

Abstract

“We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.”

This paper aims to highlight how Donald Trump continues to erode democratic norms through his violation of the U.S. Constitution, disregard for federalism, and unlawful deployment of the National Guard in metropolitan cities such as Los Angeles and Washington, D.C. Theories of democratic backsliding presented by political scientists Letvitsky, Way, Ziblatt, and Bermeo will help explain the tactics Trump uses to weaken democratic policies. In addition, examining Trump’s use of biased right-wing media and the polarization of U.S. culture and politics will illustrate how Trump can act without fear of repercussions. Despite the backsliding from democracy, political leaders and citizens are gaining awareness and speaking out. Their commitment to maintaining democracy and the ideals of the United States will prevail.