CULTURE TALK

AUTHORITARIANISM

What is it?

EXTREME POWER

exercising absolute power and limiting freedom and power of the people. The balance of power shifts more to the executive branch, which leads to the leader having more control over the people.

UNTRUTHFUL GOVERNMENT

This type of government is known for not being honest with the people, such as hiding information. As a result, there are rampant instances of corruption in these regimes.

ABSENCE OF LAW

the constitution in authoritarian states serves as a set of instructions on how the government should operate. The constitution also does not specify term limits, so essentially the leader can serve for as long as he or she wants.

Authoritarian Regimes in the World Today

Examples of Countries Limiting Rule of Law

China

- In 2018, the Chinese government got rid of the term limits for the president.
- The National Congress of China overwhelmingly approved that there should not be term limits for the President.
- Previously, the president was supposed to serve two terms, but now once the leader is elected, he or she can serve a lifetime.

Belarus

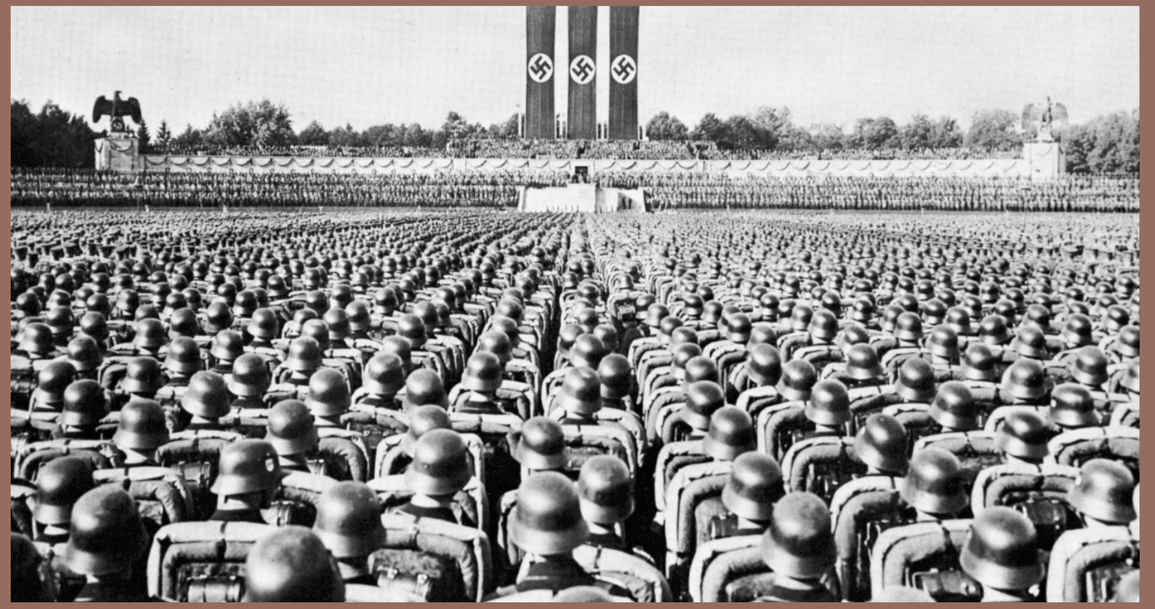
- This year in 2020, Belarus held their elections, and it resulted in interference of the votes from the Belarusian government.

- President Lukashenko, the incumbent running again, claimed to have won 80% of the votes over Tikhanovskaya's 10%.

- Many human rights and international organizations were watching this election because it was not known to be a "free and fair election".

Totalitarianism

Totalitarianism specifically tries to limit both public and private lives of individuals. Additionally, opposing views of the party in control are suppressed and are not to be brought up. Some examples of totalitarian regimes are Nazi Germany, Benito Mussolini of Italy during WW2, and Soviet Union.

Nazi Germany

- Adolf Hitler, who was the leader at that time, was the supreme leader, and everyone had to obey his rules.
- He employed the Gestapo, which was the Secret Police, to go and arrest people.
- Hitler and his party orchestrated the Holocaust, which led to millions of Jews dying while working in concentration camps or being poisoned.