Democratic Backsliding and Authoritarian Resurgence Training Course

Professional Development Training Course Outline

Category	Political Science and International Relations	**Duration**	5 Days
Base Fee	$1,500 USD	**Delivery Mode**	Online / On-site Hybrid

Course Introduction

In an increasingly volatile geopolitical landscape, the erosion of democratic norms and the rise of authoritarian tendencies pose a significant threat to global stability and human rights. **Democratic Backsliding and Authoritarian Resurgence Training Course** is designed to equip participants with the critical knowledge and practical tools to analyze, anticipate, and counter these dangerous trends. We'll delve into the nuanced processes through which established democracies weaken "from within" and explore the strategies employed by illiberal leaders to consolidate power. This program focuses on understanding the underlying **socioeconomic**, **political**, and **technological drivers** of this phenomenon, providing a framework for robust, evidence-based responses.

This course is distinguished by its focus on **comparative case studies** and **policy-relevant analysis**. By examining diverse global examples, from Eastern Europe to Latin America and Asia, participants will gain a holistic understanding of the patterns and unique variations of democratic decay. Our curriculum emphasizes the **role of civil society**, **judicial independence**, and **media freedom** in resisting authoritarianism. Through a blend of theoretical frameworks and hands-on exercises, we aim to empower a new generation of leaders, activists, and policymakers to become effective guardians of **democratic resilience** and human dignity in the face of political challenges.

Programme Curriculum

Democratic Backsliding and Authoritarian Resurgence Training Course

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Course Duration

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Course Objectives

- **Analyze** the theoretical frameworks of **democratic erosion** and **regime change**.
- **Identify** the early **warning signs** of democratic backsliding.
- **Evaluate** the role of **populism** and **polarization** in weakening democratic institutions.
- **Assess** the impact of **disinformation** and **digital authoritarianism** on elections and civil discourse.
- **Examine** the strategies used by elected leaders for **executive aggrandizement** and **constitutional manipulation**.
- **Differentiate** between different forms of **authoritarian consolidation** and **illiberal governance**.
- **Critique** the effectiveness of **international sanctions** and **diplomatic pressure** in combating autocracy.
- **Formulate** effective strategies for **civil society resistance** and **pro-democracy advocacy**.
- **Understand** the significance of **judicial independence** and **rule of law** in democratic resilience.
- **Analyze** the relationship between **economic inequality**, corruption, and **political instability**.
- **Propose** policy interventions to strengthen **electoral integrity** and **political pluralism**.
- **Apply** comparative methods to real-world cases of **authoritarian resurgence**.
- **Develop** an action plan for promoting **human rights** and **inclusive governance** in fragile democracies.

Target Audience

- **Policymakers** and government officials
- **Diplomats** and international relations specialists
- **Journalists** and media professionals
- **Civil society** activists and non-profit leaders
- **Academics** and researchers in political science
- **Legal professionals** and human rights advocates
- **Development professionals** in international aid organizations
- **Graduate students** and emerging scholars

