

strongmen mussolini to the present

strongmen mussolini to the present is a topic that traces the rise and evolution of authoritarian leaders from Benito Mussolini's era in Italy to contemporary figures around the world. This article explores the origins, characteristics, and impact of strongmen in politics, examining how Mussolini's legacy shaped subsequent regimes and highlighting the psychological, social, and political factors that enable their ascent. It delves into the strategies used by strongmen to consolidate power, the consequences for societies they govern, and the ongoing relevance of such leadership in modern times. Through historical analysis and up-to-date examples, readers will gain a comprehensive understanding of how strongmen have influenced global affairs, the traits they share, and the patterns that persist across decades. Whether you are interested in political history, leadership studies, or current events, this article provides a thorough exploration of strongmen from Mussolini to the present, supported by factual insights and SEO-optimized content.

- Origins of Strongmen Leadership
- Mussolini and the Prototype of the Modern Strongman
- Key Traits and Strategies of Authoritarian Leaders
- Strongmen Across the Decades: Notable Examples
- Impact of Strongmen on Societies and Governance
- Strongmen in the Contemporary Era
- Societal and Global Responses to Strongmen

Origins of Strongmen Leadership

The concept of the political strongman has deep historical roots, predating Mussolini but gaining new significance in the twentieth century. Strongmen are leaders who consolidate power through charismatic authority, forceful policies, and often, disregard for democratic norms. Their rise is frequently linked to periods of crisis or instability, when populations seek decisive action and clear direction. This phenomenon can be observed in various regions and cultures, illustrating that strongmen are not confined to a single political ideology or geography. Instead, they represent a recurring pattern in political history, characterized by centralized authority, suppression of opposition, and the cultivation of a personal cult of leadership.

Mussolini and the Prototype of the Modern Strongman

The Rise of Benito Mussolini

Benito Mussolini, founder of Italian Fascism, emerged as the archetype of the modern political strongman in the aftermath of World War I. His ascent was facilitated by economic turmoil, social unrest, and widespread disillusionment with parliamentary democracy. Mussolini capitalized on nationalist sentiment, promising to restore Italy's greatness through unity and strength. He implemented authoritarian measures, dismantled democratic institutions, and built a regime centered on his persona and ideology. Mussolini's leadership style combined rhetoric, spectacle, and brutal suppression of dissent, setting a precedent for future strongmen.

Mussolini's Legacy and Influence

The legacy of Mussolini extends beyond Italy, influencing authoritarian leaders worldwide. His approach to governance—combining propaganda, militarism, and centralized control—became a blueprint for others seeking absolute power. Mussolini's regime demonstrated how strongmen could manipulate institutions, exploit collective anxieties, and create enduring political movements. His example shaped the tactics of later leaders, including those in Nazi Germany, the Soviet Union, and various military juntas throughout the twentieth century.

- Centralized authority and elimination of political opposition
- Use of propaganda and mass rallies to build popular support
- Suppression of independent media and civil society
- Creation of a cult of personality around the leader
- Militarization of society and expansionist policies

Key Traits and Strategies of Authoritarian

Leaders

Personalization of Power

Strongmen typically personalize political power, positioning themselves as the sole architects of national destiny. They frequently undermine collective leadership structures and concentrate authority in their own hands. This personalization is reinforced by the cultivation of loyalty among elites, purging rivals, and fostering dependence on the leader's favor. The strongman's image is central to regime stability, often depicted as infallible and indispensable.

Control of Information

Manipulation of information is a hallmark of authoritarian rule. Strongmen restrict independent media, promote state-controlled narratives, and utilize propaganda to shape public perception. By controlling information flow, they limit dissent and enhance their legitimacy. This strategy is complemented by censorship, surveillance, and the intimidation of journalists and activists.

Populist Rhetoric and Nationalism

Populist rhetoric and nationalist appeals are commonly employed by strongmen to mobilize support. They frame themselves as protectors of national interests against external threats or internal enemies. This approach fosters unity among supporters while justifying repressive measures against opponents. Such leaders often claim to embody the will of the people, conflating their authority with national identity.

Strongmen Across the Decades: Notable Examples

Mid-20th Century Strongmen

The mid-20th century witnessed the proliferation of strongman regimes, particularly in Europe, Asia, Africa, and Latin America. Adolf Hitler in Germany, Joseph Stalin in the Soviet Union, Francisco Franco in Spain, and Mao Zedong in China exemplified the strongman archetype, each employing mass mobilization, repression, and ideological control. These leaders left indelible marks on world history, shaping the geopolitical landscape and influencing subsequent authoritarian figures.

Post-World War II and Cold War Era

After World War II, strongmen continued to emerge in regions experiencing decolonization, civil conflict, or Cold War rivalries. Figures such as Gamal Abdel Nasser in Egypt, Ferdinand Marcos in the Philippines, and Augusto Pinochet in Chile consolidated power through military force and political maneuvering. Many of these leaders justified their rule as necessary for stability and modernization, often at the expense of civil liberties.

Late 20th and Early 21st Century Strongmen

In recent decades, strongmen have adapted to new political environments, sometimes operating within nominally democratic systems. Leaders such as Vladimir Putin in Russia, Recep Tayyip Erdoğan in Turkey, and Rodrigo Duterte in the Philippines have blended authoritarian tactics with electoral processes. Their regimes demonstrate how strongman rule can evolve, utilizing modern technology, social media, and legal frameworks to maintain control.

1. Adolf Hitler – Germany
2. Joseph Stalin – Soviet Union
3. Francisco Franco – Spain
4. Mao Zedong – China
5. Ferdinand Marcos – Philippines
6. Augusto Pinochet – Chile
7. Vladimir Putin – Russia
8. Recep Tayyip Erdoğan – Turkey
9. Rodrigo Duterte – Philippines

Impact of Strongmen on Societies and Governance

Political and Social Consequences

Strongmen exert profound influence on the societies they govern, affecting political institutions, social norms, and civic life. Their rule often

results in the erosion of democratic practices, concentration of wealth and power, and the marginalization of opposition groups. Civil liberties are frequently curtailed, with restrictions on freedom of expression, assembly, and association. While some strongmen deliver short-term stability or economic growth, the long-term consequences can include institutional decay, corruption, and human rights violations.

International Relations and Security

Authoritarian leaders also impact international relations, pursuing aggressive foreign policies or engaging in regional conflicts. Their unpredictable behavior can destabilize neighboring countries, provoke international sanctions, or alter alliances. Strongmen may challenge global norms, contributing to uncertainty and risk in world affairs.

Strongmen in the Contemporary Era

New Forms of Authoritarianism

Modern strongmen have adapted to changing political landscapes, employing sophisticated methods to maintain power. Digital surveillance, cyber propaganda, and manipulation of electoral systems are increasingly common tools. Some contemporary leaders present themselves as reformers or modernizers, masking authoritarian tendencies behind democratic facades. The rise of populism and identity politics has facilitated the resurgence of strongman figures in both established and emerging democracies.

