

State of the union

**But anocracy, not autocracy,
is our most immediate threat.**

**Anocracy is usually transitional
— a repressive government allows reforms,
or a democracy begins to unravel —
and it is volatile.**

**When a country moves into the anocracy
zone, the risk of political violence reaches
its peak; citizens feel uncertain about
their government's power and legitimacy.
Compared with democracies, anocracies with
more democratic than autocratic features
are three times more likely to experience
political instability or civil war.**

**Barbara F. Walter,
Washington Post, January 24, 2022**