

Democracy in Retreat: Is Authoritarianism the New Normal?

Outline:

I Introduction

Thesis: Although a significant portion of the world still lives under democratic systems, various indicators suggest that the global trend is ~~suggesting~~ shifting rapidly towards authoritarianism. The concentration of power in the hands of a few authoritarian leaders—across political, economic, and social spheres—demonstrates this shift and underscores the detrimental consequences it has having on the world.

II Defining the term

- i) Democracy
- ii) Authoritarianism

III How is Authoritarianism Becoming the New Normal?

A- Collapse of international institutions
case in point: Growing irrelevance
of UN, WTO, etc

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B- Rise of Populist Leaders

case in point: Trump in USA

Giorgia Meloni in Italy

C- Attacks on media and opposition

case in point: Turkey under Tayyip Erdogan

D- Strategic manipulation of elections.

case in point: Pakistan General Election 2022

E- Use of ultra-nationalism for personal gains

case in point: Netanyahu's war in Gaza

to retain power — NYT

F- Suppression of religious and ethnic minorities

case in point: Modi's government anti-Muslim policies

G- Erosion of separation of power

case in point: Executive overreach in the USA

H- Manipulation of laws and institutions

to entrench their power

case in point: Georgia's Foreign Agent Law / Russian Law

IV Consequences of the Rise of Authoritarianism on ^{the} World ~~Order~~

A- Erosion of Democratic norms and civility

B- Rule of conservatives Leading towards intolerance

C- Spread of conspiracy theories and misinformation. Ghazi Paper

V Democracy is Not in Retreat-Counter-Perspective

A- Democracies are strengthening and rising in number
case in point: 45.4% of population lives under democracies - Democracy Index

B- Rising respect for people's rights and mandate

C- Decline in number of direct military coups
case in point: Pakistan consecutive successful civilian transmission

VI A Case Study: Pakistan Shift for Civilian to Hybrid Regime

VII Conclusion

Over the course of human civilisation, man has lived under several forms of governments. He has witnessed the reign of pre-democratic societies - monarchy and ~~auto~~ autocracy. With the birth of the modern, conscious civilisation, the world gradually moved towards constitutional monarchy, and ultimately, liberal democracy. By the late twentieth

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century, several states had embraced liberal democracy as their form of government. Although a significant portion of the world still lives under democratic systems, various indicators suggest that the global trend is shifting rapidly towards authoritarianism. The concentration of power in the hands of a few authoritarian Leaders—across political, economic, and social spheres—demonstrates this shift and underscores the detrimental consequences it has having on the world. The collapse of international institutions, the rise of populist Leaders, and constant attacks on the media and dissent are all indicators of democracy's decline. Moreover, the suppression of religious and ethnic minorities, growing ultra-nationalism and manipulation of electoral mandate demonstrate that authoritarianism is on the rise. However, a certain segment of the society argues otherwise. They believe that a rise in the number of democracies, greater respect for human rights and a decline in direct military coups prove that democracy remains intact in the modern world. To sum up, democracy is in retreat, and authoritarian rule is spreading rapidly across the globe.

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