

Global Perspectives: The Winter Lecture Series, 2024
Can Democracy Be Saved? The Global Trend Toward Strongman Rule

Access: *via Zoom*, on four successive Sundays beginning 2/18/2024

If you are not already on the list to receive Winter Lecture Series reminders, go to the WLS website (<https://www.unitarianlincoln.org/winter-lecture-series>) to sign up for that email list to receive reminders. We will be sending emails approximately 48 hours before each lecture with the Zoom link. The Zoom link will be the same for each of the four sessions.

Time: 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM

Format: 45-minute lecture followed by an audience-driven Q&A.

Availability: Recorded lectures and Q & A sessions will be posted by the end of March 2024 on the Unitarian Church YouTube channel:

https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLaUzwLg6zwN721Cv_oVLkMzGbpDTPoEo2

which lists all the available videos, past and present, for the Winter Lecture Series.

Sunday, February 18, 2024, 7:00 PM. Professor Barany on Orban in Hungary

Sunday, February 25, 2024, 7:00 PM. Professor Hunter on Bolsonaro in Brazil

Sunday, March 3, 2024, 7:00 PM. Professor Arat on Erdogan in Turkey

Sunday, March 10, 2024, 7:00 PM. Professor Varshney on Modi in India

Series Description:

Across the globe we see many countries displaying some version of liberal democracy but then gradually yielding to strongman rule. We ask how and why this can occur in genuine democracies. We want to know about any successful recovery. We look at four countries that can be discussed within this framework: Brazil, Hungary, India, and Turkey.

To help us understand this puzzle we host a group of distinguished experts.

Zoltan Barany, Erwin Centennial Professor of Government, University of Texas-Austin. A native of Hungary and with a MA from UNL, he is an internationally recognized expert on civilian-military relations and other key aspects of the struggle for civilian democratic rule. He has personal as well as professional reasons to focus on the leadership of Viktor Orban in Hungary.

Wendy Hunter, Professor of Government, University of Texas-Austin. She is a much decorated expert on Brazilian politics. Her impressive scholarship has led to numerous awards, research grants, and visiting positions. She is fully up to date on the rise and fall of Jair Bolsonaro in Brazil.

Zehra Arat, Professor of Political Science, University of Connecticut-Storrs. A native of Turkey, she has published many studies on Turkish politics, human rights, and women's rights. She has followed closely the long rule of Recep Tayyip Erdogan in the Turkish Republic.

Ashutosh Varshney, Goldman Professor of International Studies, Watson Institute, Brown University. He also directs the Saxena Center for Contemporary South Asia and is Professor of Political Science. A distinguished scholar with a long list of scholarly publications, he knows well the political record of Narendra Modi in India.