

Civil wars

This isn't the first time in modern history that populists with anti-democratic leanings have come to power. It is also not the first time that democracies have experienced backsliding.

What's different is the mechanism: before, autocracy came about when military generals launched coups. But now it's being ushered in by the *voters themselves*.

This is happening in large part because social media allows candidates to sow or capitalize on, doubts that citizens might have about democracy as a form of government. ... To make good decisions about candidates in democracies, voters must have good information, and social media has flooded voters with bad information.

Barbara F. Walter,
How Civil Wars Start