

# Government

[W]e like to believe that the fate of a government lies in the hands of its citizens. If the people hold democratic values, democracy will be safe. If the citizens are open to authoritarian appeals, then, sooner or later, democracy will be in trouble.

This view is wrong. It assumes too much of democracy—that “the people” can shape at will the kind of government they possess. It is hard to find any evidence of majority support for authoritarianism in 1920s Germany and Italy.

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