

# Book review: Democracy in 'retreat'

By ERICK BENGEL  
The Daily Astorian

Want to read something that restores your faith in humanity and optimism for the future?

If so, you should probably avoid Edward Luce's "The Retreat of Western Liberalism," a short and profoundly disquieting book that all but proclaims Western democracy's goose may be cooked — and, history will report, it was the citizenry who lit the fire to watch the doomed animal burn.

This isn't left-wing "liberalism" that Luce worries about but the conditions that allow liberal democracies like ours to function. Luce, an Oxford graduate and journalist for the Financial Times, argues that, if current trends hold, the U.S. and Western Europe may

lose its democratic character, its political liberties extinguished by systems that more closely resemble autocracies.

In America, the election of Donald Trump, who openly admires autocratic regimes, may signal the first of many self-inflicted wounds, in which voters use the methods of democracy against itself, deploying a liberal process toward illiberal ends.

The "squeezed middle" class — which Luce calls the economic losers in the globalized economy — have experienced decades of stagnant wages, job insecurity and loss of confidence in a bright future. The demoralized turned to a cynical populist who appeared to give voice to their pent-up outrage while dignifying their plight and scapegoating others. The president, Luce

says, "offers a cure worse than the disease."

Trump may not represent an aberration, to be endured and surpassed, but the hastening of a rot — including a deepening distrust of public institutions — that had already spread far enough to allow a leader like him to exploit it.

Democracy is not the inevitable end point of human societies, Luce reminds us: "There is no spiritual or political finale toward which history is guiding us ... History does not end. It is a timeless repetition of human folly and correction." Since the year 2000, more than 20 democracies have failed, he notes.

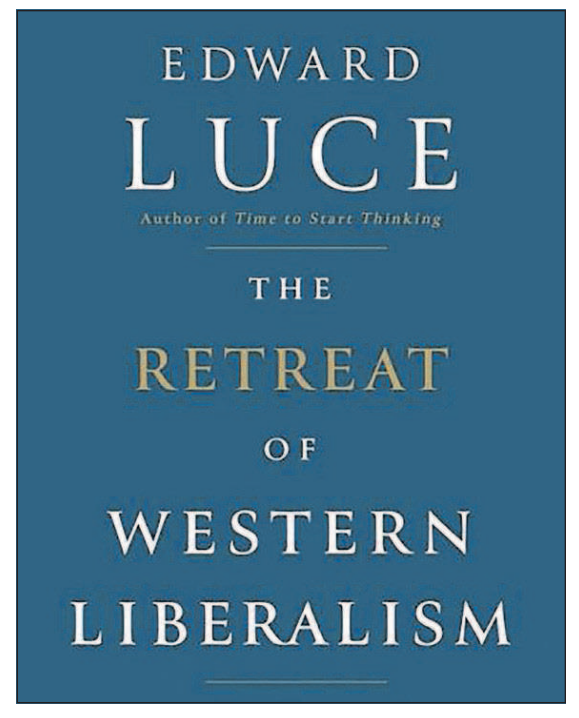
"Those who still believe in the inevitable triumph of the Western model might ask themselves whether it is faith, rather than

facts, that fuels their worldview," he writes.

Luce tells compelling first-hand stories, from taking part in dismantling the Berlin Wall to a chilling meeting with Rodrigo Duterte, back when the Philippines president was merely a city mayor, one who had already normalized extrajudicial killings.

The title "The Retreat of Western Liberalism" is like an alarming headline you stumble across while scrolling through your newsfeed. You don't necessarily want to read what's behind it, because you know it will upset you. But, until you do, you will be unable to shake your curiosity, simply because you know it's out there.

And, once you've read it, I defy you to put it out of your mind.



