



**TIMOTHY SNYDER**

NOVEMBER 2024

# **ON TYRANNY:**

## TWENTY LESSONS FROM THE TWENTIETH CENTURY

**Overall Rating:**



**Did you complete the book?**

Yes  No  Almost

What was your overall opinion of the book?

---

---

What was your favorite part of the book?

---

---

What did you not like?

---

---

Your favorite quote:

---

---

**“A nationalist will say that “it can’t happen here,” which is the first step toward disaster. A patriot says that it could happen here, but that we will stop it.”**

01. How does the author define *tyranny*?

---

---

02. What is *anticipatory obedience*?

---

---

03. Which institutions need to be protected today? How are crisis and terror attacks used to destroy democratic institutions and take away citizens' liberties?

---

---

04. Why are one party states dangerous to democracy?

---

---

05. Are symbols loyalty or exclusion?

---

---

06. List some examples of leaders getting in the way of professional ethics today:

---

---

07. What are some examples of current paramilitaries?

---

---

08. Are you ready to say "No?" Why?

---

---

**“Post-Truth is Pre-Fascism”**

09. What are some examples of Magical Thinking?

---

---

10. What are the 4 different ways “the Truth Dies” according to Victor Klemperer?

---

---

11. How we can have solidarity in such a critical period in America?

---

---

12. Define *totalitarianism*:

---

---

13. If you could travel to another country, where would you go and why?

---

---

14. What are some dangerous words you hear today?

---

---

15. Trump won the Presidency, what now?

---

---

16. What are a few ways you can be a patriot?

---

---

Visit **MothersForDemocracy.org** to support our mission and **contribute to good causes.**

(#15)

---

## ADDITIONAL READING

---

01. **Fahrenheit 451** Ray Bradbury
02. **1984** George Orwell
03. **The Brothers Karamazov** Fyodor Dostoevsky
04. **The Unbearable Lightness of Being** Milan Kundera
05. **It Can't Happen Here** Sinclair Lewis
06. **Plot Against America** Philip Roth
07. **Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows** J.K. Rowling
08. **Politics and the English Language** George Orwell
09. **The Language of the Third Reich** Victor Klemperer
10. **The Origins of Totalitarianism** Hannah Arendt
11. **The Rebel** Albert Camus
12. **The Captive Mind** Czeslaw Milosz
13. **The Power of the Powerless** Vaclav Havel
14. **How to Be a Conservative-Liberal-Socialist** Leszek
15. **The Uses of Adversity** Timothy Garton Ash
16. **The Burden of Responsibility** Tony Judt
17. **Ordinary Men** Christopher Browning
18. **Nothing Is True and Everything Is Possible**  
Peter Pomerantsev

**“Be as courageous as you possibly can”**



## **ON TYRANNY**

BY TIMOTHY SNYDER

---

# **TWENTY LESSONS FROM THE TWENTIETH CENTURY**

---

01. Do not obey in advance
02. Defend institutions
03. Beware the one-party state
04. Take responsibility for the face of the world
05. Remember professional ethics
06. Be wary of paramilitaries
07. Be reflective if you must be armed
08. Stand out
09. Be kind to our language
10. Believe in truth
11. Investigate
12. Make eye contact and small talk
13. Practice corporeal politics
14. Establish a private life
15. Contribute to good causes
16. Learn from peers in other countries
17. Listen for dangerous words
18. Be calm when the unthinkable arrives
19. Be a patriot
20. Be as courageous as you can