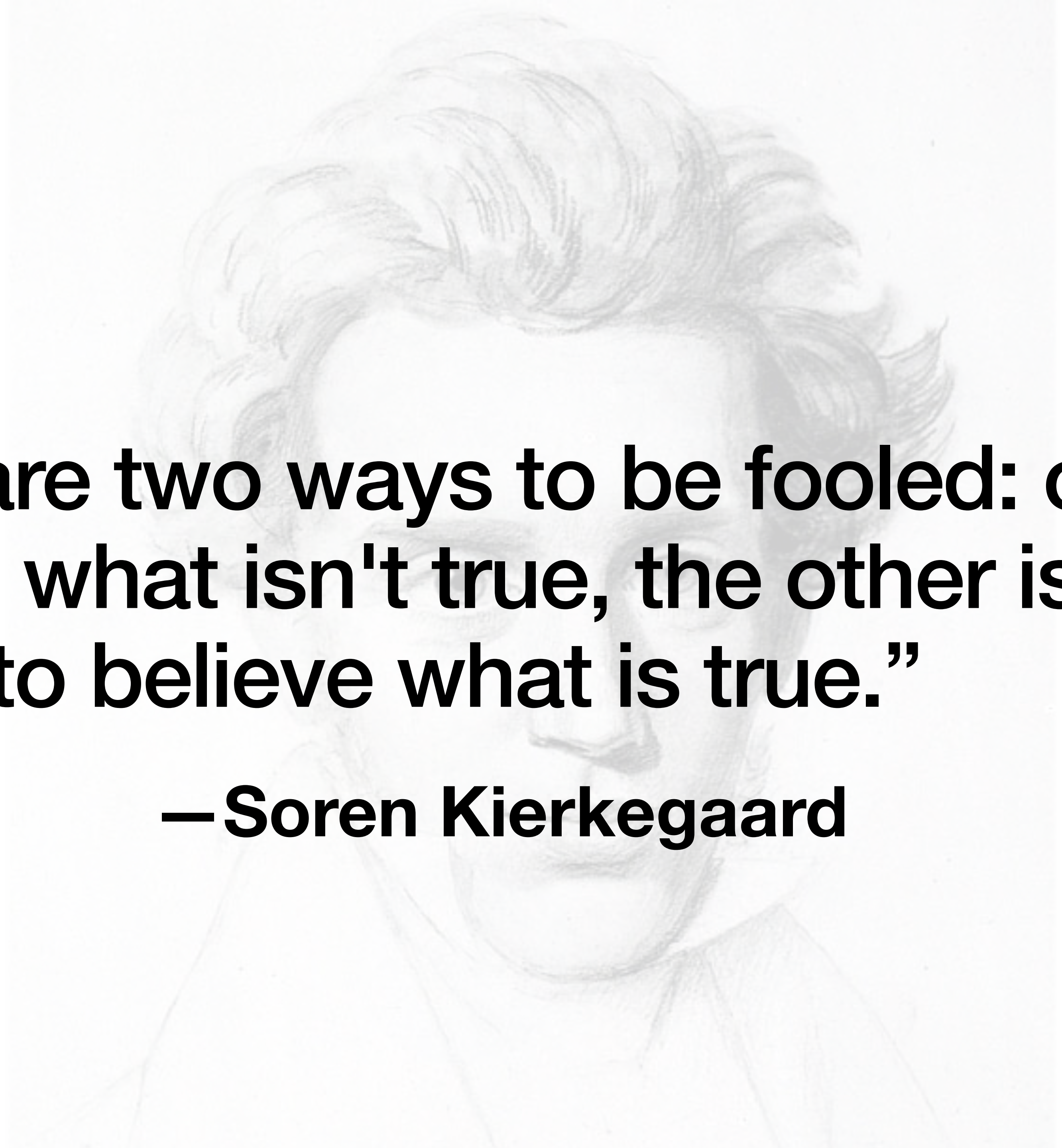


Unpacking Conspiracy Theories

Ideas for Confronting the Hydra of the Information Age



Donald A. Barclay, June 7, 2023

A faint, grayscale portrait of Søren Kierkegaard is visible in the background. He has dark, wavy hair and is looking slightly to the right. The portrait is centered and serves as a backdrop for the text.

“There are two ways to be fooled: one is to believe what isn't true, the other is to refuse to believe what is true.”

—Søren Kierkegaard

“We can, of course, be deceived in many ways. We can be deceived by believing what is untrue, but we certainly are also deceived by not believing what is true.”

Søren Kierkegaard. Trans. Howard V. Hong and Edna H. Hong. *Kierkegaard's Writings, XVI, Volume 16: Works of Love*, Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1995, Page 5.

**“True genius resides
in the capacity for
evaluation of
uncertain,
hazardous, and
conflicting
information.”**

Winston Churchill . . . ?

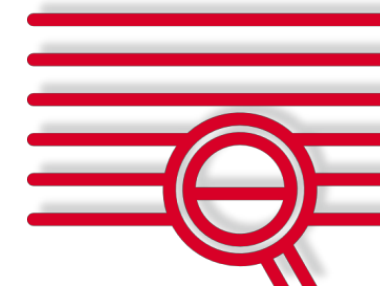


HOW TO SPOT FAKE NEWS



CONSIDER THE SOURCE

Click away from the story to investigate the site, its mission and its contact info.



READ BEYOND

Headlines can be outrageous in an effort to get clicks. What's the whole story?



CHECK THE AUTHOR

Do a quick search on the author. Are they credible? Are they real?



SUPPORTING SOURCES?

Click on those links. Determine if the info given actually supports the story.



CHECK THE DATE

Reposting old news stories doesn't mean they're relevant to current events.



IS IT A JOKE?

If it is too outlandish, it might be satire. Research the site and author to be sure.



CHECK YOUR BIASES

Consider if your own beliefs could affect your judgement.



ASK THE EXPERTS

Ask a librarian, or consult a fact-checking site.

Logical Fallacies

- Slippery slope
- Ad hominem
- Appeal to emotion
- Either/Or
- Bandwagon
- Appeal to fear
- Appeal to authority . . .



Strawman

Outline

- Conspiracy Versus Conspiracy Theory
- How Conspiracy Theories Work
- Changing Thinking about Conspiracy Theories
- Popular Culture and Conspiracy Theories

Conspiracy Versus Conspiracy Theory



What is a conspiracy?

An oral or written agreement between two or more persons to commit a wrongful act.

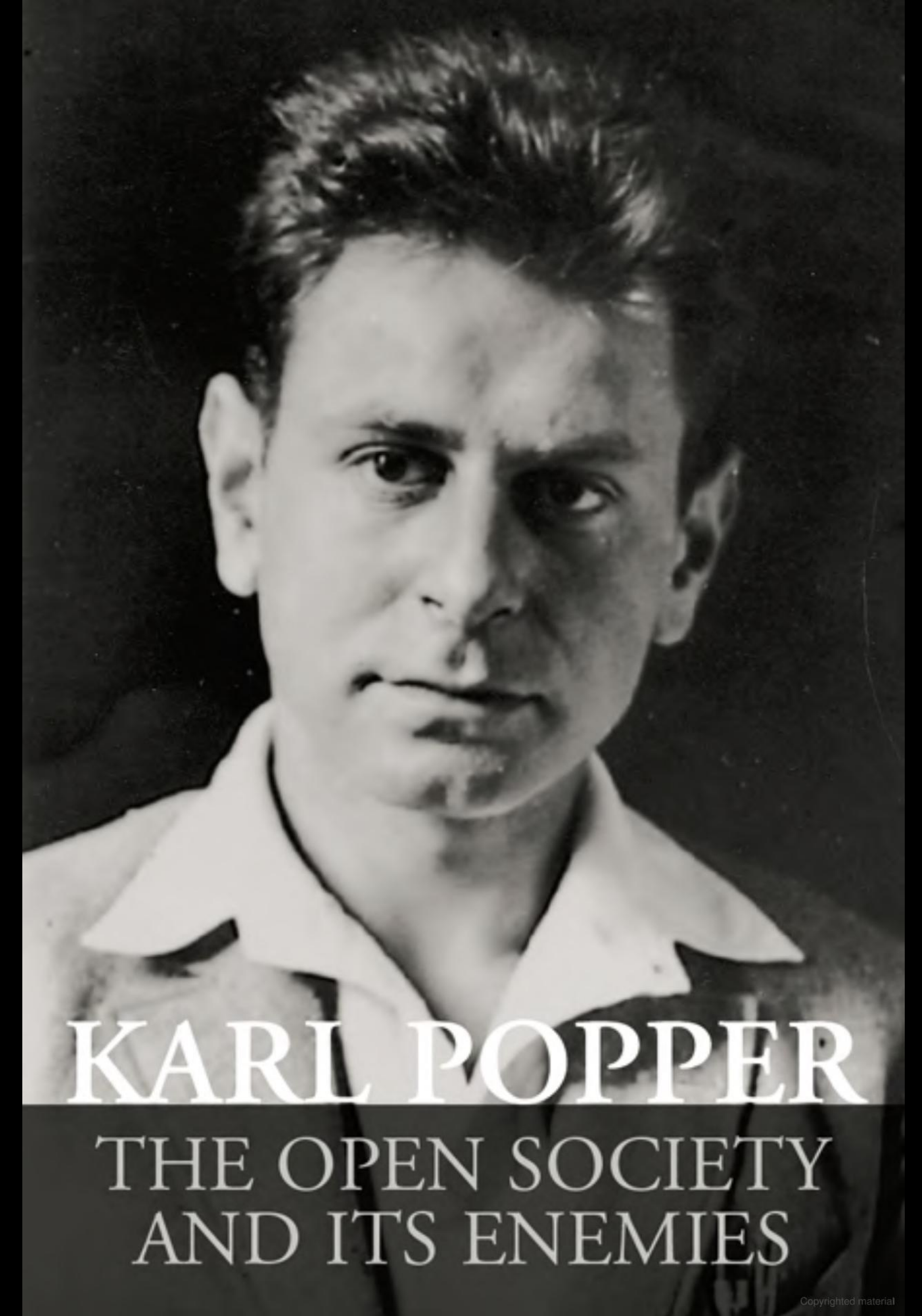


Guy Fawkes
1570-1606

What is a conspiracy theory?

“... the view that an explanation of a social phenomenon consists in the discovery of the men or group who are interested in the occurrence of this phenomenon (sometimes it is a hidden interest which has first to be revealed), and who have planned and conspired to bring it about.”

Karl Raimund Popper, *The Open Society and Its Enemies*. (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1950), 287.



