**Citizen Responses to Authoritarianism**

**Resources**

On Tyranny by Timothy Snyder, (2017)

1984 by George Orwell (1949)

The Lessons of History by Will and Ariel Durant (1968)

Fahrenheit 451, by Ray Bradbury (1953)

The Plot Against America by Philip Roth (2004)

Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows, by JK Rowling (2007)

The Origins of Totalitarianism by Hannah Arendt (1951)

Nothing is True and Everything is Possible by Peter Pomerantsev (2014)

The Jungle Grows Back by Robert Kagan (2018)

A New Foreign Policy: Beyond American Exceptionalism by Jeffrey Sachs (2018)

The Empty Throne, by James Lindsay and Ivo Daalder (2018)

The Future is History: How Totalitarianism Reclaimed Russia by Masha Gessen, 2017

Fascism: A Warning by Madeleine Albright, 2018

“The American Abyss: A Historian of Fascism and Political Atrocity on Trump, the Mob, and What Comes Next”, *New York Times Magazine*, January 9, 2021:

https://www.nytimes.com/2021/01/09/magazine/trump-coup.html?searchResultPosition=7

**"Stupid Wars: A Citizen's Guide to Botched Putsches, Failed Coups, Inane Invasions, and Ridiculous Revolutions" by Ed Strosser and Michael Prince**

A humorous look at epic fails in historical upheavals, putsches, and coups. Looking through a sardonic lens can help us process events that were quite serious and devastating.

**"How to Get Rid of a President: History's Guide to Removing Unpopular, Unable, or Unfit Chief Executives" by David Priess**

From the calumny and chaos of John Tyler's presidency to Andrew Johnson's drunken swearing-in, the conduct of several Presidents have been less-than stellar.

**"Will He Go?: Trump and the Looming Election Meltdown in 2020" by Lawrence Douglas**

This book by legal scholar Lawrence Douglas, published in May 2020, addresses what turned out to be the very real fear of a less-than-peaceful transition of power by the 45th president.

**"Alt-America: The Rise of the Radical Right in the Age of Trump" by David A. Neiwert**

This 2017 book reports on the beliefs and conspiracy theories of the so-called 'alt-right,' offshoot of conservatism that mix racism, white nationalism, anti-Semitism and populism.

**"We Should Have Seen It Coming: From Reagan to Trump — A Front-Row Seat to a Political Revolution" by Gerald F. Seib**

The trajectory of the modern conservative movement and how it evolved into a populist movement that Trump rode to power, written by the executive editor of the Wall Street Journal.

**"American Sanctuary: Mutiny, Martyrdom, and National Identity in the Age of Revolution" by A. Roger Ekrich**

A detailed look at political crisis and national identity in the early years of the United States.

**"The Oath and the Office: A Guide to the Constitution for Future Presidents" by Corey Brettschneider**

A detailed primer on the important parts of constitutional law dealing with the office of President by a professor of political science at Brown University who teaches constitutional law and politics,

**"American Government 101: From the Continental Congress to the Iowa Caucus, Everything You Need to Know About US Politics" by Kathleen Sears**

A wide-ranging primer on the actual workings of US government and politics.

**"Burning the Reichstag" by Benjamin Carter Hett**

This book examines the many accounts of the German Reichstag fire of 1933 that helped solidify Adolf Hitler's power in Germany. It disputes claims that the fire was perpetrated by one individual as it investigates Nazi involvement as well as looking at how the fire was used to boost the Nazi Party and discredit the Communist Party.

**"Birch Bayh: Making a Difference" by Robert Blaemire**

A three-term Indiana senator, Bayh helped write the 25th Amendment on presidential disability and succession and the 26th Amendment, which lowered the voting age to 18. He is the only non-Founding Father to author two constitutional amendments.

**"Hitler's First Hundred Days: When Germans Embraced the Third Reich" by Peter Fritzsche**

Documents the suppression of dissent and dissenters and the ascendance of Nazi power that turned Germany from a divided republic into a one-party dictatorship.

**"Playing with Fire: The 1968 Election and the Transformation of American Politics" by Lawrence O'Donnell**

The MSNBC host details the political upheaval, assassinations, and dirty tricks in the 1968 elections.

**"Fault Lines in the Constitution: The Framers, Their Fights, and the Flaws that Affect Us Today" by Cynthia Levinson and Sanford Levinson**

From gerrymandering to presidential succession, a husband-and-wife team break down some important pieces of the Constitution, examines its flaws and offer some potential solutions.

