

**FREDERICK
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Resisting Authoritarianism

A Group Discussion

of On Tyranny: 20 Lessons from the 20th
Century

Agenda

- We are in Troubled Times
- On Tyranny
- Societal Resilience
- Lessons
 - Self
 - Community
 - Nation
 - World
 - Troubled Times
- Plan of Action

ON TYRANNY

TWENTY LESSONS
FROM THE
TWENTIETH CENTURY

TIMOTHY SNYDER

Troubled Times

- Democratic Backsliding / Creeping Authoritarianism
- Steps toward Tyranny
 - 9/11
 - Patriot Act – Surveillance of U.S. Persons
 - Guantanamo Bay – Detention without Trial
 - GWOT – Endless War (18 years and counting)
 - Trump Administration
 - Russian Election Interference – >120 million of Facebook contacts
 - Freedom of the Press – “fake news”, lawsuits
 - DOJ Interference – Roger Stone case, Comey & McCabe
 - Attacking Intelligence Community – fired DNI twice
- Trump now meets 7 of 10 tests for a “dictator”
 - per Stephen Walt, Foreign Policy magazine

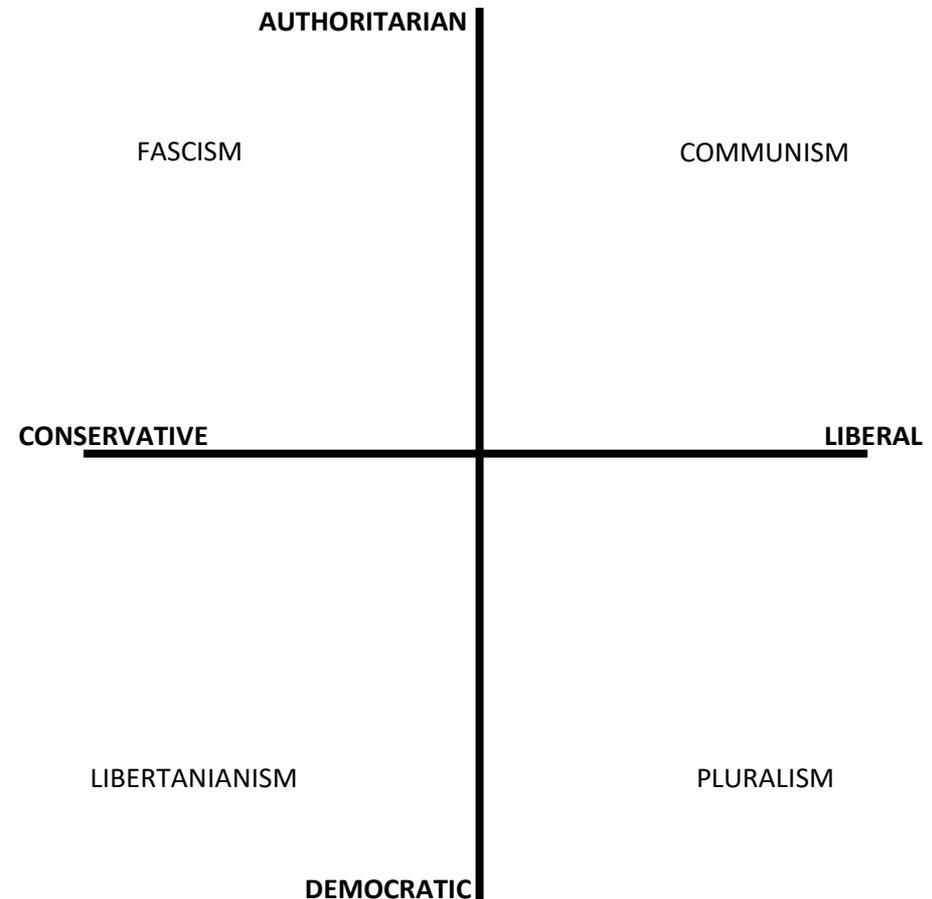
Threats to the Rule of Law

- Rule of Law is not only being weakened, but supplanted
 - “Friends and Enemies” – Carl Schmitt
 - German political philosopher, Nazi Party supporter
 - “For my friends everything, for my enemies the law”.
– Oscar R. Benavides, President of Peru
 - No one is “impartial”
 - “I’m not an impartial juror. This is a political process.”
– Mitch McConnell, Senate Majority Leader
- Do not accept the “Friends vs. Enemies” frame
 - All Americans are “Friends”, all humans are “Friends”
 - Insist on Pluralism as an American Value

