

Authoritarianism

As he [Trump] put it in his speech
accepting the Republican nomination in 2016,
"I alone can fix it."

At the heart of authoritarianism
is this notion of indispensability.
The leader is unique, unparalleled, irreplaceable.
God has chose him to rescue
and revive the nation.

That is why he cannot be
constrained by law or even by the
ordinary calculations of rationality.
Only in his infallible instincts and
indominable will does salvation lie.

...

The valorization of the lone savior
suits reactionary politics — it is
not a good fit for democracy.

Fintan O'Toole,
New York Review of Books, August 15, 2024