

1) WAIT! IS IT TRUE



WE'RE LOSING OUR DEMOCRACY?!

We hear very unusual news these days: ICE agents disappear people, there is no due process anymore, a mayor has been arrested, a judge is indicted, Supreme Court rulings are ignored, the National Guard is requested on American soil, the military is going to do the job of the police, ballots are in to revoke the right to vote, President Trump says he doesn't know if he'll uphold the Constitution, or not.

WE ARE IN A CONSTITUTIONAL CRISIS

OK. WHAT DOES THAT MEAN AND HOW DOES IT AFFECT US?

A constitutional crisis happens when the rights of the people and the basic rules of co-equal branches of government are undermined. In our case, federal agencies are dismantled without congressional approval, people's personal and medical data have been shared with civilians, judges' and justices' rulings are ignored, etc. This stage of chaos is a mutation that happens when a country is in the process of transitioning from one form of government to another one.

Before 1776, we were a group of colonies ruled by King George III. That was an autocracy, specifically a monarchy. But through the chaotic process of the revolution, our country became a democracy: a republic governed by the People, for the People, ruled by fundamental principles laid out in the Constitution, that created the separation of the three powers, executive, legislative, and judiciary.

Today, the Constitution suffers an unprecedented onslaught. The executive branch of our government tramples on the legislative and judiciary branches. As these become powerless, there is only one power that remains concentrated in the hands of Donald Trump. The US has now entered a transitional stage where we're not fully a democracy anymore. It is heading towards a 1-man rule, which is an autocracy, specifically a dictatorship.

WHAT IS IT LIKE TO LIVE IN AN AUTOCRACY?

The world has examples to help us understand this: North Korea, Afghanistan, Syria, Libya... and so does history: Hitler's Germany, Mussolini's Italy, Franco's Spain, Pinochet's Chile, Duvalier's Haiti. In these countries the autocrat, backed up by the military, makes all of the decisions. Personal freedoms are limited. The government is involved in every aspect of everyday life, from controlling the media to running the country's major businesses and industries. The vagaries of the autocrat outweigh the human rights of the people, which leads to common human rights violations, summary executions, etc. People's individual desires, hopes, potential become <u>invisible</u>: They're expected to obey regardless of what is ordered and to keep their mouth shut. They become work and tax providers, nothing more.

WHAT WOULD A TRUMP AMERICAN AUTOCRACY LOOK LIKE?

We know for sure that President Trump is an admirer of autocrats Putin and Hitler. But what may be even more concerning is that his most proeminent staff have repeatedly spoken against democracy. J.D. Vance, Elon Musk, and Pete Hegseth, Trump's inner circle, endorsed the book <u>Unhumans</u> by white-supremacist neo-Nazi author Posobiec who calls to the killing of those he calls "unhuman" i.e. anyone who advocates for equality.





DON'T BE INVISIBLE BECOME INDIVISIBLE



Furthermore, the book endorses the mass murders done by dictators. The fascist Spanish general Franco, the Chilean general Pinochet, and Ian Smith, the prime minister of apartheid Rhodesia are proposed as models for the United States. The book reads as a contemporary <u>Mein Kampf</u> and the new reality it lays out is one where you and me, regular, peaceful, nice people, should be killed.

DO WE WANT TO BE INVISIBLE OR INDIVISIBLE?

We all wish that wasn't happening, but this is happening, however hard it is to believe. We have to deal with it and face the threat if we want ourselves and our children to keep living in a democracy where our freedoms are respected and our lives are not at risk. If we put our heads in the sand, the democracy we've had for the last 248 years, will be taken away from us, and once it is gone, there is no simple non-violent path to get it back.

WHAT CAN WE DO?!

<u>Be stubborn</u>, extremely stubborn, devastatingly stubborn. This is our country. This is our democracy. <u>We do what we can</u>, each of us depending on our abilities, skills, availabilities, but <u>we DO something</u>. We <u>meet in the streets every week</u> with signs that voice our love for our democracy and our opposition to it getting ripped away. No need to go to DC, there are local protests all the time.

We <u>call our elected officials every week</u> to repeat that we oppose the attacks on our democracy and/or ask they vote no/yes on given bills. We <u>go to town halls</u>.

We reach out to everyone we know, ask if they are aware of what is going on, and inform them.

We post and repost on our social media about the constitutional crisis and time/location for rallies.

PRACTICALLY? HOW DO I DO THIS?

Get connected to activists now

Join one of our non-partisan groups. What do we mean by this? It means that you know how to contact us and we know how to contact you. No one will expect you to do in-depth activist work. Being in touch through email is an easy way for you to stay in the loop, know the latest autocratic developments and how best to counter them. If you don't want to share your personal name, you can create an email address with an alias.

So, send us an email, join our Facebook group, subscribe to our newsletter, read the messages we send with the actions to take everyday. It won't take much of your time: a call to your representative here, a petition to sign there, a 1-hour protest from time to time.

If you want to do MORE, you can offer your help. We'll have simple tasks for you to help organize within the group and/or the community. You can post on the group social media, help with getting the meetings set up, pass flyers, marshal at protests, and much more!

We the People Dissent Indivisible Metro Detroit (Detroit)
Eastside Indivisible Alliance (Grosse Pointe)

Stand Up Indivisible (Rochester Hills) Indivisible Fighting 9 (Ferndale)

Macomb Defenders Rising (Macomb county)

Ann Arbor Indivisible (Ann Arbor) Indivisible North Oakland (Ortonville)

