

Faculti Summary

<https://faculti.net/the-weaponization-of-language-discourses-of-rising-right-wing-authoritarianism/>

This video discusses the current global rise of authoritarian politics, marked by increasing violence, profound inequality, climate crises, and the manipulation of language to undermine public information. The speaker notes that political leaders are weaponizing language to create chaos, deepen social divisions, and delegitimize expertise, ultimately aiming to establish their authority as unaccountable.

The phenomenon of weaponized language is described as a systematic effort involving key elements like an elite shaping narratives, the use of slogans, charismatic leaders, and a nationalistic approach. The speaker emphasizes how language precedes and contributes to physical violence, drawing parallels with historical instances of genocide where propaganda was used to dehumanize victims.

Disinformation and propaganda form critical parts of this language manipulation, obscuring true intentions and confusing the public. Examples include techniques used by tobacco and oil companies to distort truths for profit and political leverage. The speaker highlights the normalization of hate through mundane discourse, particularly how terminology influences perceptions of marginalized groups.

Censorship, both by authoritarian regimes and corporations, is portrayed as a tool for controlling narratives that threaten power. The speaker argues for the importance of critical analysis of language and propaganda by scholars to counter rising authoritarianism.

This video concludes that the power of language is pervasive and shapes our worldview, making it imperative for individuals to become critical consumers of information and mindful of the discourses they engage with to resist violence from right-wing movements.