Abstract: This paper examines contemporary conceptions of law and their politics in the abortion field today. The first section revisits the era of abortion law liberalism and describes its key features including: the empowerment of lawyers and judges as primary political actors, political compromise as an inherent feature of abortion law, a focus on the philosophical and legalistic aspects of abortion rights, all with progressive liberalism as its only imagined end. The article tracks, however, an alternative path in explanation of the current state of the field in particular, the repurposing of liberal abortion law and its discourses for illiberal ends. Drawing from larger ideas of autocratic legalism, the paper illustrates though comparative case studies how courts have criminalized abortion behind a human rights façade of health protection and by invocation of the rule of law, and how governments have exploited institutional forms of transplanted abortion laws to defeat their progressive aims. Looking to the future, the paper explores alternatives to both abortion law liberalism and illiberalism and the larger feminist politics of their emergence, including the making of abortion law through democratic institutions and social policy, for example, in the Green Wave reforms, and the unmaking of abortion law through growing transnational feminist care networks rooted in community justice and social order reinvention.