Global Trends and Challenges

The persistence of strongmen in the present era raises important challenges for governance, human rights, and global stability. International organizations, civil society, and media play critical roles in monitoring and responding to authoritarian excesses. However, strongmen often exploit divisions, undermine oversight, and resist external pressures. Understanding the enduring appeal and adaptability of strongman rule is essential for addressing its impacts and defending democratic values.

Societal and Global Responses to Strongmen

Resistance and Reform

Societal responses to strongmen vary, ranging from popular resistance to accommodation or complicity. Grassroots movements, independent media, and opposition parties can challenge authoritarian rule, sometimes leading to reform or regime change. International advocacy and sanctions may also exert pressure, though their effectiveness depends on local conditions and global dynamics.

Lessons from History

The history of strongmen from Mussolini to the present offers valuable lessons for societies confronting authoritarianism. Vigilance, institutional resilience, and civic engagement are crucial for preserving democratic norms. By examining past and present strongmen, scholars and citizens can better understand the risks and implications of concentrated power, informing efforts to promote accountable governance and protect civil liberties.

Trending and Relevant Questions & Answers about strongmen mussolini to the present

Q: What defines a political strongman, and how did Mussolini shape this archetype?

A: A political strongman is a leader who centralizes power, often undermining democratic institutions and relying on charismatic authority. Mussolini shaped the archetype through his use of propaganda, suppression of opposition, and creation of a cult of personality, setting a model followed by later authoritarian leaders.

Q: Which world leaders have been influenced by Mussolini's style of governance?

A: Leaders such as Adolf Hitler, Francisco Franco, and Joseph Stalin, as well as modern figures like Vladimir Putin and Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, have adopted strategies similar to Mussolini, including centralized control, propaganda, and repression.

Q: What societal conditions often lead to the rise

of strongmen?

A: Societal conditions like political instability, economic crisis, and widespread disillusionment with existing systems frequently create environments where strongmen can rise to power, promising order and decisive leadership.

Q: How do contemporary strongmen differ from their historical counterparts?

A: Contemporary strongmen often use technology, social media, and legal frameworks to maintain control, while some operate within democratic systems. However, they share core traits like personalizing power and suppressing dissent.

Q: What impact do strongmen have on civil liberties and human rights?

A: Strongmen regimes are associated with the curtailment of civil liberties, including restrictions on speech, assembly, and press freedom, as well as increased surveillance and human rights violations.

Q: In what ways do strongmen affect international relations?

A: Strongmen can disrupt regional stability, provoke international tensions, and challenge global norms through aggressive foreign policies, unpredictability, and resistance to external pressures.

Q: Are there successful strategies for resisting strongman rule?

A: Successful resistance often involves grassroots movements, independent media, opposition parties, and international advocacy. The effectiveness of these strategies varies based on local and global factors.

Q: What lessons can be learned from the history of strongmen?

A: Key lessons include the importance of institutional checks, civic engagement, and vigilance in protecting democratic norms and preventing the concentration of power.

Q: Why do strongmen continue to appeal to certain populations?

A: Strongmen appeal to populations seeking stability, national pride, or decisive action during times of crisis, often using populist rhetoric and nationalist narratives to build support.

Q: How can societies safeguard against the rise of future strongmen?

A: Societies can safeguard against strongmen by fostering robust institutions, promoting transparency, encouraging civic participation, and maintaining a free and independent press.

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Strongmen from Mussolini to the Present: A Trajectory of Power and Populism

The rise and fall of strongmen leaders throughout history is a chilling yet fascinating study in human psychology and political dynamics. From the bombastic pronouncements of Benito Mussolini to the modern-day autocrats shaping global events, the thread of charismatic, often ruthless, leadership weaves a complex narrative. This in-depth analysis explores the evolution of strongmen, tracing their common traits, comparing their methods, and examining the enduring appeal of authoritarianism from Mussolini's Italy to the present day. We'll delve into the specific contexts that allowed such figures to flourish, ultimately asking whether the conditions that birthed past strongmen still resonate today.

The Legacy of Mussolini: A Blueprint for Authoritarianism?

Benito Mussolini, the architect of Italian Fascism, provides a crucial case study. His rise to power in the 1920s, fueled by post-war disillusionment and economic instability, established a template often replicated by subsequent strongmen. His masterful manipulation of propaganda, his suppression of

dissent, and his cultivation of a personality cult – all became hallmarks of the authoritarian style.

Key Traits of Mussolini's Regime:

Nationalist fervor: Mussolini exploited potent nationalistic sentiments, promising to restore Italy's past glory and assert its place on the world stage.

Cult of personality: His image was carefully crafted and relentlessly promoted through media control, projecting an image of strength and decisiveness.

Suppression of opposition: Political opponents were brutally silenced, and freedom of speech was eradicated.

Economic control: The state exerted significant control over the economy, though this ultimately proved unsustainable.

Strongmen of the Mid-20th Century: Expanding the Model

The shadow of Mussolini's regime loomed large over the mid-20th century, influencing the rise of other authoritarian leaders. Figures like Francisco Franco in Spain and Josef Stalin in the Soviet Union, while differing in ideology, shared a common thread: the consolidation of absolute power through ruthless means. They demonstrated how diverse contexts – from civil war to revolution – could facilitate the ascent of strongmen.

The Cold War and the Rise of Authoritarian Leaders

The Cold War presented a fertile ground for the emergence of strongmen. The bipolar world order, with its ideological struggle between communism and the West, provided opportunities for charismatic leaders to present themselves as bulwarks against perceived external threats. This period witnessed the rise of figures like Kim Il-sung in North Korea, illustrating how strongmen could leverage national security concerns to justify authoritarian rule.

Strongmen in the 21st Century: Populism and the Digital Age

The 21st century has witnessed a resurgence of strongman leadership, albeit with some key distinctions from their predecessors. Modern strongmen, like Vladimir Putin in Russia and Recep Tayyip Erdoğan in Turkey, often leverage populist rhetoric, exploiting social divisions and economic anxieties to consolidate their grip on power. The digital age has further amplified their ability to manipulate information and control narratives, enhancing their reach and suppressing dissent through sophisticated forms of censorship and propaganda.

Modern Strongmen and Technological Control:

Social media manipulation: The strategic use of social media to spread disinformation and control the narrative is a critical component of their strategy.

Surveillance technologies: The deployment of advanced surveillance technologies allows for the suppression of dissent and the monitoring of citizens' activities.

Economic control through cronyism: The concentration of economic power in the hands of allies and supporters consolidates political power.

The Enduring Appeal of Strongman Leadership: A Psychological Perspective

The persistent appeal of strongmen, despite the demonstrable harms of their rule, lies partly in human psychology. In times of uncertainty, people often crave strong leadership and decisive action. The promise of order, stability, and a return to a perceived golden age holds a strong attraction, even if it comes at the cost of individual liberties. Furthermore, the masterful manipulation of emotions and the exploitation of existing social cleavages allows strongmen to garner widespread support, even among those who might otherwise oppose them.

