

Authoritarianism

When faced with a would-be authoritarian, established politicians must unambiguously reject him or her and do everything possible to defend democratic institutions—even if that means temporarily joining with bitter rivals.

For Republicans entering the general election of 2016, the implications were clear. If Trump threatened basic democratic principles, they had to stop him. To do anything else would put democracy at risk, and losing democracy is far worse than losing an election.

Steven Levitsky and Daniel Ziblatt,
How Democracies Die