

How Fascism and Authoritarianism Are Expanding in the USA

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Abstract : While the explosion of autocratic governments is growing globally, perhaps nowhere is it more obvious than in the United States since 2015. In that nation, democracy is increasingly caving to extreme Right-wing movements, especially after Donald Trump lost to Joe Biden in the 2020 election. Angered by that rejection, he and his support groups that foster extremism began an all-out assault on freedom, beginning with the attack on the US Capitol itself on January 6, 2021. Since then, following Trump's two presidential impeachments, 34 felony convictions, 88 impending court cases by the Department of Justice, and crimes by some of his most ardent co-conspirators, the rule of law, traditional political values, and even the Constitution became threatened. Now, since his Nov. 5, 2024, campaign victory, the dark clouds of autocracies loom larger every day. To wit: Appointments to Trump's cabinet are all extremists promising to eliminate major beneficiary citizen programs such as healthcare, civil rights, education, justice, and a massive move to drive millions of immigrants from the country. The political divide is at its highest extreme since the 1861 Civil War between North and South. Autocratization is manifest daily in fake news media, as well as traditional conspiracy organizations such as politically violent motorcycle gangs, the John Birch Society, Eagle Forum, and Anti-Constitutional Sheriffs and other law enforcement groups. Even worse is the expansion of violent groups such as the Proud Boys, Aryan Nations, Patriot Front, White Nationalists, Stormfront, Oath Keepers, Three Percenters, Ku Klux Klan, Moms for Liberty, American Nazi Party, Operation Homeland, Skinhead organizations, America First, Veterans on Patrol, hundreds of militia groups from coast to coast, and of course, hundreds more under the banner of Trump's movement, 'Make America Great Again.' This paper will draw on the author's decades of researching these groups and Trump's new authoritarian agenda. Qualitative data will include expert analysis from multiple academic disciplines as Americans, and the larger world seek to understand these dangerous U.S. trends and future prospects. The paper concludes by sharing the prospects of America's future over the next four years, or longer if Trump's vow to be a dictator is extended.

Keywords : American authoritarianism, trump, fascism, conspiracies, extremism

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