

STRATEGIC ALERT



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Why Authoritarians are Obsolete & Ill-Suited as 21st Century Leaders

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(Note: this paper focuses primarily on Authoritarians and War, Putin in particular)
See my other writings to learn about collaborative leadership in peacetime.

The last decade has seen the reemergence of not just authoritarian leaders, but the widespread belief that they are more effective, and that democracies have become impossible to govern. The purpose of this Strategic Alert is to:

- dispel such nonsense and give direct evidence why this belief is fallacious
- outline what can be done to prevent them from rising to power

Why Dictators are Obsolete in the 21st Century

Historical Background

Across the centuries, humanity has had a dangerous dalliance with dictators. While some have been somewhat benevolent, such as Roman Marcus Aurelius, the bulk of their impact on their nations has been largely negative.

There could be a reasonable case made that Authoritarian Leaders had a place in Ancient History, and even through the Middle Ages. These were times when the world did not move very fast, things were carved into stone, and innovation was not terribly important.

Autocrats --hierarchical monarchs -- who led from the top down, and *Authoritarians* – dictators who led with an iron fist -- could sometimes handle problems, situations, and opportunities with some aplomb, particularly in times of turmoil and chaos. Others, like Ivan the Terrible were just cold-blooded psychopathic killers who slaughtered people with ruthless abandon.

However, as early as the 1500s, the world was changing. Nicolo Machiavelli, known for his famous and highly influential book, *The Prince*, (1513) wrote about how a feudal Prince must rule where *might makes right*.

However, with the Renaissance the world was changing, Machiavelli had second thoughts about his first bookⁱ and soon thereafter wrote the *Discourses* (1517), which advised how to lead a republic.ⁱⁱ

By the 1600s, thoughts about authoritarian leaders had shifted dramatically which gave rise to democracies in the following centuries.

Napoleon is one example of our infatuation with raw power, which ended with the Battle of Waterloo in 1815.ⁱⁱⁱ The ideals of Constitutional Monarchies were beginning to take root in Europe after the success of the American revolution and the tragedies of the French Revolution. The iron fist Napoleon was a threat to both the emerging new ideals of democracy in Europe as well as the practical geo-political realities that their very existence would be threatened should the remaining European powers not end Napoleon's reign of terror.

Napoleon rose to power to end the chaos in France. He was both a brilliant visionary and a sadistic sociopath. His brutal quest for massive power was frightening; a factor that is so often overlooked by those who still idolize him. Historian Alan Schom cites why the allies rose up when Napoleon reascended to power in 1815:

“the hundreds of smoking villages he had bombed or burned to the ground ... the thousands of POWs he executed in cold blood ... the hundreds of thousands of civilian refugees rendered homeless ... the thousands upon thousands of old women and young girls raped ... the hundreds of towns and cities ruthlessly looted ... the three million dead soldiers of all nations left rotting across the face of Europe ... the millions of wounded and permanently handicapped ... the destroyed political institutions of a few hundred states and principalities ... the shattered economies, the fear and dread he had left behind everywhere.”^{iv}

This scenario had been played for centuries across Europe. After a brief interlude, Bismarck emerged fifty years later, attacking Denmark, France, Austria, and then annexing Poland, depriving Poles of owning their

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farms and deporting 30,000 Poles. Seventy years later Hitler took his queues from Bismarck and Napoleon, again requiring another grand alliance to defeat him.

Today, Putin had inherited this monstrous gambit with his invasion of Ukraine as the first step in his grandiose quest to reconquer Eastern Europe.

What's gone wrong with humanity that it allows such bloody transgressions?

This is the core question addressed in this Strategic Alert

Flawed Judgement

The primary reason why people are suckered into **the Authoritarian Fallacy** is because of our inability to discern who is an authoritarian, and secondly because we hold a lot of **Mythology** about authoritarians.

First, there is a false interchangeability of terminology marking the distinction between *authoritarian dictators* and *autocratic leaders*, although the terms are often, improperly, used interchangeably.

*Mythology: A half-truth, half lie,
disguised as the truth*

Some modern autocrats have used their power wisely, and others have been abject beasts.

