

# **Authoritarianism**

**But should a bank fail to meet even a single withdrawal demand, confidence in it is at once shattered, and depositors rush to reclaim their funds.**

**The result is a bank run which forces the bank to suspend payments. An authoritarian state similarly succeeds in exacting universal obedience not because it has the forces required to meet all the possible challenges, but because it has enough of them to meet any anticipated ones.**

**Failing to move decisively, producing a loss of prestige, invites multiple challenges and results in a kind of political bank run known as revolution.**

**Richard Pipes,  
*Russia Under the Old Regime***