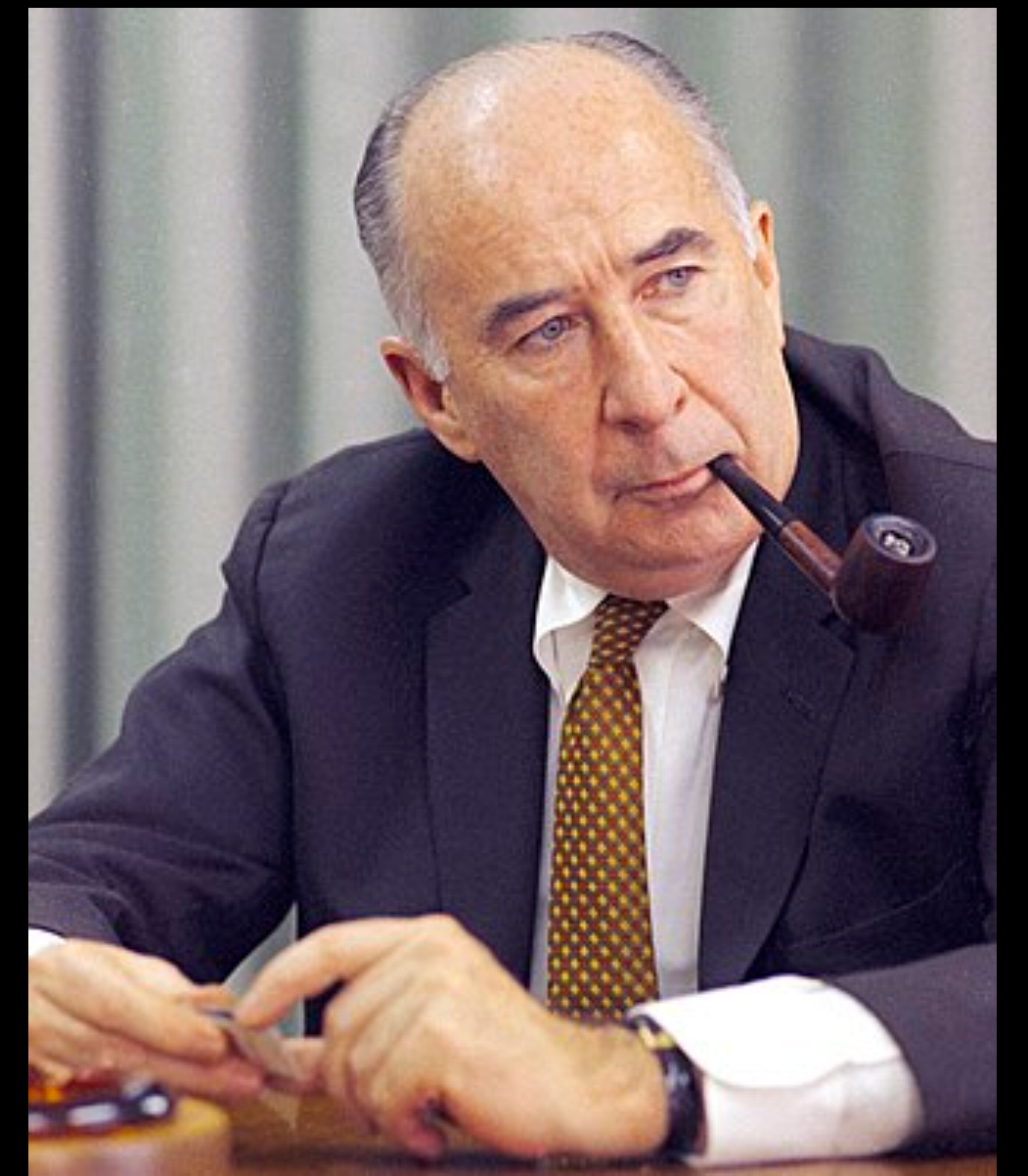
Karl Popper
1902-1994

**Conspiracies are
hard to keep secret**

The Watergate conspiracy
was discovered almost as
soon as it began.



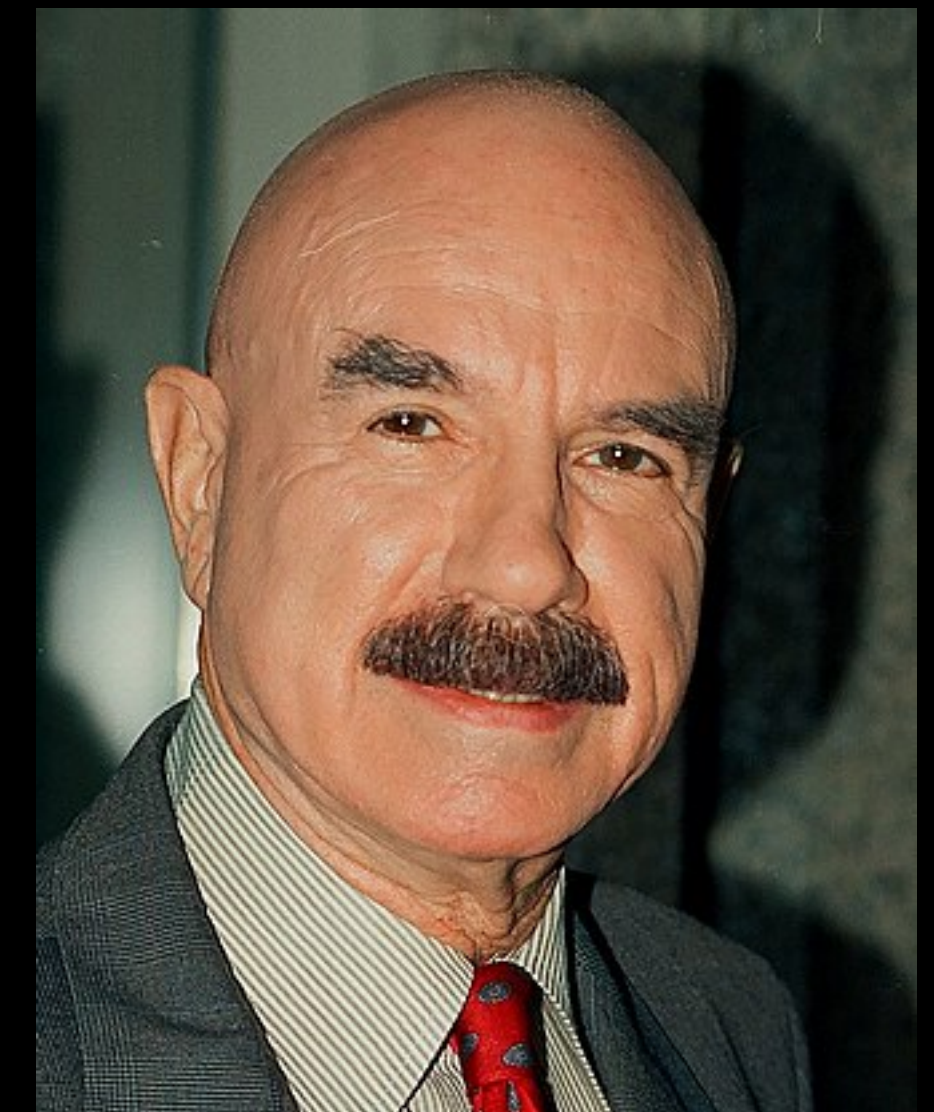
Richard Nixon



John Mitchell



E. Howard Hunt



G. Gordon Liddy

Keeping conspiracies secret may be mathematically impossible

“One of the major motivations is to help counter-act anti-science beliefs from gaining a foothold by quantifying how extraordinarily unlikely it is that a cohesive scientific fraud could take place on such massive scales.”

David Robert Grimes, “On the Viability of Conspiratorial Beliefs,” *PLOS ONE* 11, no. 1 (January 26, 2016), <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0147905>.

Time frame	Maximum N_o
5 years	2531
10 years	1257
15 years	838
20 years	628
25 years	502
30 years	418
40 years	313
50 years	251
100 years	125

doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0147905.t004

On the Viability of Conspiratorial Beliefs

David Robert Grimes 

Published: January 26, 2016 • <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0147905>

Article



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Metrics

Comments

Media Coverage

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Introduction

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Results

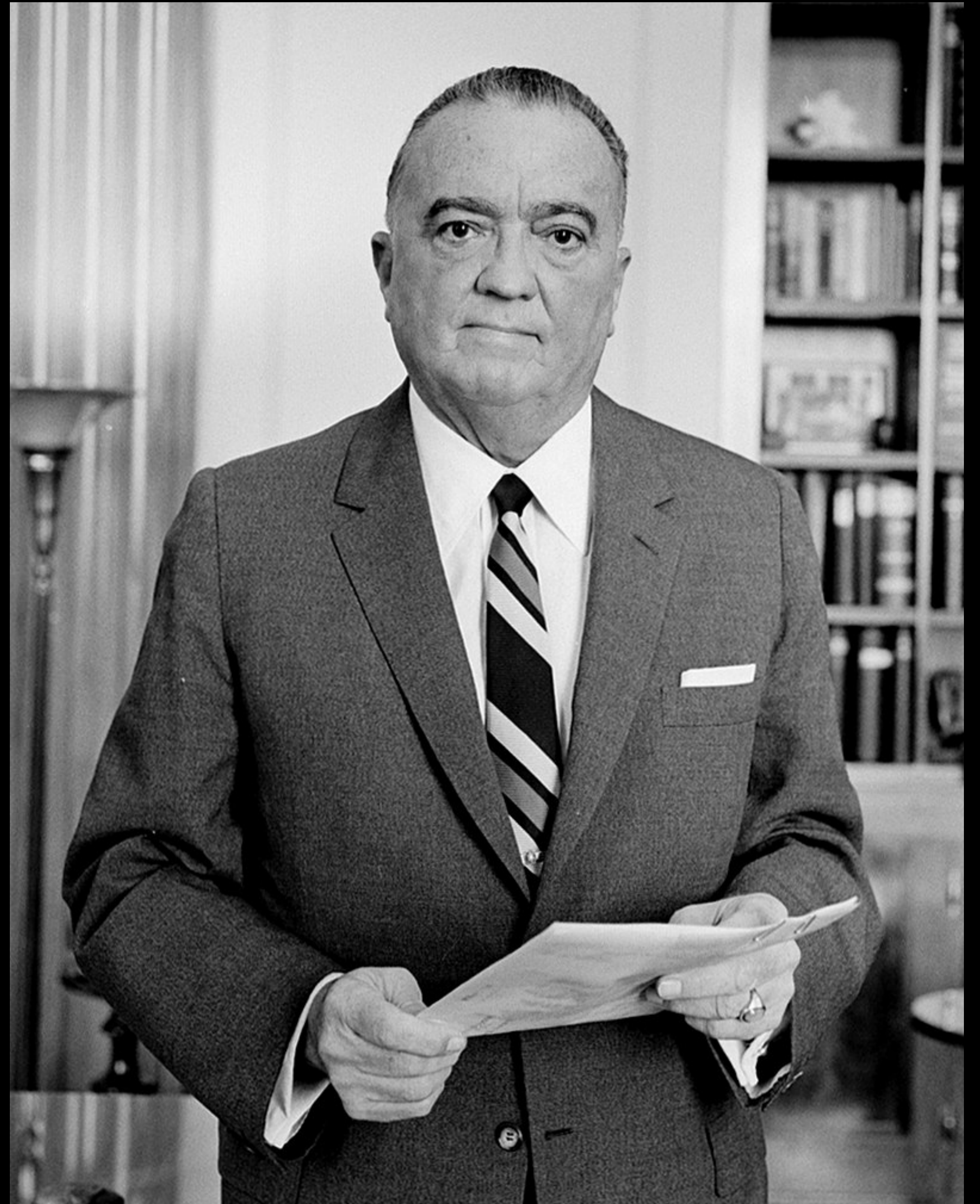
Correction

1 Mar 2016: Grimes DR (2016) Correction: On the Viability of Conspiratorial Beliefs. PLOS ONE 11(3): e0151003. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0151003> | [View correction](#)

**“Conspirators
rarely consummate
their conspiracy.”**

—Karl Popper

Karl Raimund Popper, *The Open Society and Its Enemies*. (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1950), 288.