Case in Point: Singapore's first prime minister, Lee Kuan Yew, was clearly an autocrat who ruled the city-state for over three decades. He was strong, firm, and devoted to building a city-state that has now become one of the treasures of East Asia, highly developed, prosperous, safe, and a central financial hub for banking and investment.

Lee dug Singapore out of the trash-heap after WWII, cleaning up the slums, replacing them with modern housing. Graft and corruption virtually disappeared. It's per capita GDP is ranked 4th in the world and is revered for one of the highest levels of health and nutrition in Asia.

Lee is considered one of the true "benevolent dictators" in world history and was revered as a statesman. He created order, reason, fairness, and structure to a culture that demanded this clarity to function effectively.

Second, it is essential that both political leaders and voter know the signals to spot authoritarians and challenge their rise to power.

Third, we should be careful to understand the consequences of inaction when we don't take preemptive action.

Autocracies Will Run the World?

However, Lee's great leadership proves little: The exception does not prove the rule. The statement "Autocracies Will Run the World" sounds like a Medieval proclamation from a leader who has not realized the world has changed. This statement is pure delusion.

So, why are Authoritarians obsolete and ill-suited as 21st century Leaders?

Autocracies were becoming obsolete in the 1700s. It's one of the reasons the American Revolution succeeded against the Authoritarian King George, despite being outnumbered 2 to 1 by the world's most

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powerful army and navy. Authoritarians are simply incapable of handling long-term, complex problems when their own people do not support them.

Beginning with Napoleon, followed by Hitler, and now Putin, along with a multitude of petty despots, we can quickly see why Authoritarians become the worst Blunderers, making massive mistakes because he, like other dictators, put yes-men in their counsel of advisors. Authoritarians like Putin have a massive weakness that is exacerbated by their flawed personality deficiencies.

Authoritarian Rule is a disaster in the 21st century where people will not stand to serve as pawns and be manipulated by dictators abuse them. Authoritarian dictators, while they make decisions quickly, are actually ill-suited in the modern world, with deep fundamental weaknesses that underpin the

Authoritarian Fallacy:

20 Reasons Why “Authoritarian Effectiveness” is a Fallacy

1. Today, in our complex, interconnected, and rapidly changing world, Authoritarians demand **absolute power, which corrupts them** (and their nation) **absolutely**.
 1. Because Authoritarians typically are socio/psycho pathic, they are **Heartless**, without conscience. Their commanders are selected to reflect the coldness of the dictator, thus making their troops fight is dependent on instilling fear, not courage to fight for a worthy mission.
 2. Dictators are, by their nature, **Addicted to the Adversarial Abuse of Power**. Thus, inherently, they are always wrangling on the **offense, unfair, unreasonable**, and, worst of all, **Start Wars** to assuage their greedy and lustful **drive for acquisition of territory, assets, and enslavement of peons**.
2. Authoritarian ruthlessness means they must **consolidate their supremacy and concentrate decision-making in the hands of only a few power-elites** to keep themselves in power.
 1. This means the wealth of the nation is poorly distributed, which leads to the large majority has no economic incentive to be productive. Consequently, their nations are locked in a depressive poverty cycle, losing competitiveness on the world stage and failing to attract investment capital.
 2. Authoritarian **War-Mongering** generates **Dreadful Decision-making, Mismanagement on the Battlefield, and War Crimes** such as Napoleon’s and Hitler’s disastrous invasions of Russia, or Hirohito’s attack on Pearl Harbour, or Putin’s Ukrainian debacle
3. Authoritarians cannot understand why they are hammered by the **Law of Unintended Consequences** when those who oppose them form alliances to defeat them.
4. Authoritarians **Lack Insight and Wisdom** because their advisory teams are filled mediocrity afraid to trigger the wrath of the dictator.
 1. And none of these few sycophants are really trustworthy, meaning no one tells truth to power. thus....
5. Authoritarians **Lack Competence**, putting their cronies in power because they are loyal, not because they are smart.
 1. Trump’s motley crew was on a short rotational cycle in-and-out because he didn’t want competence, he wanted manipulators.

