACTORS CONTRIBUTING TO AUTHORITARIANISM
- SOCIAL AND CULTURAL INFLUENCES
- ROLE OF FEAR, PROPAGANDA, AND CONTROL
- EXTERNAL INFLUENCES AND GEOPOLITICAL CONTEXT

POLITICAL INSTABILITY AND WEAK INSTITUTIONS

ONE OF THE MOST SIGNIFICANT REASONS FOR AUTHORITARIAN RULE IS POLITICAL INSTABILITY COMBINED WITH WEAK STATE INSTITUTIONS. WHEN DEMOCRATIC STRUCTURES ARE FRAGILE OR NONEXISTENT, IT CREATES A POWER VACUUM THAT AUTHORITARIAN LEADERS CAN EXPLOIT. POLITICAL INSTABILITY OFTEN MANIFESTS AS FREQUENT GOVERNMENT CHANGES, CIVIL UNREST, OR INEFFECTIVE GOVERNANCE, WHICH ERODES PUBLIC TRUST AND OPENS THE DOOR TO AUTHORITARIANISM.

COLLAPSE OF DEMOCRATIC PROCESSES

IN MANY CASES, DEMOCRATIC PROCESSES COLLAPSE DUE TO CORRUPTION, ELECTORAL FRAUD, OR MANIPULATION OF LEGAL FRAMEWORKS. WHEN ELECTIONS ARE PERCEIVED AS UNFAIR OR WHEN OPPOSITION PARTIES ARE SUPPRESSED, CITIZENS MAY SUPPORT AUTHORITARIAN LEADERS WHO PROMISE ORDER AND STABILITY. THIS BREAKDOWN IN DEMOCRATIC NORMS CAN BE A DIRECT REASON FOR AUTHORITARIAN RULE, AS THE STATE NO LONGER FUNCTIONS UNDER PRINCIPLES OF ACCOUNTABILITY AND PLURALISM.

WEAK RULE OF LAW AND JUDICIAL SYSTEMS

AUTHORITARIAN REGIMES OFTEN EMERGE WHERE THE RULE OF LAW IS WEAK AND JUDICIAL SYSTEMS LACK INDEPENDENCE. WITHOUT CHECKS AND BALANCES, LEADERS CAN CONSOLIDATE POWER BY UNDERMINING LEGAL INSTITUTIONS, CONTROLLING COURTS, AND SILENCING DISSENT. WEAK INSTITUTIONS FAIL TO PROTECT CITIZENS' RIGHTS OR ENFORCE LAWS IMPARTIALLY, ALLOWING AUTHORITARIAN GOVERNMENTS TO ENTRENCH THEIR CONTROL.

ECONOMIC FACTORS CONTRIBUTING TO AUTHORITARIANISM

ECONOMIC INSTABILITY AND CRISES ARE POWERFUL CATALYSTS FOR AUTHORITARIAN RULE. HIGH UNEMPLOYMENT, INFLATION, POVERTY, AND ECONOMIC INEQUALITY CREATE WIDESPREAD DISSATISFACTION, MAKING POPULATIONS MORE SUSCEPTIBLE TO AUTHORITARIAN PROMISES OF ECONOMIC RECOVERY AND SOCIAL ORDER. ECONOMIC GRIEVANCES OFTEN LEAD TO SOCIAL UNREST, WHICH AUTHORITARIAN LEADERS EXPLOIT TO JUSTIFY THEIR RULE.

ECONOMIC CRISES AND PUBLIC DISCONTENT

SEVERE ECONOMIC DOWNTURNS UNDERMINE THE LEGITIMACY OF EXISTING GOVERNMENTS AND FUEL DEMANDS FOR STRONG LEADERSHIP. IN SUCH CONTEXTS, AUTHORITARIAN REGIMES MAY PORTRAY THEMSELVES AS CAPABLE OF RESTORING ECONOMIC STABILITY THROUGH CENTRALIZED CONTROL. THIS ECONOMIC RATIONALE IS A COMMON REASON FOR AUTHORITARIAN RULE, ESPECIALLY IN COUNTRIES STRUGGLING WITH DEVELOPMENT CHALLENGES.

