

# **Semi-loyal democrats**

**It is semi-loyalists' very respectability that makes them so dangerous.**

**As members of the establishment, semi-loyalists can use their positions of authority to normalize antidemocratic extremists, protect them against efforts to hold them legally accountable and empower them by opening doors to the mainstream media, campaign donors and other resources.**

**It is this subtle enabling of extremist forces that can fatally weaken democracies.**

**Steven Levitsky and Daniel Ziblatt, who acknowledge Juan Linz originated the notion and term "semi-loyal democrats", in New York Times, September 8, 2023**