

Semi-loyal democrats

Many mainstream politicians who preside over a democracy's collapse are not authoritarians committed to overthrowing the system; they are careerists who are simply trying to get ahead. They are less opposed to democracy than indifferent to it.

Careerism is a normal part of politics.

But when democracy is at stake, choosing political ambition over its defense can be lethal.

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