RESOURCE CONTROL AND PATRONAGE SYSTEMS

CONTROL OVER NATURAL RESOURCES AND ECONOMIC ASSETS ENABLES AUTHORITARIAN REGIMES TO MAINTAIN POWER THROUGH PATRONAGE AND CLIENTELISM. BY DISTRIBUTING WEALTH SELECTIVELY TO LOYAL GROUPS, AUTHORITARIAN LEADERS BUILD A SUPPORT BASE THAT HELPS SUPPRESS OPPOSITION. THIS ECONOMIC CONTROL MECHANISM IS AN IMPORTANT REASON FOR AUTHORITARIAN RULE, LINKING ECONOMIC INTERESTS WITH POLITICAL DOMINANCE.

SOCIAL AND CULTURAL INFLUENCES

SOCIAL DIVISIONS AND CULTURAL FACTORS SIGNIFICANTLY INFLUENCE THE RISE OF AUTHORITARIANISM. ETHNIC, RELIGIOUS, OR IDEOLOGICAL CONFLICTS CAN FRAGMENT SOCIETIES, MAKING THEM VULNERABLE TO AUTHORITARIAN CONTROL AS A MEANS OF ENFORCING UNITY OR SUPPRESSING DISSENT. ADDITIONALLY, CULTURAL NORMS THAT FAVOR HIERARCHICAL AUTHORITY MAY PREDISPOSE SOCIETIES TO ACCEPT AUTHORITARIAN GOVERNANCE.

ETHNIC AND SECTARIAN CONFLICTS

IN DIVERSE SOCIETIES WITH DEEP ETHNIC OR SECTARIAN DIVISIONS, AUTHORITARIAN RULE CAN BE JUSTIFIED AS NECESSARY TO MAINTAIN ORDER AND PREVENT VIOLENCE. LEADERS OFTEN EXPLOIT SUCH CLEAVAGES TO RALLY SUPPORT FROM CERTAIN GROUPS WHILE MARGINALIZING OTHERS. THESE SOCIAL FRACTURES ARE A CRITICAL REASON FOR AUTHORITARIAN RULE, AS THEY UNDERMINE NATIONAL COHESION AND DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE.

CULTURAL ACCEPTANCE OF AUTHORITARIANISM

SOME CULTURES HAVE HISTORICAL TRADITIONS OF CENTRALIZED AUTHORITY AND MAY VIEW AUTHORITARIAN LEADERSHIP AS LEGITIMATE OR PREFERABLE. IN THESE CONTEXTS, CITIZENS MIGHT PRIORITIZE STABILITY AND SECURITY OVER POLITICAL FREEDOMS, PROVIDING FERTILE GROUND FOR AUTHORITARIAN REGIMES TO FLOURISH. CULTURAL ATTITUDES TOWARD AUTHORITY THUS CONTRIBUTE TO THE PERSISTENCE OF AUTHORITARIAN RULE.

ROLE OF FEAR, PROPAGANDA, AND CONTROL

AUTHORITARIAN GOVERNMENTS FREQUENTLY RELY ON FEAR, PROPAGANDA, AND CONTROL MECHANISMS TO MAINTAIN THEIR POWER. THESE TOOLS SUPPRESS OPPOSITION, MANIPULATE PUBLIC OPINION, AND CONSOLIDATE AUTHORITY, MAKING IT DIFFICULT FOR DEMOCRATIC FORCES TO EMERGE OR THRIVE.

USE OF REPRESSION AND SURVEILLANCE

REPRESSIVE TACTICS SUCH AS CENSORSHIP, IMPRISONMENT OF POLITICAL OPPONENTS, AND EXTENSIVE SURVEILLANCE PREVENT DISSENT AND DISCOURAGE CHALLENGES TO AUTHORITARIAN RULE. FEAR OF PERSECUTION COMPELS CITIZENS TO CONFORM, THEREBY STABILIZING AUTHORITARIAN REGIMES. THIS CONTROL THROUGH COERCION IS A FUNDAMENTAL REASON FOR AUTHORITARIAN RULE'S DURABILITY.

