

The concept of a **“Day One” dictatorship** has garnered attention, particularly in the context of former President Donald Trump. Last December, when asked if he would abuse power if reelected, Trump cryptically responded, “except for day one.” In essence, he implied that the constitutional order as we know it would be subverted from the moment he takes office. While there are uncertainties surrounding the implementation of such plans, Trump and his supporters have hinted at the possibility of a **fascist form of government** under the leadership of a **messianic personality**.

Fascism aims to **destroy democracy from within**, ultimately creating a **modern dictatorship**. In this totalitarian state, plurality and civil society would be silenced, and distinctions between the public and private spheres would blur. Fascist regimes suppress independent press, dismantle the rule of law, and consolidate power. If Trump were to win a second term, his presidency could represent an **all-out assault on the rule of law**.

Historically, fascist regimes dismantled the rule of law through two steps:

1. **Suspension:** Emergency declarations or delegations of legislative power allowed the executive to suspend the rule of law temporarily.
2. **Subversion:** By eroding separation of powers and checks and balances, the executive transformed the political and juridical orders. Hitler and Mussolini, for instance, transferred parliament’s lawmaking power to themselves, becoming the legal embodiments of the people.

While Trump lacks the institutional mechanisms used by Hitler and Mussolini, his potential actions could still undermine the rule of law. His charismatic will might replace legality, leading to a **one-day dictatorship**. [Although history doesn’t repeat itself precisely, the risk remains: a second Trump presidency could endanger democratic norms and institutions](#)