The violence that took place on January 6th at the United States Capitol shocked the country and observers around the world, but its root causes are deeply embedded in American history and society. While the full scope of that day’s insurrection attempt has yet to be fully realized, there already exists a wealth of scholarship through which we can trace the long history of white nationalism and the gradual mainstreaming of anti-democratic thought that ultimately led to this moment.

“Roots of the Attack on Democracy”, the latest in our MUSE in Focus series, explores the history of American right-wing extremism and the modern forces that culminated these attitudes in our current moment. Understanding the nature of these challenges provides the best chance to overcome them.

**Books**


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