

Faculti Summary

<https://faculti.net/fragile-victory/>

This video outlines insights from an author discussing their book on the liberal international order, initially drafted in 2020 but later revised due to significant global events, particularly Russia's invasion of Ukraine. The author reflects on the definition and construction of liberal order, noting that it was not inevitable and has become endangered.

A significant addition was included in the book regarding the consequences of the invasion, which prompted the author to reconsider how to present the topic. They emphasize that today's conflict in Ukraine and past remarks by leaders like Donald Trump have highlighted vulnerabilities within the liberal order.

The book does not draw solely from original archival research but synthesizes existing knowledge from the author's extensive experience. Amid challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, the author relied on accessible online resources and open libraries for research.

The author distinguishes between liberalism as a domestic political practice and the wider liberal order, noting their interconnection through historical developments following World War II. They argue that the Cold War shaped the stability of the liberal order, which was characterized by a political consensus against fascism and communism uniting center-left and center-right parties.

However, this stability began to erode in the late 20th century due to economic shifts that led to neoliberal policies causing increased inequality and disenchantment with political arrangements. The post-Cold War era saw new challenges, including the weak integration of former Soviet states into the liberal order.

The author emphasizes the fragility of the current liberal order, affected by neoliberal policies, polarization, and the rise of populist movements; they argue for the need to restore a strong political center. This video concludes with the notion that countering the rise of the populist right is essential for rebuilding support for liberal democracy, suggesting that the internal contradictions within these populist movements may provide opportunities for critique and opposition.