EXHIBIT 1

(Declaration of Peter Schmidt-Nowara)

<u>Principles of the U. S. Constitution Project</u>
Mr. Schmidt – Participation in Government
Fall 2025

1. Define your group's principle. Cite at least three (3) specific sections/clauses from the Constitution to illustrate your principal. [This should be at least 3-5 slides.] **25 POINTS**

2. Find a few political cartoons/memes/animations that illustrate your principal. **25 POINTS**

3. Discuss your principle in a 21st Century context. Each state member must find one article from *The New York Times* that discusses (either directly or indirectly) your concept. For those looking to take on a greater challenge, a JSTOR article will earn you +5 on your individual score for this section.

   [This section will be scored both individually and as part of your group grade]. **25 POINTS**

4. Create a visual representation of your principal (use class artifacts for guidance). **25 POINTS**

EXHIBIT 2

(Declaration of Peter Schmidt-Nowara)

Trump Signs Order Aimed at Eliminating Education Dept. 'Once and for All'

Congress and federal law stand in the way of shutting down the agency, which manages federal loans for college, tracks student achievement and supports programs for students with disabilities.

Listen · 8:45 min



By Michael C. Bender, Erica L. Green and Alan Blinder
Reporting from Washington.

Published March 20, 2025 Updated March 24, 2025

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President Trump on Thursday instructed Education Secretary Linda McMahon to begin shutting down her agency, a task that cannot be completed without congressional approval and sets the stage for a seismic political and legal battle over the federal government's role in the nation's schools.

Surrounded by schoolchildren seated at desks in the East Room of the White House, Mr. Trump signed a long-awaited executive order that he said would begin dismantling the department "once and for all." The Trump administration has cited poor test scores as a key justification for the move.

"We're going to shut it down, and shut it down as quickly as possible," Mr. Trump said.

The department, which manages federal loans for college, tracks student achievement and supports programs for students with disabilities, was created by an act of Congress. That means, according to Article I of the Constitution, that only Congress can shut it down. That clear delineation of power, a fundamental component of democracy from the inception of the United States, underscores why no other modern president has tried to unilaterally shutter a federal department.

But Mr. Trump has already taken significant steps that have limited the agency's operations and authority. Since Mr. Trump's inauguration, his administration has slashed the department's work force by more than half and eliminated $600 million in grants. The job cuts hit particularly hard at the department's Office for Civil Rights, which enforces the country's guarantee that all students have an equal opportunity to an education.

Mr. Trump's order contains potentially contradictory guidance for Ms. McMahon. On the one hand, the order directs her to facilitate the elimination of the agency. On the other, she is also mandated to rigorously comply with federal law. The order offers no guidance on how to square those two points.

Mr. Trump said Thursday that the department would continue to provide critical functions that are required by law, such as the administration of federal student aid, including loans and grants, as well as funding for special education and districts with high levels of student poverty. The department would also continue civil rights enforcement, White House officials said.

Mr. Trump called those programs "useful functions," and said they're going to be "preserved in full." He added that some functions would be "redistributed to various other agencies and departments that will take very good care of them."

Higher education leaders and advocacy groups immediately condemned the executive order.

"This is political theater, not serious public policy," said Ted Mitchell, the president of the American Council on Education, an association that includes many colleges and universities in its membership. "To dismantle any cabinet-level federal agency

requires congressional approval, and we urge lawmakers to reject misleading rhetoric in favor of what is in the best interests of students and their families.”

Lawyers for supporters of the Education Department anticipated they would challenge Mr. Trump’s order by arguing that the administration had violated the Constitution’s separation of powers doctrine and the clause requiring the president to take care that federal laws are faithfully executed.

These lawyers, who requested anonymity to describe private deliberations about impending litigation, have also discussed the possibility of using a Supreme Court ruling from June 2024 to block Mr. Trump’s action. That ruling, 6 to 3 with all the conservative justices in the majority, swept aside a long-established precedent by limiting the executive branch’s ability to interpret statutes and transferring power to Congress and the courts.

“See you in court,” said Randi Weingarten, president of the American Federation of Teachers, the trade union for educators. Her group is among those that intend to sue.

