

CIVIC VIRTUE



DO WE HAVE WHAT IT TAKES TO KEEP OUR REPUBLIC?

DISTANCE LEARNING NOTES PACKET DIRECTIONS

I. READ THIS ENTIRE NOTES PACKET.

Pace yourself. At the end of the unit, review everything.

II. ANNOTATE THIS ENTIRE NOTES PACKET.

This packet serves as your Government Class notebook. It is advised that you take notes on loose leaf paper, or type them on a Word Doc. This is not a requirement, only a suggestion.

HOW TO ANNOTATE.

-Put things in your own words.

-If you don't know the meaning of a word or phrase, look it up or ask in class, then write down the definition or meaning.

-Write down any questions you have (make sure you follow up and get the answers).

-Include inferences and connections you can make.

-Include your reactions or opinion.

III. EXTRA CREDIT: Send Pennino your annotations. Take a pic of the notes you wrote, or email the notes you typed

IV. SAVE THESE NOTES

For life!

WHAT DOES IT TAKE FOR A REPUBLIC TO SUCCEED?

The deliberations of the Constitutional Convention of 1787 were held in strict secrecy. Consequently, anxious citizens gathered outside Independence Hall when the proceedings ended in order to learn what had been produced behind closed doors. The answer was provided immediately. A Mrs. Powel of Philadelphia asked Benjamin Franklin, “Well, Doctor, what have we got, a republic or a monarchy?” With no hesitation whatsoever, Franklin responded, **“A republic, if you can keep it.”**

<http://www.ourrepubliconline.com/Author/21>



Supporters of republicanism have long argued that it is a **fragile** form of government. Our republic was called “the great experiment” – many believed it would fail, meaning rule of law would break down and be replaced by rule of men.

One reason constitutional republicanism is fragile is because it involves blending two forms of dictatorship: of the many (democracy) and of the few (oligarchy). These and other opposing interests must be willing to seek the common good. Regardless of how many constitutional restraints, checks, balances, etc that we have, a republic is dependent on both the experts and the masses to have **civic virtue**.

Without its citizens understanding republicanism, believing in this system of self-government, and striving to protect it, it will fail.

Ben Franklin: “...only a virtuous people are capable of freedom. As nations become corrupt and vicious they have more need of masters.” -*Letter to The Abbés Chalut and Arnaud, April 17, 1787.*

WHAT IS CIVIC VIRTUE?

Civic virtue

The values and habits of behavior required for a moral, successful citizenry. Virtues are, by definition, not forced but chosen.

IN A REPUBLIC, **civic virtue** requires that all citizens support the common good or general welfare, not just their own interests, or those of their political party, or of their own racial, economic, religious, or other group. Free people determine their own destinies, and pursue their own happiness and interests, **RESPECTING THE RIGHTS OF EVERYONE ELSE** to do the same. Being *virtuous* is seeking “The Good” for its own sake, putting family, community, and country above personal appetites. Virtuous citizens balance freedom and responsibility.

1. RESPONSIBILITIES OF SELF GOVERNMENT: THE DUTIES OF CITIZENSHIP

- Obey the law.
- Stay informed. Seek opposing views.
- Participate in government 😊.
- Work to change or improve bad laws- in a lawful manner.
- Be a productive member of society, according to your abilities.
- **PLURALISM**. Respect the rights of others. You have no right to the agreement of others, or to make demands of them. They don't have to be or think like you, but we must all agree to *live and let live*.

DO YOUR DUTY TO:

4. **COUNTRY: Duty of patriotism.** “A cause greater than self”. Care, take part.
3. **COMMUNITY:** Duty to friends and neighbors.
2. **FAMILY:** Duty to spouse, children, kin. Interdependence, obligations to dependents.
1. **SELF:** Duty of self-control, self-improvement, and the value of work.

2. THE OATH AND DUTIES OF LEADERSHIP.

Government officials have special obligations in addition to the duties of citizenship:

- Uphold and defend the US Constitution and laws.
- Use political power for the public good, not personal gain.
- Put national interests above partisan politics.