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2. Putin scapegoating his Military Commanders and Intelligence Agencies for their failure to win an ill-conceived war that Putin created in his head-strong delusions of grandeur.
6. Authoritarians **Lack Character**; bad character creates corruption and requires onerous power to maintain order.
 1. On the other hand, good character means people look out for others, tell the truth, and have heart-felt courage.
7. Authoritarians must resort to **Buying Loyalty with Corrupt Underhanded Bargains** with power elites. Then the power elites become ambitious, want to take over the Dictator's power position or exploit their advantages to feed their greed.
 1. This creates an escalating spiral of power struggles, often ending in assassinations, such as we are seeing in Russia today.
8. Authoritarians **Lack Trust** and worse – they will destroy trust, creating polarization and constant, continuous chaos, confusion, bickering, and whipping up a tornado of distrust. No one will ever feel safe – everyone will always feel stressed. None of the principles of fairness and equity will prevail.
 - No one will ever feel safe – everyone will always feel stressed.
 - **Lack of Trust** generates the spawning ground for unbridled corruption, and ... which creates a massive competitive *dis*advantage – degrading capabilities internally and on the battlefield.
9. Authoritarians, without trust, are constantly engaged in **Blame Games** which means no one wants to work with others to innovate, solve core problems, or coordinate in teams.
 - When dictator's fail, they never look inward to their own gigantic flaws, but begin **Scapegoating** everyone in sight.
 - Fiefdoms emerge, isolated power centers that trust no one.
 - One of the primary reasons Putin lost in Ukraine is because the infantry, artillery, tank commands, and air force never work in unison, together, as a joint force.
 - Ukraine has mastered coordinated joint operations, which gives them about a 50% competitive advantage.
 - The NATO alliance is based on **Trust** – the trust that EU and US have for each other, and for the Ukraine. Russia has hollow coalitions, which are unstable connections based on mutual enemies, not on a strategic vision nor honorable values.

“Trust is the ‘coin of the realm’ in dealing with our Allies”
– William Cohen, Former US Secretary of Defense, MSNBC, Sept 9, 2022
10. Authoritarians lack the ability to **Unite People** at a soulful level, because unification is not how they maintain power.
 1. Authoritarians gain power by dividing people against each other, polarizing and isolating interest groups, and then interceding to use their strong-armed tactics to force order from the chaos they create.

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11. Authoritarians must become **Bullies**. They are inherently insecure because they have no trusted associates, must rely on a **Network of Spies** informing on everyone, and must create an aura of total fear to retain their power.
12. Authoritarians **Lack Vision** – if they have it, it is usually overly grandiose, like Putin’s desire to resurrect the old Soviet Imperialistic Empire or Hitler’s Thousand Year Third Reich.
 1. Grandiosity prevents them from creating realistic plans for practical implementation that truly affects the people. It also pushes power to the limit, which starts wars that typically end in disaster in modern times.
13. Authoritarians **Lack Flexibility & Agility** because they are monolithic, hierarchical, and all information has to go up and down a ball & chain of command where info is filtered out to give info only people want to hear at the next level
14. Authoritarians **Lack Compassion and Empathy** for others, thus they become more and more detached from their people.
 1. This isolation becomes a polarizing tension that reaches a breaking point resulting in the overthrow of the leader.
15. Because Authoritarians typically are **Socio/Psycho Pathic**, they are **Heartless**, without conscience.
 1. Their commanders are selected to reflect the coldness of the dictator, thus making their troops fight is dependent on instilling fear -- not courage to fight for a worthy mission.
16. Authoritarians such as Putin, Trump, Kim Jun Un, Hitler, etc. become victims of their own **Narcissistic Megalomania, Manipulative Machiavellianism, and Sadistic Socio/Psychopathy** – three evil characteristics known as the “[Dark Triad](#).” (follow link to see more)
 1. To maintain power, they must mobilize their minions around an outside enemy to take attention off themselves for their own ineptitude. Sometimes that enemy is internal, such as Hitler’s attacks on the Jewish population, or Trump’s attacks on Liberal Democrats.
 2. Authoritarians become Addicted to PMS – Power, Money, Sex which takes their focus away from creating real value in their countries and dealing with underlying core socio-economic problems.
17. They **generate crises and false flag incidents**, create phony rationales for attacking anything that might oppose them, including their own people and adjacent countries.
 1. Their internal and external enemies are falsely accused of committing some heinous transgression.
 2. Often this transgression is something the Authoritarians actually commit themselves, such as Hitler’s burning of the Reichstag. “If this fire, as I believe, is the work of the Communists, then we must crush out this murderous pest with an iron fist.” That night around 4,000 people were arrested, imprisoned and tortured.
18. They whip their countrymen into **emotional reactions with massive propaganda machines**.
(see Mass Manipulation Propaganda sidebar)