While many conservatives support Mr. Trump’s desire to close the agency, the order presents a predicament for congressional Republicans, who must balance their eagerness to please Mr. Trump and their constituents’ wishes. Public opinion polls for the past two months have consistently shown nearly two-thirds of voters oppose closing the department.

While local education departments primarily control how their schools are run already, the federal department has been influential in setting academic standards, guiding schools through regulatory compliance and interpreting civil rights laws.

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Mr. Trump told the audience, which included several Republican governors, that the order’s goal was to “return our students to the states.”

"Democrats want federal bureaucrats to control your child's school," Representative Jim Jordan, an Ohio Republican who chairs the House Judiciary Committee, said Thursday on social media. "Republicans want to give parents the choice to do what's best for their children."

Senator Bill Cassidy, a Louisiana Republican who chairs the chamber's Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee, said he would submit legislation to eliminate the Education Department.

"I agree with President Trump that the Department of Education has failed its mission," Mr. Cassidy said in a statement**.** "Since the department can only be shut down with congressional approval, I will support the president's goals by submitting legislation to accomplish this as soon as possible."

In remarks before signing the order, Mr. Trump signaled he might press lawmakers to move on the issue, adding that he hoped Democrats would join Republicans in supporting the department's elimination.

But any Democratic support appears unlikely. And in the last session of Congress, one-fourth of House Republicans voted against a measure that would have eliminated the agency.

"I hope they're going to be voting for it," Mr. Trump said, "because ultimately it may come before them."

Mr. Trump's plans to gut the department have drawn fierce criticism from Democrats and education advocacy groups who say that the measure — even if largely symbolic — signals the federal government's retreat from its duties of protecting and serving the most vulnerable students.

"Let's be clear: Before federal oversight, millions of children — particularly those with disabilities and those from our most vulnerable communities — were denied the opportunities they deserved," said Keri Rodrigues, president of the National Parents Union.

Representative Bobby Scott, a Virginia Democrat who is the ranking member of the House Committee on Education and Workforce, urged his Republican colleagues to join him in opposing the changes in the order.

Mr. Trump, he said, was "implementing his own philosophy on education which can be summed up in his own words, 'I love the poorly educated,'" Mr. Scott said in a statement, referring to a remark Mr. Trump made in 2016.

Mr. Trump has gone further than any president in seeking to overhaul what Republican administrations have long bemoaned as a bloated bureaucracy. Mr. Trump's order also amplifies an argument that stagnant student test scores demonstrate that billions in federal spending have not yielded results.

"The status quo has very clearly failed American children and done little more than line the pockets of bureaucrats and activists," Nicole Neily, president and founder of Parents Defending Education, said.

While it is true that reading scores for 13-year-olds are about the same as they were in the 1970s and math scores are only slightly better, this is because of recent, sharp declines that accelerated during the coronavirus pandemic.

Under the Biden administration, the department was fiercely criticized as being overly deferential to teachers' unions and overreaching on certain issues, such as student loan forgiveness and its interpretations of civil rights laws on behalf of transgender students.

Frederick M. Hess, the director of education policy studies at the American Enterprise Institute, a right-leaning think-tank, said that he believes both the right and the left exaggerate the department's influence, but that the order does little to address the issues like overreach and red tape that drove the movement to rein in the department.

"We're going to have this whole huge national debate and not solve the practical problems along the way," he said. "Because we're so focused on the 30,000-foot conversation that we're not changing, that we're not fixing, the stuff that's actually making life tougher for educators and parents."

Sarah Mervosh contributed reporting.

Michael C. Bender is a Times political correspondent covering Donald J. Trump, the Make America Great Again movement and other federal and state elections.

Erica L. Green is a White House correspondent, covering President Trump and his administration.

Alan Blinder is a national correspondent for The Times, covering education.

A version of this article appears in print on , Section A, Page 1 of the New York edition with the headline: President Signs Order to Scrap Education Dept.

