

**Democratic Backsliding in
the Global South (2020-2025):
Understanding & Countering the
Rise of Autocratization,
Marginalization, Apathy, and
Elitist Collusion in Africa, Latin
America, and Asia**

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Democracy is retreating—not with tanks in the streets, but through laws, apathy, and elite collusion. Between 2020 and 2025, dozens of countries across Africa, Latin America, and Asia experienced a quiet but profound erosion of democratic governance. Elections continued. Constitutions remained. Yet power concentrated, freedoms shrank, and citizens disengaged.

Democratic Backsliding in the Global South (2020–2025) offers a rigorous and urgent examination of why democracy is failing where it is most needed—and what can still be done to save it.

Drawing on political theory, comparative case studies, and contemporary global trends, Anthony Russell and Sam Yeboah reveal how fragile state structures, post-colonial elitism, marginalization, and citizen apathy converge to enable modern authoritarianism. Rather than dramatic coups, democracy is hollowed out through presidential overreach, captured institutions, weakened media, manipulated markets, and international complicity.

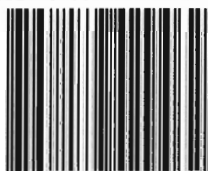
The book moves beyond surface explanations to uncover the deeper systems sustaining democratic decline:

- How “electoral democracies” drift into competitive authoritarianism
- Why citizen disillusionment becomes a powerful ally of autocrats
- How elite networks and foreign actors normalize constitutional weakness
- And why the Global South has become the primary battleground for the future of democracy

Crucially, this is not only a diagnosis—but a roadmap. The authors outline practical strategies to counter backsliding, emphasizing inclusion, horizontal checks on power, free markets as democratic counterweights, media freedom, civic knowledge, and data-driven international standards from institutions such as Freedom House, V-Dem, and IDEA. The book calls for a renewed, principled multilateral commitment—particularly from the United States—to support democratic resilience without reproducing dependency or elite capture.

At a moment when over two-thirds of the world’s population lives in vulnerable democracies or hybrid regimes, *Democratic Backsliding in the Global South* is an essential guide for scholars, policymakers, students, activists, and citizens seeking to understand—and confront—the quiet collapse of democratic governance in the twenty-first century.

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