

**Reimagining Resistance:**  
*An Evaluation of Coalition Building in Contemporary Authoritarian Contexts*

**METHODS:**

- 1. Analyze contemporary resistance theories from the Arab Spring Uprisings and cognate movements.
- 2. Distinguish factors and attributes that led these movements to succeed or fail.
- 3. Create a framework and chronology to conduct these movements to, theoretically, maximize their effectiveness.
- 4. Apply framework to the case of United States to assess the strengths and weaknesses of resistance to Trumpism.

**VARIABLES CONSIDERED:**

**Democratic Structure:** Governing documents and hierarchical structures must emphasize democratic principles for greatest likelihood of success in the “post-breakdown” phase.

**Diversity:** Incorporating a variety of social and economic groups bolsters access to resources, legitimacy, and the likelihood of success.

**Follow-Through:** A movement must not only topple the regime that they resist, but must prepare to build a democracy from the ground up.

**Technology:** An essential tool for disseminating information and organizing, though a potential weakness in highly-censored contexts.



PRESENTER:  
**Colin Buscarino**



# Successful resistance to authoritarianism depends on forming well-organized, multifaceted, socioeconomically diverse coalitions.

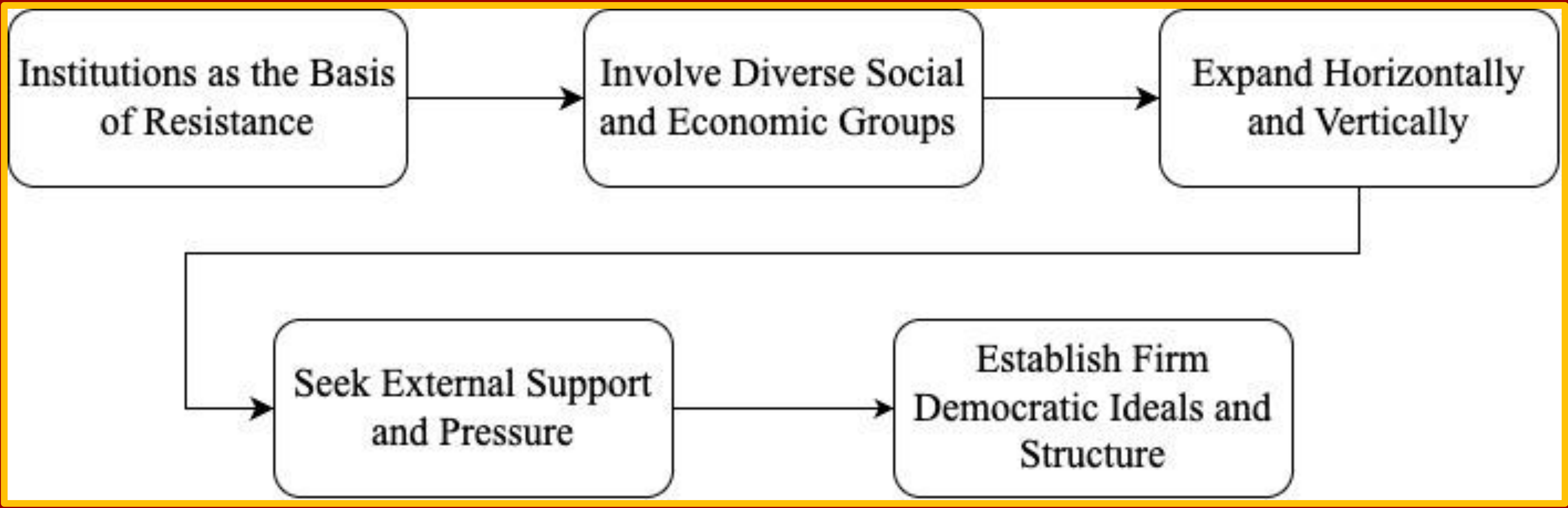


Figure 1: Framework and Chronology



Figure 2: Women's March, January 21st, 2017



Figure 3: Hands Off March, April 5th, 2025

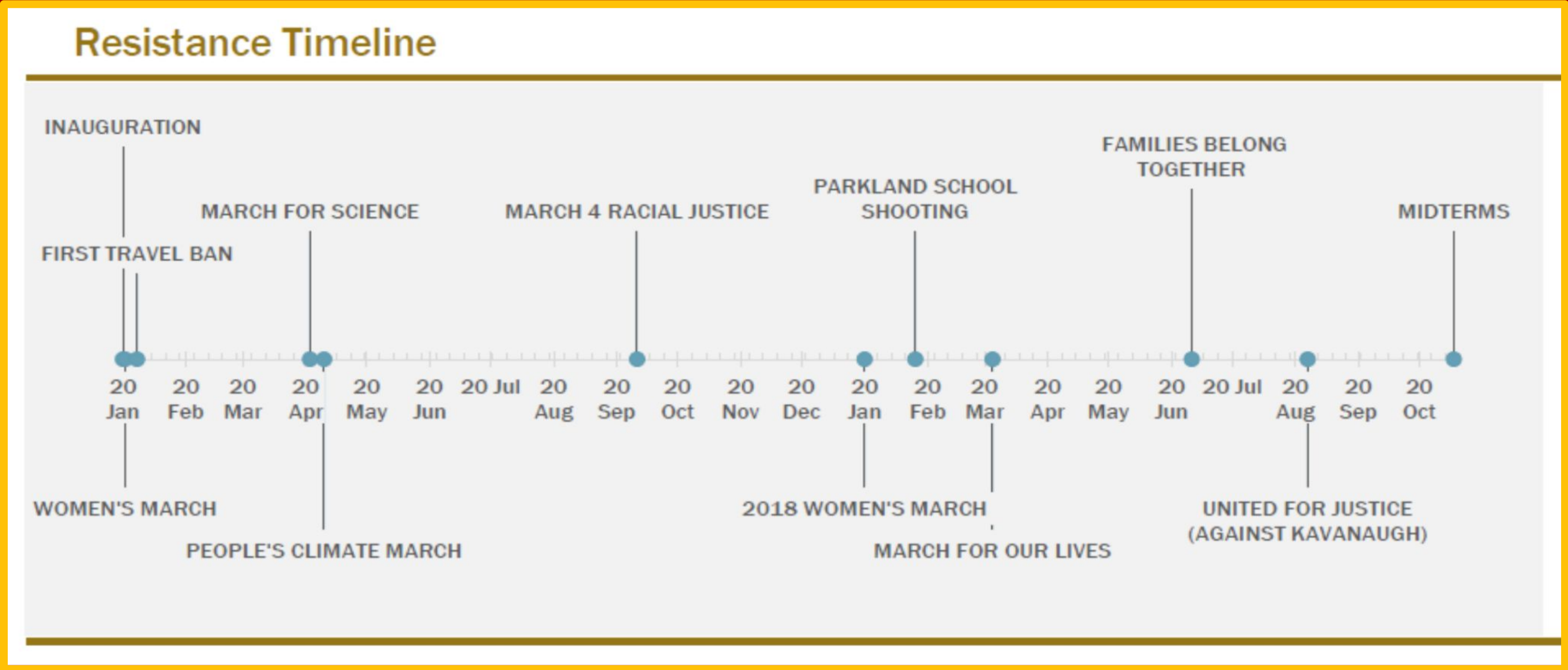


Figure 4: Major Anti-Trump Demonstrations between 2016 and 2018

