Twitter Thread by Timothy Snyder

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1/20. Democracy is precious and exceptional.

2/20. Democracy is undone from within rather than from without.

3/20. The occasion to undo democracy is often an election.

4/20. The mechanism to undo democracy is usually a fake emergency, a claim that internal enemies have done something outrageous.

5/20. A tyrant cares about his person, not the Republic.

6/20. A tyrant fears prosecution and poverty after leaving office.

7/20. Donald Trump faces criminal investigations and owes a billion dollars to creditors.

8/20. Donald Trump has said all along that he would ignore the vote count.

9/20. What Donald Trump is attempting to do has a name: coup d'état. Poorly organized though it might seem, it is not bound to fail. It must be made to fail.

10/20. Coups are defeated quickly or not at all. While they take place we are meant to look away, as many of us are doing. When they are complete we are powerless.

11/20. American exceptionalism prevents us from seeing basic truths.

12/20. Biden voters are wrong to see a Biden administration as inevitable. Take responsibility, Democrats.

13/20. In an authoritarian situation, the election is only round one. You don't win by winning round one.

14/20. Peaceful demonstrations after elections are necessary for transitions away from authoritarianism, as in Poland in 1989, Serbia in 1999, or Belarus right now.

15/20. It is up to civil society, organized citizens, to defend the vote and to peacefully defend democracy.

16/20. Dance after the wedding, not before. Take responsibility, Americans.

17/20. Republicans endorsing the claim of fraud endanger the Republic.

18/20. Calling an opponent's victory fraudulent risks assassination, as in Poland in 1922.

19/20. Creating a myth of a "stab in the back" by internal enemies, as Republicans are helping Trump to do, justifies violence against other citizens, as in interwar Germany.

20/20. Persuading your voters that the other side cheated starts a downward spiral. Your voters will expect you to cheat next time. Take responsibility, Republicans.