PROPAGANDA AND INFORMATION CONTROL

AUTHORITARIAN REGIMES OFTEN CONTROL MEDIA AND DISSEMINATE PROPAGANDA TO SHAPE PUBLIC PERCEPTION. BY CONTROLLING INFORMATION, THEY CAN LEGITIMIZE THEIR RULE, DISCREDIT OPPONENTS, AND MANIPULATE NATIONAL NARRATIVES. EFFECTIVE PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGNS REINFORCE AUTHORITARIAN POWER BY INFLUENCING SOCIETAL BELIEFS AND MINIMIZING RESISTANCE.

EXTERNAL INFLUENCES AND GEOPOLITICAL CONTEXT

INTERNATIONAL FACTORS ALSO PLAY A SIGNIFICANT ROLE IN THE EMERGENCE AND MAINTENANCE OF AUTHORITARIAN RULE. FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS, GEOPOLITICAL RIVALRIES, AND GLOBAL ECONOMIC PRESSURES CAN SUPPORT OR UNDERMINE AUTHORITARIAN REGIMES DEPENDING ON STRATEGIC INTERESTS.

FOREIGN SUPPORT AND INTERVENTION

SOME AUTHORITARIAN REGIMES RECEIVE DIRECT OR INDIRECT SUPPORT FROM FOREIGN POWERS SEEKING TO ADVANCE THEIR GEOPOLITICAL AGENDAS. THIS EXTERNAL BACKING CAN PROVIDE FINANCIAL AID, MILITARY ASSISTANCE, OR DIPLOMATIC COVER, ENABLING AUTHORITARIAN GOVERNMENTS TO RESIST INTERNAL AND INTERNATIONAL PRESSURES FOR DEMOCRATIZATION.

GLOBAL ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL PRESSURES

GLOBALIZATION AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC DEPENDENCIES CAN EITHER CHALLENGE OR REINFORCE AUTHORITARIAN RULE. ECONOMIC SANCTIONS, TRADE RELATIONS, AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS INFLUENCE REGIME STABILITY. IN SOME CASES, AUTHORITARIAN LEADERS ADAPT TO GLOBAL PRESSURES BY IMPLEMENTING LIMITED REFORMS WHILE MAINTAINING CORE AUTHORITARIAN CONTROLS.

SUMMARY OF KEY REASONS FOR AUTHORITARIAN RULE

- POLITICAL INSTABILITY AND WEAK DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS

- ECONOMIC CRISES AND CONTROL OVER RESOURCES
- SOCIAL DIVISIONS AND CULTURAL PREDISPOSITIONS
- USE OF FEAR, PROPAGANDA, AND REPRESSION
- EXTERNAL GEOPOLITICAL AND ECONOMIC INFLUENCES

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHAT ARE COMMON ECONOMIC REASONS FOR THE RISE OF AUTHORITARIAN RULE?

ECONOMIC INSTABILITY, SUCH AS HIGH INFLATION, UNEMPLOYMENT, AND POVERTY, CAN LEAD TO DISSATISFACTION WITH DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENTS AND CREATE OPPORTUNITIES FOR AUTHORITARIAN LEADERS TO PROMISE ORDER AND ECONOMIC RECOVERY.

HOW DOES POLITICAL INSTABILITY CONTRIBUTE TO AUTHORITARIAN RULE?

POLITICAL INSTABILITY, INCLUDING WEAK INSTITUTIONS, CORRUPTION, AND FREQUENT GOVERNMENT CHANGES, CAN UNDERMINE PUBLIC TRUST IN DEMOCRACY AND ENCOURAGE THE CONSOLIDATION OF POWER BY AUTHORITARIAN REGIMES TO RESTORE STABILITY.

IN WHAT WAYS CAN FEAR AND INSECURITY LEAD TO AUTHORITARIANISM?

THREATS SUCH AS TERRORISM, WAR, OR INTERNAL CONFLICT CAN CAUSE POPULATIONS TO PRIORITIZE SECURITY OVER FREEDOMS, ALLOWING AUTHORITARIAN LEADERS TO JUSTIFY STRICT CONTROL AND LIMIT CIVIL LIBERTIES IN THE NAME OF PROTECTION.

HOW DO CULTURAL FACTORS INFLUENCE THE EMERGENCE OF AUTHORITARIAN GOVERNMENTS?

