

New Series Examines Early Warning Signs of Democratic Erosion in the United States

Author G. Scott Graham launches *Authoritarian Drift*, a six-part analysis and practical checklist to help readers recognize patterns, stay oriented, and know when observation must become action



Boston, Massachusetts Mar 19, 2026 ([IssueWire.com](https://www.IssueWire.com)) - Author, therapist, and coach G. Scott Graham has launched a new public analysis series exploring the psychological and civic dynamics that often precede democratic erosion in the United States. The project, titled *Authoritarian Drift*, examines how citizens interpret early warning signals in real time and how societies adapt to political change before fully understanding its consequences.

The series is available at <https://authoritariandrift.com>.

Rather than focusing on partisan arguments, the project examines the human patterns that allow democratic systems to weaken gradually: unease before recognition, normalization of harm, hindsight bias, pattern recognition, and public exhaustion.

"Many people feel something shifting in public life but struggle to explain what they're seeing," said Graham. "The goal of this project is not panic or persuasion. It's orientation. When conditions are changing quickly, people need tools that help them separate private anxiety from shared reality."

The series consists of five analytical essays and a companion early-warning checklist designed to help readers track patterns over time. Each article addresses a different stage in how societies process political drift:

- how early warning signs are often felt psychologically before they are recognized politically
- how harmful conditions gradually become normalized
- why clarity often arrives only after damage has already occurred
- how people can recognize historical patterns without surrendering to fatalism
- why exhaustion and attention collapse can do the work of power

Alongside the essays, Graham developed an [Early Warning Checklist for Authoritarian Drift](#), a practical tool intended to help readers evaluate developments calmly rather than react to headlines or speculation.

“The checklist exists to counter two common reactions,” Graham explained. “Catastrophizing on one side and passivity on the other. The real question people are asking is simple: When do I stop watching and start acting?”

Graham began the project by developing the checklist itself, then wrote the essays to explain the psychological and social dynamics behind each signal. The result is a framework intended to help readers remain attentive without becoming overwhelmed.

ABOUT G. SCOTT GRAHAM

G. Scott Graham is an author, therapist, and coach based in Boston. His work explores the intersection of psychology, decision-making, and real-world systems under stress. Graham writes about how individuals and societies navigate uncertainty, responsibility, and change.



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