Mass Manipulation

Propagandists attack an individual's brain with a constant barrage of attacks, ill-intentioned messaging, and a deluge of disinformation, sowing of doubt and distrust.

This is primarily a psychologically driven experience – the causative issues run much deeper. While no one issue is enough to cause psychological breakdowns, taken together, and given critical weaknesses in social structure, the BEFUDDLED factors can impact cause bizarre behavior in entire groups, even nations, as evidenced in 1930s Germany under Hitler, and in North Korea under Kim Jun Il today.

“**BEFUDDLED**” is an acronym (see below) for tactics used to exploit our collective angst.

Blame

Continuously finding fault with others and reveling in scorn, while never accepting responsibility.

Enemies

Polarization, casting those who act or think differently as evil-intentioned, conspiring adversaries.

Fear

Triggering extreme anxiety that others pose a dangerous threat to my existence and my beliefs.

Uncertainty

Causing the perception that nothing is stable, nothing is real, what I dislike must be “fake news.”

Doubt

Undermining reality by asking questions designed to shake beliefs about the motives of others.

Distrust

Spreading misgivings and casting aspersions for the purpose of creating cynicism and suspicion.

Lies

Purposefully spreading disinformation, usually connecting a half-truth with a falsehood.

Extremism

Radicalization, multiplication, and amplification to provoke action based on inflaming emotions.

Discord

Using these tactics in a manipulative way to benefit one person or group who alone can fix it.

After being hit with a BEFUDDLED barrage like this, your brain is scrambled, which is the exact intent. With this concoction, each of the ingredients reinforces the potency of the others. What's most disconcerting is that the BEFUDDLED tactics are now firmly engrained in our culture.

The Permanent Campaign

Our political culture has now fully embraced the age of the permanent campaign – a *dog eat dog, survival of the fittest* strategy every day of the year.

Every two years the American politics industry fills the airwaves with the most virulent, scurrilous, wall-to-wall character assassination of nearly every political practitioner in the country - and then declares itself puzzled that America has lost trust in its politicians.

—Charles Krauthammer

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Adapt to changing conditions and new information, wallowing in the false glory of their self-imagined omnipotence. In turn, they must create a **Massive Propaganda Machine** to deceive their nation into believing in delusional reality.

20. Deposing of Authoritarian Dictators does not necessarily lead to enlightened governance. While Dictators like to surround themselves with sycophants, they do attract a cadre of dark leaders who are their likely replacements.

- Hitler's head of the dreaded SS, Heinrich Himmler was a psychopath, as was Adolf Eichmann who ran Hitler's infamous concentration camps, and the "Angel of Death," Josef Mengele who oversaw countless murders and ugly experiments on imprisoned victims.
- Further, deposing Putin does not assure that his successor will be any better. If another dictator replaces Putin, history's tragic music will return with new lyrics.
- All this does is to regenerated more hate, more wars, more corruption, and more abuse of humanity. The long history of decrepit leaders over three millennia is testimony to how difficult it is to break this vicious cycle.
- Unless the Russian people demand a new order of governance, we can just expect more of the same, but perhaps more under the surface where it is harder to fight.
- Deposing Putin will not undo the damage that has been inflicted on Ukraine and Eastern Europe, no more than Hitler's death reverse his horrific slaughter and destruction. We can scream for reparations (which will never be paid), but that does not return the dead from the grave, nor restore the mental health to millions who now suffer from PTSD (Post Traumatic Stress Disorder). Nor will it reverse the losses of homes, deprivation of happiness, nor trust in anything Russian.