Conclusion

The trajectory of strongmen from Mussolini to the present reveals a disturbing pattern of authoritarian consolidation. While the specific contexts and methods vary, the common thread of charismatic leadership, the suppression of dissent, and the exploitation of societal vulnerabilities remains constant. Understanding this historical trajectory is crucial to identifying and counteracting the conditions that allow such leaders to rise to power in the 21st century and beyond. The fight against authoritarianism requires a vigilant defense of democratic values, a commitment to transparency and accountability, and a robust civil society capable of resisting the allure of strongman rule.

FAQs:

1. Are all populist leaders strongmen? No. Populism is a political ideology that emphasizes the interests of the common people. While some populist leaders exhibit strongman tendencies, many operate within democratic frameworks.
2. How do strongmen maintain their power? Through a combination of propaganda, suppression of dissent, control of the media, and the manipulation of the legal and judicial systems.
3. What are the long-term consequences of strongman rule? Typically, long-term consequences include economic stagnation, human rights abuses, and political instability.

4. Can strongmen be removed from power? Yes, but it often requires significant internal and external pressure, sometimes leading to violent conflict.

5. What role does the international community play in countering strongmen? International pressure, sanctions, and support for pro-democracy movements can play a critical role in challenging authoritarian regimes.

strongmen mussolini to the present: Strongmen Ruth Ben-Ghiat, 2020-11-10 What modern authoritarian leaders have in common (and how they can be stopped). Ruth Ben-Ghiat is the expert on the strongman playbook employed by authoritarian demagogues from Mussolini to Putin—enabling her to predict with uncanny accuracy the recent experience in America and Europe. In *Strongmen*, she lays bare the blueprint these leaders have followed over the past 100 years, and empowers us to recognize, resist, and prevent their disastrous rule in the future. For ours is the age of authoritarian rulers: self-proclaimed saviors of the nation who evade accountability while robbing their people of truth, treasure, and the protections of democracy. They promise law and order, then legitimize lawbreaking by financial, sexual, and other predators. They use masculinity as a symbol of strength and a political weapon. Taking what you want, and getting away with it, becomes proof of male authority. They use propaganda, corruption, and violence to stay in power. Vladimir Putin and Mobutu Sese Seko's kleptocracies, Augusto Pinochet's torture sites, Benito Mussolini and Muammar Gaddafi's systems of sexual exploitation, and Silvio Berlusconi and Donald Trump's relentless misinformation: all show how authoritarian rule, far from ensuring stability, is marked by destructive chaos. No other type of leader is so transparent about prioritizing self-interest over the public good. As one country after another has discovered, the strongman is at his worst when true guidance is most needed by his country. Recounting the acts of solidarity and dignity that have undone strongmen over the past 100 years, Ben-Ghiat makes vividly clear that only by seeing the strongman for what he is—and by valuing one another as he is unable to do—can we stop him, now and in the future.

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strongmen mussolini to the present: *Italian Fascism's Empire Cinema* Ruth Ben-Ghiat, 2015-02-11 Ruth Ben-Ghiat provides the first in-depth study of feature and documentary films produced under the auspices of Mussolini's government that took as their subjects or settings Italy's

African and Balkan colonies. These empire films were Italy's entry into an international market for the exotic. The films engaged its most experienced and cosmopolitan directors (Augusto Genina, Mario Camerini) as well as new filmmakers (Roberto Rossellini) who would make their marks in the postwar years. Ben-Ghiat sees these films as part of the aesthetic development that would lead to neo-realism. Shot in Libya, Somalia, and Ethiopia, these movies reinforced Fascist racial and labor policies and were largely forgotten after the war. Ben-Ghiat restores them to Italian and international film history in this gripping account of empire, war, and the cinema of dictatorship.

strongmen mussolini to the present: *On Corruption in America* Sarah Chayes, 2020-08-11 From the prizewinning journalist and internationally recognized expert on corruption in government networks throughout the world comes a major work that looks homeward to America, exploring the insidious, dangerous networks of corruption of our past, present, and precarious future. "If you want to save America, this might just be the most important book to read now. —Nancy MacLean, author of *Democracy in Chains* Sarah Chayes writes in her new book, that the United States is showing signs similar to some of the most corrupt countries in the world. Corruption, she argues, is an operating system of sophisticated networks in which government officials, key private-sector interests, and out-and-out criminals interweave. Their main objective: not to serve the public but to maximize returns for network members. In this unflinching exploration of corruption in America, Chayes exposes how corruption has thrived within our borders, from the titans of America's Gilded Age (Andrew Carnegie, John D. Rockefeller, J. P. Morgan, et al.) to the collapse of the stock market in 1929, the Great Depression, and FDR's New Deal; from Joe Kennedy's years of banking, bootlegging, machine politics, and pursuit of infinite wealth to the deregulation of the Reagan Revolution--undermining this nation's proud middle class and union members. She then brings us up to the present as she shines a light on the Clinton policies of political favors and personal enrichment and documents Trump's hydra-headed network of corruption, which aimed to systematically undo the Constitution and our laws. Ultimately and most importantly, Chayes reveals how corrupt systems are organized, how they enable bad actors to bend the rules so their crimes are covered legally, how they overtly determine the shape of our government, and how they affect all levels of society, especially when the corruption is overlooked and downplayed by the rich and well-educated.

strongmen mussolini to the present: Fascist Modernities Ruth Ben-Ghiat, 2004-03 This cultural history of Mussolini's dictatorship discusses the meanings of modernity in interwar Italy. The work argues that fascism appealed to many Italian intellectuals as a new model of modernity that would resolve the European crisis as well as long-standing problems of the national past.

strongmen mussolini to the present: The Age of The Strongman Gideon Rachman, 2022-04-07 ****AN ECONOMIST AND THE TIMES BOOK OF THE YEAR**** 'Essential and definitive' CATHERINE BELTON, author of *PUTIN'S PEOPLE* We are in a new era. From Trump, Putin and Bolsonaro to Erdogan, Xi and Modi, self-styled strongmen have become a central feature of global politics. At home, they claim to be standing up for ordinary people against 'globalist' elites; abroad, they posture as the embodiment of their nation. And everywhere they go, they encourage a cult of personality. How and why did this new style of authoritarian leadership arrive? How likely is it to lead the world into war and economic collapse? And what liberal forces are in place, not only to keep these strongmen in check but to reverse the trend? The Age of the Strongman explores these essential questions and offers a bold new portrait of our world. 'TIMELY, LASER-SHARP... A MUST-READ' PETER FRANKOPAN 'FORCEFUL... A BOOK WHOSE SIGNIFICANCE IS ENHANCED BY UNPREDICTABLE EVENTS' MISHA GLENNY 'WIDE-RANGING AND ASTUTE' THE ECONOMIST

strongmen mussolini to the present: Fascism: A Warning Madeleine Albright, 2019-01-29 #1 New York Times Bestseller A personal and urgent examination of Fascism in the twentieth century and how its legacy shapes today's world, written by one of the most admired public servants in American history, the first woman to serve as U.S. secretary of state A Fascist, observed Madeleine Albright, "is someone who claims to speak for a whole nation or group, is utterly unconcerned with the rights of others, and is willing to use violence and whatever other means are necessary to

