

Middle class

One lesson of the new despotism is that the middle classes have no instinctual love of open power-sharing.

Guided by a mixture of motives, including greed, professional and family honor, respectability, and anxiety about the future, they seem happy to be kidnapped by state rulers, willing (as per the Stockholm syndrome) to be bought off with lavish services, cash payments, and invisible benefits such as being left alone to live their lives. ... [They] definitely have a taste for regime stability plus private comforts.

John Keane, *The New Despotism*