

The Art Of Political Manipulation

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The Art of Political Manipulation: William H. Riker ...

Political persuasion (and manipulation) is an art, but also a science. And since anyone can ramble about the "art" part, we are going to focus on the science of political persuasion. This article will show you the influencing techniques that politicians use to persuade people to vote and back their policies – even when it's not in the voters' best interests .

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The Art of Political Manipulation: Riker, Professor ...

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<p>Riker uses game theory to illustrate political strategy in twelve stories from history and current events, including Lincoln's outmaneuvering of Douglas in their debates and the parliamentary trick which defeated the Equal Rights Amendment in the 1980 Virginia Senate vote.</p>
<p>Since the advent of civil society, politicians have evolved various methods of acquiring and retaining power over the people. In discussing these methods, Aristotle, for example, noted that “the leader must cut off the heads of the largest poppies, destroy the proud and rid himself of outstanding men. He must employ spies, use women to report about men, ferment quarrels and keep the people busy and poor. He must show zeal in religion, but zeal combined with dignity and a certain reserve, which will save his piety from seeming artificial and insincere. He must bestow favours in person, but inflict punishment through the agency of the magistrates and the law courts. He has at all times to beware of assassins and especially of those who are willing to sacrifice their lives.” In the early days of human political history, these methods, it must be supposed, existed as isolated methods of manipulating people. It was Niccolò Machiavelli who organized them into a systematic art. It is this art as applied in Kenya that is the focus of this book. The book, however, delves deeper beyond simple Machiavellianism to illuminate other methods of scientific mind manipulation that have evolved following remarkable advances in human psychology and especially psychiatry. Indeed, the book sheds light on the development of knowledge in the field of psychology and sociology and provides profound insights into the social and psychological nature of man.Besides the scientific aspects, the book brightly illuminates the corridors of Kenya's political history in the period shortly before independence in 1963 to 2002. It also provides a refreshing encounter with renowned philosophers, including Socrates, Aristotle, Plato, Stuart Mill and Bertrand Russell, as their ideas bear on the development of thought on the governance of mankind. The book is certainly a must read for students and players of Kenyan politics as well as lovers of Greek classics including The Odyssey and The Iliad.</p>

Finally, the answer to the many questions that have been prying on the minds of millions of Americans has arrived. Why are Americans so vulnerable to divisive political tactics? Why did Americans get dragged into such an unwise war in Iraq? Why do fundamentalist religious groups, Fox News, and right-wing radio still play such influential roles in America's political landscape? And why are long-accepted rational scientific ideas like evolution under siege? These questions hold America's future in the balance. Ultimately, they are questions about the American mind. Psychologist-attorney Dr. Bryant Welch has the answers. If America is going to change the mind-set that led us to war in Iraq and left us unable to confront our serious national problems, this book is vitally important. Drawing on his unique experience both as a clinical psychologist and a Washington, D.C., political figure with the American Psychological Association, Dr. Welch shows how the long-term effects of sophisticated new forms of political manipulation have not only led to our debacle in Iraq but are also currently undercutting America's ability to address its very serious problems. In the 1944 movie Gaslight, a husband drives his wife to the brink of insanity by playing games with her sense of reality. Just as in the movie, America's most recent political “gaslighters,” such as George W. Bush, Karl Rove, Rush Limbaugh, Ann Coulter, and many religious leaders, have generated and exploited confusion in the minds of countless Americans. Gaslighters prey on their victim's vulnerability to paranoia, sexual perplexity, and envy to undermine the mind's ability to function rationally. Welch examines why millions of Americans, in response to such assaults, subconsciously and dangerously create their own simplistic reality, even if it is completely different from the more complex reality of the world. Most important, State of Confusion explains how and why Americans must act now to fight back against this harmful manipulation before it's too late. Dr. Welch's exploration of the American mind is both fascinating and frightening, and State of Confusion is a must-read for everyone who cares about the future of this great country.

