

# India's Downfall as a Democratic Nation and the New Order

India, once the world's largest democracy, is facing an unprecedented crisis. Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the country has embarked on a steady decline into authoritarianism. Civil liberties are being eroded, dissent is being suppressed, and the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is consolidating power in its hands. These developments have raised concerns about the future of democracy in India and the emergence of a new order dominated by Hindu nationalism and majoritarianism.



## India – Her Downfall as a Democratic Nation and the New Order by Ford Risley

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## The Erosion of Civil Liberties

One of the most disturbing trends in India today is the erosion of civil liberties. The government has cracked down on freedom of speech and expression, with critics of the regime being harassed, intimidated, and even arrested. Journalists have been targeted for their reporting, and media

outlets that are critical of the government have been subjected to censorship and pressure. The government has also cracked down on civil society organizations, with many of them being accused of being "anti-national" or "foreign-funded." These organizations have played a vital role in upholding human rights and holding the government to account, and their suppression is a serious blow to democracy in India.

### **The Suppression of Dissent**

The government has also taken steps to suppress dissent. Peaceful protests have been met with police violence, and protesters have been arrested and detained without charge. The government has also used the law to silence its critics, with sedition charges being filed against those who speak out against the regime. These measures have created a climate of fear and intimidation, and have made it difficult for people to express their views without fear of reprisal.

### **The Consolidation of Power**

The BJP has also been working to consolidate power in its hands. The party has used its control of the parliament to pass a number of laws that have weakened the institutions of democracy. The government has also packed the judiciary with judges who are sympathetic to the BJP. These moves have made it difficult for the government to be held accountable for its actions, and have further eroded the checks and balances that are essential for a healthy democracy.

### **The Rise of Hindu Nationalism**

The BJP is a Hindu nationalist party, and its rise to power has been accompanied by a resurgence of Hindu nationalism in India. This ideology

seeks to promote the interests of Hindus and to marginalize other religious minorities, particularly Muslims. The government has taken steps to promote Hindu nationalism, such as by changing the names of cities and towns to reflect their Hindu heritage and by promoting the teaching of Hindu mythology in schools. These measures have contributed to a climate of intolerance and discrimination against minorities, and have further eroded India's democratic values.

## **The New Order**

The developments of the past few years have led to the emergence of a new order in India. This order is characterized by authoritarianism, Hindu nationalism, and majoritarianism. The government is increasingly intolerant of dissent, and is working to consolidate power in its hands. The rise of Hindu nationalism has further eroded the country's democratic values, and has contributed to a climate of intolerance and discrimination against minorities. These developments pose a serious threat to the future of democracy in India.

India is at a crossroads. The country has embarked on a path that could lead to the downfall of democracy and the establishment of a new order dominated by authoritarianism, Hindu nationalism, and majoritarianism. The erosion of civil liberties, the suppression of dissent, and the consolidation of power in the hands of the ruling BJP are all signs of this decline. The rise of Hindu nationalism has further eroded the country's democratic values, and has contributed to a climate of intolerance and discrimination against minorities. These developments pose a serious threat to the future of democracy in India. It is up to the people of India to decide whether they will allow this decline to continue, or whether they will

fight to preserve the democratic values that have been enshrined in the country's constitution.



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