

Game Changer 8: Rise of Authoritarianism

Transcript

Our 8th major transformation is the rise of authoritarianism, otherwise thought of as wanting, promising and being able to obtain power and control. What we're seeing in the word today is very much a resurgence of authoritarian regimes around the world, in multiple parts of the world, we of course see and discuss a lot today about increasing tribalism, nationalism, and populism, and interestingly, at least across generations of American college students, decreasing empathy. And then of course we see in other places in other aspects of governance today, increasing militarization, increasing use of paramilitaries, and so this sort of general surge of both authoritarianism and social, societal contexts that make us more susceptible to the call to authoritarianism.

So, looking forward, we are concerned with things like increasing tolerance and violence. We are already seeing and concerned with an increase in regression on issues of social justice and being concerned with the fragmenting of societies and communities right when collective action is going to be most needed. So, just as many of the other major transformations that we've talked about are promising to bring big, even structural disruptions to the world, these are all complex, big governance challenges that require more collaboration even as that need is rising. We have on the other side, this very real issue around not being able to come together and work collectively right when we need that most. And so, looking at the rise of authoritarianism, which again can be thought of as wanting, promising, and being able to obtain power and control as being another one of our major strategic issues with which we are concerned.

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