Course Modules

- **Module 1: Conceptual Foundations of Democratic Erosion**
    - Defining **democratic backsliding** and its typologies.
- Historical precedents and the "third wave" of democratization.
- The role of **populist movements** and charismatic leaders.
- **Case Study:** The erosion of democracy in Hungary under Viktor Orb?ín.
- Analyzing the interplay of domestic and international factors.
- **Module 2: Institutional Capture and Executive Overreach**
    - Techniques of **judicial and legislative capture**.
- Constitutional amendments and the dismantling of checks and balances.
- The politicization of state institutions and the civil service.
- **Case Study:** The hollowing out of democratic institutions in Venezuela.
- Examining the shift from pluralism to centralized power.
- **Module 3: The War on Civil Liberties and Media**
    - Restrictions on **freedom of assembly** and expression.
- The weaponization of law against political opposition and dissent.
- The role of **state-controlled media** and propaganda.
- **Case Study:** The crackdown on civil society in Turkey and the press.
- Strategies for media resilience and investigative journalism.
- **Module 4: The Digital Threat to Democracy**
    - The spread of **misinformation and disinformation** on social media.
- How algorithms and data analytics are used for political manipulation.
- Surveillance technologies and the rise of **digital authoritarianism**.
- **Case Study:** The use of digital tools for social control in China.
- Developing countermeasures against cyber threats and information warfare.
- **Module 5: Socioeconomic Drivers and Democratic Decline**
    - The link between **economic inequality**, corruption, and popular discontent.
- How elite pacts and clientelism undermine good governance.
- The role of economic shocks and crises in precipitating political change.
- **Case Study:** The role of corruption and economic instability in the decline of democracy in Brazil.
- Exploring strategies for inclusive economic development.
- **Module 6: International Dimensions and Geopolitical Rivalry**
    - The influence of **authoritarian allies** and external support.
- The decline of the **rules-based international order**.
- The role of international organizations and diplomatic intervention.
- **Case Study:** Russian interference in international elections and global politics.
- Analyzing the future of global democracy promotion.
- **Module 7: Strategies for Democratic Resilience and Resistance**
    - The power of **non-violent resistance** and grassroots movements.
- Reforming electoral systems to protect **electoral integrity**.
- Strengthening **judicial independence** and the **rule of law**.
- **Case Study:** Civil society's role in resisting backsliding in Poland.

- Building international coalitions to support democracy
- **Module 8: Future Challenges and Innovations in Governance**
    - Emerging threats from **technological change** and artificial intelligence.
- The future of **democratic institutions** in a polarized world.
- Best practices for inclusive and responsive governance.
- **Case Study:** Taiwan's innovative strategies for strengthening digital democracy.
- Developing a personal action plan for promoting democratic values.

Training Methodology

- **Expert-led lectures:** Delivered by leading scholars and practitioners in political science and human rights.
- **Interactive workshops:** Engaging participants in group discussions, role-playing, and problem-solving exercises.
- **Case study analysis:** Deep-dive sessions on real-world examples to provide contextual understanding.
- **Peer-to-peer learning:** Facilitating knowledge exchange and networking among participants from diverse backgrounds.
- **Scenario-based simulations:** Putting participants in challenging situations to test their decision-making skills in a safe environment.

Register as a group from 3 participants for a Discount

Send us an email: info@fineskilltrainingcenter.org or call *+254769199797*

Certification

Upon successful completion of this training, participants will be issued with a globally- recognized certificate.

Tailor-Made Course

We also offer tailor-made courses based on your needs.

Key Notes

a. The participant must be conversant with English.

b. Upon completion of training the participant will be issued with an Authorized Training Certificate

c. Course duration is flexible and the contents can be modified to fit any number of days.

d. The course fee includes facilitation training materials, 2 coffee breaks, buffet lunch and A Certificate upon successful completion of Training.

e. One-year post-training support Consultation and Coaching provided after the course.

f. Payment should be done at least a week before commence of the training, to Fineskill Training Center account, as indicated in the invoice so as to enable us prepare better for you.

Upcoming Scheduled Sessions

Start Date	End Date	Location	Price
23 Nov 2026	27 Nov 2026	Online	$1,000
23 Nov 2026	27 Nov 2026	Physical	$1,500
23 Nov 2026	27 Nov 2026	Physical	$3,000
23 Nov 2026	27 Nov 2026	Physical	$3,000
23 Nov 2026	27 Nov 2026	Physical	$6,000
23 Nov 2026	27 Nov 2026	Physical	$4,500
23 Nov 2026	27 Nov 2026	Physical	$6,000
23 Nov 2026	27 Nov 2026	Physical	$6,000

Ready to enroll or request a customized program? Book online or contact us:

Register Online Now

Email: info@fineskilltrainingcenter.com | Website: www.fineskilltrainingcenter.com