E. PLURIBUS UNUM

"Out of many, One."

Pluralism and Unity. American society is, and always has been, diverse. To keep our republic and preserve a free society, civic virtue requires that we simultaneously respect our differences and see ourselves as One People.

PLURIBUS:

- **Individualism.** Our lives belong to us and we pursue our own happiness.
- **Diversity.** We are of different opinions, religions, nationalities, and backgrounds.
- **Federalism.** We are a nation of diverse states that retain certain sovereignties.

UNUM:

- We are all Americans. This should be prioritized over other identities.
- One National Creed: we value the founding goals, strive to be virtuous.

George Washington often explained the idea of pluralism with unity. One example is his 1790 speech to the Hebrew Congregation of Newport, Rhode Island:

...The Citizens of the United States of America have a right to applaud themselves for having given to mankind examples of an enlarged and liberal policy: a policy worthy of imitation. All possess alike liberty of conscience and immunities of citizenship. It is now no more that toleration is spoken of, as if it was by the indulgence of one class of people, that another enjoyed the exercise of their inherent natural rights. For happily the Government of the United States, which gives to bigotry no sanction, to persecution no assistance, requires only that they who live under its protection should demean themselves as good citizens, in giving it on all occasions their effectual support.

...May the Children of the Stock of Abraham, who dwell in this land, continue to merit and enjoy the good will of the other Inhabitants; while every one shall sit in safety under his own vine and figtree, and there shall be none to make him afraid. May the father of all mercies scatter light and not darkness in our paths, and make us all in our several vocations useful here, and in his own due time and way everlastingly happy.



WHAT IS PATRIOTISM?

For Americans, **patriotism** has long been understood as **love of America's ideals**: the revolutionary principles of freedom upon which the U.S. was founded. Love of country and of countrymen, not because of nationality, race, or religion, but because of values. In this sense, American patriotism is distinct from nationalism, which is pride and loyalty to one's Group (tribe or nation). Nationalism is not a bad thing. It means a people should have a country of their own, or a country has sovereignty to decide its own fate. But patriotism is essential. Without a sense of patriotism, a pluralistic society in a republic would quickly dissolve and fail.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN EXPLAINS PATRIOTISM: Eulogy for Henry Clay, July 6, 1852

...Mr. Clay's predominant sentiment, from first to last, was a deep devotion to the cause of human liberty, a strong sympathy with the oppressed everywhere, and an ardent wish for their elevation. With him, this was a primary and all controlling passion. Subsidiary to this was the conduct of his whole life. He loved his country partly because it was his own country, but mostly because it was a free country; and he burned with a zeal for its advancement, prosperity and glory, because he saw in such, the advancement, prosperity and glory, of human liberty, human right and human nature. He desired the prosperity of his countrymen partly because they were his countrymen, but chiefly to show to the world that freemen could be prosperous. ...



HOW CITIZENS MIGHT VIEW THEIR COUNTRY:





DANGER ZONE			CIVIC VIRTUE ZONE	DANGER Z	
TREASON Acting to harm one's country or aid its enemies	ANTIPATHY Hating one's own country	APATHY Not caring about one's country	PATRIOTISM Loving and supporting the ideals and values of one's country	NATIONALISM Pride and love for one's country or people; support for self-determination	CHAUVENISM Ultra or extreme nationalism; bigotry towards other countries or peoples

DOES CIVIC VIRTUE REQUIRE RELIGIOUS FAITH?

Unlike virtually any other nation, the U.S. was founded on principles of liberty that included the right to choose one's religion, and practice it according to one's own conscience and faith. Religion must be a matter of choice, not force. As long as one respected the rights of others, practicing any religion, or none at all, was seen by the founders as a basic natural right.

Many of the US founders were distrustful of powerful people in organized religions, because they knew that power corrupts, and they were concerned that blind obedience to religious leaders threatened rational free thinking. They also recognized the problem of different religious views dividing people against each other. This was one reason why valuing a pluralistic society was so important.