THE DAILY ASTORIAN

## LISTINGS

Evening listings  
FRIDAY-SUNDAY

FRIDAY EVENING												SEPTEMBER 15	
A	L	6 PM	6:30	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM	11:30
2	KATU	(2) KATU News at 6 (N)		Jeopardy!	Wheel of Fortune	Shark Tank		What Would You Do?		20/20		KATU News (N)	(35) H.S. Blitz
4	KOMO	(4) KOMO 4 News (N)		Wheel of Fortune	Jeopardy!	Shark Tank		What Would You Do?		20/20		KOMO 4 News (N)	(35) Jimmy Kimmel
5	KING	(5) NBC News (N)	KING 5 News (N)	KING 5 News (N)	Evening	America's Got Talent "Live Show Five"				Dateline NBC		KING 5 News (N)	(35) Tonight Show
6	KOIN	(6) KOIN Local 6 at 6	Evening News (N)	Extra	Ent. Tonight	Big Brother (N)		Annual ACM Honors Celebrating the honorees and winners of country music. (N)				KOIN 6 News (N)	(35) Colbert
7	KIRO	(7) KIRO 7 News (N)	Evening News (N)	KIRO 7 News (N)	Ent. Tonight	Big Brother (N)		Annual ACM Honors Celebrating the honorees and winners of country music. (N)				KIRO 7 News (N)	(35) Colbert
8	KGW	(8) KGW News at 6:00 p.m. (N)		Live at 7 (N)	Inside Edition	America's Got Talent "Live Show Five"				Dateline NBC		KGW News (N)	(35) Tonight Show
9	KRCW	(3) Modern Family	Modern Family	The Goldbergs	The Goldbergs	Illusion (N)	Masters of Illusion	Penn & Teller: Fool Us		News at 10 (N)	Two and a Half	Two and a Half	Met Your Mother
10	KOPB	(10) Family Travel	Business (N)	PBS NewsHour (N)		Viewers' Choice							
12	KPTV	(12) News (N)	Timbers in 30	Family Feud	Family Feud	MasterChef "The Great Outdoors"		Beat Shazam "Episode Thirteen"		10 O'Clock News (N)		News (N)	Raising Hope
13	KPDx	(13) Mike & Molly	Mike & Molly	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	FOX 12's News (N)		9 O'Clock News (N)	Family Guy	American Dad!	The Game	The Game	The Game
13	KCPQ	(13) Modern Family	Modern Family	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	MasterChef "The Great Outdoors"		Beat Shazam "Episode Thirteen"		Q13 News at 10 (N)	Talkin' Huskies (N)	Talkin' Huskies (N)	Talkin' Huskies (N)
20	TBS	(20) Seinfeld	Seinfeld	ELeague "CS:GO Premiere 2017: Group B Play" (N)				Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	★ ★ ★ Get Hard (2015, Comedy) Kevin Hart.	Alison Brie, Will Ferrell.	Two and a Half	Two and a Half
20	KZJO	(20) Friends	Friends	The Goldbergs	The Goldbergs	Talkin' Huskies		Q13 News at 9 (N)	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	★ ★ ★ Get Hard (2015, Comedy) Kevin Hart.	Two and a Half	Two and a Half
29	ESPN	(29) (4:00) NCAA Football III.F5.Fla. (L)		Football Score. (15) NCAA Football Arizona vs. University of Texas at El Paso Site: Sun Bowl Stadium -- El Paso, Texas (L)				Sun Bowl Stadium -- El Paso, Texas (L)		(15) SportsCenter (N)		SportsCenter (N)	SportsCenter (N)
