

Democracy

Democracy's assassins always have accomplices — political insiders who appear to abide by democracy's rules but quietly assault them. These are what [Juan] Linz called “semi-loyal” democrats.

...

Indeed, throughout history, cooperation between authoritarians and seemingly respectful semi-loyal democrats has been a recipe for democratic breakdown.

...

History teaches us that when mainstream politicians take the more expedient path of semi-loyalty ... extremists are often strengthened and a seemingly solid democracy can collapse upon itself.

Steven Levitsky and Daniel Ziblatt,
Tyranny of the Minority