achieve the goals he or she might have.” The twentieth century was defined by the clash between democracy and Fascism, a struggle that created uncertainty about the survival of human freedom and left millions dead. Given the horrors of that experience, one might expect the world to reject the spiritual successors to Hitler and Mussolini should they arise in our era. *Fascism: A Warning* is drawn from Madeleine Albright's experiences as a child in war-torn Europe and her distinguished career as a diplomat to question that assumption. Fascism, as she shows, not only endured through the twentieth century but now presents a more virulent threat to peace and justice than at any time since the end of World War II. The momentum toward democracy that swept the world when the Berlin Wall fell has gone into reverse. The United States, which historically championed the free world, is led by a president who exacerbates division and heaps scorn on democratic institutions. In many countries, economic, technological, and cultural factors are weakening the political center and empowering the extremes of right and left. Contemporary leaders such as Vladimir Putin and Kim Jong-un are employing many of the tactics used by Fascists in the 1920s and 30s. *Fascism: A Warning* is a book for our times that is relevant to all times. Written by someone who not only studied history but helped to shape it, this call to arms teaches us the lessons we must understand and the questions we must answer if we are to save ourselves from repeating the tragic errors of the past.

strongmen mussolini to the present: Strongman Kenneth C. Davis, 2020-10-06 From the bestselling author of the Don't Know Much About® books comes a dramatic account of the origins of democracy, the history of authoritarianism, and the reigns of five of history's deadliest dictators. A Washington Post Best Book of the Year! A Bank Street College of Education Best Book of the Year! A YALSA 2021 Nonfiction Award Nominee! What makes a country fall to a dictator? How do authoritarian leaders—strongmen—capable of killing millions acquire their power? How are they able to defeat the ideal of democracy? And what can we do to make sure it doesn't happen again? By profiling five of the most notoriously ruthless dictators in history—Adolf Hitler, Benito Mussolini, Joseph Stalin, Mao Zedong, and Saddam Hussein—Kenneth C. Davis seeks to answer these questions, examining the forces in these strongmen's personal lives and historical periods that shaped the leaders they'd become. Meticulously researched and complete with photographs, *Strongman* provides insight into the lives of five leaders who callously transformed the world and serves as an invaluable resource in an era when democracy itself seems in peril. * A fascinating, highly readable portrayal of infamous men that provides urgent lessons for democracy now. —Publishers Weekly, starred review *Strongman* is a book that is both deeply researched and deeply felt, both an alarming warning and a galvanizing call to action, both daunting and necessary to read and discuss. —Cynthia Levinson, author of *Fault Lines in the Constitution*

strongmen mussolini to the present: How Fascism Works Jason Stanley, 2018-09-04 “No single book is as relevant to the present moment.”—Claudia Rankine, author of *Citizen* “One of the defining books of the decade.”—Elizabeth Hinton, author of *From the War on Poverty to the War on Crime* NEW YORK TIMES BOOK REVIEW EDITORS' CHOICE • With a new preface • Fascist politics are running rampant in America today—and spreading around the world. A Yale philosopher identifies the ten pillars of fascist politics, and charts their horrifying rise and deep history. As the child of refugees of World War II Europe and a renowned philosopher and scholar of propaganda, Jason Stanley has a deep understanding of how democratic societies can be vulnerable to fascism: Nations don't have to be fascist to suffer from fascist politics. In fact, fascism's roots have been present in the United States for more than a century. Alarmed by the pervasive rise of fascist tactics both at home and around the globe, Stanley focuses here on the structures that unite them, laying out and analyzing the ten pillars of fascist politics—the language and beliefs that separate people into an “us” and a “them.” He knits together reflections on history, philosophy, sociology, and critical race theory with stories from contemporary Hungary, Poland, India, Myanmar, and the United States, among other nations. He makes clear the immense danger of underestimating the cumulative power of these tactics, which include exploiting a mythic version of a nation's past; propaganda that twists the language of democratic ideals against themselves; anti-intellectualism

directed against universities and experts; law and order politics predicated on the assumption that members of minority groups are criminals; and fierce attacks on labor groups and welfare. These mechanisms all build on one another, creating and reinforcing divisions and shaping a society vulnerable to the appeals of authoritarian leadership. By uncovering disturbing patterns that are as prevalent today as ever, Stanley reveals that the stuff of politics—charged by rhetoric and myth—can quickly become policy and reality. Only by recognizing fascists politics, he argues, may we resist its most harmful effects and return to democratic ideals. “With unsettling insight and disturbing clarity, *How Fascism Works* is an essential guidebook to our current national dilemma of democracy vs. authoritarianism.”—William Jelani Cobb, author of *The Substance of Hope*

strongmen mussolini to the present: America in the World Robert B. Zoellick, 2020-08-04 America has a long history of diplomacy—ranging from Benjamin Franklin, Alexander Hamilton, and Thomas Jefferson to Henry Kissinger, Ronald Reagan, and James Baker—now is your chance to see the impact these Americans have had on the world. Recounting the actors and events of U.S. foreign policy, Zoellick identifies five traditions that have emerged from America's encounters with the world: the importance of North America; the special roles trading, transnational, and technological relations play in defining ties with others; changing attitudes toward alliances and ways of ordering connections among states; the need for public support, especially through Congress; and the belief that American policy should serve a larger purpose. These traditions frame a closing review of post-Cold War presidencies, which Zoellick foresees serving as guideposts for the future. Both a sweeping work of history and an insightful guide to U.S. diplomacy past and present, *America in the World* serves as an informative companion and practical adviser to readers seeking to understand the strategic and immediate challenges of U.S. foreign policy during an era of transformation.

strongmen mussolini to the present: On Tyranny Timothy Snyder, 2017-03-02 **NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER** ‘A sort of survival book, a sort of symptom-diagnosis manual in terms of losing your democracy and what tyranny and authoritarianism look like up close’ Rachel Maddow ‘These 128 pages are a brief primer in every important thing we might have learned from the history of the last century, and all that we appear to have forgotten’ Observer History does not repeat, but it does instruct. In the twentieth century, European democracies collapsed into fascism, Nazism and communism. These were movements in which a leader or a party claimed to give voice to the people, promised to protect them from global existential threats, and rejected reason in favour of myth. European history shows us that societies can break, democracies can fall, ethics can collapse, and ordinary people can find themselves in unimaginable circumstances. History can familiarise, and it can warn. Today, we are no wiser than the Europeans who saw democracy yield to totalitarianism in the twentieth century. But when the political order seems imperilled, our advantage is that we can learn from their experience to resist the advance of tyranny. Now is a good time to do so.

strongmen mussolini to the present: Histories of Violence Brad Evans, Terrell Carver, 2017-01-15 While there is a tacit appreciation that freedom from violence will lead to more prosperous relations among peoples, violence continues to be deployed for various political and social ends. Yet the problem of violence still defies neat description, subject to many competing interpretations. *Histories of Violence* offers an accessible yet compelling examination of the problem of violence as it appears in the corpus of canonical figures – from Hannah Arendt to Frantz Fanon, Michel Foucault to Slavoj Žižek – who continue to influence and inform contemporary political, philosophical, sociological, cultural, and anthropological study. Written by a team of internationally renowned experts, this is an essential interrogation of post-war critical thought as it relates to violence.