29	ESPN2	(29) Mano a Mano	Mano a Mano	FIFA Soccer International Friendly New Zealand vs. United States Women's (L)				SportsCenter (N)		(15) SC Featured	Jalen & Jacoby (N)	30 for 30 "Fernando Nation"	30 for 30 "Fernando Nation"
31	NICK	(31) The Loud House	Henry Danger	Henry Danger	I Am Frankie (N)	★ ★ ★ Percy Jackson: Sea of Monsters		(13) Alexandra Daddario, Brandon T. Jackson, Logan Leman.	Full House	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends
32	DISN	(32) (55) Descendants (2015, Family) Cameron Boyce, Booboo Stewart, Dove Cameron.				Raven's Home (N) [Stuck Middle (N)]	Bizaardvark (N)	Bizaardvark (N)	Live and Maddie	K.C. Undercover	Raven's Home	Bizaardvark	Bizaardvark
34	FAM	(34) (5:10) ★ ★ ★ Home Alone 2: Lost in New York			(50) ★ ★ ★ Harry Potter			Adventure! Rupert Grint, Emma Watson, Daniel Radcliffe.				The 700 Club	The 700 Club
35	FMC	(35) (10) ★ ★ ★ The Sandlot (1993, Children) Mike Vitar, James Earl Jones, Tom Guiry.			(20) ★ ★ ★ The Sandlot 2 (2005, Children) James Willson, Max Lloyd-Jones.			★ ★ ★ The Sandlot 3: Heading Home (2007, Family) Keanu Pires, Luke Perry.				Couples Retreat "Girls on Top"	Couples Retreat "Girls on Top"
36	LIFE	(36) ★ ★ ★ Derailed (2005, Thriller) Jennifer Aniston, Melissa George, Clive Owen.				★ ★ ★ Unfaithful (2002, Thriller) Diane Lane, Olivier Martinez, Richard Gere.							
38	ROOT	(38) (5:00) MLB Baseball Seattle Mariners at Houston Astros				Post-game	MLB Baseball Seattle Mariners at Houston Astros Site: Minute Maid Park -- Houston, Texas						Post-game
39	FS1	(39) (5:00) NASCAR Truck Racing Chicago 225 (L)				MLB Whiparound (L)			Skip and Shannon: Undisputed Opinions on the biggest sports topics of the day.			UFC Tonight	UFC Tonight
43	SPIKE	(43) Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	★ ★ ★ The Longest Yard (2005, Comedy) Chris Rock, Burt Reynolds, Adam Sandler.				★ ★ ★ Superbad (2007, Comedy) Michael Cera, Jonah Hill.			
44	COM	(44) (15) Futurama	(50) Futurama "The Honking"	(25) South Park		South Park	South Park	South Park	★ ★ ★ We're the Millers (2013, Comedy) Jennifer Aniston, Emma Roberts, Jason Sudeikis.				
45	HIST	(45) Ancient Aliens "Aliens in America"		Ancient Aliens "The Alien Disks"				Aliens "Return to Gobekli Tepe" (N)	(05) Two Degrees A mere two degrees could result in global chaos. (N)				
46	A&E	(46) (5:00) Live PD				Live PD: Patrol	Live PD: Patrol	Live PD: Patrol	Live PD: Patrol	(05) Live PD: Patrol	(35) Live PD		
47	TLC	(47) Kindred Spirits "Trapped in the Attic"		Kindred Spirits "Lost Amy"		Kindred Spirits "Shoebag Murder"		K Spirits "The Legacy of Lizzie Borden"		Evil "Christmas Gift & Stolen Time"		K Spirits "The Legacy of Lizzie Borden"	
