

CFR Resources

Eleanor Albert and Lindsay Maizland, "[Democracy in Hong Kong](#)."

An introductory background on government in Hong Kong, where some worry that the city's history of democratic rule is under threat. (2,200 words)

"[The Arab Uprisings Five Years On](#)."

A multimedia look back at the Arab Spring, when people across the Middle East fought for democracy.

"[Exporting Authoritarianism](#)," Why It Matters.

A podcast episode that explores whether Chinese investment in infrastructure projects around the world is also influencing the forms of government in recipient countries, pushing them toward authoritarianism. (32 minutes)

Articles

Quentin Ariès, "[Europe's Failure to Protect Liberty in Hungary](#)," Atlantic, December 29, 2019.

An article from a series titled Democracy Undone that examines politics in Hungary, which some see as at risk of democratic backsliding. (1,800 words)

Sahil Chinoy, "[What Happened to America's Political Center of Gravity?](#)," New York Times, June 26, 2019.

An article on researchers who have analyzed political parties from democracies around the world, including the Democratic and Republican parties in the United States, and attempted to measure how far left or right each party is. Using a number of graphs and charts, the article places the U.S. Democratic and Republican parties in comparison to parties from other countries and traces how they have changed over time. (1,450 words)

Classroom Reading List: Forms of Government

Andrea Kendall-Taylor, Erica Frantz, and Joseph Wright, "[The Digital Dictators: How Technology Strengthens Autocracy](#)," *Foreign Affairs*, March/April 2020.

A thoughtful and detailed look at how technology, in history and today, has been used to support autocracy. (3,900 words)

Jill Lepore, "[The Last Time Democracy Almost Died](#)," *New Yorker*, January 27, 2020.

An article from a series titled *The Future of Democracy* that looks at the 1930s, a period of significant democratic backsliding. (4,500 words)

Ian Millhiser, "[America's Democracy is Failing. Here's Why](#)," *Vox*, July 31, 2020.

An explainer from *Vox* that examines the U.S. constitution in detail, asking how democratic the U.S. government is. (2,900 words)

Sarah Repucci, "[A Leaderless Struggle for Democracy](#)," *Freedom House*, 2020.

The annual report from the think tank *Freedom House*, scoring how free each country in the world is and offering detailed visualizations, snapshots of countries around the world, and analysis of trends. (8,100 words)

Philippe C. Schmitter and Terry Lynn Karl, "[What Democracy Is . . . and Is Not](#)," *Journal of Democracy*, Summer 1991.

A rigorous and scholarly but accessible discussion of the basics of democracy. (5,300 words)

Books

Bernard Crick, *Democracy: A Very Short Introduction* (2002).

A short introduction to both the history of democracy and how it works in the world today. (144 pages)

Classroom Reading List: Forms of Government

Timothy Snyder, *On Tyranny: Twenty Lessons from the Twentieth Century* (2017).

A book written by a historian that offers twenty pieces of advice for avoiding democratic backsliding. Although written as a call to arms for the current moment in the United States, the book is deeply grounded in twentieth-century European history. (126 pages)

Multimedia

Max Fisher, Amanda Taub, Josh Keller, Mae Ryan, Larry Buchanan, and Shane O’Neill, “[Is There Something Wrong With Democracy?](#),” *New York Times*, January 23, 2018.

From the writers of the New York Times column The Interpreter, a brief look at democratic backsliding around the world. (5 minutes)

Resources

[Who Rules?](#), iCivics.

A lesson plan for teaching various forms of government, including democracy and autocracy.