CERTAIN CULTURAL FACTORS, SUCH AS A HISTORY OF CENTRALIZED RULE, COLLECTIVIST VALUES, OR LOW EMPHASIS ON INDIVIDUALISM, CAN MAKE SOCIETIES MORE ACCEPTING OF AUTHORITARIAN LEADERSHIP STYLES.

WHAT ROLE DOES THE WEAKNESS OF DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS PLAY IN AUTHORITARIAN RULE?

WEAK DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS, INCLUDING INEFFECTIVE CHECKS AND BALANCES AND LACK OF JUDICIAL INDEPENDENCE, CAN ENABLE LEADERS TO CONSOLIDATE POWER AND ERODE DEMOCRATIC NORMS, PAVING THE WAY FOR AUTHORITARIANISM.

CAN SOCIAL DIVISIONS AND INEQUALITY LEAD TO AUTHORITARIAN RULE?

YES, DEEP SOCIAL DIVISIONS AND HIGH INEQUALITY CAN CREATE SOCIETAL TENSIONS AND DISSATISFACTION, WHICH AUTHORITARIAN LEADERS EXPLOIT BY PROMISING UNITY AND FAIRNESS THROUGH CENTRALIZED AUTHORITY.

HOW DOES PROPAGANDA AND CONTROL OF INFORMATION SUPPORT AUTHORITARIAN REGIMES?

AUTHORITARIAN REGIMES OFTEN CONTROL MEDIA AND SPREAD PROPAGANDA TO MANIPULATE PUBLIC OPINION, SUPPRESS DISSENT, AND MAINTAIN THEIR POWER BY LIMITING CITIZENS' ACCESS TO INDEPENDENT INFORMATION.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

1. *AUTHORITARIANISM: WHAT EVERYONE NEEDS TO KNOW*

THIS BOOK BY ERICA FRANTZ OFFERS A COMPREHENSIVE OVERVIEW OF AUTHORITARIAN REGIMES, EXPLORING WHY AND HOW THEY EMERGE AND SUSTAIN POWER. IT EXAMINES THE SOCIAL, POLITICAL, AND ECONOMIC FACTORS THAT CONTRIBUTE TO AUTHORITARIAN RULE. THE TEXT ALSO DELVES INTO THE MECHANISMS USED BY LEADERS TO MAINTAIN CONTROL AND SUPPRESS OPPOSITION.

2. *THE ORIGINS OF POLITICAL ORDER: FROM PREHUMAN TIMES TO THE FRENCH REVOLUTION*

FRANCIS FUKUYAMA TRACES THE DEVELOPMENT OF POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS AND EXPLAINS HOW DIFFERENT SOCIETIES HAVE TRANSITIONED TO VARIOUS FORMS OF GOVERNANCE. THE BOOK HIGHLIGHTS THE CONDITIONS THAT FOSTER AUTHORITARIAN RULE, SUCH AS WEAK INSTITUTIONS AND LACK OF POLITICAL ACCOUNTABILITY. FUKUYAMA'S ANALYSIS PROVIDES A HISTORICAL CONTEXT FOR UNDERSTANDING MODERN AUTHORITARIANISM.

3. *HOW DEMOCRACIES DIE*

STEVEN LEVITSKY AND DANIEL ZIBLATT ANALYZE THE GRADUAL EROSION OF DEMOCRATIC NORMS, WHICH OFTEN LEADS TO AUTHORITARIANISM. THE AUTHORS DISCUSS THE ROLE OF POLITICAL POLARIZATION, WEAK INSTITUTIONS, AND POPULIST LEADERS IN UNDERMINING DEMOCRATIC SYSTEMS. THE BOOK OFFERS INSIGHTS INTO WHY SOME SOCIETIES SLIDE INTO AUTHORITARIAN RULE WHILE OTHERS DO NOT.