48	DISC	(48) Dual Survival "Glacial Downfall"		Bering Sea Gold "Three's Company"		Bering Sea Gold "Cracked"		Bering Sea Gold (N)		Alaskan Bush "A New Trail Part 2" (N)		Bering Sea Gold	
49	NGEO	(49) Hubble's Amazing Journey		Space Dive		Mission Pluto		Mission Saturn (N)		Moon Landings Declassified (N)		Mission Saturn	
50	TNT	(50) ★ ★ ★ The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers (2002, Fantasy) Voices of Ian McKellan, Viggo Mortensen, Elijah Wood.						The Last Ship "In Media Res"				The Last Ship "The Pillars of Hercules"	
51	AMC	(51) (4:30) ★ ★ ★ The Da Vinci Code (06, Drama) Audrey Tautou, Jean Reno, Tom Hanks.				★ ★ ★ The Shawshank Redemption (1994, Drama) Morgan Freeman, James Whitmore, Tim Robbins.						Fear the Dead "Minotaur/The Diviner"	
52	USA	(52) Modern Family	Modern Family	Modern Family	Modern Family	Modern Family	Modern Family	Modern Family	Modern Family	Modern Family	Modern Family	Modern Family	Modern Family
53	FOOD	(53) Diners, Drive-Ins	Diners, Drive-Ins	Diners, Drive-Ins	Diners, Drive-Ins	Diners, Drive-Ins	Diners, Drive-Ins	Diners, Drive-Ins	Diners, Drive-Ins	Diners, Drive-Ins	Diners, Drive-Ins	Diners, Drive-Ins	Diners, Drive-Ins
54	HGTV	(54) TinyHouseHunters	TinyHouseHunters	TinyHouseHunters	TinyHouseHunters	My Dream Home	My Dream Home	Dream Home (N)	My Dream Home	House Hunters	House Hunters (N)	House Hunters	House Hunters
56	FX	(56) (5:30) ★ ★ Spy (2015, Action/Comedy) Jude Law, Rose Byrne, Melissa McCarthy.				★ ★ ★ 22 Jump Street (2014, Action/Comedy) Jonah Hill, Ice Cube, Channing Tatum.						22 Jump Street "14 Channing Tatum.	
57	CNN	(57) Anderson Cooper 360		CNN Tonight With Don Lemon		CNN Tonight With Don Lemon		Anderson Cooper 360		Anderson Cooper 360		CNN Tonight With Don Lemon	
58	FNC	(58) The Five		Hannity		Tucker Carlson Tonight		The Five		Hannity		Tucker Carlson Tonight	
61	CNBC	(61) Greed "A Wolf in Priest's Clothing"		American Greed: Scam		American Greed: Scam		American Greed: Scam		Amer. Greed "The Wealth Builder Club"		Paid Program	
63	BRAV	(63) (5:30) To Be Announced				To Be Announced						★ ★ ★ The Social Network (10) Jesse Eisenberg.	
64	TCM	(64) Movie	Love Before Breakfast (36) Preston Foster, Carole Lombard.			Princess Comes Across (36) Carole Lombard.		Now and Forever (34, Rom) Carole Lombard, Gary Cooper.				The Gay Bride (34) Carole Lombard.	
65	SYFY	(65) ★ ★ ★ The Book of Eli (2009, Adventure) Gary Oldman, Mila Kunis, Denzel Washington.				★ ★ ★ The Sixth Sense (1999, Thriller) Haley Joel Osmert, Toni Collette, Bruce Willis.						A Nightmare on Elm Street	
69	RFD	(69) County Reporter	FarmHer	The Jimmy Dean Show		Cumberland High.	Rural Eve. News	Country Reunion "Opry Celebration"		County Reporter	Virginia Dreams	Time Life Library	