But most founders also believed that a majority having spiritual faith, based on choice, not force, was an absolute requirement for the success of a free society. If we are to be the masters of our own destiny, rather than managed by elites, we needed to take it upon ourselves to lead moral lives and have a sense of community with our fellow citizens. The basic teachings of the founders' Judeo-Christian heritage, and any religion compatible with reason and the Golden Rule, were understood to provide the moral compass that would enable us to responsibly live in freedom.

	<p>“Persecution is not an original feature in any religion; but it is always the strongly marked feature of all religions established by law. Take away the law-establishment, and every religion re-assumes its original benignity.” -Thomas Paine, <i>The Rights of Man</i>, 1791</p>
	<p>“That religion, or the duty which we owe to our Creator, and the manner of discharging it, can be directed only by reason and conviction, not by force or violence; and therefore all men are equally entitled to the free exercise of religion, according to the dictates of conscience; and that it is the mutual duty of all to practice Christian forbearance, love, and charity towards each other.” ~Founding Father George Mason, Virginia Bill of Rights, 1776</p>
	<p>“The only foundation for... a republic is to be laid in Religion. Without this there can be no virtue, and without virtue there can be no liberty, and liberty is the object and life of all republican governments.” Benjamin Rush, <i>Essays, Literary, Moral & Philosophical</i></p>
	<p>“... And let us with caution indulge the supposition that morality can be maintained without religion... reason and experience both forbid us to expect that national morality can prevail in exclusion of religious principle.” George Washington – Farewell Address Sept 17, 1796.</p>

“A REPUBLIC- IF YOU CAN KEEP IT”

“The price of liberty is eternal vigilance”

DOES FREE SOCIETY CONTAIN THE SEEDS OF ITS OWN DESTRUCTION?

If we observe the most prosperous societies with the best living standards for the population overall, we find that they ARE ALL FREE SOCIETIES. Problem: it is very easy for people in free societies to take their successes for granted. For many, the good life is never enough; they want MORE. They want it NOW. They feel entitled to getting what they want, and they increasingly resent their fellow citizens and their (free!) society for not giving them exactly what they want.

ARE “WE THE PEOPLE” REALLY FIT TO GOVERN OURSELVES?

Republics, to survive, require their citizens to practice civic virtue; that is, citizens who practice self-reflection, self-control, humility, family values, delayed gratification, patriotism, respect and concern for their fellow citizens, keeping well informed and educated, and a willingness to participate in the system.

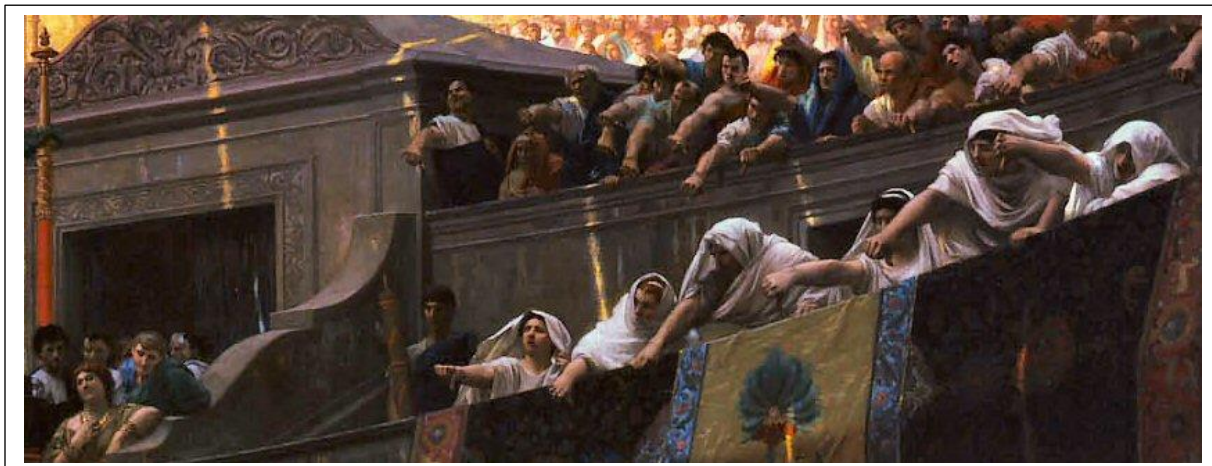
Are republics too fragile, too dependent on virtuous citizens to survive?

