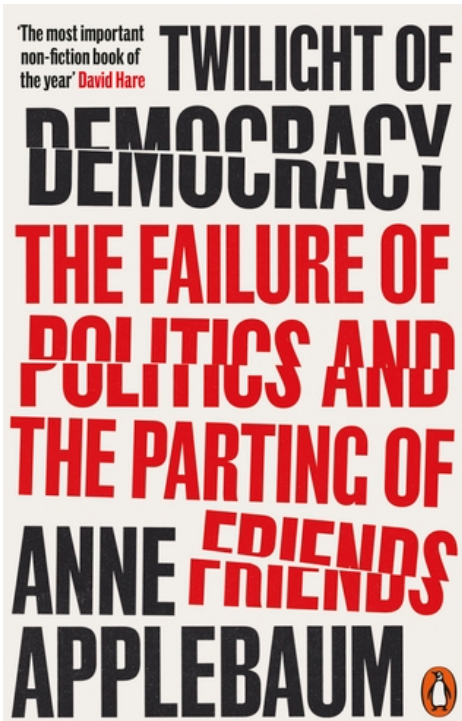


The Literacy Lowdown: Twilight of Democracy



A level geography students, remember, you should:

- undertake wider reading
- use factual texts, discursive / creative material

Summary

Described as “a brilliant writer who sheds light on the most disturbing political phenomenon of our era: the rise of right-wing authoritarianism”, Anne Applebaum critiques Poland, Hungary, the UK, Spain and America. A perfect read for students studying geopolitics or superpower geography. It is a quick read on “How demagogues win” and focuses, in the middle of the story, on a unique observation by Applebaum on the distinction between “reflective” nostalgics and *restorative* nostalgics.

Restorative nostalgics “are mythmakers and architects, builders of monuments and founders of nationalist political projects.” These individuals see modern men as “pygmies” without connection to the past or to the soil.

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Specification links

AQA 3.2.2.1 The nature and importance of places.

Edexcel 4B.3 How past and present connections shape the characteristics of your chosen places.

OCR Topic 2.1 1.a. Places are multi-faceted, shaped by shifting flows and connections.

WJEC Unit 2 Section A – Changing Places.

Key quotes

“In the United States [supporters of authoritarianism]...do not live in communities ravaged by opioids, they do not spend much time in midwestern dinners, and they do not, in fact, match any of the lazy stereotypes used to describe Trump voters.” (p13)

“Sarcastically, he called these fallen individuals *clerks* or “clerks”, a word whose oldest meanings link it to “clergy”. (p18)

Law and Justice, in Poland, and Viktor Orban’s Fidesz party, in Hungary...have made major steps towards the destruction of independent institutions.” (p26)

For those who become the one-party state’s gatekeepers, the repetition of these conspiracy theories also brings another reward: power.” (p45)

“People have always had different opinions. Now they have different facts.” (p113)

“Pandemics have led to an expansion of the power of the state: at times when people fear death, they go along with measures that they believe will save them even if that means a loss of freedom.” (p184)