J. Edgar Hoover

COINTELPRO

Counterintelligence Program

1956-1971

SAC, Los Angeles (157-4054)

5/6/70

Director, FBI (100-448006) -1766

COUNTERINTELLIGENCE PROGRAM
BLACK NATIONALIST HATE GROUPS
RACIAL INTELLIGENCE - BLACK PANTHER PARTY

SAC, Los Angeles (157-4054)

5/6/70

Director, FBI (100-448006) -1766

COUNTERINTELLIGENCE PROGRAM
BLACK NATIONALIST HATE GROUPS
RACIAL INTELLIGENCE - BLACK PANTHER PARTY

Reurairtel 4/27/70.

Reairtel requests Bureau authority to forward a letter from a fictitious person to Hollywood, California, gossip columnists to publicize the pregnancy of Jean Seberg, well-known white movie actress, by [REDACTED] BPP to possibly cause her embarrassment and tarnish her image with the general public. Information from [REDACTED] indicated that Seberg was four months pregnant by [REDACTED]

To protect the sensitive source of information from possible compromise and to insure the success of your plan, Bureau feels it would be better to wait approximately two additional months until Seberg's pregnancy would be obvious to everyone. If deemed warranted, submit your recommendation at that time.

1 - San Francisco

JFM:drl
(5)

NOTE:

Jean Seberg has been a financial supporter of the BPP and should be neutralized. Her current pregnancy by [REDACTED] while still married affords an opportunity for such effort. The plan suggested by Los Angeles appears to have merit except for the timing since the sensitive source might be compromised if implemented prematurely. A copy is designated to San Francisco since its sensitive source coverage is involved.

Tolson _____
DeLoach _____
Walters _____
Mohr _____
Bishop _____
Casper _____
Callahan _____
Conrad _____
Felt _____
Gale _____
Rosen _____
Sullivan _____
Tavel _____
Trotter _____
Tele. Room _____
Holmes _____

97 MAY 8 1970



CORE Chief Demands Hoover's Resignation

James Farmer Charges FBI Head Conducts 'Vendetta' Against Civil Rights Groups

NEW YORK (UPI) — FBI Chief J. Edgar Hoover and James Farmer, national director of the Congress of Racial Equality, Wednesday demanded the resignation of

civil rights leaders to react strongly to Hoover's speech in Chicago Tuesday night in which the FBI chief lashed out at "zealots or pressure groups . . . spearheaded at times by Communists and moral degenerates."

Hoover Quoted

The speech came shortly after a national magazine (Newsweek) reported that at a news conference last week Hoover had said, among other things:

"I have been one of these

states' righters all my life . . . (civil rights) difficulties were due to the rather harsh approach to the Mississippi situation by the authorities here in Washington, by the Department of Justice . . . I can't speak in too high terms of (Mississippi) Gov. (Paul) Johnson's maturity. He backed up the FBI. He's doing an excellent job as governor of Mississippi."

"It is an untenable situa-

tion for the administration and the Justice Department to be saying and doing one thing and the chief of the FBI to be saying publicly something quite opposed," Farmer said angrily.

Urges Resignation

"If he opposes the policies of the federal government he may presumably state his views privately. But he should resign before arguing the states' rights position publicly."

Farmer also criticized Hoover for calling Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. "the most notorious liar in the country."

"Mr. Hoover's unfounded statement attacking Dr. King appeared to be an isolated, hysterical outburst for which a man in public life may be forgiven," Farmer said. "Now it appears that he is carrying on a vendetta against the civil rights groups."

Whitney M. Young Jr., executive director of the National Urban League, and Roy Wilkins, executive secretary of the National Assn. for the Advancement of Co-

lored People, also were sharply critical of Hoover.

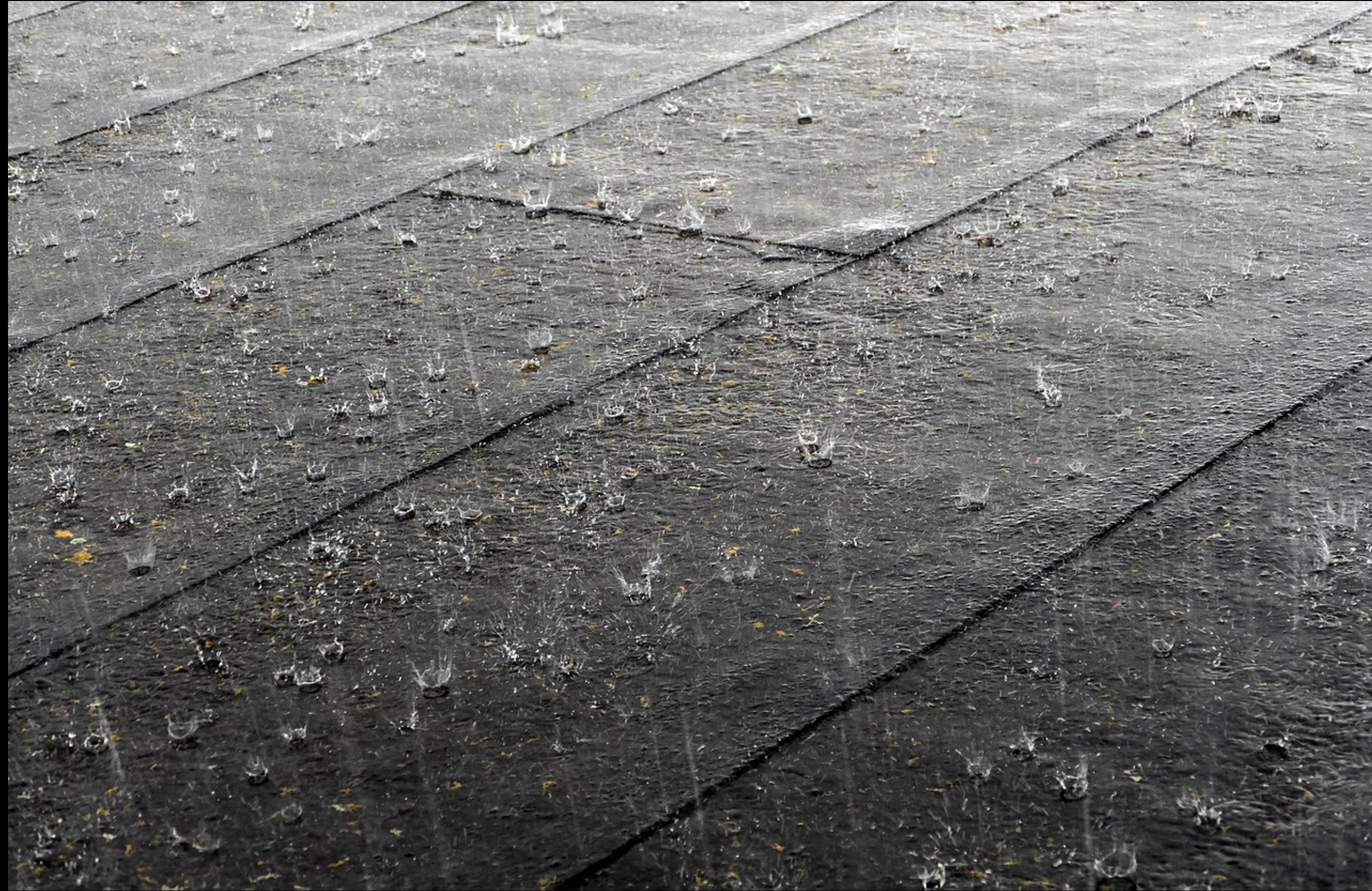
CORE Chair Demands Hoover's Resignation:
Jame Farmer Charges FBI Head Conducts "Vendetta"
Against Civil Rights Groups

