I don't understand the blind loyalty to President Donald Trump by most Republicans in Congress. What is transpiring is not a garden-variety policy dispute.

If Republicans had the moral fortitude to put principle above politics, they might see a frightening parallel noted by author Brian Klaas, Fellow in Comparative Politics at the London School of Economics and an expert on authoritarianism. In 2013, when Turkish leader Recep Tayyip Erdoğan was investigated for corruption, he labeled it a deep state witch hunt, discredited the investigation and eventually fired all the prosecutors conducting the investigation.

This is textbook autocracy, a form of governing that Americans find abhorrent and have resisted vehemently since our inception. Yet all accounts indicate that Trump -- along with Rep. Devin Nunes, R-Calif., and others -- may be doing the exact same thing.

Republicans need to remember that, when Trump's presidency ends, irreparable damage will have been done. History will record those who empowered, enabled and became accomplices to Trump's behavior.

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