EXHIBIT 3

(Declaration of Peter Schmidt-Nowara)

The New York Times

https://www.nytimes.com/2025/10/27/us/politics/trump-asia-democracy.html

NEWS ANALYSIS

As Trump Tours Asia, Democracy's Ideals Aren't on the Agenda

Several of the leaders President Trump will encounter are either autocrats or presiding over fragile democracies. And some admire his willingness to break the rules.

Listen · 9:08 min



By Katie Rogers, Erica L. Green, Javier C. Hernández and Choe Sang-Hun

Oct. 27, 2025

The durability of the American experiment has been tested in the nine months since President Trump's return to the White House, with institutions from Congress to the judiciary struggling or declining to check his aggressive attempts to flout the law and expand his power.

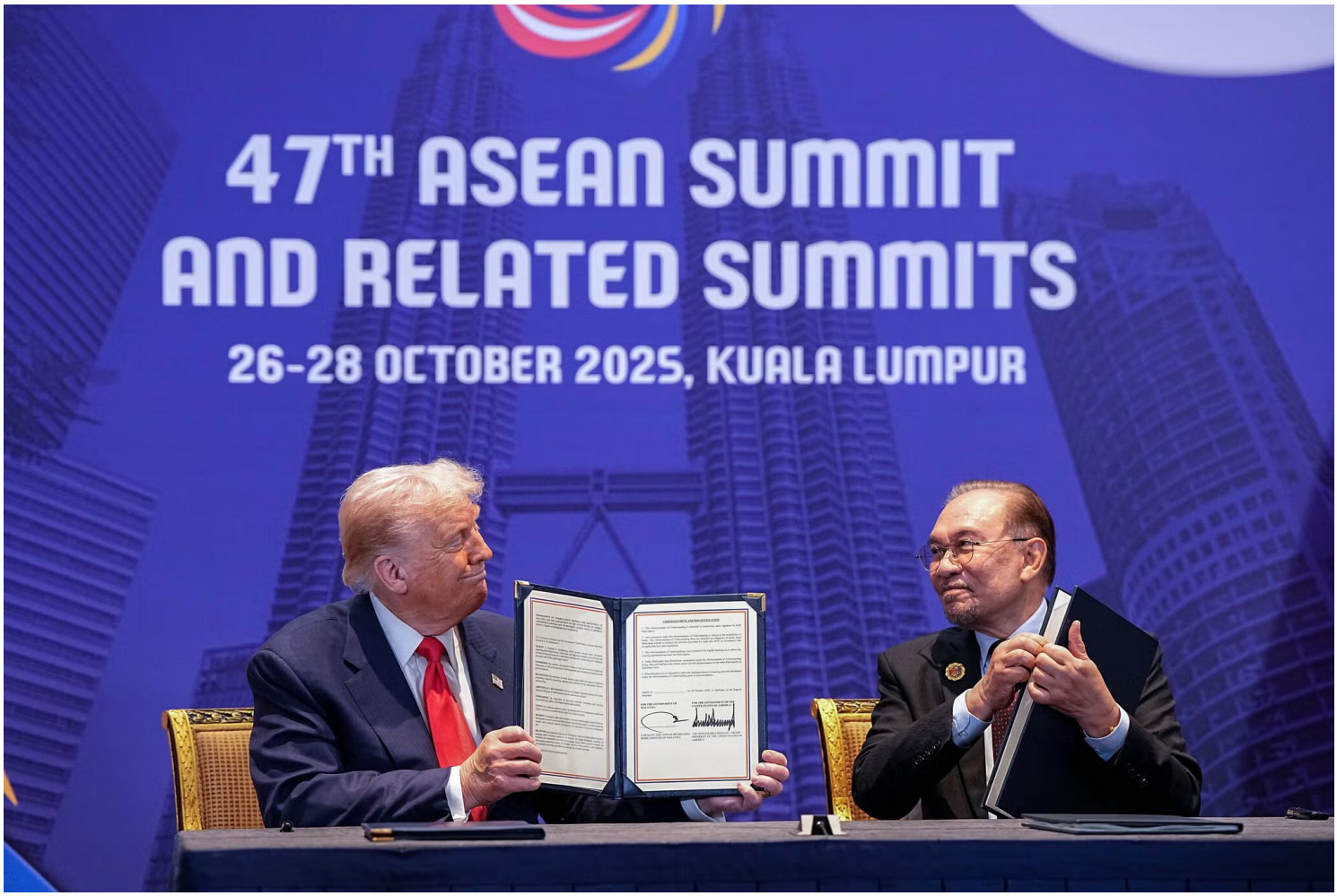
During Mr. Trump's latest trip abroad, on a six-day sojourn through Asia, he has launched, fists pumping, onto the world stage, chasing a trade deal with China and compelling several other Asian governments to sign economic agreements. Several of the leaders he will encounter this week are autocrats, or are presiding over vulnerable democracies. And some are open fans of his bulldozing approach to governing.

