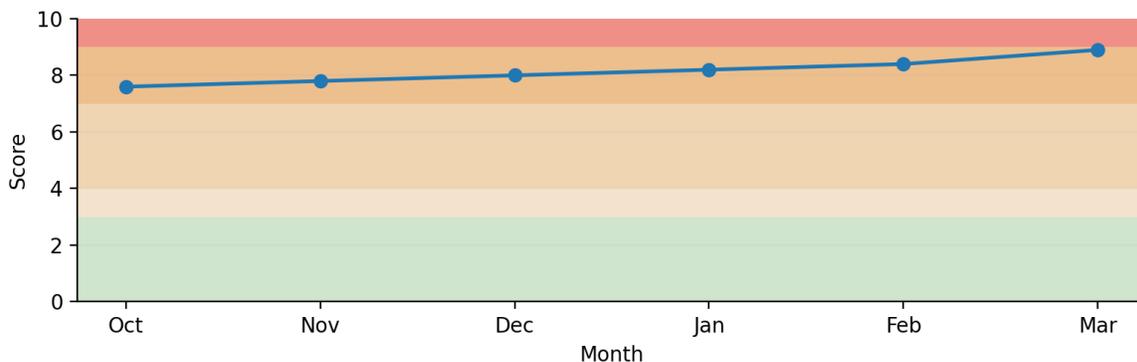


U.S. Democracy Risk Assessment

Executive Summary: Democratic institutions remain operational but are under sustained structural stress, with March now showing a broader escalation across press freedom, election administration, court compliance, and executive power.

Category	Score
Rule of Law & Court Compliance	8.7
Habeas Corpus & Due Process	8.5
Coercive State Power	8.2
Weaponized Justice	8.0
Election Integrity	8.6
Press Freedom	7.4
Civil Society	6.8
Institutional Oversight	8.0
Military / Intelligence Neutrality	8.8

Trend Line Narrative: March moved the index from 8.4 to 8.9 as a triggered press-freedom redline and a new election-override Watch signal widened the constitutional-risk pattern beyond the domains that had already deteriorated earlier in the month.



Redline Tracker

Indicator	Status
Final Supreme Court order openly defied	Watch
Habeas / counsel access functionally inaccessible	Watch
Opposition leader jailed on speech-based charge	Not Triggered
Federal override of certified election results	Watch
Journalists criminally charged for routine reporting	Triggered
Intelligence used for domestic political surveillance	Watch

Why the March score is now 8.9

The March report is being revised upward because the live tracker and the PDF are now aligned. Two developments changed the picture: the journalist-charges redline moved to Triggered, and the federal-election-override indicator moved to Watch. Those shifts broaden the danger pattern across institutions rather than leaving it concentrated in only one or two domains.

What could still slow the escalation

1. Force visible court compliance	Orders need documented compliance steps, deadlines, and consequences for delay or evasive narrowing.
2. Treat routine reporting as democratic infrastructure	Criminalizing ordinary protest coverage should trigger coordinated legal, civic, and institutional response before the practice normalizes.
3. Defend election record custody	Ballots, election equipment, and certification records should stay inside clearly lawful procedures with transparent judicial oversight.
4. Preserve counsel and habeas access in real time	Rights that are technically available but practically unreachable accelerate coercive abuses and reduce correction capacity.

Bottom line

March now reads as a widening constitutional danger pattern, not just a one-domain spike. The revised score of 8.9 keeps the system in severe erosion, one step below formal breakdown risk, while signaling that further redline movement could produce a much faster jump than ordinary monthly drift.



Methodology: Composite index derived from a structured rubric assessing rule of law, due process, election integrity, institutional independence, civil liberties, and coercive state power. Scores are weighted by severity and evidence strength, with primary emphasis on court rulings, statutes, executive actions, federal dockets, and verified reporting. Authored by Kurt Lohse with research and analytical support from ChatGPT (GPT-5 class model).

Methodology & details