4. *THE DICTATOR'S HANDBOOK: WHY BAD BEHAVIOR IS ALMOST ALWAYS GOOD POLITICS*

BRUCE BUENO DE MESQUITA AND ALASTAIR SMITH EXPLORE THE INCENTIVES AND STRATEGIES THAT LEADERS USE TO STAY IN POWER, OFTEN LEADING TO AUTHORITARIAN GOVERNANCE. THEY ARGUE THAT POLITICAL SURVIVAL DEPENDS ON CONTROLLING KEY SUPPORTERS AND RESOURCES RATHER THAN IDEOLOGY OR PUBLIC WELFARE. THE BOOK PROVIDES A PRAGMATIC VIEW OF THE REASONS BEHIND AUTHORITARIAN RULE.

5. *STRONGMEN: MUSSOLINI TO THE PRESENT*

RYSZARD KAPUŚCIŃSKI PRESENTS A DETAILED EXAMINATION OF AUTHORITARIAN LEADERS THROUGHOUT HISTORY AND THE CONTEXTS THAT ENABLED THEIR RISE. THE BOOK DISCUSSES THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CONDITIONS THAT FACILITATE THE EMERGENCE OF STRONGMEN. IT ALSO REFLECTS ON THE PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS AND TACTICS THESE LEADERS EMPLOY TO MAINTAIN AUTHORITY.

6. *ON TYRANNY: TWENTY LESSONS FROM THE TWENTIETH CENTURY*

TIMOTHY SNYDER OFFERS A CONCISE GUIDE ON RECOGNIZING AND RESISTING AUTHORITARIANISM, DRAWING LESSONS FROM HISTORICAL TYRANNIES. THE BOOK EXPLAINS HOW AUTHORITARIAN RULERS EXPLOIT CRISES, FEAR, AND PROPAGANDA TO CONSOLIDATE POWER. SNYDER'S WORK HIGHLIGHTS THE WARNING SIGNS THAT PRECEDE AUTHORITARIAN RULE.

7. *THE ANATOMY OF FASCISM*

ROBERT O. PAXTON EXAMINES THE SOCIAL AND POLITICAL DYNAMICS THAT GIVE RISE TO FASCIST REGIMES, A SPECIFIC FORM OF AUTHORITARIANISM. HE EXPLORES HOW ECONOMIC INSTABILITY, SOCIAL UNREST, AND POLITICAL FRAGMENTATION CREATE FERTILE GROUND FOR AUTHORITARIAN MOVEMENTS. THE BOOK PROVIDES A FRAMEWORK FOR UNDERSTANDING THE APPEAL AND DANGERS OF FASCIST RULE.

8. *DICTATORS AND DEMOCRATS: MASSES, ELITES, AND REGIME CHANGE*

BARBARA GEDDES INVESTIGATES WHY SOME COUNTRIES FALL UNDER AUTHORITARIAN RULE WHILE OTHERS DEVELOP DEMOCRATIC SYSTEMS. THROUGH EMPIRICAL RESEARCH, SHE IDENTIFIES THE ROLES OF ELITES, MASS MOBILIZATION, AND INSTITUTIONAL STRUCTURES IN SHAPING POLITICAL OUTCOMES. THE BOOK SHEDS LIGHT ON THE COMPLEX INTERPLAY OF FACTORS LEADING TO AUTHORITARIANISM.

9. *STATES AND SOCIAL REVOLUTIONS: A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF FRANCE, RUSSIA, AND CHINA*

THEDA SKOCPOL ANALYZES THE SOCIAL REVOLUTIONS THAT RESULTED IN PROFOUND REGIME CHANGES AND OFTEN LED TO AUTHORITARIAN GOVERNMENTS. SHE EMPHASIZES THE IMPORTANCE OF STATE STRUCTURES, CLASS RELATIONS, AND INTERNATIONAL PRESSURES IN THESE TRANSFORMATIONS. THE BOOK OFFERS A DEEP UNDERSTANDING OF THE CONDITIONS THAT PRODUCE AUTHORITARIAN RULE THROUGH REVOLUTIONARY UPHEAVAL.