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This book explores the challenges that disinformation, fake news, and post-truth politics pose to democracy from a multidisciplinary perspective. The authors analyse and interpret how the use of technology and social media as well as the emergence of new political narratives has been progressively changing the information landscape, undermining some of the pillars of democracy. The volume sheds light on some topical questions connected to fake news, thereby contributing to a fuller understanding of its impact on democracy. In the Introduction, the editors offer some orientating definitions of post-truth politics, building a theoretical framework where various different aspects of fake news can be understood. The book is then divided into three parts: Part I helps to contextualise the phenomena investigated, offering definitions and discussing key concepts as well as aspects linked to the manipulation of information systems, especially considering its reverberation on democracy. Part II considers the phenomena of disinformation, fake news, and post-truth politics in the context of Russia, which emerges as a laboratory where the phases of creation and diffusion of fake news can be broken down and analysed; consequently, Part II also reflects on the ways to counteract disinformation and fake news. Part III moves from case studies in Western and Central Europe to reflect on the methodological difficulty of investigating disinformation, as well as tackling the very delicate question of detection, combat, and prevention of fake news. This book will be of great interest to students and scholars of political science, law, political philosophy, journalism, media studies, and computer science, since it provides a multidisciplinary approach to the analysis of post-truth politics.

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Princess Bernice Pauahi Bishop was the largest landowner and richest woman in the Hawaiian kingdom. Upon her death in 1884, she entrusted her property--“known as Bishop Estate--“to five trustees in order to create and maintain an institution that would benefit the children of Hawai'i: Kamehameha Schools. A century later, Bishop Estate controlled nearly one out of every nine acres in the state, a concentration of private land ownership rarely seen anywhere in the world. Then in August 1997 the unthinkable happened: Four revered kupuna (native Hawaiian elders) and a professor of trust-law publicly charged Bishop Estate trustees with gross incompetence and massive trust abuse. Entitled “Broken Trust,” the statement provided devastating details of rigged appointments, violated trusts, cynical manipulation of the trust's beneficiaries, and the shameful involvement of many of Hawai'i's powerful. No one is better qualified to examine the events and personalities surrounding the scandal than two of the original “Broken Trust” authors.Their comprehensive account together with historical background, brings to light information that has never before been made public, including accounts of secret meetings and communications involving Supreme Court justices.

This book explores the challenges that disinformation, fake news, and post-truth politics pose to democracy from a multidisciplinary perspective. The authors analyse and interpret how the use of technology and social media as well as the emergence of new political narratives has been progressively changing the information landscape, undermining some of the pillars of democracy. The volume sheds light on some topical questions connected to fake news, thereby contributing to a fuller understanding of its impact on democracy. In the Introduction, the editors offer some orientating definitions of post-truth politics, building a theoretical framework where various different aspects of fake news can be understood. The book is then divided into three parts: Part I helps to contextualise the phenomena investigated, offering definitions and discussing key concepts as well as aspects linked to the manipulation of information systems, especially considering its reverberation on democracy. Part II considers the phenomena of disinformation, fake news, and post-truth politics in the context of Russia, which emerges as a laboratory where the phases of creation and diffusion of fake news can be broken down and analysed; consequently, Part II also reflects on the ways to counteract disinformation and fake news. Part III moves from case studies in Western and Central Europe to reflect on the methodological difficulty of investigating disinformation, as well as tackling the very delicate question of detection, combat, and prevention of fake news. This book will be of great interest to students and scholars of political science, law, political philosophy, journalism, media studies, and computer science, since it provides a multidisciplinary approach to the analysis of post-truth politics.

In this provocative and engagingly written book, the authors argue that politicians seldom tailor their policy decisions to “pander” to public opinion. In fact, they say that when not facing election, contemporary presidents and members of Congress routinely ignore the public's preferences and follow their own political philosophies. 37 graphs.

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