Los Angeles Times. November 26, 1964

How Conspiracy Theories Work



**Empirical
statements are
falsifiable.**

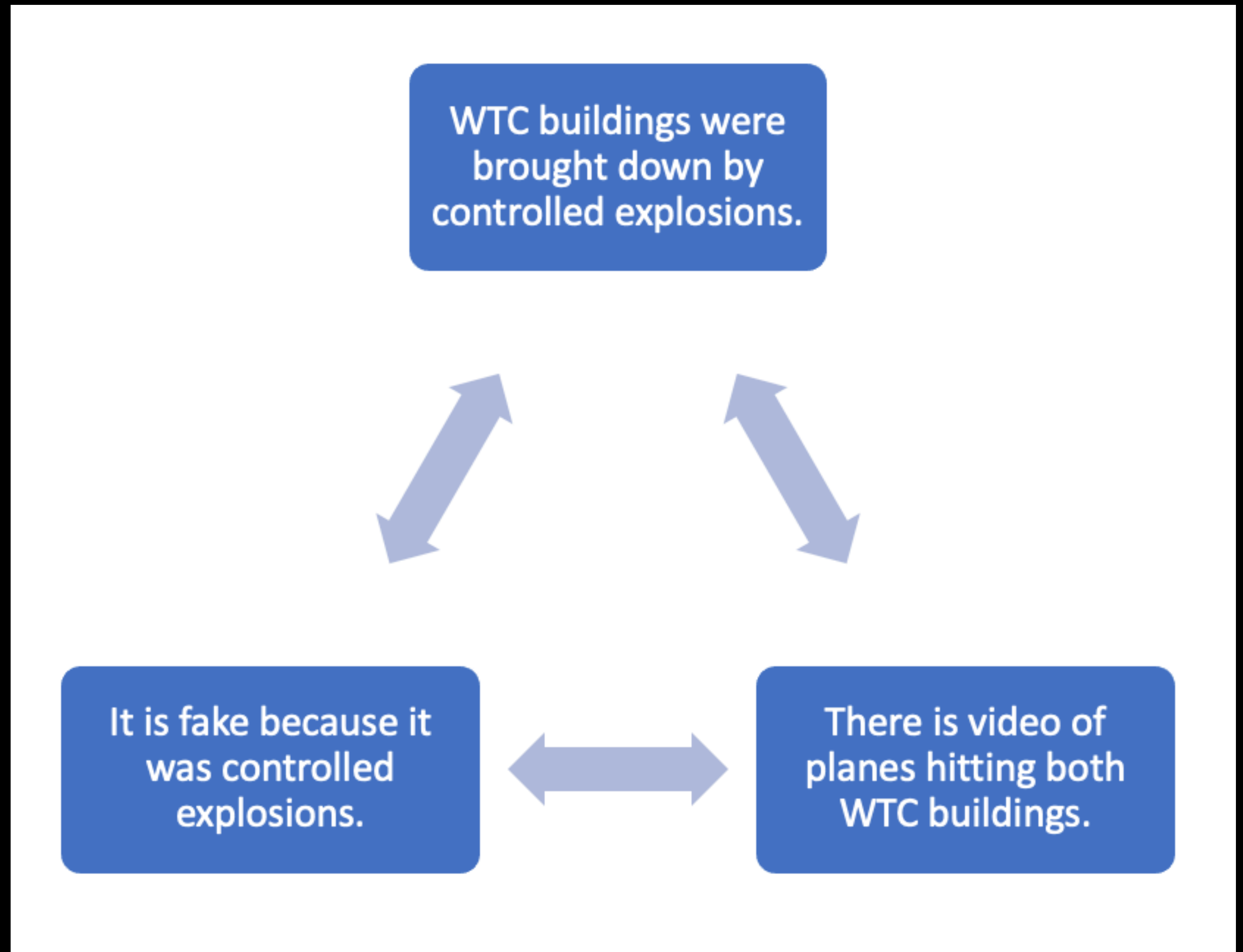


It will rain this afternoon.

Circular Reasoning Is Not Falsifiable

Truth is assumed *a priori*.

Evidence that doesn't support assumed truth is rejected as false.