strongmen mussolini to the present: Those Who Forget Géraldine Schwarz, 2020-09-24 A memoir of the past and a warning for today: the urgent account of a woman delving into her family's complicity with the Nazis during World War Two An utterly original memoir for our times, elegant, courageous and deeply affecting Philippe Sands, author of *East West Street* During the war, Géraldine Schwarz's grandparents were neither heroes nor villains – they just followed the current. Afterwards they wanted to forget, to bury it all under the wreckage of the Third Reich. But decades

later, delving through the basement of their apartment building, Géraldine discovers that her grandfather Karl profited from the forced 'Aryanisation' of Jewish businesses – and so she is compelled to investigate her ancestors' past. On her mother's side, she delves into the role of her French grandfather, a policeman during the Vichy regime. How guilty were they? Combining generations of family stories with the history of Europe's post-war reckoning, Géraldine asks: how did Germans transform their collective guilt into democratic responsibility? And, given rising populism in Europe today, how can we ensure we learn from history? Géraldine Schwarz is a German-French journalist, author and documentary filmmaker based in Berlin. *Those Who Forget*, an account of her family's complicity with fascism, is her first book. It has been translated into eight languages and won the European Book Prize 2018, the German Winfried Preis and the Italian Nord-Sud Prize.

strongmen mussolini to the present: The Hitler We Loved & Why Christof Friedrich, Eric Thomson, 2004-11 What, other than love, can explain the German people's glad welcome of this humble, but thoroughly dedicated savior from the Eastern Marches? What, other than love, can explain how the people of Greater Germany remained with him in bad times and good, for better or for worse? What, other than love, can explain the fact that those who remember him love him still? We loved him because he stood for the best that was in us, and as Our Leader, demanded of us our best. It was never Hitler's Germany. It shall always be: Germany's Hitler, the man loved by his people. This is why we loved him...

strongmen mussolini to the present: *Strongmen* Eve Ensler, Danish Husain, Lara Vapnyar, Burhan Sönmez, Ninotchka Rosca, 2018 We're edging towards a new kind of global fascism driven by aggression and strident nationalism. In this book the authors confront five would-be dictators

strongmen mussolini to the present: The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie Muriel Spark, 2015-08-06 'Muriel Spark's most celebrated novel . . . This ruthlessly and destructively romantic school ma'am is one of the giants of post-war fiction' Independent 'A brilliantly psychological fugue' Observer The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie is Muriel Spark's most significant and celebrated novel, and remains as dazzling as when it was first published in 1961. Miss Jean Brodie is a teacher unlike any other, proud and cultured, enigmatic and freethinking; a romantic, with progressive, sometimes shocking ideas and aspirations for the girls in her charge. At the Marcia Blaine Academy she takes a select group of girls under her wing. Spellbound by Miss Brodie's unconventional teaching, these devoted pupils form the Brodie set. But as the girls enter their teenage years and they become increasingly drawn in by Miss Brodie's personal life, her ambitions for them take a startling and dark turn with devastating consequences.

strongmen mussolini to the present: *The Nazi Menace* Benjamin Carter Hett, 2020-08-04 A panoramic narrative of the years leading up to the Second World War—a tale of democratic crisis, racial conflict, and a belated recognition of evil, with profound resonance for our own time. Berlin, November 1937. Adolf Hitler meets with his military commanders to impress upon them the urgent necessity for a war of aggression in eastern Europe. Some generals are unnerved by the Führer's grandiose plan, but these dissenters are silenced one by one, setting in motion events that will culminate in the most calamitous war in history. Benjamin Carter Hett takes us behind the scenes in Berlin, London, Moscow, and Washington, revealing the unsettled politics within each country in the wake of the German dictator's growing provocations. He reveals the fitful path by which anti-Nazi forces inside and outside Germany came to understand Hitler's true menace to European civilization and learned to oppose him, painting a sweeping portrait of governments under siege, as larger-than-life figures struggled to turn events to their advantage. As in *The Death of Democracy*, his acclaimed history of the fall of the Weimar Republic, Hett draws on original sources and newly released documents to show how these long-ago conflicts have unexpected resonances in our own time. To read *The Nazi Menace* is to see past and present in a new and unnerving light.

strongmen mussolini to the present: *Strength Through Joy* Shelley Baranowski, 2007-05-28 This is the first book on the giant Nazi leisure and tourism agency, Strength through Joy (KdF). KdF's low cost cultural events, factory beautification programs, organized sports, and,

especially, mass tourism became the primary means by which the Nazi regime mitigated the tension between the investment in rearmament and German consumers' desire for a higher standard of living. Strength through Joy mitigated the sacrifices of the present while its programs present visions of a prosperous future once living space was acquired. As an agency open to racially acceptable Germans only, it segregated the regime's victims from the Nazi racial community.

strongmen mussolini to the present: *All Against All* Paul Jankowski, 2020-07-02 During a single winter, between November 1932 and April 1933, so much went wrong: Hitler came to power; Japan invaded Jehol and left the league of Nations; Mussolini looked towards Africa; Roosevelt was elected; France changed governments three times; and the victors of 1918 fell out acrimoniously over war debts, arms, currency, tariffs and Germany. New hopes flickered but not for long: a world economic conference was planned, only to collapse when the US went its own way. *All Against All* reveals that collective mentalities and popular beliefs drove this crucial period and set nations on the path to war, as much as the rational calculus of 'national interest'. Weaving together stories from across the world, historian Paul Jankowski offers a cautionary tale relevant for Western democracies today. The rising threat from dictatorial regimes and the ideological challenges from communism and fascism gave the 1930s a unique face, just as global environmental and demographic crises are shaping our own precious age.

strongmen mussolini to the present: *The Next Civil War* Stephen Marche, 2023-01-03 "Should be required reading for anyone interested in preserving our 246-year experiment in self-government." —The New York Times Book Review * "Well researched and eloquently presented." —The Atlantic * "Delivers Cormac McCarthy-worthy drama; while the nonfictional asides imbue that drama with the authority of documentary." —The New York Times Book Review A celebrated journalist takes a fiercely divided America and imagines five chilling scenarios that lead to its collapse, based on in-depth interviews with experts of all kinds. The United States is coming to an end. The only question is how. On a small two-lane bridge in a rural county that loathes the federal government, the US Army uses lethal force to end a standoff with hard-right anti-government patriots. Inside an ordinary diner, a disaffected young man with a handgun takes aim at the American president stepping in for an impromptu photo-op, and a bullet splits the hyper-partisan country into violently opposed mourners and revelers. In New York City, a Category 2 hurricane plunges entire neighborhoods underwater and creates millions of refugees overnight—a blow that comes on the heels of a financial crash and years of catastrophic droughts—and tips America over the edge into ruin. These nightmarish scenarios are just three of the five possibilities most likely to spark devastating chaos in the United States that are brought to life in *The Next Civil War*, a chilling and deeply researched work of speculative nonfiction. Drawing upon sophisticated predictive models and nearly two hundred interviews with experts—civil war scholars, military leaders, law enforcement officials, secret service agents, agricultural specialists, environmentalists, war historians, and political scientists—journalist Stephen Marche predicts the terrifying future collapse that so many of us do not want to see unfolding in front of our eyes. Marche has spoken with soldiers and counterinsurgency experts about what it would take to control the population of the United States, and the battle plans for the next civil war have already been drawn up. Not by novelists, but by colonels. No matter your political leaning, most of us can sense that America is barreling toward catastrophe—of one kind or another. Relevant and revelatory, *The Next Civil War* plainly breaks down the looming threats to America and is a must-read for anyone concerned about the future of its people, its land, and its government.