Reasons For Authoritarian Rule

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reasons for authoritarian rule: *The International Politics of Authoritarian Rule* Oisín Tansey, 2016 Autocrats must overcome a range of challenges as they seek to gain and maintain political power, including the threat that comes from both rival elites and discontented publics. The *International Politics of Authoritarian Rule* examines the ways in which international forces can encourage and assist autocratic actors in overcoming these challenges. Often, autocratic incumbents are strengthened in power by events on the international stage and by the active support of international allies. The book offers a typology of different international forms of influence on authoritarianism, and examines the ways in which external forces shape autocratic rule at the domestic level. The typology distinguishes between three broad forms of international influence: passive influences, unintended consequences, and active forms of external autocratic sponsorship. The book focuses in particular on the latter category, and examines intentional autocratic sponsorship in the post-Cold War period. A central contribution of the book is to address the question of how international autocratic sponsorship can bolster authoritarian rule. It highlights the ways in which international sponsorship can contribute to authoritarian practices in three significant ways: by increasing the likelihood that authoritarian regimes will pursue 'authoritarian practices' (such as coups, repression or election fraud), by contributing to the implementation of those practices, and finally by shielding autocratic actors from international punishment after such practices are pursued. External sponsorship can thus lower the costs of authoritarian behaviour, and protect and shield authoritarian regimes from the negative consequences of their actions. *Oxford Studies in Democratization* is a series for scholars and students of comparative politics and related disciplines. Volumes concentrate on the comparative study of the democratization process that accompanied the decline and termination of the cold war. The geographical focus of the series is primarily Latin America, the Caribbean, Southern and Eastern Europe, and relevant experiences in Africa and Asia. The series editor is Laurence Whitehead, Senior Research Fellow, Nuffield College, University of Oxford.

reasons for authoritarian rule: *Transitions from Authoritarian Rule* Guillermo O'Donnell, Philippe C. Schmitter, Laurence Whitehead, 2013-07-16 An array of internationally noted scholars examines the process of democratization in Southern Europe and Latin America. The authors provide new interpretations of both current and historical efforts of nations to end periods of authoritarian rule and to initiate transition to democracy, efforts that have met with widely varying degrees of success and failure. Extensive case studies of individual countries, a comparative overview, and a synthesis conclusions offer important insights for political scientists, students, and all concerned with the prospects for democracy. In Volume 3, despite the unique contexts of transitions in individual countries, significant points of comparison emerge — such as the influence of foreign nations and the role of agents outside the government. These analyses explore both intra- and interregional similarities and differences.

reasons for authoritarian rule: *Authoritarian Rule of Law* Jothie Rajah, 2012-04-16 Through a focus on Singapore, this book presents an analysis of authoritarian legalism, showing how prosperity, public discourse, and a rigorous observance of legal procedure enable a reconfigured rule of law - liberal form but illiberal content. It shows how institutions and process become tools to constrain dissenting citizens while protecting those in political power.

reasons for authoritarian rule: *What Do We Know and What Should We Do About*

Authoritarian Regimes? Natasha Lindstaedt, 2024-01-05 At least 70% of the world's population now lives under an autocracy. There are more openly authoritarian states than ever, democratic regimes are 'backsliding' into autocracy, and authoritarian values and practices are increasingly normalized. Regimes in China and Russia are as prominent and urgent as ever, but authoritarianism is spreading across the globe. Why is this happening? What can we do about it? This book is a concise and compelling exploration of the increasing number and influence of authoritarian regimes. It explains the realities of recent trends to 'autocratisation', the tools these regimes use, what we can do to resist, and why we might even allow ourselves a degree of optimism. Professor Natasha Lindstaedt works at the Department of Government at the University of Essex. The 'What Do We Know and What Should We Do About...?' series offers readers short, up-to-date overviews of key issues often misrepresented, simplified or misunderstood in modern society and the media. Each book is written by a leading social scientist with an established reputation in the relevant subject area. Short, sharp and compelling. - Alex Preston, *The Observer* If you want to learn a lot about what matters most, in as short a time as possible, this is the series for you. - Danny Dorling, Halford Mackinder Professor of Geography, University of Oxford

reasons for authoritarian rule: Moral Opposition to Authoritarian Rule in Chile, 1973-90 P. Lowden, 1995-12-17 The book examines the political importance of moral opposition to authoritarian rule in Chile, 1973-90, as a challenge to the government's systematic human rights' violations. It was initially led by the Catholic Church, whose primate founded an organisation to defend human rights: the Vicariate of Solidarity (1976-92). The book assesses the impact of moral opposition as a force for redemocratisation by tracing the history and achievements of the Vicariate. It also argues that such moral matters are often underestimated in regime transition analysis.