Three Types of Conspiracy Theories

- Event Conspiracy Theories



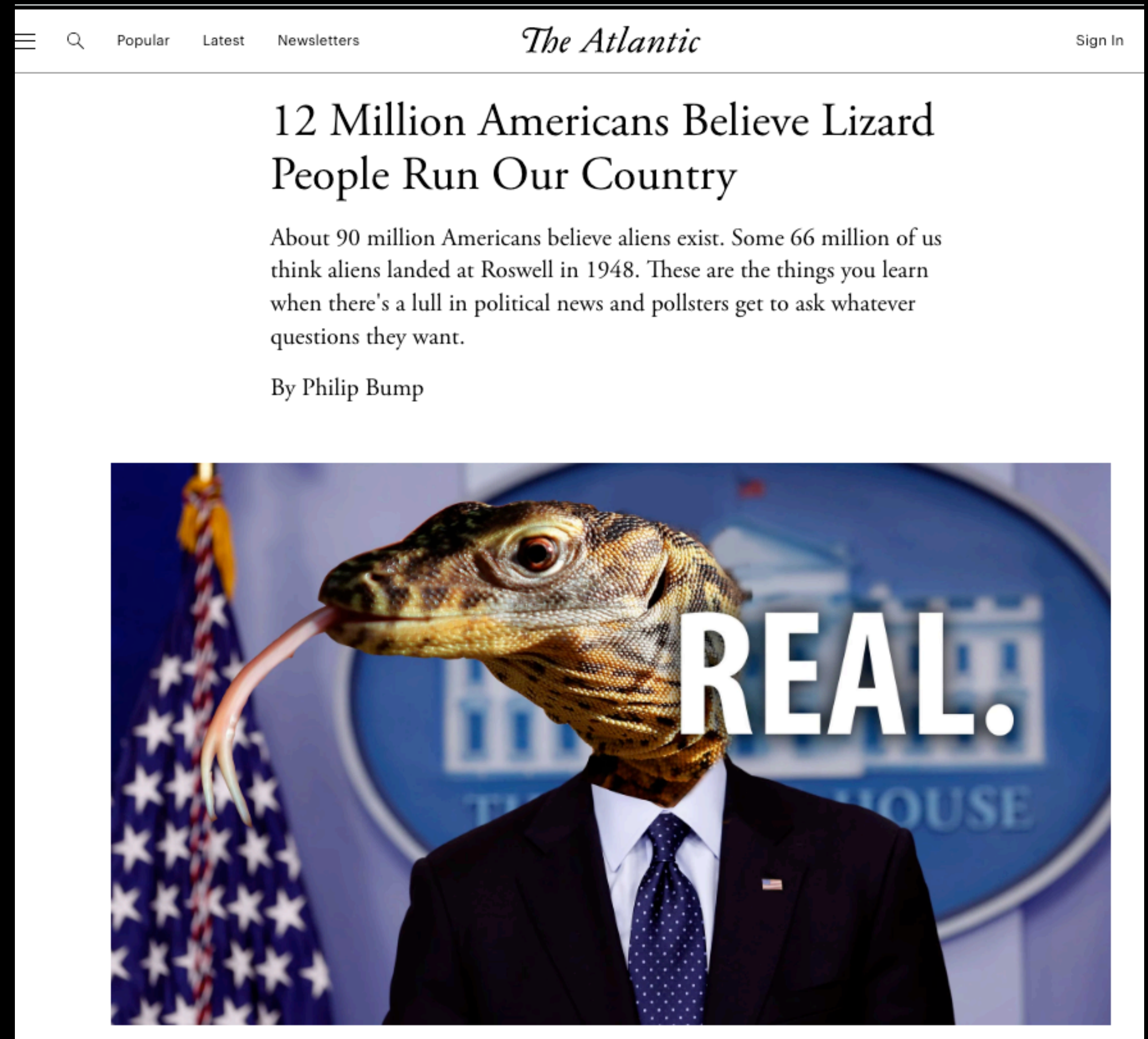
Three Types of Conspiracy Theories

- Event Conspiracy Theories
- Systemic Conspiracy Theories

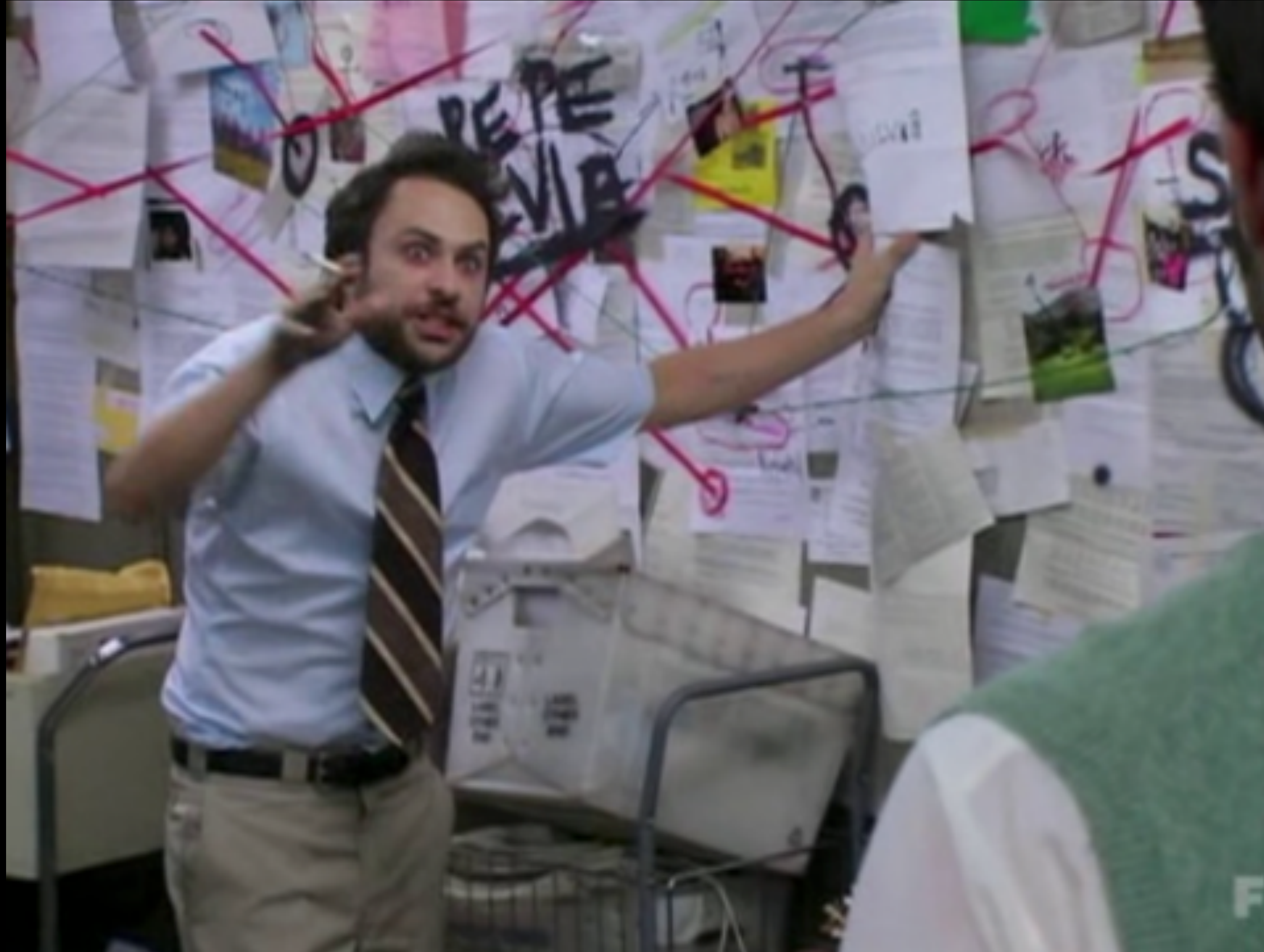


Three Types of Conspiracy Theories

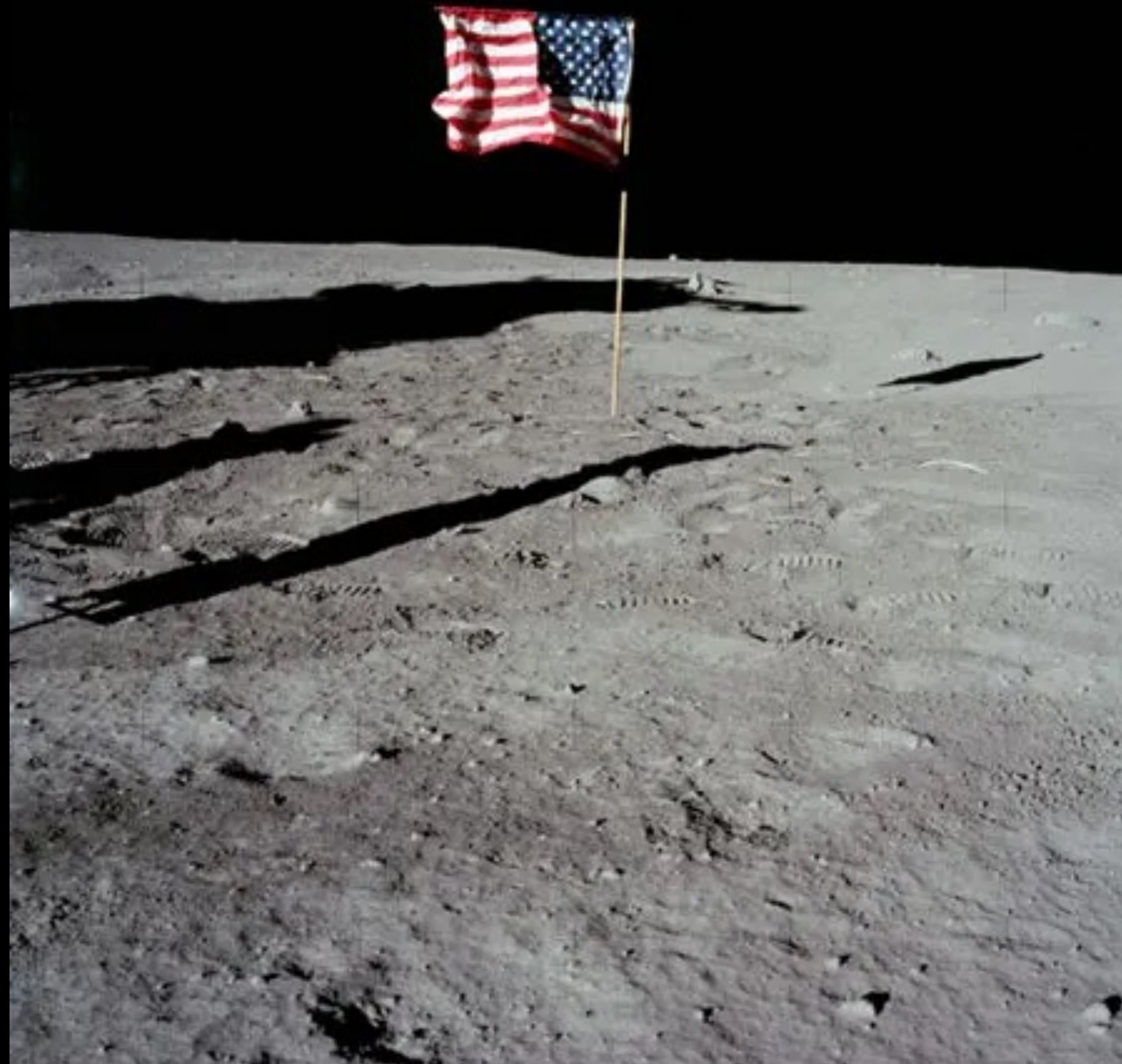
- Event Conspiracy Theories
- Systemic Conspiracy Theories
- Superconspiracy Theories



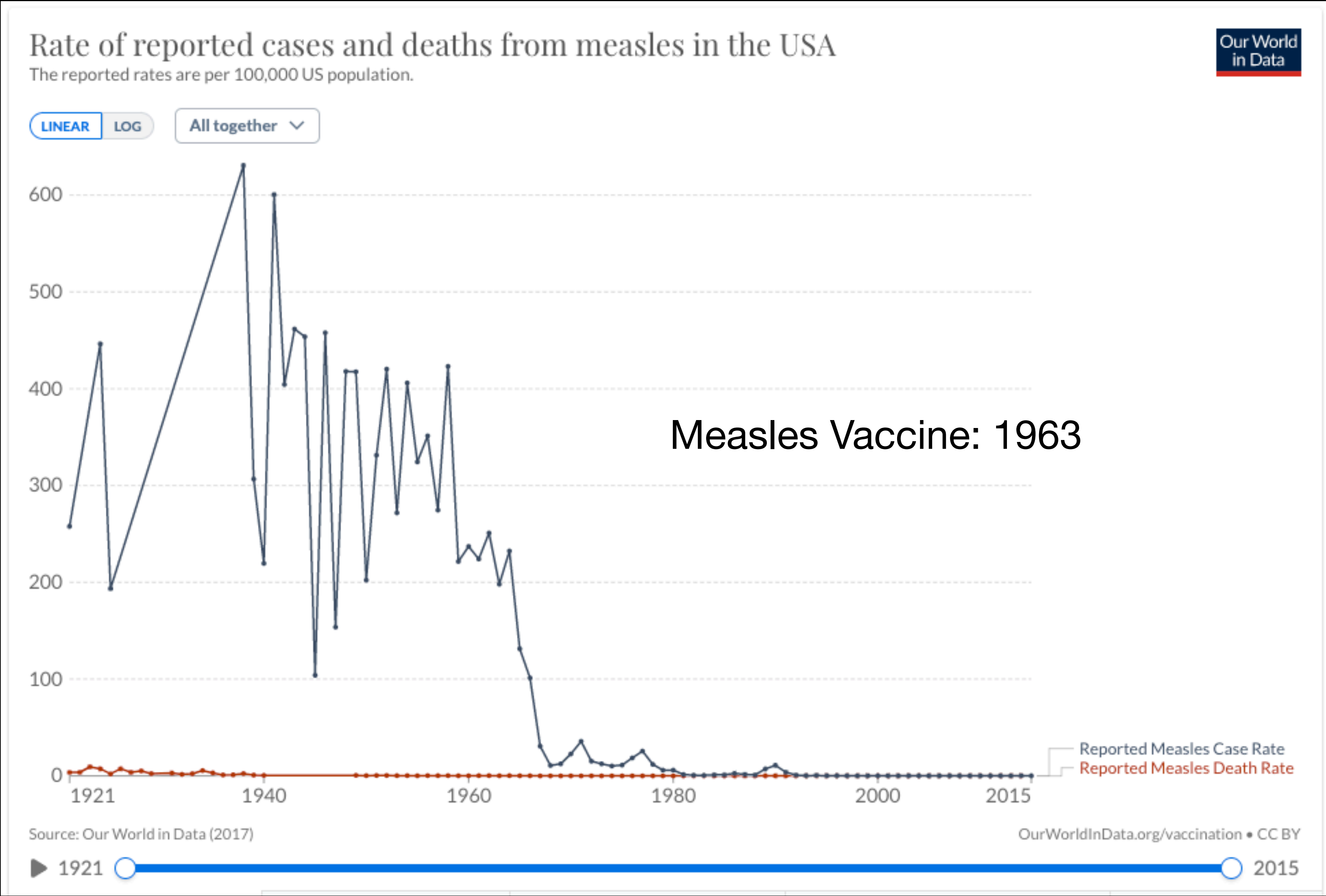
Elaborate Presentation of Evidence



Cherry Picking Evidence



Rejecting Contrary Evidence



Downtrodden Us Versus Powerful Them



From Outside



From Above



From Below

From Within



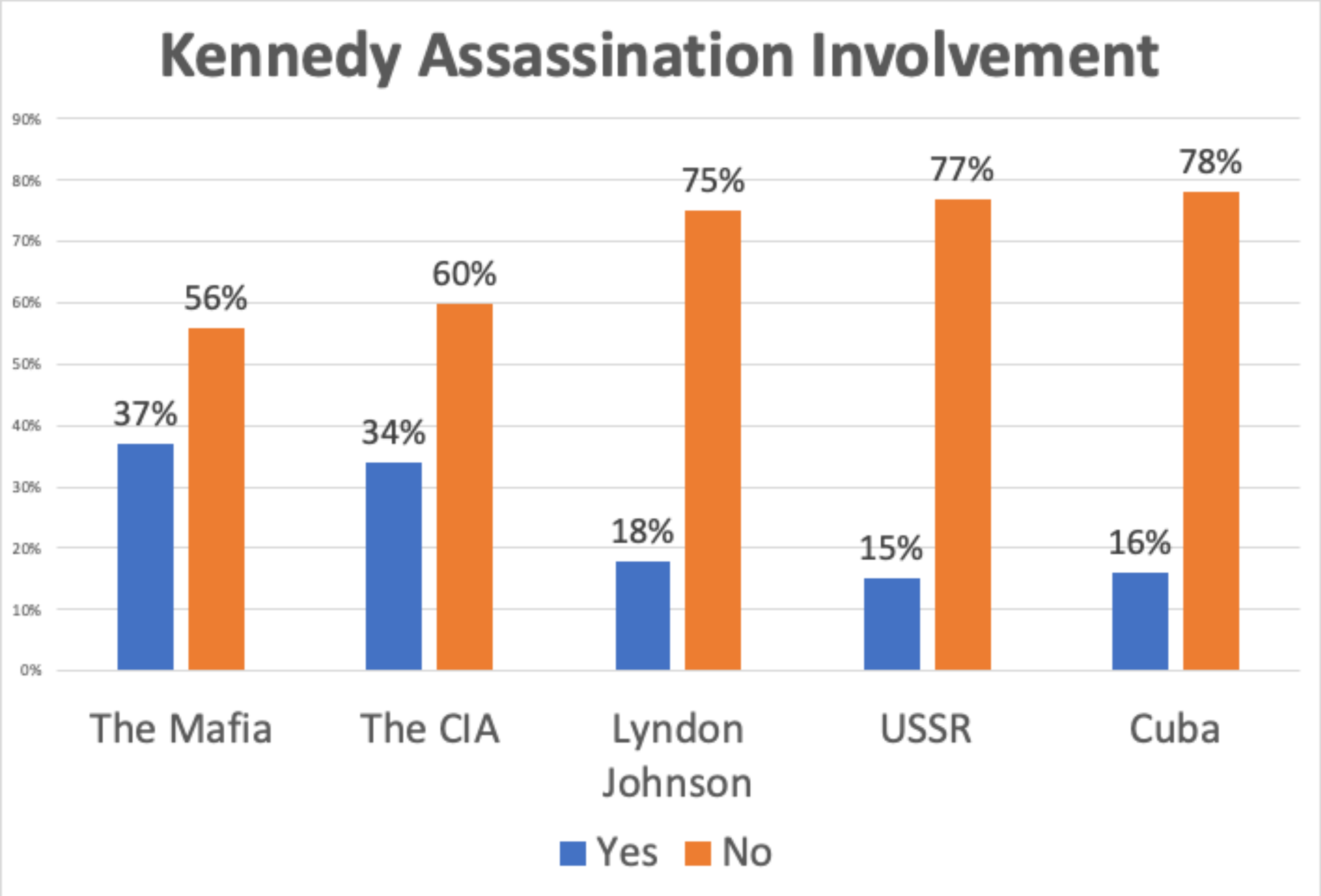
WANTED
FOR
TREASON

THIS MAN is wanted for treasonous activities against the United States:

1. Betraying the Constitution (which he swore to uphold): He is turning the sovereignty of the U. S. over to the communist controlled United Nations. He is betraying our friends (Cuba, Katanga, Portugal) and befriending our enemies (Russia, Yugoslavia, Poland).
2. He has been WRONG on innumerable issues affecting the security of the U.S. (United Nations, Berlin wall, Missile removal, Cuba, Wheat deals, Test Ban Treaty, etc.)

