

**The Vital Center:**  
**The Politics of Freedom**  
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**Synopsis**

The Vital Center is an eloquent and incisive defense of liberal democracy against its rivals to the left and to the right, communism and fascism. It shows how the failures of free society had led to the mass escape from freedom and sharpened the appeal of totalitarian solutions. And it calls for a radical reconstruction of the democratic faith based on a realistic understanding of human limitation and frailty.

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