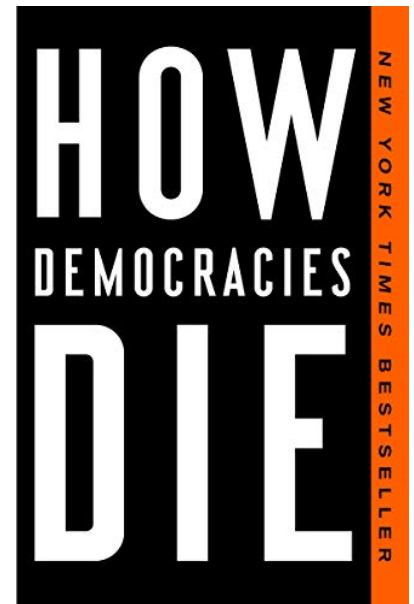


# How Democracies Die Book Summary (PDF) by Steven Levitsky, Daniel Ziblatt

Ready to learn the most important takeaways from How Democracies Die in less than two minutes? Keep reading!



## Why This Book Matters:

How Democracies Die discusses how democracies have turned into dictatorships throughout history with an emphasis on Latin America.

## The Big Takeaways:

1. **A possibly harmful autocrat can be difficult to spot before it is too late.**
  1. If The three major things to watch out for are the rejection of democratic laws, politicians trying to unfairly dishonor their rival, and encouraging violence.
2. **Democracy needs robust protectors.**
  1. Gatekeeping involves evading public demonstrations that can be seen as normalizing extremism.

3. **Donald Trump avoided the gatekeepers and sounded the alarm several times while doing so.**
  1. Republican politicians who did not endorse Trump, but would not cross party lines, left the door wide open for Trump to win the presidential election.
4. **The downfall of democracy happens steadily, not overnight.**
  1. Changing the rules so the autocrat has the advantage is a major warning sign.
5. **We must uphold democratic standards in order to fight authoritarianism.**
  1. Extremism should be confronted with democratic norms.

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