THREATS TO SELF-GOVERNMENT:

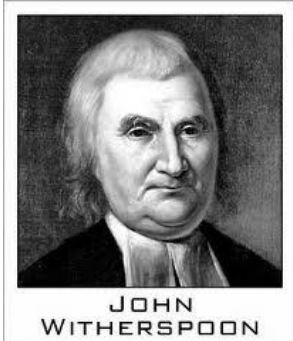
- Appetites, impulses, apathy, selfishness...
- Ambitious persons who “lust for power”...

IF CIVIC VIRTUE BREAKS DOWN:

- Society becomes an infantilized mob, caring only for gratifications, seeking easy solutions, deferring responsibility away, dependent. “The habits of slavery.”
- Ambitious, corrupt leaders offer “bread and circuses” to manipulate the people and gain control.

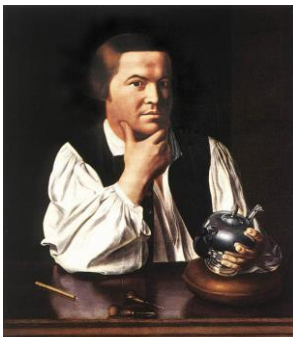


Many thinkers have observed how difficult the values of republicanism are to preserve, and how fragile a true republic is...



"Nothing is more certain than that a general **profligacy** and **corruption of manners** make a people ripe for destruction. A good form of government may hold the rotten materials together for some time, but beyond a certain pitch, even the best constitution will be ineffectual, and slavery must ensue."

John Witherspoon, The Dominion of Providence Over the Passions of Men, 1776



"No people will tamely surrender their Liberties, nor can any be easily subdued, when knowledge is diffused and Virtue is preserved. On the Contrary, when People are universally **ignorant**, and **debauched in their Manners**, they will sink under their own weight without the Aid of foreign Invaders."

Samuel Adams, letter to James Warren, November 4, 1775



"Republics are created by the virtue, public spirit, and intelligence of the citizens. They fall, when the wise are banished from the public councils, because they dare to be honest, and the **profligate** are rewarded, because they flatter the people, in order to betray them."

-Supreme Court Justice Joseph Story, Commentaries on the Constitution, 1833



“A democracy cannot exist as a permanent form of government. It can only exist until the voters discover that they can vote themselves largess of the public treasury. From that time on the majority always votes for the candidates promising the most benefits from the public treasury, with the results that a democracy always collapses over loose fiscal policy, always followed by a dictatorship....” - *Alexander Tytler, 1787*

“The average age of the world's greatest civilizations has been two hundred years. These nations have progressed through this sequence: from bondage to spiritual faith; from spiritual faith to great courage; from great courage to liberty; from liberty to abundance; from abundance to selfishness; from selfishness to complacency; from complacency to apathy; from apathy to dependence; from dependency back again to bondage.”

**The origin of this quote is uncertain. It is usually attributed to Tytler.*



I seek to trace the novel features under which despotism may appear in the world [of democratic nations]. The first thing that strikes the observation is an innumerable multitude of men, all equal and alike, incessantly endeavoring to procure the petty and paltry pleasures with which they glut their lives. Each of them, living apart, is as a stranger to the fate of all the rest; his children and his private friends constitute to him the whole of mankind. As for the rest of his fellow citizens, he is close to them, but he does not see them; he touches them, but he does not feel them; he exists only in himself and for himself alone; and if his kindred still remain to him, he may be said at any rate to have lost his country.

