

Religious Resistance to Authoritarianism

Conference for Faith Leaders and Concerned New Yorkers
December 4, 2025 • 475 Riverside Drive



Essential Reading for Our Times

To Understand Authoritarianism and Defend Democracy

Ruth Ben-Ghiat, [*Strongmen: Mussolini to the Present*](#)

Ruth Ben-Ghiat (ed.), [Lucid Substack Newsletter](#)

Erica Chenoweth and Maria Stephan, [*Why Civil Resistance Works: The Strategic Logic of Nonviolent Conflict*](#)

The Commons Social Change Library, [Democracy Resource Hub](#)

Lisa Fithian, [*Shut It Down: Stories from a Fierce, Loving Resistance*](#)

Horizons Project, [Readings on Global Struggles Against Authoritarianism](#)

Masha Gessen, [*Surviving Autocracy*](#)

Stephan Haggard, "[14 Books on Authoritarian Rule](#)" (review essay)

Karrie Koesel and Ani Sarkissian, "[Religion and the Authoritarian Toolkit: Are Carrots Substitutes for Sticks?](#)"

Steven Levitsky and Daniel Ziblatt, [*How Democracies Die*](#)

Othering & Belonging Institute, [Understanding Authoritarianism Resources](#)

Maria Stephan, "[Faith and the Authoritarian Playbook](#)"

Maria Stephan, "[6 Superpowers that Faith Leaders Bring to Nonviolent Struggles](#)"

Timothy Snyder, [*On Tyranny: Twenty Lessons from the Twentieth Century*](#)

Randi Weingarten, [*Why Fascists Fear Teachers: Public Education and the Future of Democracy*](#)

And Some Classic Texts for All Times

[The Constitution of the United States](#) (1787)

Henry David Thoreau, "[Essay on Civil Disobedience](#)" (1848)

Mohandas K. Gandhi, [*Non-Violent Resistance*](#) (published posthumously, 1951)

Martin Luther King, Jr., "[Letter from Birmingham Jail](#)" (1963)