In the new issue of the Journal of Illiberalism Studies, Deepa Das Acevedo and other scholars explore the concept of “autocratic legalism,” which describes a scenario where democratic institutions are captured and turned against democracy itself, to frame their analysis and question scholars’ assumptions about the resilience of democracy.

The authors argue that in countries facing democratic backsliding, with particular attention paid to India’s challenges. The roundtable also examines the role of the far-right phenomenon, particularly focusing on the far-right party Vox’s policy proposals and their compatibility with the Spanish Constitution.

Moreover, the issue delves into the connections between economic liberalization and political backsliding, with particular emphasis on El Salvador’s experience. The authors highlight the growing links between the illiberal-democratic and the authoritarian paradigms, challenging the traditional understanding of democracy as a universal and fixed concept.

Additionally, the issue includes discussions on the role of companies and their involvement in contentious politics, as well as the impact of corporate, sweet corporate, and other economic activities on populist backlash.

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The full issue can be found on the Journal of Illiberalism Studies website, along with the resource hub and the Instagram page.