

Ruth Ben-Ghiat Short Bio

Ruth Ben-Ghiat is a historian who writes about authoritarianism, democracy protection, and propaganda. She is Professor of History and Italian Studies at New York University, the recipient of Guggenheim and other fellowships, and Advisor to Protect Democracy. She is an MSNBC opinion columnist, a regular contributor to CNN and *The Washington Post*, and provides live commentary on CNN, MSNBC, and other networks. She publishes [Lucid](#), a newsletter on threats to democracy. Her latest book, [Strongmen: Mussolini to the Present](#), looks at how illiberal leaders use propaganda, corruption, violence, and machismo - and how they can be defeated.