SATURDAY EVENING												SEPTEMBER 16	
A	L	6 PM	6:30	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM	11:30
2	KATU	(2) (5:05) NCAA Football Miami at Florida State (L)				(20) Studio	Paid Program	MyDestination.TV	Paid Program	Wheel of Fortune	Jeopardy!	KATU News (N)	(35) HonorWrestle
4	KOMO	(4) (5:05) NCAA Football Miami at Florida State (L)				(20) Studio	Football Tonight	Wheel of Fortune	Jeopardy!	20/20		KOMO 4 News (N)	(35) HonorWrestle
5	KING	(5) NBC News (N)	KING 5 News (N)	L.M. Traveler	Raw Travel	Dateline NBC	Investigative features are covered.			Running Wild "Vanessa Hudgens" (N)		KING 5 News (N)	Sat. Night Live
6	KOIN	(6) KOIN Local 6 (N)	Weekend News (N)	Entertainment Tonight	Weekend	NCIS "Keep Going"		NCIS: Los Angeles "Uncaged"		48 Hours		KOIN 6 News (N)	(35) Paid Program
7	KIRO	(7) Weekend News (N)	KIRO 7 News (N)	Steve Raible	[Right This Minute	NCIS "Keep Going"		NCIS: Los Angeles "Uncaged"		48 Hours		KIRO 7 News (N)	(35) Scandal
8	KGW	(8) NBC News (N)	Naturally, Danny	Champion (N)	Give	Dateline NBC	Investigative features are covered.			Running Wild "Vanessa Hudgens" (N)		KGW News (N)	Sat. Night Live
9	KRCW	(3) Modern Family	Modern Family	Last Man Standing	Last Man Standing	Bones		Bones		News at 10 (N)	Pawn Stars	Impractical Jokers	Sheiff: Eldorado
10	KOPB	(10) Viewer's Choice											
12	KPTV	(12) (5:30) NCAA Football Texas at USC Site: Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum -- Los Angeles, Calif. (L)				In Depth		Tim McCarver		10 O'Clock News (N)		Superhuman "Extreme Awareness"	
13	KPDx	(13) Portland Timbers	MLS Soccer Portland Timbers at Real Salt Lake (L)			Portland Timbers		The X-Files		CSI: Miami		West Coast Wrestling Connection	
13	KCPQ	(13) (5:30) NCAA Football Texas at USC Site: Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum -- Los Angeles, Calif. (L)						Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Q13 News (N)	Seahawks	Two and a Half	Two and a Half
20	TBS	(20) Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Full Frontal	People of Earth
20	KZJO	(22) (5:00) MLS Soccer Seattle vs Dallas (L)		Post-match	The Goldbergs	The X-Files		Q13 News at 9 (N)	Seahawks	Most Wanted	Name Game	Name Game	Anger Manage
29	ESPN	(29) (4:00) NCAA Football (L)		Football Score.	NCAA Football Mississippi (Ole Miss) at California Site: California Memorial Stadium -- Berkeley, Calif. (L)					SportsCenter (N)	Football Final	Football Score. "College Football Final"	
29	ESPN2	(29) (4:00) NCAA Football (L)		NCAA Football San Jose State at Utah Site: Rice-Eccles Stadium -- Salt Lake City, Utah (L)						SportsCenter (N)	Football Final	Football Score. "College Football Final"	
31	NICK	(31) The Loud House	Henry Danger	Henry Danger	Henry Danger	Henry Danger (N)	Game Shakers (N)	The Thundermans	Henry Danger 1/2	Full House	Full House	Friends	Friends
32	DISN	(32) Bunk'd	Austin & Ally	Raven's Home	Bizaardvark	Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Dog Days (12) Zachary Gordon.		(40) Raven's Home	(10) Stuck Middle	(10) Stuck Middle	(05) Raven's Home	K.C. Undercover	K.C. Undercover
34	FAM	(34) Movie	(45) ★ ★ ★ The Incredibles (2004, Animated) Voices of Holly Hunter, Samuel L. Jackson, Craig T. Nelson.			(40) FXM Presents (45) ★ ★ ★ The Wolf of Wall Street (2013, Drama) Jonah Hill, Kyle Chandler, Leonardo DiCaprio.		(40) FXM Presents (45) ★ ★ ★ The Wolf of Wall Street (2013, Drama) Jonah Hill, Kyle Chandler, Leonardo DiCaprio.					
