The Democracy Clock is a structured account of democratic change during the first year of Donald Trump's second term, measured in real time. Drawing on a comprehensive weekly archive of governance actions, this volume examines how power was exercised, constrained, redirected, or consolidated across institutions—week by week, rather than in retrospect.

The book does not focus on isolated controversies or headline moments. Instead, it traces cumulative patterns: how emergency authorities normalized, how oversight weakened or held, how administrative practice reshaped institutional balance, and how democratic time advanced or receded through repetition rather than rupture. Each week is treated as a unit of measurement, allowing shifts in governance to be assessed incrementally rather than retrospectively.

This is not a prediction or a manifesto. It is an analytical record grounded in contemporaneous evidence, designed to separate observation from interpretation and structure from outcome.

Where the companion *Events Log* preserves the factual archive week by week, this volume asks what those events mean when viewed together—how democratic systems absorb pressure, where they bend, and where they fail.

Written for readers seeking clarity rather than reassurance, *The Democracy Clock* offers a framework for understanding democratic erosion as a process rather than an episode. Its purpose is not to persuade, but to make visible what is otherwise lost to fragmentation, normalization, and time.

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A Contemporaneous Public Record of Governance Actions, January 2025-January 2026

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