reasons for authoritarian rule: Transitions from Authoritarian Rule Guillermo A. O'Donnell, 1986-09 An array of internationally noted scholars examines the process of democratization in southern Europe and Latin America. They provide new interpretations of both current and historical efforts of nations to end periods of authoritarian rule and to initiate transition to democracy, efforts that have met with widely varying degrees of success and failure. Extensive case studies of individual countries, a comparative overview, and a synthesis conclusions offer important insights for political scientists, students, and all concerned with the prospects for democracy. The historical example of Italy after Mussolini as well as the more recent cases of Greece, Portugal, Spain, and Turkey suggest factors that may make a transition relatively secure.

reasons for authoritarian rule: Excessive Loyalism in Putin's Authoritarian Regime Alexander Libman, 2025-09-26 This book provides new insights into how excessive loyalism hinders Russia's authoritarian government. When Russian bureaucrats, diplomats and academics go to great lengths to display their loyalty to the regime in Moscow, many observers regard it as a show of regime's strength. Yet where this results in overcompliance, excessive praise or needlessly aggressive rhetoric, it becomes a source of weakness – not only alienating citizens at home and irritating allies abroad but even contributing to costly strategic mistakes, such as Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine. The book engages with an intractable dilemma facing the regime: it cannot punish these actors for being too loyal, but it also cannot allow such expressions of loyalty to break the boundaries it sets. The author helps explain why the regime has repeatedly stunned the international community with unexpected political moves and, in several cases, become its own worst enemy. In doing so, he illuminates many of the dynamics through which sycophancy undermines authoritarian governments across the world. The book addresses a broad array of manifestations of excessive loyalism and sycophancy in Russia – from rude and offensive comments of bureaucrats to rhetorical dissonance in the foreign policy to politically motivated rhetoric in the Russian academia. It combines quantitative and qualitative tools to study sycophancy empirically and develops a theory of excessive loyalism, which is applicable well beyond the Russian case. Alexander Libman is Professor of Russian and East European Politics at the Freie Universität Berlin, Germany. His main research interests include comparative politics of authoritarian regimes, Russian politics, historical legacies of authoritarianism and authoritarian cooperation in the post-Soviet

Eurasia. His work has been published, among others, in the American Political Science Review, Comparative Political Studies, World Politics, Perspectives on Politics and British Journal of Political Science.

reasons for authoritarian rule: Authoritarianism Erica Frantz, 2018-08-01 In *Authoritarianism: What Everyone Needs to Know®*, Erica Frantz guides us through today's authoritarian wave, explaining how it came to be and what its features are. She also looks at authoritarians themselves, focusing in particular on the techniques they use to take power, the strategies they use to survive, and how they fall. She stresses throughout that the type of authoritarian regime is important for understanding political outcomes.

reasons for authoritarian rule: Democratization and Authoritarianism in the Arab World Larry Diamond, Marc F. Plattner, 2014-04-01 Three years after the first mass protests of the Arab Spring, senior scholars weigh in on how democracy is faring. Beginning in December 2010, a series of uprisings swept the Arab world, toppling four longtime leaders and creating an apparent political opening in a region long impervious to the "third wave" of democratization. Despite the initial euphoria, the legacies of authoritarianism—polarized societies, politicized militaries, state-centric economies, and pervasive clientelism—have proven stubborn obstacles to the fashioning of new political and social contracts. Meanwhile, the strong electoral performance of political Islamists and the ensuing backlash in Egypt have rekindled arguments about the compatibility of democracy and political Islam. Even though progress toward democracy has been halting at best, the region's political environment today bears little resemblance to what it was before the uprisings. In *Democratization and Authoritarianism in the Arab World*, leading scholars address the questions posed by this period of historic change in the Middle East and North Africa. This volume includes chapters examining several broad themes: the region's shifting political culture, the relationship between democracy and political Islam, the legacy of authoritarian ruling arrangements, the strengths and vulnerabilities of remaining autocracies, and the lessons learned from transitions to democracy in other parts of the world. It also features chapters analyzing the political development of individual countries: Algeria, Bahrain, Egypt, Jordan, Libya, Morocco, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Tunisia, Yemen, and the monarchies of the Gulf. Contributors Hicham Ben Abdallah El Alaoui April Longley Alley Zoltan Barany Ahmed Benchemsi Mieczysław P. Boduszyński Nathan J. Brown Jason Brownlee Daniel Brumberg John M. Carey Michele Dunne Abdou Filali-Ansary Hillel Fradkin F. Gregory Gause III Husain Haqqani Steven Heydemann Philip N. Howard Muzammil M. Hussain Amaney Jamal Stéphane Lacroix Juan J. Linz Tarek Masoud Marc F. Plattner Tarek Radwan Hamadi Redissi Andrew Reynolds Michael Robbins Olivier Roy Peter J. Schraeder Alfred Stepan Mark Tessler Frédéric Volpi Lucan Way Frederic Wehrey Sean L. Yom

