

# Strongmen and the Assault on Democracy and Truth: Is It Time to Use the F-Word?

Recovering Truth: Religion, Journalism and Democracy in a Post-Truth Era



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Ruth Ben-Ghiat writes about fascism, authoritarianism, propaganda and democracy protection. She is the recipient of Guggenheim and other fellowships, an advisor to Protect Democracy and an MSNBC opinion columnist who also appears on other networks. She publishes "Lucid," a Substack newsletter on threats to democracy in the U.S. and abroad. Her latest book, "Strongmen: Mussolini to the Present" examines how illiberal leaders use corruption, violence, propaganda and machismo to stay in power and how resistance to them has unfolded over a century.

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**The global rise of authoritarianism and anti-democratic efforts in the United States have prompted many to use the f-word – "fascism" – to characterize our current moment.** In what ways does the political ideology of fascism capture or misrepresent what's happening in political life today? In particular, how do strongmen and authoritarian movements rely upon lies, violence and a false construction of reality to further their goals? Join us for this moderated conversation with Ruth Ben-Ghiat, historian, commentator and author.



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