In Malaysia, Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim praised Mr. Trump's willingness to flout security protocols by letting him ride along in the American presidential limousine shortly after Mr. Trump landed in Kuala Lumpur.

"We admire your tenacity and courage because the world needs leaders who promote peace strongly," Mr. Anwar told the president when the pair appeared together on Sunday in observance of a peace deal between Thailand and Cambodia. "And to achieve that, you have to break some rules, as you did today."

Mr. Anwar also joked of his time in prison on corruption and sodomy crimes, charges he and his supporters have long maintained were part of a sham orchestrated by his predecessor. "I was in prison, and you almost got there," Mr. Anwar said, referring to Mr. Trump's felony convictions.

For his part, Mr. Anwar's government has been criticized for a worsening climate for freedom of expression, driven in part by pressure from the country's right wing.



"I was in prison, and you almost got there," Mr. Anwar said jokingly to Mr. Trump on Sunday. Haiyun Jiang/The New York Times

As leaders like Vladimir V. Putin of Russia and Mr. Anwar know, sympathizing about political persecution is music to the ears of Mr. Trump, who is carrying out widespread federalized retribution against his political enemies.

Throughout his stops in Malaysia, Japan and South Korea, Mr. Trump represents a shut-down federal government and an ever-deepening American political divide. His supporters at home give him high marks on his immigration crackdown and his pursuit of global peace deals. But Mr. Trump's approval rating has fallen, and most Americans believe the country is heading in the wrong direction, according to recent polls.

During his second term, Mr. Trump has laid out a set of beliefs that alarm those who study the decline of democracy, and his moves have been closely watched by many of the same governments he will interact with this week.

Mr. Trump thinks negative news coverage of him should be illegal. He has pressured the Department of Justice to carry out retribution against his political enemies. He has ordered the military to put boots on the ground in American cities and carry out missile strikes against people in the Caribbean. U.S. citizens have been swept up in immigration raids and held without regard to their constitutionally protected rights.

"President Trump presents to the world an America under democratic pressure, and that's a very different image than what previous presidents have projected," said Thomas Carothers, the director of Carnegie's Democracy, Conflict and Governance Program.

In Mr. Trump's version of democracy, human rights, due process and freedom of expression are increasingly being treated not as inherent rights but as privileges subject to removal.



Boarded-up windows in a Chicago apartment building that had been raided by federal agents. Todd Heisler/The New York Times

In Japan, the next stop on his trip, Mr. Trump's approach has helped to galvanize a right-wing movement focused on nationalism, economic populism and a distrust of foreigners. The recent success of far-right parties has left many in Japan wondering if their country is belatedly seeing the angry anti-establishment populism that has transformed the United States and other developed democracies.

