

# Authoritarianism

Building on [Juan] Linz's work [in *The Breakdown of Democratic Regimes*], we have developed a set of four behavioral warning signs that can help us know an authoritarian when we see one. We should worry when a politician 1) rejects, in words or action, the democratic rules of the game, 2) denies the legitimacy of opponents, 3) tolerates or encourages violence, and 4) indicates a willingness to curtail the civil liberties of opponents, including the media.

**Steven Levitsky and Daniel Ziblatt,**  
*How Democracies Die*