3. He has been lax in enforcing Communist Registration laws.
4. He has given support and encouragement to the Communist inspired racial riots.
5. He has illegally invaded a sovereign State with federal troops.
6. He has consistently appointed Anti-Christians to Federal office: Upholds the Supreme Court in its Anti-Christian rulings. Aliens and known Communists abound in Federal offices.
7. He has been caught in fantastic LIES to the American people (including personal ones like his previous marriage and divorce).

Repetition Makes It So



Texas School Book Depository



Texas School Book Depository

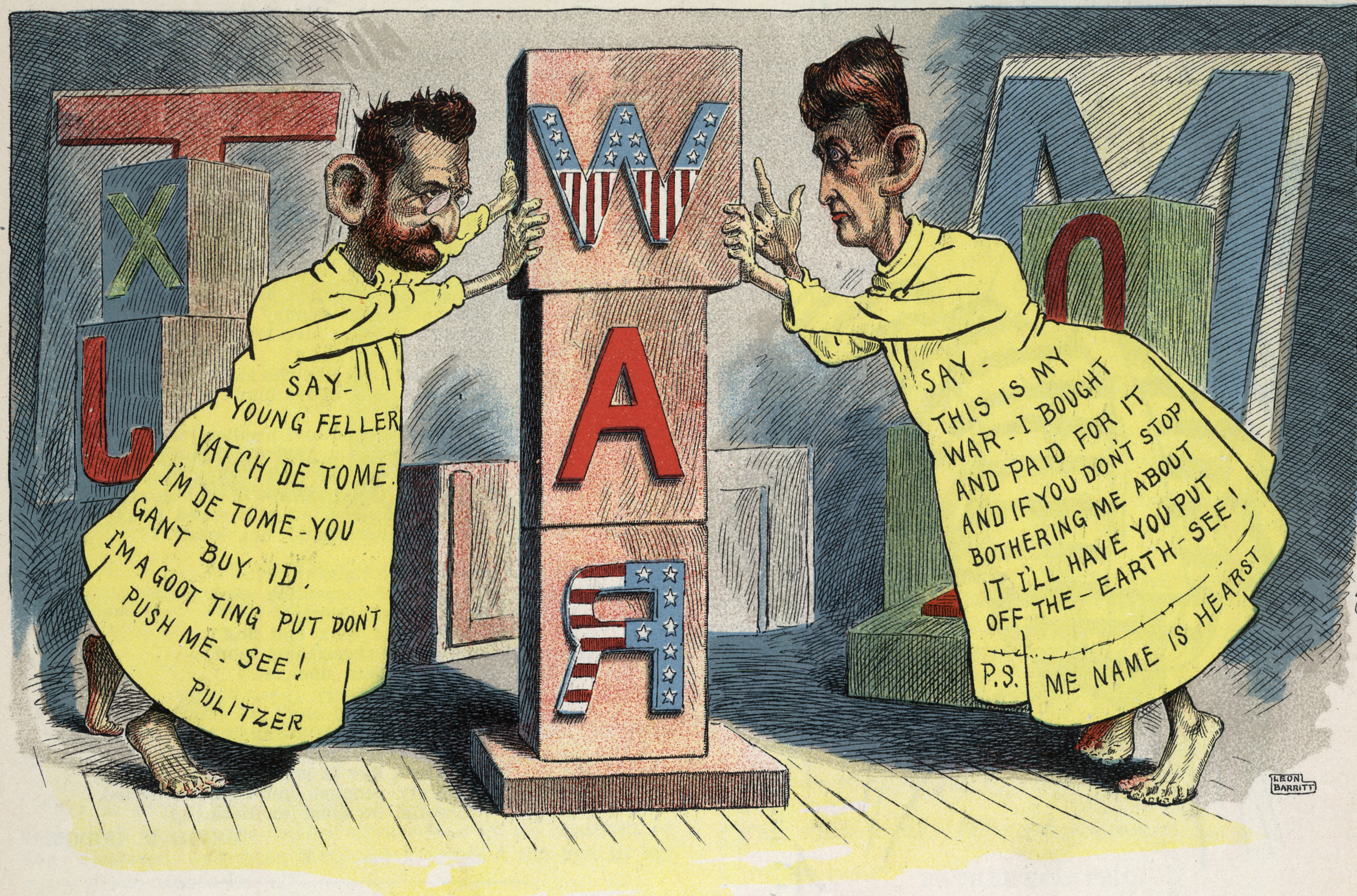


TO HELL WITH SPAIN...
REMEMBER THE MAINE!

CRISIS IS AT HAND.

CAREFUL OF SPANISH GROWING POWER IN

SPANISH TREACHERY

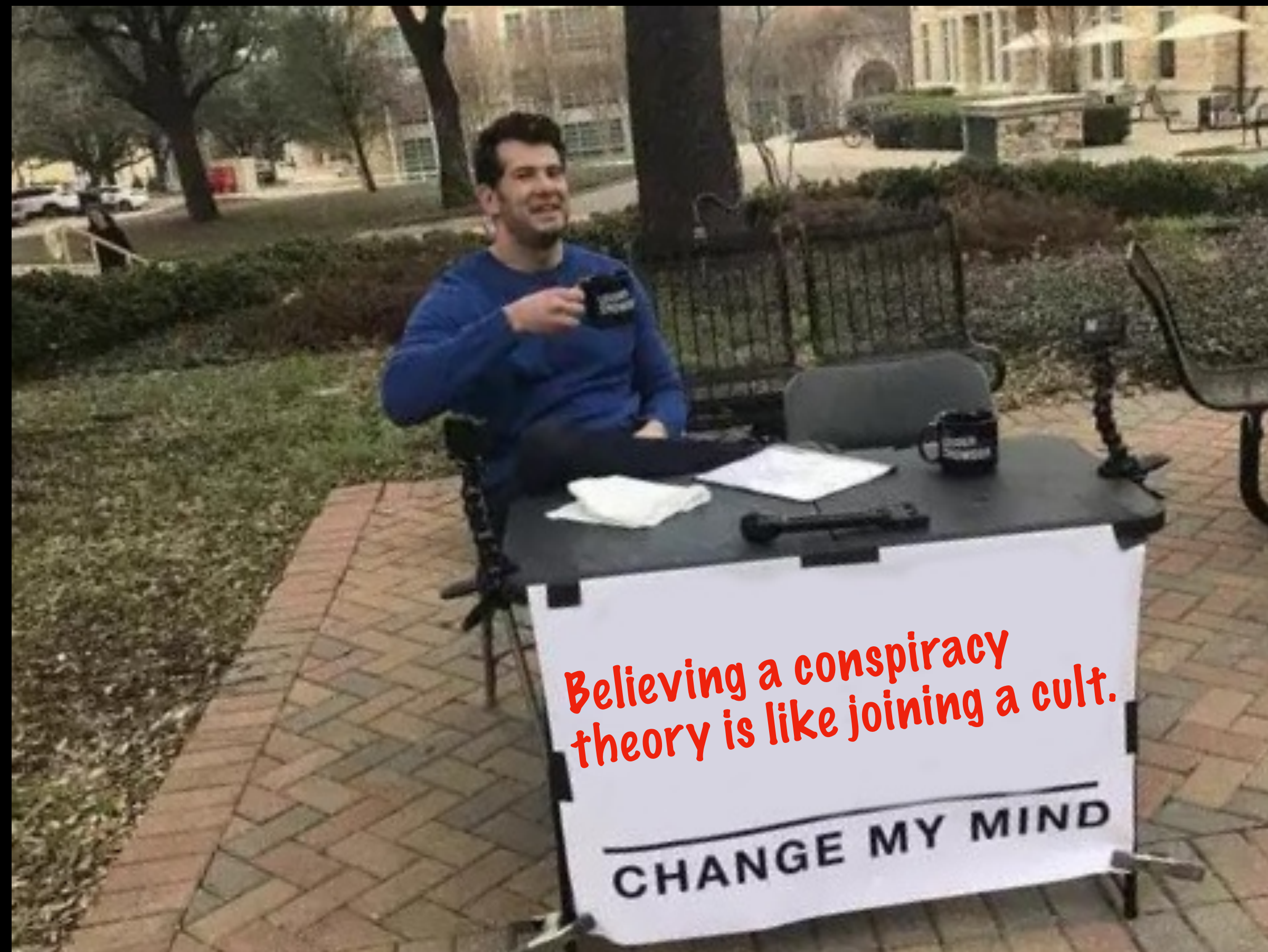


SAY -
YOUNG FELLER
VATCH DE TOME.
I'M DE TOME - YOU
GANT BUY ID.
I'M A GOOT TING PUT DON'T
PUSH ME - SEE!
PULITZER

SAY -
THIS IS MY
WAR - I BOUGHT
AND PAID FOR IT
AND IF YOU DON'T STOP
BOTHERING ME ABOUT
IT I'LL HAVE YOU PUT
OFF THE - EARTH - SEE!
P.S. ME NAME IS HEARST

LEON
BARRITT

Changing Thinking about Conspiracy Theories



“Conspiracy theorists believe strange ideas, yes. But these outlandish beliefs rest on a solid foundation of disbelief.”

Tim Harford. “What Conspiracy Theorists Don’t Believe.” *The Atlantic*, March 16, 2021.



