


Between the Border:
How authoritarianism thrives in Mexico and the U.S. using the working class.



Zoe Chin

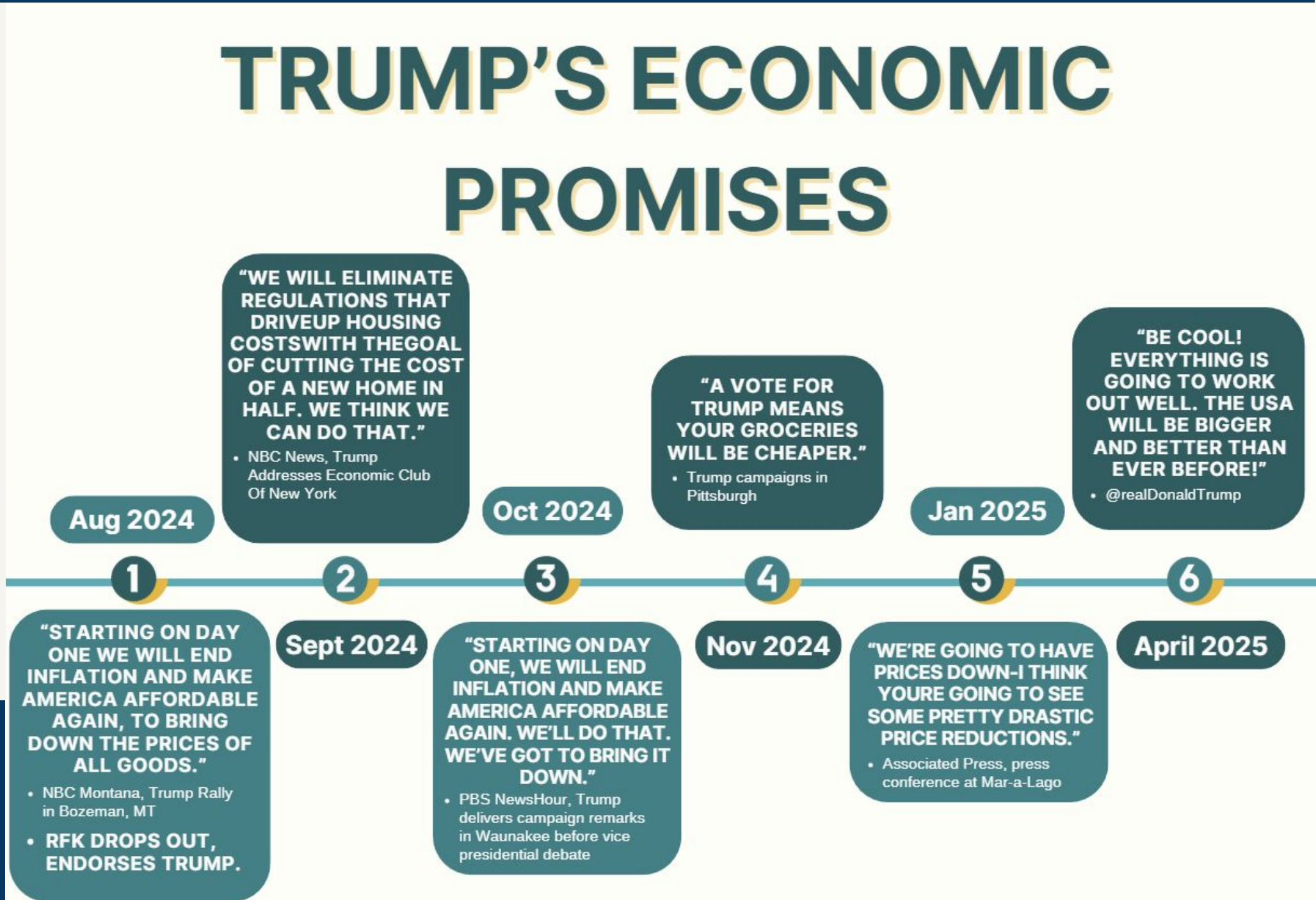
With democracy in peril, all hands are on deck to predict the trajectory of the U.S. and distinguish potential solutions.

- METHODS**
1. Dissect parallels between the PRI’s approach to gaining the support of the working class in Mexico in the 20th century and Trump’s 2024 presidential campaign.
 2. Create a carefully constructed political timeline of Mexico and the U.S. beginning from the 1950s.
 3. Assess the specific methods that led each country to democratically decline or rise.
 4. Interpret these results and apply them to the future of democracy for the U.S.

- RESULTS**
- Regimes with elections must mobilize as many voters in their support as possible.
 - Economic policies and promise of better livelihood are appealing to the working class. Though in the long run, the intention isn’t to help, but rather to subtly control.



In the U.S. and Mexico, authoritarianism succeeds by mobilizing the working class and exploiting expectations.



- Parallels**
- Both experienced accusations of electoral fraud, which brought down people’s trust and created more dissent.
 - Both experience(d) displays acts of violence when it comes time to exchange government power
 - Symbolic legitimacy is more effective in garnering support than material delivery in both countries.
 - State/leader-centered narratives are used to appeal to the working class, often through promises over performance.
 - Presidential campaigns built upon putting the lower working class first.

- Fact vs. Fiction - Trump**
- “I will make the Trump tax cuts - the biggest in the history of our country - we will make them permanent tax cuts.”
- Libertarian National Convention
Result: *In progress*
 - “When I win, I will immediately bring prices down, starting on day one.”
Aug 2024
Result: In progress

- Fact vs. Fiction - Obrador**
- Ran on a campaign of “First, the poor”.
Result: Promise kept (put a lot of money into voters’ pockets)
 - Promised to reshape the country by cracking down on corruption and violence.
Result: Promise not kept