Above this race of men stands an immense and tutelary power, which takes upon itself alone to secure their gratifications and to watch over their fate. That power is absolute, minute, regular, provident, and mild. It would be like the authority of a parent if, like that authority, its object was to prepare men for manhood; but it seeks, on the contrary, to keep them in perpetual childhood: it is well content that the people should rejoice, provided they think of nothing but rejoicing. For their happiness such a government willingly labors, but it chooses to be the sole agent and the only arbiter of that happiness; it provides for their security, foresees and supplies their necessities, facilitates their pleasures, manages their principal concerns, directs their industry, regulates the descent of property, and subdivides their inheritances: what remains, but to spare them all the care of thinking and all the trouble of living?

-*Alexis de Tocqueville, Democracy in America, 1835*

ARE WE LOSING OUR CIVIC VIRTUE IN AMERICA?

There are many trends and characteristics of our society that, if not countered and reversed, could slowly destroy our republic from within. Observable in America today:

- **IGNORANCE**
- **POOR REASONING SKILLS**
- **CORRUPTION**
- **CORRUPTION OF MANNERS: APPETITES**
- **PROFLIGACY**
- **BIAS**
- **COLLECTIVE IDENTITY**
- **BALKANIZATION: DIVISION**

CORRUPTION.

According to the corruption watchdog group Transparency International, in 2017 America ranked 16th out of 180 countries in honest, open government, scoring 75 out of 100. Corruption is closely correlated with failing countries. While we rank with the less corrupt nations, every example of corruption means theft of taxpayers, and/or denial of opportunities for honest Americans. The opposite of corruption is **rule of law**.

PROFLIGACY

At the end of 2019 U.S. Government debt was 23 trillion dollars (2019 GDP is approx. 21.4 trillion). Average household debt is over \$5,000, totaling over \$800 billion. Can Americans manage our debt, or are we heading for a debt crisis? Does our debt represent an inability to responsibly manage our affairs?

CORRUPTION OF MANNERS, APPETITES

What is more important for the majority of Americans: being good citizens and leading honest, humble, hard-working, moral, charitable lives? Or endless pleasures, instant satisfactions, entertainment, quick and easy answers, and minimal effort? Do a majority of Americans respect the rights of others to be different, to disagree, and to express different opinions?



IGNORANCE.

Do enough Americans know enough about the world, history, government, and politics to have an informed opinion, and vote responsibly?



 **GOCOMICS.**

GET A LAUGH!

Calvin and Hobbes is a daily American comic strip created by cartoonist Bill Watterson

POOR REASONING SKILLS.

Are enough Americans aware of how **logic** works, of how to construct a logical argument, how to identify **logical fallacies**, and what constitutes a valid position? Do Americans today generally accept that opposing views are important? Do we value self-reflection?

LOGIC

A system of correct reasoning that follows rules based on truth. Through logic, we start with a **premise**: what we know to be true. We can come to valid **conclusions** by building upon what we know. These conclusions can often be described as **educated guesses**, and they are valid only if premises are true. They often take the form of an “*if...then*” construction. **Deductive logic** reasons from general truths to specific conclusions. **Inductive logic** reasons from specific facts to come to general conclusions.

example of deductive logic:

Premise: All cats die.
Premise: Fluffy is a cat.
Conclusion: Fluffy will die.

example of inductive logic:

Premise: This is a wasp.
Premise: This wasp stings.
Conclusion: All wasps sting.

LOGICAL FALLACIES

Improper uses of logic lead to false or flawed conclusions. Some errors are so common that they have been given titles. We must constantly strive to avoid logical fallacies, otherwise we will be wrong in our conclusions. This is particularly important when we come to conclusions about political issues. A few of the most common logical fallacies *courtesy of the google*:

Argument from Ignorance (non-testable hypothesis) Belief that if something has not been proven false then it must or is likely to be true. Often applies to concepts that haven't yet been adequately tested or are beyond the realm of proof. Our legal system protects us from this fallacy under the presumption of innocence guideline – “innocent until proven guilty”. Ex:

Since I cannot prove my dog does not speak with my cat when I'm not home, I believe my dog speaks with my cat.

Circular Reasoning (Begging the Question) Repeating the premise to reach the conclusion. Ex:

Being a vegan is good because you don't eat animal products.

