

# The SAIS Review of International Affairs

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Modern digital technology has ushered in an era of unprecedented free speech and organization, but it also has empowered illiberal state and nonstate actors' capacity for surveillance and repression. This issue will address the ways in which these actors stifle dissent with digital authoritarianism, defined as the use of information technology by regimes to manipulate, repress, and surveil domestic and international populations.\* We seek articles that explain how these practices occur and affect their targets and analyze policy responses and strategies to combat such efforts. The issue seeks to not only explore this emerging phenomenon but to juxtapose the emergence of digital authoritarianism with the declining relative influence of major democracies in the face of immense global challenges. How do authoritarian actors leverage digital media and technology to maintain their power? For democratic societies, what are the main challenges of a more dangerous and contested online sphere? What policies or strategies can defend digital freedom in the twenty-first century?

## TIMELINE:

*Respond with topic:* August 14, 2022

*Abstract:* August 28, 2022

*First Draft:* September 11, 2022

## GUIDELINES:

*Topic:* 1-2 sentences/  
working title  
(regional/functional focus)

*Abstract:* 6-10 sentences  
(regional/functional focus)

*Biography:* 3-4 sentences

*First draft:* 4000-5000 words

## Recoding Reality: The Emergence of Digital Authoritarianism

Submit materials &  
questions to  
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\*\*Polyakova, Alina and Mesarole, Chris . "Exporting Digital Authoritarianism: the Russian and Chinese Models." *Brookings*. August, 2019. <https://brook.gs/321tstl>.