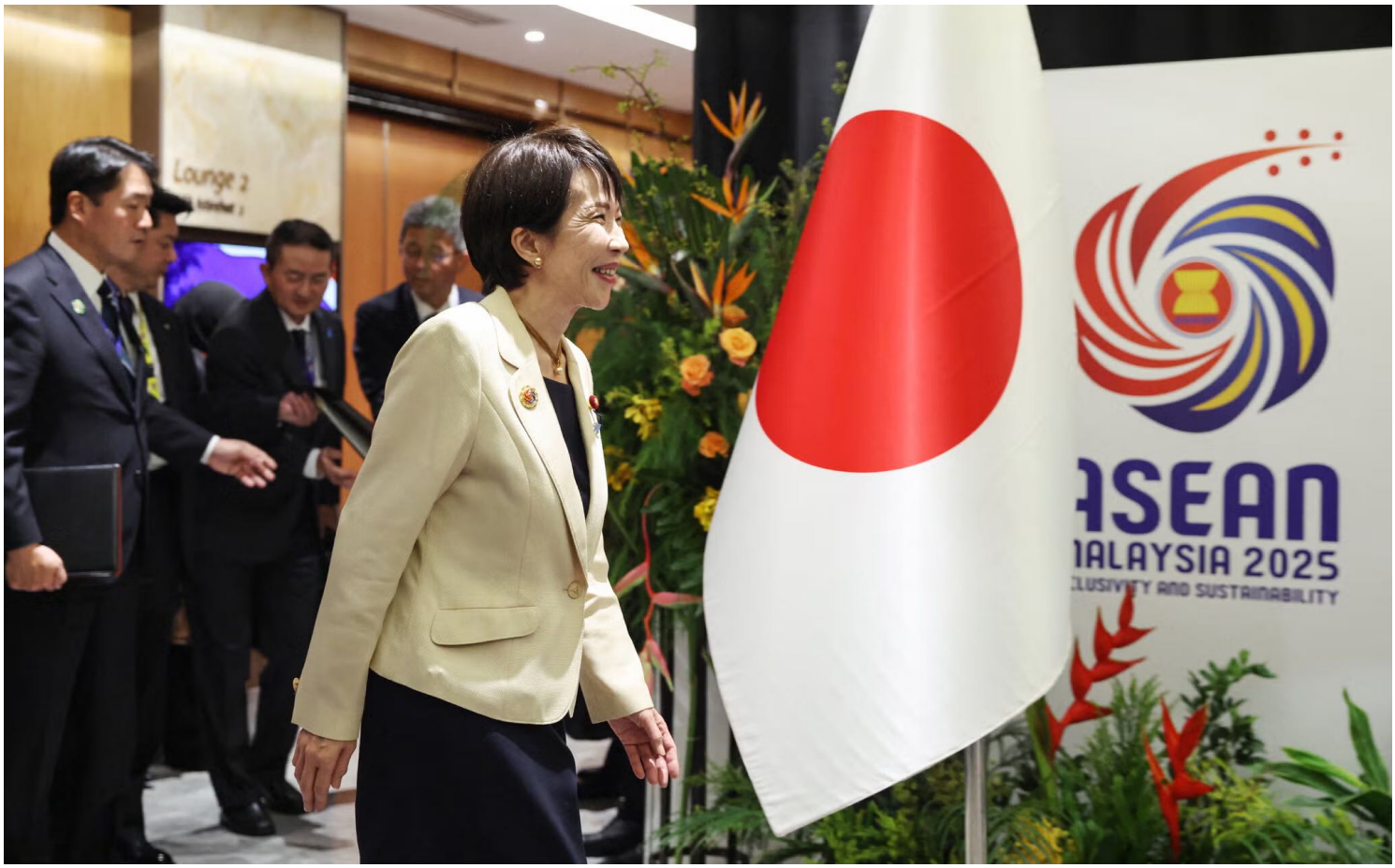
"A new movement has emerged in Japan similar to the Trump movement, which is trying to create division within Japan," said Kazuhiro Maeshima, a professor of American politics and diplomacy at Sophia University in Tokyo. "They're trying to gain support by inciting Japanese nationalism and xenophobia. It's similar to Trump's approach."

The election this month of Sanae Takaichi, the first woman to serve as prime minister, in some ways reflects that shift. Ms. Takaichi, with whom Mr. Trump will spend Tuesday, was already one of the most conservative voices in her Liberal Democratic Party, Japan's main political bloc. During her campaign, she promised to restore a sense of nationalism and to more strictly regulate immigration and tourism.

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With Mr. Trump's attacks on free speech and human rights in recent weeks, many in Japan wonder if the United States will continue its traditional role as a beacon of democracy.