Cult of Personality: Blind obedience, faith, and reverence for a leader or popular figure. Belief that the leader is always right and can solve all problems. Hostility towards anyone who disagrees.



Appeal to Authority: Believing something is true or good because of who said it, or who favors it. Often associated with a **cult of personality**. OR, using one's authority to validate a position. Examples:

Tariffs are good because Bernie Sanders supports them.

Tariffs are good because President Trump supports them.

...Because I said so.

Affirming the Consequent (Converse Error): Reversing an argument, or putting the cart before the horse, meaning reversing or confusing the general category with the specific/sub-category. Note that in this fallacy the premises/reasons are actually correct or valid; the error is found between the premises and conclusion. Usually, the error occurs because we incorrectly assume that the Premise was a sufficient condition, when in fact it was only a necessary condition (one of many conditions) necessary to prove the conclusion. Example:

Premise: Ducks are birds.

Premise: Ducks swim in the water.

Premise: Chickens are birds.

False Conclusion: Chickens swim in the water.

Appeal to Majority (the LOGIC OF DEMOCRACY!): Believing something is right or true because most people believe it. Also called "jumping on the band wagon."



DIRTY TRICKS OF RHETORIC

Often speakers, politicians, and dictators use logical fallacies on purpose, in order to win an argument, Win votes, or manipulate the masses. This is the essence of being a **demagogue**.

Straw Man. Giving the impression of refuting an opponent's argument, while actually refuting an argument that was not presented by that opponent. Example:

My brother, the doctor, wants to destroy Kiersten Springs, our health institute. He wants to ruin this town. If we want to save our town, we must reject what he has to say.

Appeal to Emotion. (*argumentum ad passiones*) The manipulation of the recipient's emotions in order to win an argument, especially in the absence of factual evidence. Example:

There are millions of children suffering. Look at how sad little Jenny is! If you have a heart and want to help the children, then support the KIDS FIRST program.

Poisoning the well: irrelevant negative information about a target is preemptively presented to an audience, with the intention of discrediting or ridiculing everything that the target person is about to say. Example:

College newspaper: *Dr. Jones will be a guest speaker this Friday. She is a racist fascist misogynist who should not have been allowed to set foot on our campus.*

False Choice (false dichotomy): Something is falsely claimed to be an "either/or" situation, when in fact there is at least one additional option. A false dilemma can arise intentionally, when a fallacy is used in an attempt to force a choice or outcome. Example:

Do you support this spending bill, or do you support a defenseless America?

Ad Hominem (Latin for "to the man" or "to the person"): Genuine discussion of the topic at hand is avoided by instead attacking the character, motive, or other attribute of the person making the argument.

My brother, Dr. Stockman, is wrong about the water quality at Kiersten Springs. He has no respect for authority and is always trying to cause trouble.

BIAS

Do enough Americans understand what bias is, and how to detect it? Even when the bias supports their own position? What are the consequences of bias in our media and entertainment?

Bias

prejudice in favor of or against one thing, person, or group compared with another, usually in a way considered to be unfair. Political bias in news media, and even entertainment, can manipulate people's political views.

TWO BIG PROBLEMS

1. Persuasion. Obviously, bias can cause people to come to conclusions that they would not have, had the information been presented fairly and accurately.

2. Division. Many Americans perceive bias against their views and resent what they see as the unfair "rigging" of politics or other important discussions. Conversely, many Americans resent people with different views because their own views are consistently supported by the [bias] news and entertainment they consume.



TYPES OF BIAS

There are many kinds of bias. A few of the most important ones:

BIAS BY COMMISSION. Statements or political positions are presented in a news story (or sitcom, movie, etc) as fact, when they are in fact uncertain, incorrect, or opinion.

BIAS BY STORY. News and events that fit a particular narrative are covered because that particular political viewpoint or a certain political party benefit from the story.

BIAS BY OMISSION. News and events that fit a particular narrative are ignored, or receive minimal attention, because that particular political viewpoint or a certain political party would benefit from the story.

