This lecture will discuss the developments that have led us to this Administration, paying particular attention to trends in the evolution of executive power since 9/11 that have expanded executive authority and weakened constraints on the part of counterbalancing institutions. I shall argue that the features of the Trump Administration that so openly challenge rule of law values began to enter political life as far back as 9/11, and indeed even potentially before. I shall also discuss the possible correctives to the dissolution of the rule of law. It is far from a foregone conclusion that this trend will continue, but any attempts to roll back this damage must be clear and deliberate, and such work will not happen quickly or easily.

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