"We have always seen the United States as the real teacher of democracy," said Mieko Nakabayashi, a political science professor at Waseda University in Tokyo. "Mr. Trump is now showing us the limits of that ideal."



Japan's conservative new prime minister, Sanae Takaichi, has promised to restore a sense of nationalism and to regulate immigration and tourism more strictly. Pool photo by How Hwee Young

Unlike his American predecessors, Mr. Trump is not even pretending to tout the benefits of democracy as he travels in Asia. Nor does Mr. Trump see the U.S. relationship with China as representative of an existential battle between the ideals of democracy and the specter of growing global authoritarianism.

As he pursues trade deals with a string of countries he has strong-armed with aggressive tariff policies, he is keeping his sights set on China, a country that has not yet capitulated to his demands. Mr. Trump noted this week that his tariff on Chinese goods was set to rise to 157 percent on Nov. 1, just days after he and Mr. Xi are scheduled to meet.

"When President Trump sees himself together with President Xi, he doesn't see democracy versus autocracy in the room," Mr. Carothers said. "He sees two competing economic systems."

But Mr. Trump has also openly admired Mr. Xi's consolidation of power. In 2018, when a cordial personal relationship forged with Mr. Xi at the beginning of Mr. Trump's first term was already devolving into a trade dispute with implications for the global economy, Mr. Trump told donors at Mar-a-Lago, his Florida retreat, that Mr. Xi had become a "president for life." He wondered out loud if he should pursue the same outcome for himself.

"I think it's great," Mr. Trump said. "Maybe we'll want to give that a shot someday."

Allies of Mr. Trump are serious about him serving a constitutionally prohibited third term. His former strategist Stephen K. Bannon said recently that there is a "plan" to keep Mr. Trump in office beyond 2028.

If Mr. Trump appears with Mr. Xi at a regional summit in South Korea as planned, it will be the first time the two men have seen each other in person since 2019.



President Trump with China's leader, Xi Jinping, at a G20 summit in Osaka, Japan, in 2019. Erin Schaff/The New York Times

They will be meeting in a country scarred by deep political divisions and by a traumatic, if short-lived, declaration of martial law last year by a president who has since been ousted.

For generations, South Koreans had largely seen the United States as an ally to count on in times of crisis. But that is now being questioned after Mr. Trump slapped painful tariffs on the country and sent federal agents to arrest hundreds of South Korean citizens working at a Hyundai-LG plant in the state of Georgia in September.

"We are hit by a double whammy of internal and external crises," said Lee Yong-gil, who leads an ongoing "No Trump" sit-in protest in central Seoul.

But South Koreans who experienced the turbulence of Mr. Trump's first term have also developed a long-term perspective about their country's alliance with the United States and will try to weather the storms of his second term, said Sung Deuk Hahm, the dean of Kyonggi University's Graduate School of Political Studies in Seoul.

"Of course, people are seething with complaints about Trump's excessive demands and the way he has been treating an ally. They know the problems and weaknesses of his authoritarian style," Mr. Hahm said. "But they also know that the alliance with the United States is critically important for their country's survival. To them, the United States is more important than Trump."



A protest against Mr. Trump's tariffs in Seoul on Saturday. Ahn Young-Joon/Associated Press

Steven Levitsky, a professor of government at Harvard who studies authoritarianism and threats to democracies, said that America's allies have been mystified that American citizens have not done more to protest the militarization of several of the country's cities and the weaponization of the judiciary against Mr. Trump's enemies.

"When South Korea's president declared martial law, South Koreans mobilized in an instant, and in three hours, they put an end to martial law," Mr. Levitsky said. "Americans have done nothing. Americans are whistling past the cemetery, and that's another thing that citizens everywhere, all of our allies, are looking at and cannot fathom."

Katie Rogers and Javier C. Hernández reported from Tokyo, Erica L. Green from Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, and Choe Sang-Hun from Seoul. Kiuko Notoya contributed reporting from Tokyo.

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A version of this article appears in print on , Section A, Page 1 of the New York edition with the headline: On Asia Tour, Agenda Short On U.S. Ideals