SPIN. Presenting facts in a deceptive way, to manipulate peoples' conclusions.

BIAS BY TONE. News reporters on TV or video use body language, emotional emphasis, and other cues to favor or disfavor the person, idea, group, or event being covered.

BIAS BY EMPHASIS. A story is covered repeatedly and more extensively. This might be simply because it boosts ratings, but often because it helps or hurts a particular political cause.

BIAS BY LABELING. To discredit the subject of a story: using words like *extremist, hard line, far left / right wing.* To favor the subject of a story: *experts, studies have shown, moderates.*

PERPONDERANCE BIAS. Most sources of information in a given category have the same political leanings, creating the false sense that views to the contrary are inherently flawed, or sources that lean towards different politics are invalid. Categories include educators, school curriculums, print media, news channels, talk radio, late night comedians, entertainment programs and films, and social media.

EDITORIAL V REPORTING

Editorials in print media, and news opinion shows, are openly biased. This allows the consumer more ability to avoid being manipulated (in theory) because one realizes the source is opinion, and that other contrary opinions exist and can be sought out. Some of the best opinion programs invite equal numbers of guests with opposing views.

Straight news reporting is supposed to be "just the facts" presented in full without an agenda. Consumers might have their "guard down" because they are not expecting bias. This makes biased sources, who present themselves as straight news, potentially more effective manipulators. This breakdown of the line between hard journalism and editorializing has become increasingly common and more blatant. It causes anger and deep resentment when it is perceived and people believe certain news sources are propagandizing against them.

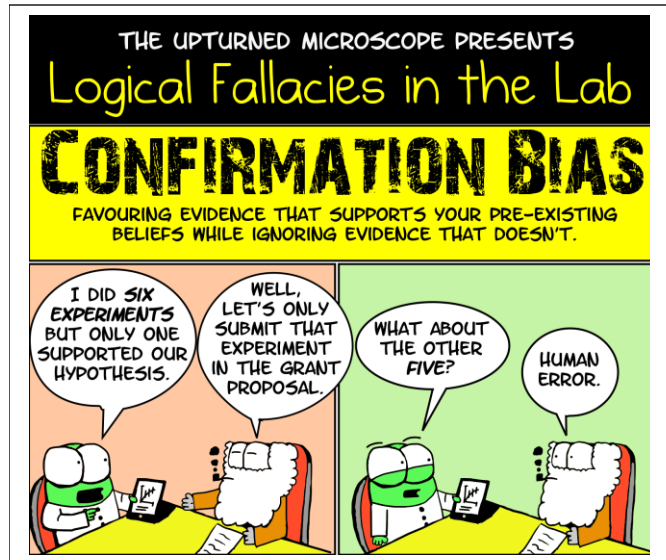


Real bias, actual misinformation, rushed and inaccurate reporting, and the blurring lines between straight journalism and editorializing, has led to a steep decline in American's trust in the news media. It also gives us a new term, "**Fake News,**" that is often deserved, but at other times can be used as a **dirty trick of rhetoric** to discredit certain facts, opinions, or sources.

GET OUT OF THE BUBBLE!

Fortunately for us, we live in a free society where multiple views can be sought, so we can develop informed positions, and understand other opinions.

Unfortunately, we often choose to only seek sources that support our pre-conceived ideas. Americans often ignore and even resent sources that do not conform to their own views, and immerse themselves in sources and even entertainment that reinforce what they already believe. This is called **confirmation bias**. This bias can take many forms, and it is of our own making.



COLLECTIVE IDENTITY

Collective or Group Identity involves defining oneself, or other people, not as individuals, but as part of a group. American ideals have always promoted the individualist value that a person should be judged by his or her actions, and advance in life by merit, not background. At first, this value was only applied to males of European heritage.

CIVIC POISONS

The following contradict the values of a free, self-governing, pluralistic society.

PREJUDICE: most often used to refer to preconceived, usually unfavorable, judgments toward people or a person because of their identity.

