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“Trump’s Authoritarian Playbook: What’s Next?”

Santa Cruz, Calif. -

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The return of the strongman. Principles of democratic rule are being challenged, and authoritarian leadership styles are gaining greater attention even in America, the greatest democracy the world has ever known. Strongmen rule over some of the most populous and powerful nations on earth such as China, Russia, Egypt, Turkey, Hungary and even America. The American republic could die and is considered by many to no longer be one. In 2015, President Jimmy Carter stated: *“We’ve become, now, an oligarchy instead of a democracy.”*

Listen to Dr. Ruth Ben-Ghiat and Dr. Ronnie Lipschutz to hear their expert views on authoritarianism, fascism, the state of our democracy, and what we can expect next.

Ruth Ben-Ghiat, Professor of History and Italian Studies at New York University, is an award-winning author and political commentator on fascism, authoritarian leadership, and propaganda, offering historically informed analyses of current events in regular columns for CNN.com, the Washington Post, and on radio, podcasts, and television. She is the author of the award-winning book, *Italian Fascism’s Empire Cinema*, and several others (ruthbenghiat.com).

Dr. Ronnie Lipschutz is a Politics Dept. professor at UCSC and is the author of two books on politics and popular culture—*Cold War Fantasies: Film, Fiction and Foreign Policy* and *Political Economy, Capitalism and Popular Culture*—and a number of articles along the same lines—and an aficionado of science fiction films and novels.

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