strongmen mussolini to the present: *Fascism for the Million* Oswald Mosley, 2019-03-25 Today, the word 'fascism' has become synonymous with political thuggery and persecution. It wasn't always so. Back in the 1930s tens of thousands of ordinary British people joined the British Union of Fascists because they believed that it alone could solve the problems of widespread hunger, slum housing and the threat of world war. Most were motivated by high idealism and when you read 'Fascism for the Million' you can begin to understand why. It was written by Oswald Mosley - the Movement's charismatic leader and former Minister in the pre-War Labour Government. Mosley had

brains, courage and was acknowledged to be the finest orator in Britain. In this book he condemns the evil of 'financial democracy' that allowed global capitalists to live in luxury whilst fellow countrymen and women sweated to feed their families on minimum wages. He also explains how his British Corporate State would empower working people, offer women the freedom to realise their full potential and prevent economic recession from putting millions of unemployed on the dole ever again. Mosley argues that Fascism was for the Millions - not the Millionaires.

strongmen mussolini to the present: In Praise of Idleness and Other Essays Bertrand Russell, 1976 Intolerance and bigotry lie at the heart of all human suffering. So claims Bertrand Russell at the outset of *In Praise of Idleness*, a collection of essays in which he espouses the virtues of cool reflection and free enquiry; a voice of calm in a world of maddening unreason. With characteristic clarity and humour, Russell surveys the social and political consequences of his beliefs. From a devastating critique of the ancestry of fascism to a vehement defense of 'useless' knowledge, with consideration given to everything from insect pests to the human soul, *In Praise of Idleness* is a tour de force that only Bertrand Russell could perform.

strongmen mussolini to the present: The Dictator's Handbook Bruce Bueno de Mesquita, Alastair Smith, 2011-09-27 A groundbreaking new theory of the real rules of politics: leaders do whatever keeps them in power, regardless of the national interest. As featured on the viral video *Rules for Rulers*, which has been viewed over 3 million times. Bruce Bueno de Mesquita and Alastair Smith's canonical book on political science turned conventional wisdom on its head. They started from a single assertion: Leaders do whatever keeps them in power. They don't care about the national interest-or even their subjects-unless they have to. This clever and accessible book shows that democracy is essentially just a convenient fiction. Governments do not differ in kind but only in the number of essential supporters, or backs that need scratching. The size of this group determines almost everything about politics: what leaders can get away with, and the quality of life or misery under them. The picture the authors paint is not pretty. But it just may be the truth, which is a good starting point for anyone seeking to improve human governance.

strongmen mussolini to the present: Threat to Democracy Fathali M. Moghaddam, 2019 2020 PROSE Award Finalist This book explores the recent international decline in democracy and the psychological appeal of authoritarianism in the context of rapid globalization. The rise of populist movements and leaders across the globe has produced serious and unexpected challenges to human rights and freedoms. By understanding the psychological foundations of the surge in populism and authoritarian leadership, we can better develop ways to nurture and safeguard democracy. Why and how do authoritarian leaders gain popular support? In this book, social psychologist Fathali M. Moghaddam discusses the stages of political development on the continuum from absolute dictatorship to the ideal of actualized democracy. He explains how fractured globalization - by which technological and economic forces push societies toward greater global unification, while social identity needs pull individuals back into tribal identification - can produce a turn toward dictatorship, even in previously democratic societies. The book concludes with potential solutions to the rise of authoritarian leaders and ways to strengthen democracy.

strongmen mussolini to the present: On Tyranny Graphic Edition Timothy Snyder, 2021-10-05 Note: The ebook of this graphic edition combines a hand-lettered font with richly detailed images. Due to the nature of the design, readers will be required to zoom in on each page. For the best experience, please use a larger, full-color screen. NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER • A graphic edition of historian Timothy Snyder's bestselling book of lessons for surviving and resisting America's arc toward authoritarianism, featuring the visual storytelling talents of renowned illustrator Nora Krug "Nora Krug has visualized and rendered some of the most valuable lessons of the twentieth century, which will serve all citizens as we shape the future."—Shepard Fairey, artist and activist Timothy Snyder's New York Times bestseller *On Tyranny* uses the darkest moments in twentieth-century history, from Nazism to Communism, to teach twenty lessons on resisting modern-day authoritarianism. Among the twenty include a warning to be aware of how symbols used today could affect tomorrow ("4: Take responsibility for the face of the world"), an urgent reminder

to research everything for yourself and to the fullest extent (“11: Investigate”), a point to use personalized and individualized speech rather than clichéd phrases for the sake of mass appeal (“9: Be kind to our language”), and more. In this graphic edition, Nora Krug draws from her highly inventive art style in *Belonging*—at once a graphic memoir, collage-style scrapbook, historical narrative, and trove of memories—to breathe new life, color, and power into Snyder’s riveting historical references, turning a quick-read pocket guide of lessons into a visually striking rumination. In a time of great uncertainty and instability, this edition of *On Tyranny* emphasizes the importance of being active, conscious, and deliberate participants in resistance.

strongmen mussolini to the present: How to Be a Dictator Frank Dikötter, 2019-09-05
'Brilliant' NEW STATESMAN, BOOKS OF THE YEAR 'Enlightening and a good read' SPECTATOR
'Moving and perceptive' NEW STATESMAN Mussolini, Hitler, Stalin, Mao Zedong, Kim Il-sung, Ceausescu, Mengistu of Ethiopia and Duvalier of Haiti. No dictator can rule through fear and violence alone. Naked power can be grabbed and held temporarily, but it never suffices in the long term. A tyrant who can compel his own people to acclaim him will last longer. The paradox of the modern dictator is that he must create the illusion of popular support. Throughout the twentieth century, hundreds of millions of people were condemned to enthusiasm, obliged to hail their leaders even as they were herded down the road to serfdom. In *How to Be a Dictator*, Frank Dikötter returns to eight of the most chillingly effective personality cults of the twentieth century. From carefully choreographed parades to the deliberate cultivation of a shroud of mystery through iron censorship, these dictators ceaselessly worked on their own image and encouraged the population at large to glorify them. At a time when democracy is in retreat, are we seeing a revival of the same techniques among some of today's world leaders? This timely study, told with great narrative verve, examines how a cult takes hold, grows, and sustains itself. It places the cult of personality where it belongs, at the very heart of tyranny.