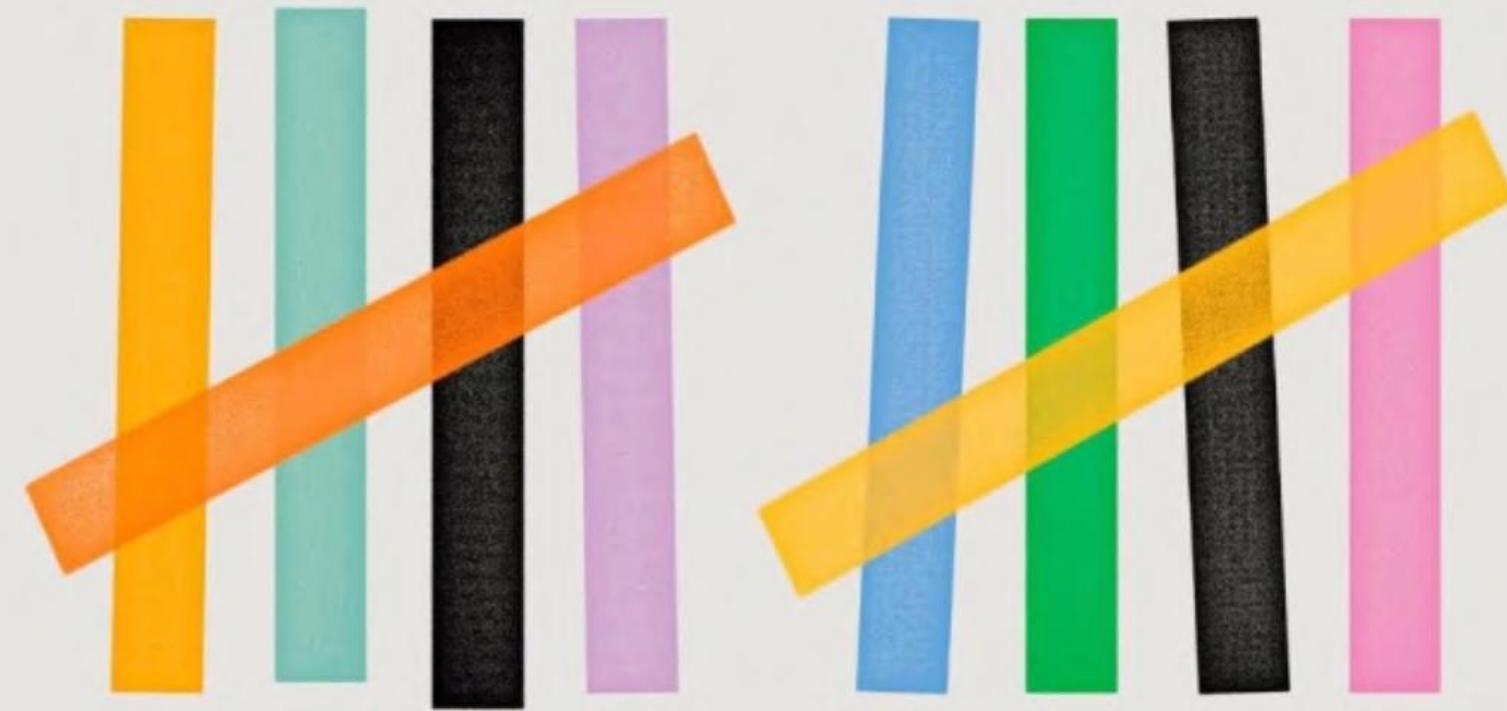


Instead of countering conspiracists' beliefs with facts which conspiracists have *a priori* rejected as false, a more productive path is to challenge conspiracists' to explain the factual bases of their beliefs.

"He's a genius at telling stories that illuminate our world."

—MALCOLM GLADWELL

THE DATA DETECTIVE

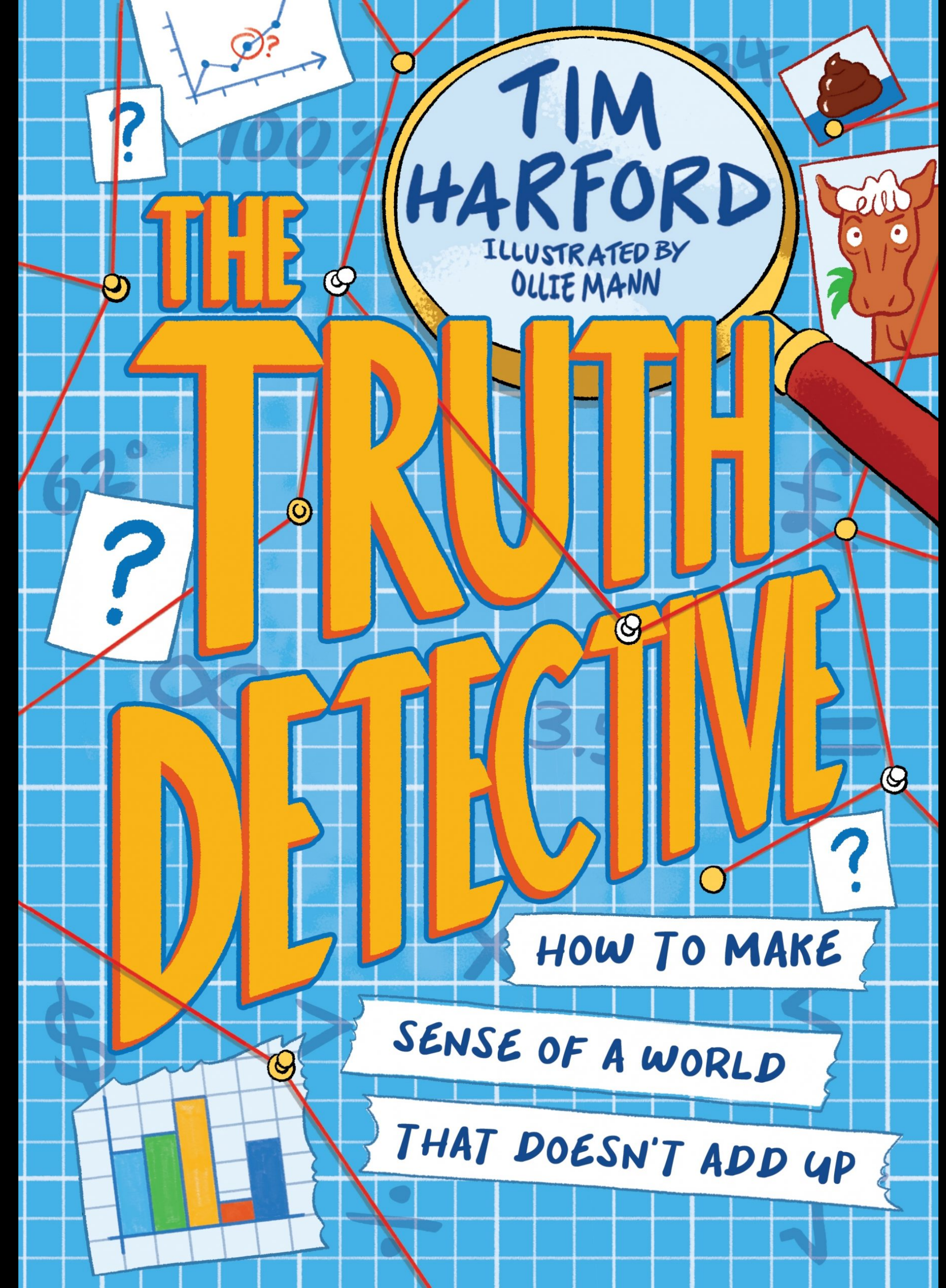


TEN EASY RULES
TO MAKE SENSE
OF STATISTICS

TIM HARFORD

Author of the bestseller THE UNDERCOVER ECONOMIST

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Cold-Case Conspiracies

Conspiracy Theory

TWA Flight 800

- July 17, 1996—230 victims
- Shot down by U.S. Navy
- Shot down by terrorists
- Terrorist bomb on board
- Resolution: Short circuit cause fuel tank to explode.

Criminal Conspiracy

Houston Mass Murders

- 1970-1973—28+ victims
- Three conspirators
- Police ignored missing-persons reports
- Resolution: A conspirator confessed and led police to the bodies.

Conspiracist Ideation

A mindset in which conspiracy theories serve to make sense of a reality that may seem ambiguous, arbitrary, unfair, or frightening.



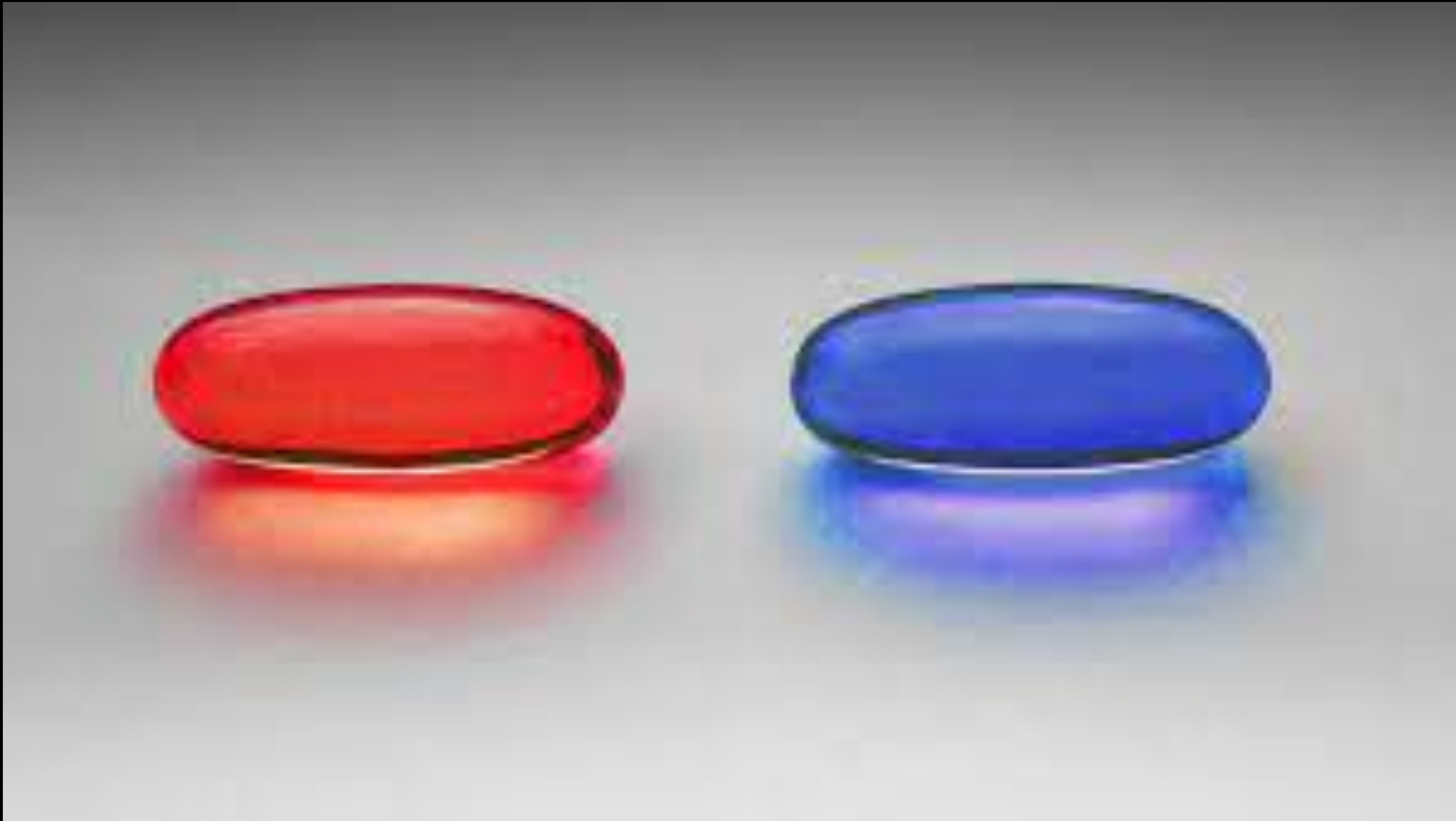
Agency Panic

“Intense anxiety about apparent loss of autonomy or self-control—the conviction that one’s actions are being controlled by someone else, that one has been ‘constructed’ by powerful external agents.”



