

# It Can Happen Here: Critical Interventions in a Time of Rising Authoritarianism

Authoritarianism is on the rise around the world. In the United States, we have seen the rise of a demagogic president who has attacked the media, the judiciary, and the rule of law. In Europe, far-right parties are gaining ground in countries like Hungary, Poland, and Italy. In Latin America, we have seen the rise of authoritarian leaders in countries like Venezuela and Nicaragua.



## Rising Fascism in America: It Can Happen Here (Critical Interventions) by Thierry Malleret

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

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The rise of authoritarianism is a threat to democracy and human rights. Authoritarian regimes are characterized by the concentration of power in the hands of a single individual or a small group of people. They often suppress dissent and restrict freedom of speech, assembly, and the press. Authoritarian regimes can lead to violence, repression, and even genocide.

There are a number of factors that have contributed to the rise of authoritarianism around the world. These include:

- The rise of economic inequality
- The decline of trust in government and institutions
- The spread of misinformation and disinformation
- The rise of social media and the internet

The rise of authoritarianism is a complex phenomenon that requires a multifaceted response. There is no single solution to the problem of authoritarianism. However, there are a number of things that we can do to resist authoritarianism and promote democracy.

One of the most important things that we can do is to educate ourselves about authoritarianism. We need to understand the history of authoritarianism and the different forms that it can take. We also need to be aware of the warning signs of authoritarianism and the strategies that authoritarian leaders use to gain and maintain power.

Another important thing that we can do is to support independent media and journalism. Independent media outlets can provide accurate and unbiased information about the world. They can also hold authoritarian leaders accountable for their actions.

We also need to support organizations that are working to promote democracy and human rights. These organizations can provide support to victims of authoritarianism and help to build democratic institutions.

Finally, we need to be active in our own communities. We need to get involved in local politics and hold our elected officials accountable. We also need to support community organizations that are working to promote social justice and democracy.

The rise of authoritarianism is a serious threat to democracy and human rights. However, it is not inevitable. We can resist authoritarianism and promote democracy by educating ourselves, supporting independent media, and getting involved in our communities.

## **Critical Interventions**

In addition to the general strategies for resisting authoritarianism outlined above, there are a number of specific critical interventions that we can make.

- **Challenge authoritarian discourse.** Authoritarian leaders often use a particular kind of discourse that is characterized by fear, anger, and division. They may use scapegoats to blame for society's problems and they may use language that is inflammatory and dehumanizing. We can challenge authoritarian discourse by pointing out its fallacies and countering its emotional appeals.
- **Support movements for social justice.** Movements for social justice are often led by marginalized groups who are disproportionately affected by authoritarianism. By supporting these movements, we can help to build a more just and equitable society that is less susceptible to authoritarianism.
- **Build alliances with other groups.** Authoritarianism can only be defeated if we work together. We need to build alliances with other

groups who are also committed to fighting authoritarianism. These alliances can include labor unions, environmental groups, civil rights groups, and religious groups.

- **Be prepared to take action.** There may come a time when we need to take action to resist authoritarianism. This could involve attending protests, boycotting businesses, or even engaging in civil disobedience. We need to be prepared to take action if necessary to defend our democracy.

The rise of authoritarianism is a serious threat, but it is not inevitable. We can resist authoritarianism and promote democracy by educating ourselves, supporting independent media, and getting involved in our communities. We can also make critical interventions by challenging authoritarian discourse, supporting movements for social justice, building alliances with other groups, and being prepared to take action.

By working together, we can build a world where democracy and human rights are respected and protected.



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