strongmen mussolini to the present: A Brief History of Fascist Lies Federico Finchelstein, 2022-08-01 There is no better book on fascism's complex and vexed relationship with truth.—Jason Stanley, author of *How Fascism Works: The Politics of Us and Them* In this short companion to his book *From Fascism to Populism in History*, world-renowned historian Federico Finchelstein explains why fascists regarded simple and often hateful lies as truth, and why so many of their followers believed the falsehoods. Throughout the history of the twentieth century, many supporters of fascist ideologies regarded political lies as truth incarnated in their leader. From Hitler to Mussolini, fascist leaders capitalized on lies as the base of their power and popular sovereignty. This history continues in the present, when lies again seem to increasingly replace empirical truth. Now that actual news is presented as “fake news” and false news becomes government policy, *A Brief History of Fascist Lies* urges us to remember that the current talk of “post-truth” has a long political and intellectual lineage that we cannot ignore.

strongmen mussolini to the present: Men on Horseback David A. Bell, 2020-05-19 An immersive examination of why the age of democratic revolutions was also a time of hero worship and strongmen In *Men on Horseback*, the Princeton University historian David A. Bell offers a dramatic new interpretation of modern politics, arguing that the history of democracy is inextricable from the history of charisma, its shadow self. Bell begins with Corsica’s Pasquale Paoli, an icon of republican virtue whose exploits were once renowned throughout the Atlantic World. Paoli would become a signal influence in both George Washington’s America and Napoleon Bonaparte’s France. In turn, Bonaparte would exalt Washington even as he fashioned an entirely different form of leadership. In the same period, Toussaint Louverture sought to make French Revolutionary ideals of freedom and equality a reality for the formerly enslaved people of what would become Haiti, only to be betrayed by Napoleon himself. Simon Bolivar witnessed the coronation of Napoleon and later sought refuge in newly independent Haiti as he fought to liberate Latin America from Spanish rule. Tracing these stories and their interconnections, Bell weaves a spellbinding tale of power and its ability to mesmerize. Ultimately, Bell tells the crucial and neglected story of how political leadership was reinvented for a revolutionary world that wanted to do without kings and queens. If leaders no

longer rule by divine right, what underlies their authority? Military valor? The consent of the people? Their own Godlike qualities? Bell's subjects all struggled with this question, learning from each other's example as they did so. They were men on horseback who sought to be men of the people—as Bell shows, modern democracy, militarism, and the cult of the strongman all emerged together. Today, with democracy's appeal and durability under threat around the world, Bell's account of its dark twin is timely and revelatory. For all its dangers, charisma cannot be dispensed with; in the end, Bell offers a stirring injunction to reimagine it as an animating force for good in the politics of our time.

strongmen mussolini to the present: A Short History of the World John Morris Roberts, 1997 Chronologically discusses the events of history beginning with the evolution of man and ending with the restructuring of Western Europe in 1993.

strongmen mussolini to the present: Italian Colonialism R. Ben-Ghiat, M. Fuller, 2016-04-30 Italian Colonialism is a pioneering anthology of texts by scholars from seven countries who represent the best of classical and newer approaches to the study of Italian colonization. Essays on the political, economic, and military aspects of Italian colonialism are featured alongside works that reflect the insights of anthropology, race and gender studies, film, architecture, and oral and cultural history. The volume includes many essays by Italian and African scholars that have never been translated into English. It is a unique resource that offers students and scholars a comprehensive view of the field.

strongmen mussolini to the present: This Way to the Universe Michael Dine, 2022-02-08 For readers of Sean Carroll, Brian Greene, Katie Mack, and anyone who wants to know what theoretical physicists actually do. This Way to the Universe is a celebration of the astounding, ongoing scientific investigations that have revealed the nature of reality at its smallest, at its largest, and at the scale of our daily lives. The enigmas that Professor Michael Dine discusses are like landmarks on a fantastic journey to the edge of the universe. Asked where to find out about the Big Bang, Dark Matter, the Higgs boson particle—the long cutting edge of physics right now—Dine had no single book he could recommend. This is his accessible, authoritative, and up-to-date answer. Comprehensible to anyone with a high-school level education, with almost no equations, there is no better author to take you on this amazing odyssey. Dine is widely recognized as having made profound contributions to our understanding of matter, time, the Big Bang, and even what might have come before it. This Way to the Universe touches on many emotional, critical points in his extraordinary career while presenting mind-bending physics like his answer to the Dark Matter and Dark Energy mysteries as well as the ideas that explain why our universe consists of something rather than nothing. People assume String Theory can never be tested, but Dine intrepidly explores exactly how the theory might be tested experimentally, as well as the pitfalls of falling in love with math. This book reflects a lifetime pursuing the deepest mysteries of reality, by one of the most humble and warmly engaging voices you will ever read.

strongmen mussolini to the present: Il Duce and His Women Roberto Olla, 2013-05-01 Il Duce and His Women charts the main events in Mussolini's private and public life, from his humble beginnings in Romagna as the son of a blacksmith to his years as the director of a leading Socialist newspaper and his irresistible rise to power, with a particular focus on his renowned appetite for women, and the lesser-known influence they had on his decision-making. The result is a riveting account that will shock and haunt its readers for a long time.

strongmen mussolini to the present: America and Iran John Ghazvinian, 2020-10-22 Selected as one of the 100 Notable Books of the Year by the New York Times In recent times, the United States and Iran have seemed closer to war than peace, but that is not where their story began. When America was in its infancy, Thomas Jefferson and John Quincy Adams turned to the history of the Persian Empire as they looked for guidance on how to run their new country. And in the following century, Iranian newspapers heralded America as an ideal that their own government might someday emulate. How, then, did the two nations become the adversaries that they are today? In this rich, fascinating history, John Ghazvinian traces the complex story of America and Iran over

three centuries. Drawing on years of research conducted in both countries – including access to Iranian government archives rarely available to Western scholars – he leads us through the four seasons of US-Iranian relations: from the spring of mutual fascination, where Iran, sick of duplicitous Britain and Russia interfering in its affairs, sought a relationship with the United States, to the long, dark winter of hatred that we are yet to see end. A revealing account, America and Iran lays bare when, where and how it all went wrong – and why it didn't have to be this way.