reasons for authoritarian rule: The Internationalization of Communal Strife (Routledge Revivals) Manus I. Midlarsky, 2014-06-03 First published in 1992, this edited collection argues that conflicts have a growing tendency both to intensify and to lengthen, thus increasing the likelihood of external actors being drawn into the on-going violence. Here, leading experts in comparative and international politics examine this tendency of communal conflicts to spill over into the international arena. They also look at the conditions under which these processes do not occur and are mediated successfully. The authors combine theoretical perspectives with case studies, covering examples from the origins of the First World War, to state building in Iraq, and whether it was a precursor of the Iran-Iraq War and the Gulf Crisis. They present both a global overview and a focus on the state as the single most important intermediary in the internationalization process. A comprehensive and relevant reissue, this volume will appeal to students and scholars of International Relations, Comparative Politics and Strategic Studies.

reasons for authoritarian rule: The Dynamics of Democratization Geoffrey Pridham, 2001-01-01 A systematic comparison of three cases of democratization and regime transformation in Europe since 1945, this book highlights diversities of historical context

reasons for authoritarian rule: The Grounds of Political Legitimacy Fabienne Peter, 2023 Fabienne Peter argues that political legitimacy doesn't just depend on respect for the will of the

citizens. The Grounds of Political Legitimacy compares democratic and non-democratic conceptions of legitimacy and develops a novel hybrid conception of the grounds of political legitimacy.

reasons for authoritarian rule: The Causes of Post-Mobilization Leadership Change and Continuity Vasili Rukhadze, 2021-08-24 Large, fragmented coalitions disintegrate

reasons for authoritarian rule: Transparency and Authoritarian Rule in Southeast Asia Garry Rodan, 2004-08-02 This book rejects the notion that the 1997-98 Asian economic crisis was further evidence that ultimately capitalism can only develop within liberal social and political institutions.

reasons for authoritarian rule: Totalitarian and Authoritarian Regimes Juan José Linz, 2000 Originally a chapter in the Handbook of Political Science, this analysis develops the fundamental distinction between totalitarian and authoritarian systems. It emphasizes the personalistic, lawless, non-ideological type of authoritarian rule the author calls the sultanistic regime.

reasons for authoritarian rule: Crises in Authoritarian Regimes Jörg Baberowski, Martin Wagner, 2022-01-19 Krisen offenbaren die Fragilität der Ordnung und fordern die Macht heraus. Wie gehen autoritäre Regime mit ihnen um? Welche Stärken und Schwächen zeigen sie in der Krisenbewältigung, verglichen mit demokratischen Ordnungen? Wie lässt sich ihre Anpassungsfähigkeit und Persistenz erklären? Die Beiträge dieses Bandes verbinden die Sichtweisen von Politikwissenschaft, Geschichte, Literaturwissenschaft, Soziologie und Regionalwissenschaften auf gegenwärtige und untergegangene Regime in Afrika, Ost- und Zentralasien, Ost- und Westeuropa und Lateinamerika. Die Fallstudien beleuchten die Verdichtung autoritärer Herrschaft in der Krise, die meist zwei konträre Ziele verfolgt: die Stabilität zu erhalten und die eigene Herrschaft zu erneuern.

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