35	FMC	(35) (5:00) ★ ★ ★ The Wolf of Wall Street (2013, Drama) Jonah Hill, Kyle Chandler, Leonardo DiCaprio.				[Ten: Murder Island (Horror) Cassidy Gifford, Rome Flynn, China Anne McClain. (P) Drink, Slay, Love Cierra Ramirez, McKaley Miller, Gregg Sulkin.							
36	LIFE	(36) Secrets of My Stepmother (17) Tiera Skovboue, Cameron Bancroft, Josie Davis.				MLS Soccer Seattle Sounders FC at FC Dallas		MLS Soccer Portland Timbers at Real Salt Lake					Post-game (N)
38	ROOT	(38) (4:00) NCAA Football Idaho State at Nevada (L)				UFC UFC Fight Night	Featuring UFC match-ups. Luke Rockhold vs. David Branch Site: PPG Paints Arena -- Pittsburgh, Pa. (L)			UFCPost-show "Rockhold vs. Branch" (L)		NHRA Drag Racing Carolina Nationals	
39	FS1	(39) (5:00) UFC UFC Fight Night (L)											
43	SPIKE	(43) Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	★ ★ ★ Jurassic Park (1993, Sci-Fi) Laura Dern, Jeff Goldblum, Sam Neill.						The Lost World: Jurassic Park	
44	COM	(44) (15) ★ ★ ★ We're the Millers (2013, Comedy) Jennifer Aniston, Emma Roberts, Jason Sudeikis.				JFK Declass. "Oswald Goes Dark" (N)		JFK Dec. "The Cuban Connection" (N)	(05) JFK Dec. "Scene of the Crime" (N)	(05) JFK Declassified "The Truth" (N)			
45	HIST	(45) JFK Declassified "The Iron Meeting"		JFK Declassified "The Russian Network"		JFK Declass. "Oswald Goes Dark" (N)		JFK Dec. "The Cuban Connection" (N)	(05) JFK Dec. "Scene of the Crime" (N)	(05) JFK Declassified "The Truth" (N)			
46	A&E	(46) (5:00) Live PD				Live PD "Rewind"		Live PD Live access inside the country's busiest police forces.					
47	TLC	(47) Say Yes-Dress	Say Yes-Dress	Say Yes-Dress	Say Yes-Dress	Giant Life "Haleigh's Journey So Far" (N)		My Giant Life "My Giant Baby" (N)		Giant Life "Coco's Journey So Far" (N)		Giant Life "Haleigh's Journey So Far" (N)	
48	DISC	(48) Diesel Bros. "Good Bros and Goodbyes"		Diesel Brothers "Truck Norris"		Diesel Bros. "Race Against the Machine"		Diesel Bros. "Race Against the Machine"		Diesel Brothers		Diesel Brothers	
49	NGEO	(49) (5:00) Prison Nation		Russia's Toughest Prisons		Wicked Tuna "I'll Sleep When I'm Dead"		Wicked Tuna "Tuna and the Beast"		Wicked Tuna "Catch Me If You Can"		Wicked Tuna "Tuna and the Beast"	
50	TNT	(50) (5:00) ★ ★ ★ The Island (05) Scarlett Johansson, Djimon Hounsou, Ewan McGregor.				★ ★ ★ San Andreas (2015, Action) Carla Gugino, Alexandra Daddario, Dwayne Johnson.				★ ★ ★ King Kong (2005, Action) Naomi Watts, Adrien Brody.			
51	AMC	(51) (5:00) ★ ★ ★ The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey (2012, Fantasy) Ian McKellan, Richard Armitage, Martin Freeman.				Halt and Catch Fire "Nowhere Man" (05) Halt/ Catch Fire "Nowhere Man"				(10) Independence Day (96) Will Smith.			
52	USA	(52) ★ ★ ★ Easy A (2010, Comedy) Amanda Bynes, Penn Badgley, Emma Stone.				★ ★ ★ The Help (2011, Drama) Viola Davis, Octavia Spencer, Emma Stone.				(10) Easy A (10, Comedy) Emma Stone.			
53	FOOD	(53) Guy's Road Trip	I Hart Food	Diners, Drive-Ins "Late Night Legends"		Diners, Drive-Ins "Rockstar Chefs"		Diners, Drive-Ins "Deep-Fried Favorites"		Diners, Drive-Ins "Dynamite Desserts"		Diners, Drive-Ins "Triple-D All-Stars"	
54	HGTV	(54) Fixer Upper "The Flipper Upper"											