Validating the Breakdowns – Examining the Evidence

How do we know the list of 20 core deficiencies are true? What is the evidence?

Actually, the list above was derived from a root cause analysis of Hitler's and Putin's 10 major blunders, examining why they made such grievous errors. Let's look at Putin's top ten mistakes and compare the causes to the list above.

Putin's Blunders

Putin suffers from many character flaws that caused him to make 10 major miscalculations whereby he will go down in history as one of the biggest blunderers of all time, making a massive number faulty assumptions that no great strategist or tactician should ever belly-flop into:



1. He assumed that his intellect was superior to everyone else's, thus he cut himself off from key advisors that could have told him about the major flaws in his war plans. His delusional grandiosity envisioned taking *all* of Ukraine in a week, leaving his forces stranded in hostile territory.

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2. He believed he could create a convincing rationale for his war — such as that Ukraine was indeed part of Russia, that Ukraine was run by NAZIs, and the Ukrainians would welcome him as Liberators.
3. He calculated his Army and its weaponry was sufficient to defeat the Ukrainian opposition, but was just second-rate at best in holding an advantage against Western technology. But worse, his military was organized to fight based on hierarchical command — something that was outmoded by the end of WWI.
4. He misjudged the ease of attacking on someone else’s sovereign turf, thinking his initiative would be like Hitler rolling over France, Belgium or Poland; while failing to consider it would be more like Hitler’s invasion of Russia in 1941.
5. He completely misunderstood the importance of Leadership for managing morale, and the critical nature of Logistics to keep an Army supplied.
6. He could never comprehend the power of holding the moral high ground, thus committed war crimes and other atrocities.
7. He misjudged Biden’s resolve and that of EU leaders and NATO to respond with heartening opposition.
8. He had no concept of Zelensky’s leadership nor the resolve of the Ukrainian people.
9. He did not expect the West to impose Sanctions and isolate him from the rest of the civilized world.
10. He falsely believed his Propaganda Machine and his subversive tactics could undermine the Western democracies and his use of tactics of Fear, Uncertainty, Distrust, Discord, & Divisiveness would sap the strength of the West.

What can be done to prevent such leaders from assuming power? What are we missing?

Leverage Points for Curbing Abuse

Curbing these abuses has never been more important now that dark leaders are ascending and they have in their power the nuclear and chemical weaponry to annihilate the planet.

Five institutions must make a concerted effort to enlighten their constituencies to prevent authoritarians from destroying civilization.

Politics: Political leaders need to purge their ranks, preventing early rise of dark leaders, and excommunicating them when they rear their ugly heads. The focus of politics is serving our people, not wielding power. Stronger ethics are essential to maintain a moral compass. The emphasis on relationships with their constituencies must be aimed at building trust, which is at a nadir today. The electorate is fed up with politicians who are not willing to govern, never willing to end the acrimony of their campaigns after their election.

Religion: Churches have been negligent at providing the strong moral guidance that builds character, which authoritarians lack. Moreover, the emphasis of our predominant religion, Christianity, has been to advocate for “love thy neighbor.” This is the antithesis of the evil ways of authoritarian despotism. Churches should take concrete steps to enable their parishioners to discern evil and thwart it at every

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turn. This involves both strengthening Christian resolve to defeat evil while simultaneously proposing clear guidance about what it means, in concrete terms to love thy neighbor, build lasting friendships, and architect strong and clear identities for each member of the church.

Education: There was a time four generations ago, when building character was considered one of the preeminent objectives of well-educated people. Understanding the role of government and the role of citizens in a democracy was one of the mainstays of courses in Civics. Conveying the vital wisdom of identifying and counter-acting the authoritarian manipulators should be a central role of social-science courses. How to build trust is a pivotal role in any human relationship. But these issues are totally neglected in education, at our civilization's peril.

