

Contents

Introduction 1

1. Putin – the archetype (2000) 25
2. Erdogan – from liberal reformer to authoritarian strongman (2003) 41
3. Xi Jinping – China and the return of the cult of personality (2012) 55
4. Modi – strongman politics in the world's largest democracy (2014) 73
5. Orbán, Kaczynski and the rise of illiberal Europe (2015) 89
6. Boris Johnson and Brexit Britain (2016) 103
7. Donald Trump – American strongman (2016) 119
8. Rodrigo Duterte and the erosion of democracy in South East Asia (2016) 133
9. The rise of MBS and the Netanyahu phenomenon (2017) 145
10. Bolsonaro, Amlo and the return of the Latin American caudillo (2018) 159
11. Abiy Ahmed and democratic disillusionment in Africa (2019) 173

12. Merkel, Macron and Europe's struggle against the strongmen (2020) 187
 13. George Soros, Steve Bannon and the battle of ideas 199
- Epilogue: Biden in the Age of the Strongman 217
- Acknowledgements 235
- Notes 237
- Index 259