



# Restoring Democracy in an Age of Populists and Pestilence

by Jonathan Manthorpe

ISBN: 9781770865822

Price: \$24.95

Rights available: world ex-Canada and US

From author of the *Globe and Mail* bestseller, *Claws of the Panda*, comes a book quite literally for our times, a thoughtful account of how we can save democracies from the despots and populists who provide the easy answers to complicated situations, dumbing political discourse down to sandbox antics. Manthorpe argues that democracy is more resilient than it appears, and is capable of overcoming the attacks from within and without that have sapped its vigour since the end of the Cold War. Russia and China have met with considerable success in their attacks on democracy. As well, internal pressures and contradictions – wealth disparity chief among them – feed the populists who spout platitudes to abandoned workers without actually offering them ways to catch up. Adding to the pressures building on the political norms of our democracies, the COVID-19 pandemic has brought a kind of economic and social stand-still for which no country is prepared. *Restoring Democracy* sets out the key dangers and what we – as individuals as well as societies – can do to protect it.

## Reviews

“*Restoring Democracy in an Age of Populists and Pestilence* is an extraordinary feat of endurance journalism born from years of watching democratic facades crack, and made even more urgent by the threat of COVID-19, which [Manthorpe] describes as a new ‘central player’ in democracy’s larger story.” - Marlo Alexandra Burks, *Literary Review of Canada*

“This global affairs veteran has carved out a solid, mature path, including for ‘flawed democracies’ like the U.S. We’d all be wise to follow.” – *Vancouver Sun*

“Manthorpe has done an excellent job of detailing the problems, and pointing to some hopeful directions, all written with the clarity, severity and authority of an excellent journalist.” – Robin Sears, *Policy Magazine*

## The Author

Jonathan Manthorpe is the author of three books on international relations, politics, and history, including the national bestseller and *Globe and Mail* Top 100 Books of 2019, *Claws of the Panda: Beijing’s Campaign of Influence and Intimidation in Canada*. His previous books include *Forbidden Nation: A History of Taiwan* and *The Power and the Tories: Ontario Politics 1943 to the Present*. In recent years he has written columns for a wide variety of publications in Canada and overseas. Over his fifty-year career as a journalist, he has been the foreign correspondent in Asia, Africa, and Europe for *Southam News*, the European Bureau Chief for the *Toronto Star*, and the national reporter for *The Globe and Mail*. In 1981 and 1982, Manthorpe was an advisor in London to Prime Minister Pierre Elliott Trudeau on the patriation of the Canadian constitution. For the last few years, he has been based in Victoria, British Columbia.



CORMORANT BOOKS

Sarah Cooper • [s.cooper@cormorantbooks.com](mailto:s.cooper@cormorantbooks.com) • 416-925-8887 (ext.7)