Media: Sensationalism has been the hallmark of media. Yellow journalism of the from the early 1900s has evolved into more vituperous invectives accelerated by social media, new technology, and poisoned by brain-washing propaganda techniques. When certain media moguls lose their bridles and rip civilization asunder, unleashing authoritarian monsters, it is time for the profession to become sterner masters of their future. Ethics in journalism is essential. When only 20% of the populace trusts the media, it is time to take stock and build a solid future for the institution. Democracy and civilization both hang in the balance. Truth, trust, and exposing evil is paramount.

Yellow journalism presents little or no legitimate, well-researched news while instead using eye-catching headlines for increased sales, including exaggerations of events, scandal-mongering, or sensationalism in an unprofessional or unethical fashion.

Business: While a select few of corruptible business leaders can benefit from underhanded deals with Authoritarians, business in general, and the economy as a whole, suffers under Authoritarian rule. Bypassing sanctions against evil rulers is criminal. Doing business with countries run by authoritarians usually involves graft, exploitation of workers, environmental desecration, poor quality products, and unstable supply chains. The evidence shows that ethical, fair, and highly integrated business practices produce long-term competitive advantage. Moreover, Authoritarians are ruthless and horribly unreliable. They will not act fair and square; commitments are written on the wind; their lust for gaining advantage is ultimately a losing proposition for business. Feeding the Authoritarian's power-elites and oligarchs is disastrous in the long-run.

Exceptions Don't Prove the Rule

There are some exceptions to these admonitions against authoritarian leadership. In cases of emergency, when there is no time to gain consensus, it is far better to have a single person in charge if a delay in decision-making could be harmful.

Furthermore, in the case of a turnaround situation where an organization has been wallowing in futility, a strong leader can be very effective especially in the short term while still in the crisis mode. Eventually, however, the shock effect of the authoritarian wears out, usually only good for 12–18 months, and then should be rotated out.

This is the case with Putin, who intervened after Yeltsin had begun sending Russia on a course to oblivion. Putin strong-armed the nation in a direction to be productive and begin establishing effective linkages to the West. The Russian people thanked him for his strength and new direction. But Putin didn't step down or step aside — he let his power go to his head, absolute power corrupted him absolutely, and now he has destroyed all the good he initially set out to achieve.

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Can Democracies Work in the Modern Era of Complexity?

In a fast moving, rapidly changing world, there is a lure for a strong leader to push all the buttons with authority and determination. Most of us don't like uncertainty nor ambiguity nor continually shifting shades of gray.

It is a superficial illusion that Authoritarians are fit for the job for all the reasons cited herein.

One of the reasons liberal democracies can perform better over authoritarian dictatorships is due to the fact that a democracy functions best a meritocracy -- competence is more highly valued than in authoritarian states. And the best meritocracy will weigh character equally with competence, ensuring trust becomes the central organizing principle of operational performance.

Another is because in a democracy, military defeat does not threaten the legitimacy of the state itself, just the current administration, which can just be voted out. Whereas, in a dictatorship, the state and the military are one and the same, so if the military loses legitimacy there is nothing else to prop it up.

Good Governance is like a delicate flower – beautiful and a joy to behold. But democracies, like flowers, are fragile and need be fed, given sunshine, pruned, and watered.

Lessons In Leading a Democracy

Watching the US Congress try to elect a Speaker in 2023 was utterly painful, as vote after vote has failed to gain a majority of Mr. McCarthy's Republican followers. This hasn't happened in over 100 years. What went wrong that every leader should understand?

Two things were glaringly missing:

1. Ancient Wisdom tells us: **"Where there is No Vision, the People Perish."** [Proverbs 29]
McCarthy's party had no vision, no policies, no programs. They stood for nothing, so there was no guiding "north star" to align on. Thus, there was no value being created. This means it became a party of anger, grievance, and anything goes for each individual member who then focused on their own narrow self-interest. Many began acting more like junkyard guard dogs, not champions of a bold new future.
2. Common Sense reveals: **"Where is No Trust, Everything Defaults to Politics & Power Struggles."**
In simple terms, any organization that loses its Moral Compass creates Fear, Uncertainty, Doubt, and Discord, which eats at the heart of collaborative enterprise like an invasion of termites. The idea of "team unity" washes away like a sand-castle enveloped by the in-coming tide. Trust begins with good character.