strongmen mussolini to the present: *Twilight in Hazard* Alan Maimon, 2021-06-08 “*Twilight in Hazard* paints a more nuanced portrait of Appalachia than Vance did...[Maimon] eviscerates Vance's bestseller with stiletto precision.” —Associated Press From investigative reporter and Pulitzer Prize finalist Alan Maimon comes the story of how a perfect storm of events has had a devastating impact on life in small town Appalachia, and on the soul of a shaken nation . . . When Alan Maimon got the assignment in 2000 to report on life in rural Eastern Kentucky, his editor at the Louisville Courier-Journal told him to cover the region “like a foreign correspondent would.” And indeed, when Maimon arrived in Hazard, Kentucky fresh off a reporting stint for the New York Times's Berlin bureau, he felt every bit the outsider. He had landed in a place in the vice grip of ecological devastation and a corporate-made opioid epidemic—a place where vote-buying and drug-motivated political assassinations were the order of the day. While reporting on the intense religious allegiances, the bitter, bareknuckled political rivalries, and the faltering attempts to emerge from a century-long coal-based economy, Maimon learns that everything—and nothing—you have heard about the region is true. And far from being a foreign place, it is a region whose generations-long struggles are driven by quintessentially American forces. Resisting the easy cliches, Maimon's *Twilight in Hazard* gives us a profound understanding of the region from his years of careful reporting. It is both a powerful chronicle of a young reporter's immersion in a place, and of his return years later—this time as the husband of a Harlan County coal miner's daughter—to find the area struggling with its identity and in the thrall of Trumpism as a political ideology. *Twilight in Hazard* refuses to mythologize Central Appalachia. It is a plea to move past the fixation on coal, and a reminder of the true costs to democracy when the media retreats from places of rural distress. It is an intimate portrait of a people staring down some of the most pernicious forces at work in America today while simultaneously being asked: How could you let this happen to yourselves? *Twilight in Hazard* instead tells the more riveting, noirish, and sometimes bitingly humorous story of how we all let this happen.

strongmen mussolini to the present: *Blackshirts and Reds* Michael Parenti, 2020-09-09 A bold and entertaining exploration of the epic struggles of yesterday and today. *Blackshirts & Reds* explores some of the big issues of our time: fascism, capitalism, communism, revolution, democracy, and ecology. These terms are often bandied about, but seldom explored in the original and exciting way that has become Michael Parenti's trademark. Parenti shows how rational fascism renders service to capitalism, how corporate power undermines democracy, and how revolutions are a mass empowerment against the forces of exploitative privilege. He also maps out the external and internal forces that destroyed communism, and the disastrous impact of the free-market victory on eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union. He affirms the relevance of taboo ideologies like Marxism, demonstrating the importance of class analysis in understanding political realities and dealing with the ongoing collision between ecology and global corporatism. Written with lucid and compelling style, this book goes beyond truncated modes of thought, inviting us to entertain iconoclastic views, and to ask why things are as they are. A penetrating and persuasive writer with an astonishing array of documentation to implement his attacks. —The Catholic Journalist By portraying the struggle between fascism and Communism in this century as a single conflict, and not a series of discrete encounters, between the insatiable need for new capital on the one hand and the survival of a system under siege on the other, Parenti defines fascism as the weapon of capitalism, not simply an extreme form of it. Fascism is not an aberration, he points out, but a 'rational' and integral component of the system.—Stan Goff, author of *Full Spectrum Disorder: The Military in the New American Century* Michael Parenti, PhD Yale, is an internationally known author and lecturer. He is

one of the nation's leading progressive political analysts. Author of over 275 published articles and twenty books, his writings are published in popular periodicals, scholarly journals, and his op-ed pieces have been in leading newspapers such as The New York Times and The Los Angeles Times. His informative and entertaining books and talks have reached a wide range of audiences in North America and abroad.

strongmen mussolini to the present: Bodies of Meaning David McNally, 2001-01-01
Challenges postmodernist theories of language and politics which detach language from human bodies and their material practices.

strongmen mussolini to the present: *Hiding in Plain Sight* Sarah Kendzior, 2020-04-07
Instant New York Times Bestseller Washington Post Bestseller USA Today Bestseller Indie Bound Bestseller Authors Round the South Bestseller Midwest Indie Bestseller New York Times bestselling author Sarah Kendzior documents the truth about the calculated rise to power of Donald Trump since the 1980s and how the erosion of our liberties made an American demagogue possible. The story of Donald Trump's rise to power is the story of a buried American history – buried because people in power liked it that way. It was visible without being seen, influential without being named, ubiquitous without being overt. Sarah Kendzior's *Hiding in Plain Sight* pulls back the veil on a history spanning decades, a history of an American autocrat in the making. In doing so, she reveals the inherent fragility of American democracy – how our continual loss of freedom, the rise of consolidated corruption, and the secrets behind a burgeoning autocratic United States have been hiding in plain sight for decades. In Kendzior's signature and celebrated style, she expertly outlines Trump's meteoric rise from the 1980s until today, interlinking key moments of his life with the degradation of the American political system and the continual erosion of our civil liberties by foreign powers. Kendzior also offers a never-before-seen look at her lifelong tendency to be in the wrong place at the wrong time – living in New York through 9/11 and in St. Louis during the Ferguson uprising, and researching media and authoritarianism when Trump emerged using the same tactics as the post-Soviet dictatorships she had long studied. It is a terrible feeling to sense a threat coming, but it is worse when we let apathy, doubt, and fear prevent us from preparing ourselves. *Hiding in Plain Sight* confronts the injustice we have too long ignored because the truth is the only way forward.

strongmen mussolini to the present: *The Murder of Professor Schlick* David Edmonds, 2022-03-29
On June 22, 1936, the philosopher Moritz Schlick was on his way to deliver a lecture at the University of Vienna when Johann Nelböck, a deranged former student of Schlick's, shot him dead on the university steps. Some Austrian newspapers defended the madman, while Nelböck argued in court that his onetime teacher had promoted a treacherous Jewish philosophy. Weaving an enthralling narrative set against the backdrop of rising extremism in Hitler's Europe, David Edmonds traces the rise and fall of the Vienna Circle--associated with brilliant thinkers like Otto Neurath, Kurt Gödel, Rudolf Carnap, Ludwig Wittgenstein, and Karl Popper--and of a philosophical movement movement that sought to do away with metaphysics and pseudoscience in a city darkened by and unreason.--

strongmen mussolini to the present: *They Thought They Were Free* Milton Mayer, 2017-11-28
National Book Award Finalist: Never before has the mentality of the average German under the Nazi regime been made as intelligible to the outsider." —The New York Times
They Thought They Were Free is an eloquent and provocative examination of the development of fascism in Germany. Milton Mayer's book is a study of ten Germans and their lives from 1933-45, based on interviews he conducted after the war when he lived in Germany. Mayer had a position as a research professor at the University of Frankfurt and lived in a nearby small Hessian town which he disguised with the name "Kronenberg." These ten men were not men of distinction, according to Mayer, but they had been members of the Nazi Party; Mayer wanted to discover what had made them Nazis. His discussions with them of Nazism, the rise of the Reich, and mass complicity with evil became the backbone of this book, an indictment of the ordinary German that is all the more powerful for its refusal to let the rest of us pretend that our moment, our society, our country are fundamentally

immune. A new foreword to this edition by eminent historian of the Reich Richard J. Evans puts the book in historical and contemporary context. We live in an age of fervid politics and hyperbolic rhetoric. *They Thought They Were Free* cuts through that, revealing instead the slow, quiet accretions of change, complicity, and abdication of moral authority that quietly mark the rise of evil.

strongmen mussolini to the present: Last Call at the Hotel Imperial: The Reporters Who Took on a World at War Deborah Cohen, 2022-03-15 'Effervescent' New Yorker Best Books Of 2022 So Far 'Bursts with colour and incident' FT Best Books of Summer

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