BIGOTRY: stubbornly or intolerantly devoted to one's own opinions and prejudices; one who is strongly partial to one's own group. One regards or treats the members of a group (as a racial or ethnic group) with hatred and intolerance.

RACISM: actions, practices, or beliefs that reflect the worldview and that members of a race share a set of characteristic traits, abilities, or qualities; that traits of personality, intellect, morality, and other cultural behavioral characteristics are inherited, and that this inheritance means that races can be ranked as innately superior or inferior to others.

SEXISM: prejudice, stereotyping, or discrimination, typically against women, on the basis of sex.

THE ANTIDOTES TO COLLECTIVE IDENTITY: INDIVIDUALISM, COMMON IDENTITY.

The struggles against discrimination were always based on the logic of consistently applying America's individualist founding principles to all –not just some- members of society. **But** in recent years, Americans increasingly think and behave in the context of various identities, resulting in a growing emphasis on **identity politics**.

TRYING POISON AS THE CURE?

IDENTITY POLITICS: a tendency for people of a particular religion, race, gender, social background, etc., to focus on their own perceived group interests, as if in opposition to people of certain other identities.

POLITICAL CORRECTNESS: In the name of correcting historic injustices perpetrated by white males, **PC** defines all individuals according to their group identities, and labels all straight white males as **privileged oppressors**. All others belong to one or more categories of **victim groups**. An individual's character and achievements do not matter; PC still defines everyone according to their collective identity. The identities not stressed by PC are *American* and *human*; in fact, PC "**social justice warriors**" label promoting those identities to be acts of racism.

POLITICAL TRIBALISM: Increasingly, many Americans are dividing according to identities. **The "other" is seen as the enemy. OUR SIDE is right and THEY are wrong.** The 99% versus the 1%. Red versus Blue. Race, gender, religion, sexuality. Abraham Lincoln warned that "*a house divided against itself cannot stand*". Where are we heading?

EXTREMISM ON THE RISE.

Small but active numbers of Americans are taking identity politics and political intolerance to new levels. Online activism organizes the faithful and demonizes opponents. Protests are turning oppressive and even violent. These groups are a tiny minority, but their activities deserve attention. A few examples:

SOCIAL JUSTICE WARRIORS, ANTIFA. On some college campuses, especially at the most elite universities, left wing student groups work to shut down professors and "disinvite" guest speakers they don't agree with. Classrooms have been mobbed, and events shut down. In some cases protests against speakers labeled "fascist" have turned violent by groups calling themselves "Anti-fascist."

THE ALT-RIGHT, WHITE NATIONALISM. Some Americans, particularly young white males, have embraced the PC formula of struggle based on identity, but turned it around to create "white identity politics." They reject mainstream American conservatism and offer an "alternative" right wing politics that focuses on "white interests." Some identify as "white nationalists" in a race struggle. While less conspicuous at college campuses, these groups are very active on social media. Some promote violence. In 2017 in Charlottesville Virginia, a white nationalist rally turned deadly when a protester used his car against counter protesters.



In the 21st Century, polls indicate that Americans are more divided by race, gender, and other differences, than we were 20 years ago. What impact on national unity does this have? How can a pluralistic society based on individual freedom thrive, if fewer Americans value our founding motto, **E. PLURIBUS UNUM**? Are we heading towards more intolerance, prejudice, and bigotry? Are we becoming a **BALKANIZED** society?



“There is no room in this country for hyphenated Americanism. When I refer to hyphenated Americans, I do not refer to naturalized Americans. Some of the very best Americans I have ever known were naturalized Americans, Americans born abroad. But a hyphenated American is not an American at all.”

“This is just as true of the man who puts “native” before the hyphen as of the man who puts German or Irish or English or French before the hyphen. Americanism is a matter of the spirit and of the soul. Our allegiance must be purely to the United States. We must unsparingly condemn any man who holds any other allegiance.”

“But if he is heartily and singly loyal to this Republic, then no matter where he was born, he is just as good an American as anyone else....”

Theodore Roosevelt, Address to the Knights of Columbus
New York City- October 12th, 1915