**"A Most Wicked Conspiracy: The Last Great Swindle of the Gilded Age" by Paul Starobin**

An examination of the political corruption and greed of party bosses, elected officials and robber barons in America at the turn of the 20th century.

**"Surviving Autocracy" by Masha Gessen**

Defining autocracy and how close Americans came to autocratic rule during the Trump presidency in informative, concise chapters. The book stems from [an essay the author wrote](https://www.nybooks.com/daily/2016/11/10/trump-election-autocracy-rules-for-survival/) for the New York Review of Books.

**"Unmaking the Presidency: Donald Trump's War on the World's Most Powerful Office" by Susan Hennessey and Benjamin Wittes**

The authors, the executive editor and editor-in-chief of the [Lawfare blog](https://www.lawfareblog.com/masthead), detail Trump's rejection of political norms and expectations for presidential behavior.

**"The Fixers: The Bottom-Feeders, Crooked Lawyers, Gossipmongers, and Porn Stars Who Created the 45th President" by Joe Palazzolo and Michael Rothfeld**

Two Wall Street Journal reporters document questionable actions by Trump before and during his presidency.

**"If This Be Treason: The American Rogues and Rebels Who Walked the Line Between Dissent and Betrayal" by Jeremy Duda**

Journalist [Jeremy Duda](https://www.azmirror.com/author/jeremy-duda/) examines the line between dissent and treason by looking at several historical moments in which Americans were accused of treason but others found their acts worthy of praise.

**"American Kompromat: How the KGB Cultivated Donald Trump, and Related Tales of Sex, Greed, Power, and Treachery" by Craig Unger**

This book explores the kompromat, or compromising information, that Russia may have amassed on major political figures and how Russia may have attempted to target Donald Trump when he was a New York businessman.

**"Bag Man: The Wild Crimes, Audacious Cover-up, and Spectacular Downfall of a Brazen Crook in the White House" by Rachel Maddow and Michael Yarvitz**

The story of Spiro T. Agnew, Nixon's vice president, and the bribery and extortion ring he ran while in office.

**"The Impeachers: The Trial of Andrew Johnson and the Dream of a Just Nation" by Brenda Wineapple**

A recounting of President Andrew Johnson's abuse of executive orders that led to him becoming the first US president to be impeached.

**"The Watergate Girl: My Fight for Truth and Justice Against a Criminal President" by Jill Wine-Banks**

The Watergate scandal and Nixon impeachment as told by Jill Wine-Banks, a trial lawyer on the special prosecutor's Watergate task force.

**"An Artist in Treason: The Extraordinary Double Life of General James Wilkinson" by Andro Linklater**

Gen. James Wilkinson was charismatic and complicated soldier who fought for the United States in its earliest days yet repeatedly acted against the country and even spied on it.

**"Night of Camp David" by Fletcher Knebel**

A 1965 novel about an American president coming unhinged and ranting about conspiracies, it was republished in 2018.

**"Impeachment: A Citizen's Guide" by Cass R. Sunstein**

An accessible primer on impeachment's past, present, and future.

**"The Case for Impeaching Trump"by Elizabeth Holtzman**

Attorney, politician, and author Elizabeth Holtzman lays out the requirements for an impeachment and the necessity of one.

**"How Did We Get Here?: from Theodore Roosevelt to Donald Trump"by Robert Dallek**

A historian looks at the personalities and politics from the early 20th century until now and how we've arrived in our current political milieu.

**"The Presidents: Noted Historians Rank America's Best -— and Worst -— Chief Executives"**

A survey of leading historians and presidential biographers on the best and worst of America's presidents.

**"Richard Nixon: The Life" by John A. Farrell**

The life and political career of Richard Nixon, the 37th President who resigned before he could be impeached over the Watergate scandal. He remains the only president ever to resign the office.

**"The Trial of Adolf Hitler" by David King**

The book recounts the arrest, trial, and imprisonment of Adolf Hitler and others for treason after a failed coup attempt in Germany that became known as the Beer Hall Putsch. Hitler turned the 1924 trial into a launching pad for himself and the Nazi Party.

**"It Can't Happen Here" by Sinclair Lewis, with an introduction by Michael Meyer and a new afterword by Gary Scharnhorst**

Lewis's 1935 novel about fascist presidential candidate Berzelius Windrip and how a US president turns into a dictator.

**"1876" by Gore Vidal**

Vidal's historical novel is written in the form of a journal detailing the life of character Charles Schermerhorn Schuyler in the 1870s with a focus on the disputed presidential election of 1876.

**"Rutherford B. Hayes" by Trefousse L. Hans**

A historian chronicles the disputed 1876 election between Rutherford B. Hayes and Samuel Tilden.