“Hate cannot drive out hate, only Love can drive out hate.” – MLK

Non-Partisan

- Fighting Tyranny is non-partisan
- Not exclusively Liberal or Conservative
 - Preserving institutions like the Rule of Law is inherently Conservative
 - Fighting Fascism is a liberal task



On Tyranny

• On Tyranny: Twenty Lessons from the Twentieth Century

- Timothy Snyder, Ph.D., Professor, Yale University

- 1. Do not obey in advance.
- 2. Defend institutions.
- 3. Beware the one-party state.
- 4. Take responsibility for the face of the world.
- 5. Remember professional ethics.
- 6. Beware of paramilitaries.
- 7. Be reflective if you must be armed.
- 8. Stand out.
- 9. Be kind to our language.
- 10. Believe in truth.
- 11. Investigate.
- 12. Make eye contact and small talk.
- 13. Practice corporeal politics.
- 14. Establish a private life.
- 15. Contribute to good causes.
- 16. Learn from peers in other countries.
- 17. Listen for dangerous words.
- 19. Be a patriot.
- 18. Be calm when the unthinkable arrives.
- 20. Be as courageous as you can.

Societal Resilience

- **Resilience** is the process of adapting well in the face of adversity, trauma, tragedy, threats or significant sources of stress
- Resilience needs to be strengthened at every level
- We will review the Lessons from **On Tyranny** through these resilience perspectives



Lesson for Self

- **1. Do not obey in advance.**
 - Resist. Make them force changes on you.
- **8. Believe in truth.**
 - 4 modes of denying truth – Victor Klemperer
 - **Open hostility** (the Big Lie)
 - **Shamanistic Incantation** (endless repetition)
 - **Magical Thinking** (believe in conflicting ideas)
 - **Misplaced Faith** (only I can fix it)
- **9. Investigate.**
 - Read. Subscribe to print media.
- **15. Establish a private life.**
 - Tyrants look for hooks to hang you on. Don't have hooks.
- **20. Be a patriot.**
 - Know our ideals, and live up to them

Lessons for Community Perspective

- **11. Make eye contact and small talk.**
 - Communicate with neighbors, co-workers, and others
- **4. Listen for dangerous words.**
 - A Tyrant uses words to scare people
- **6. Be kind to our language.**
 - Don't use their terminology
- **7. Stand out.**
 - Be willing to draw attention
- **10. Practice corporeal politics.**
 - Put your body into it – Protest, Meet, & March
 - Facebook is not enough, it is not the real world



Lessons for National Perspective

- **2. Defend institutions.**

- Institutions are how our society passes values from generation to generation

- **3. Remember professional ethics.**

- Act within your profession, and support others who are acting to defend their profession

- **14. Contribute to good causes.**

- Pick any good cause, and contribute either time or money



Lessons for the World Perspective

- **13. Beware the one-party state.**
 - Vote in local and state elections while you can.
- **16. Learn from peers in other countries.**
 - Authoritarianism is creeping up across the world
- **12. Take responsibility for the face of the world.**
 - Today's symbols become tomorrow's reality

Lessons for Troubled Times

- **17. Beware of paramilitaries.**
 - When the men with guns who have always claimed to be against the system start wearing uniforms and marching around with torches and pictures of a Leader, the end is nigh.
- **18. Be reflective if you must be armed.**
 - Know that evils of the past involved policemen and soldiers finding themselves, one day, doing irregular things. Be ready to say no.
- **5. Be calm when the unthinkable arrives.**
 - When a sudden disaster comes, remember that all authoritarians at all times either await or plan such events in order to consolidate power.
- **19. Be as courageous as you can.**
 - If none of us is prepared to die for freedom, then all of us will die in tyranny.

Plan of Action

- **Develop your own Plan of Action**
 - Choose which Lessons you want to act on
 - Identify concrete steps to implement each lesson
- **What is the role of Frederick Cares?**
 - Is this a Frederick Cares topic?
 - Additional presentations of this topic in other forums?
 - Meetings to measure progress, update plans?
 - Monitor progress
 - Coach participants
 - Update personal plans
 - Other topics/events?
 - Societal Resilience?