No amount of bargaining, power brokering, nor strong-arming can overcome these fundamental, structural flaws in the leadership of a democratic institution. When these two guardrails are breeched, democracy slips into the embrace of an authoritarian's waiting arms.

Without fixing the flaws, the "game" devolves into an ever-deepening abyss of devilish bargaining and desperate maneuvering. With these two factors missing, players resort to a carnivorous "survival of the fittest" mentality, destroying the possibility of teamwork. The aftermath of the turmoil was the rapid descent into the politics of grievance and revenge, institutionalizing witch-hunts.

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All of America becomes collateral damage in a pointless, unwinnable battle of egos.

The fragility of democracy can only weather great storms when underpinned by the backbone of courage and strong character in its citizenry.

Because Authoritarians trust no one, they surround themselves with poor quality sycophants who have weak backbones and never threaten the power of the boss.

Because Authoritarians are delusional, they are inflexible, unable to adapt to changing conditions and new information.

Because Authoritarians are hierarchical in their thinking about power, and because they trust no one, they cannot delegate authority and responsibility.

Because Authoritarians shoot the messengers of bad news, no one wants to be bearing the truth.

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APPENDIX ONE – The World’s #1 Killer

Dictator Mao Zedong holds the record for the most destruction of human life in history.

- From 1958 to 1962, his **Great Leap Forward** policy led to the deaths of between 30 and 45 million, due to **famine, execution, and forced labor**, including the cold-blooded murders of up to 3 million political “enemies.” people—easily making it one the biggest episode of mass murder ever recorded
- Mao’s ruthlessness was unending. In 1966 Mao launched the **Chinese Cultural Revolution**, a bloody campaign to “purify class ranks” which ended when he died in 1976. Evidence indicates he was responsible for another 40 to 80 million deaths, again from murder, famine, and forced labor camps.
- Mao’s protégé was North Vietnamese General Giap, who was “the greatest master of the new [guerilla] military science,” according to Lea Williams’ *The Military Doctrines of Mao Tse Tung applied to Vietnam* in the Journal of Southeast Asia. Giap was the ruthless commander of the Communist forces, who used the shield of Ho Chi Min to put a gentle face on his cold-blooded tactics.
- Mao backed Giap all the way in Vietnam, adding to the magnitude of Mao’s atrocities. Every discouraged Vietnam vet who wonders why we fought in Southeast Asia should be somewhat relieved that our fight in Southeast Asia eventually wore down the Chinese attraction to this evil man, and begin easing him out of power, paving the way for Nixon to visit Mao and other Chinese leaders in 1972. This was the beginning of the end the end of the Vietnam conflict. It was a war the US did not win, but we actually achieved our strategic objective: Preventing China from its march to conquer all of Southeast Asia. By 1975 Mao was dead as China began a period of adjustment to focus on economic growth, not territorial expansion.



ⁱ The next book Machiavelli wrote, *the Discourses on Livy*, presents a series of lessons on how a republic should be started and structured. The book is more than four times larger than *The Prince*, and it more openly explains the advantages of republics. It includes early versions of the concept of checks and balances, and asserts the superiority of a republic over a principality. It became one of the central texts of republicanism in the Age of Enlightenment. The contradiction between the teaching of the *Prince* and that of the *Discourses on Livy* shows that this profound political thinker has so far been studied only by superficial or corrupt readers.

ⁱⁱ Wikipedia: Machiavelli states that there are six main different types of government, three of which are good, but “no precaution will prevent it from slipping into its opposite, so closely are the virtues and vices of the two related.” Namely, *monarchy*, *aristocracy*, and *democracy* will become *tyranny*, *oligarchy*, and *anarchy*, respectively.

ⁱⁱⁱ It took a massive strategic alliance (known as “the Beautiful Alliance” & the “Seventh Coalition”) to defeat Napoleon. His opposition was composed of two coalition armies, one led by the British, the other led by the Prussians.

^{iv} Schom, Alan, *Napoleon, Bonaparte*, Harper Collins, 1997, p 789