**CHARACTERISTICS OF ANTI-TRUMP RESISTANCE:**

**Intersectionality:** The interconnected nature of social movements due to overlapping and interdependent systems of discrimination and disadvantage.

**Distributed Organizing Approach:** Method of organizing with fluid membership, loosely affiliated networks, and geographically diffused activism, facilitated by digital tools.

**Economic Non-Cooperation:** The mobilization of widespread economic power to harm the capitalist basis of Trump’s administration.

TABLE 2.2 Demographics of the Resistance in the streets (in percent)							
	Women's March 2017	March for Science	People's Climate March	March for Racial Justice	Women's March 2018	March For Our Lives	Families Belong Together
Gender							
Female	85	54	57	66	78	70	71
Male	14	42	41	32	17	29	27
Other	1	4	2	2	2	2	2
Educational attainment							
Bachelor's degree	34	35	35	30	36	36	28
Graduate degree	53	47	42	40	38	36	56
Total bachelor's degree or higher	87	82	77	70	75	72	84
Race/ethnicity							
White	77	80	77	62	77	78	70
Latinx	4	4	6	7	3	5	9
Black	7	1	3	18	9	8	7
Asian	4	5	6	6	7	3	5
Multiracial/other	8	10	6	7	5	6	8

**SUGGESTED IMPROVEMENTS:**

**Reform Organizational Structure:** Unify the movement by replacing decentralized organizing with a more cohesive, democratic structure rooted in shared principles, while maintaining geographically diffused activism and the use of technology.

**Re-Focus the Movement:** Broaden the message from opposing Trump policies to opposing Trumpism itself to strengthen intersectional alliances and promote the formation of negative coalitions.

**Shift Institutional Base:** Move away from the Democratic Party and align with more progressive leftist parties and candidates that have gained traction among socioeconomically diverse groups.