Timothy Melley, *Empire of Conspiracy: The Culture of Paranoia in Postwar America*, (Ithaca, N.Y.: Cornell University Press, 2000), 28.

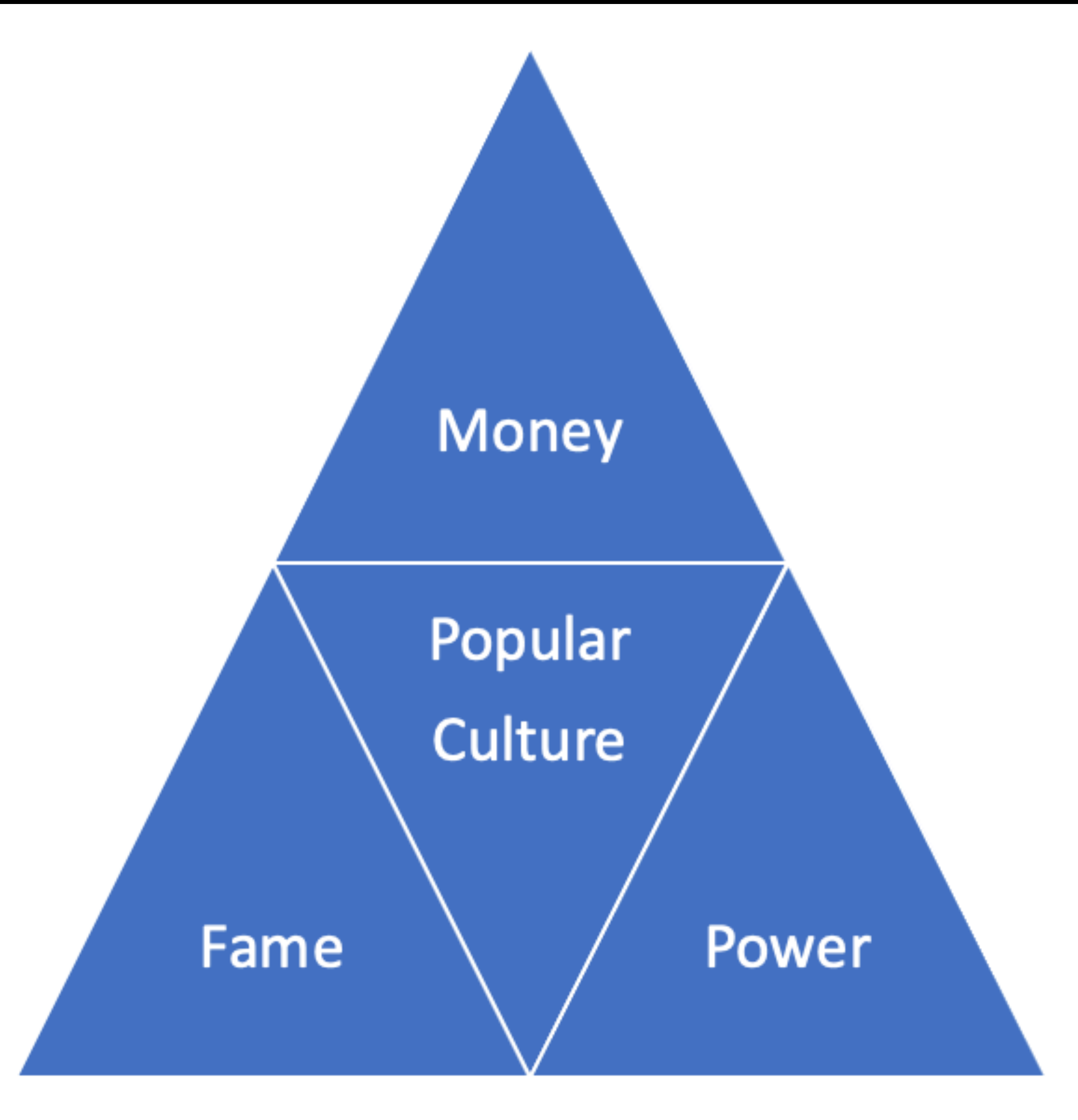
Popular Culture and Conspiracy Theories





Lilly Wachowski

Lana Wachowski



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The Hero

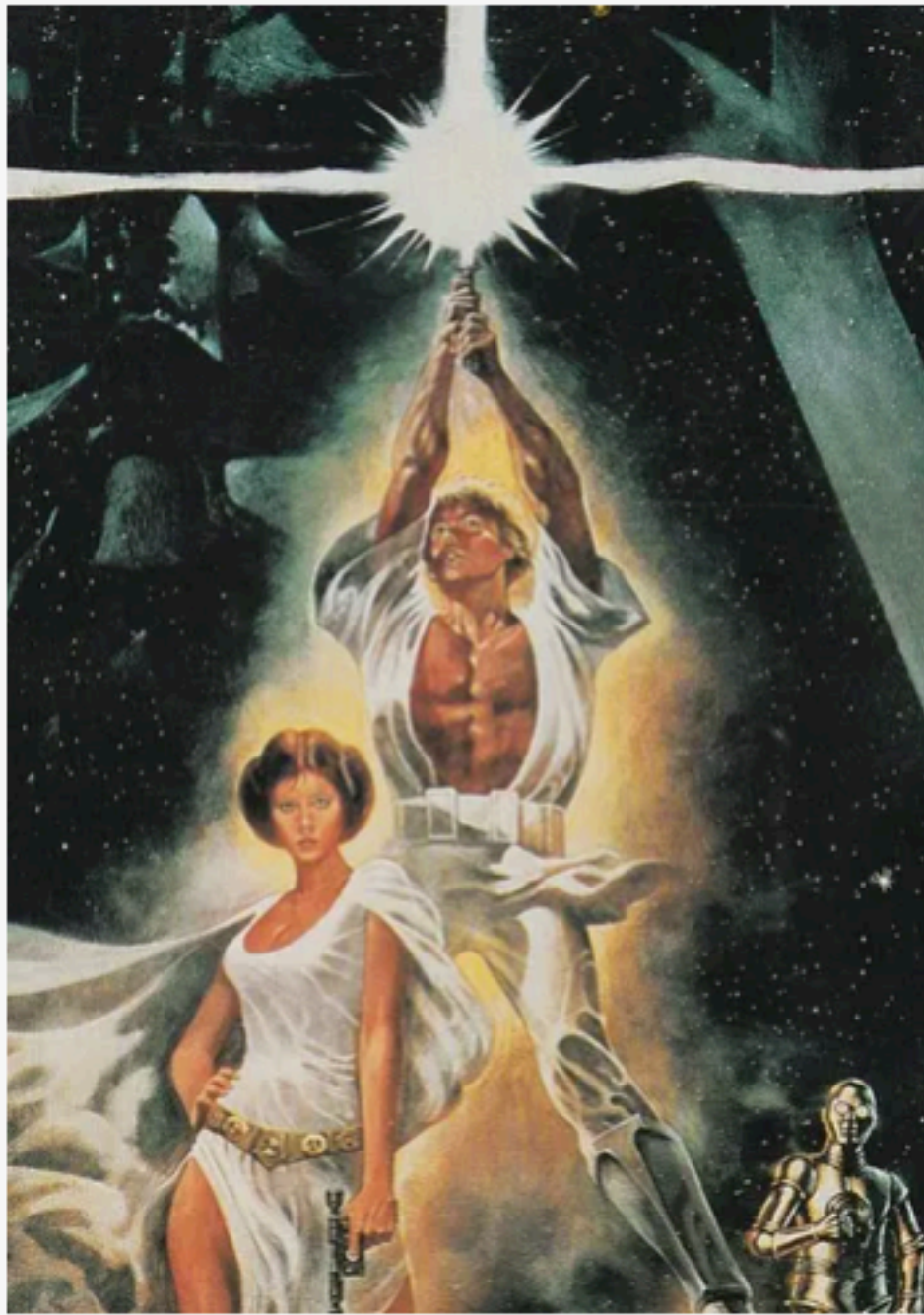
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*"He will face the fiercest foe
when another needs his aid,
He will dare to defy Death
even though he is afraid,
He works not just for glory
and he does it not for gain,
But because he knows that others
will be spared a greater pain."*

— *Quest for Glory II: Trial By Fire*

This admired, strong, noble and courageous person is almost always right, is a loyal friend and protector to all their teammates, and [morally superior](#) — *without* the usual flaws of [Good Is Dumb](#) or [Well-Intentioned Extremist](#), unless it's a comedic work. They have a [well-rounded skill set](#). They're not as [strong](#) as [The Big Guy](#), or as [intelligent](#) as [The Smart Guy](#), or as [sensitive and socially adept](#) as [The Heart](#), but they're close. They can personally accomplish a variety of goals, but their real superpower is getting [the whole diverse set of personalities](#) to [focus and pull together](#). They'll always know who to ask for help, and when — and *usually* how. Most often, they will be [The Protagonist](#) but [there are exceptions to this rule](#). Just as often, they will be [The Leader](#) or otherwise the [shining star](#) that holds the [Ragtag Bunch of Misfits](#) together, but [there are exceptions to this as well](#). In a [Team Shot](#), they will be front and center. The Hero will often undertake [The Hero's Journey](#).



He's Luke Skywalker. He's here to rescue you.

Opposing Sports Team

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"You Will Suffer Humiliation When The Sports Team From My Area Defeats The Sports Team From Your Area"
 — *The Onion*

The villains of any sports series or movie, the Opposing Sports Team is the number one team before the main hero's eventual victory. They seem to be made up of [Designated Villains](#) and [Villainy Free Villains](#), but they are not: they got to this point not because of [Team Spirit](#), but because of either [cheating](#) and/or bullying and abusive behaviour or at the best of times a [grueling, soulless regimen](#) that goes against whatever the [Aesop](#) of the show is. [They almost always wear a uniform that is mostly black](#). These may be [The Psycho Rangers](#) to sports what the ["Stop Having Fun" Guys](#) are to video games; the [types who play the game solely to win, and will resort to any means to do so](#).



Sometimes they also [headbutt](#).

Also seen in [commercials](#) as the side that does not endorse the main product, whom the hero defeats through [Cereal-Induced Superpowers](#).

In 1980s and 1990s vintage sports movies, this team is the posse of [bullying, snobbish, white private school rich kids](#), while the hero's team comprises [ethnically diverse middle- to lower-class public schoolers](#) and [Lovable Jocks](#) - making it overlap with [Slobs Versus Snobs](#). Watch for a dirty scheme to close the neighborhood rec center, and lots of [northeastern-accented trash-talk](#).

If the competition is international, expect the Opposing Sports Team to be either [Soviet](#) (Red Commies trained [from birth in athlete factories](#) and pumped on [steroids](#)) or [German](#) ([hyper-efficient](#), [arrogant](#), and we'll never forgive them for [the war](#)). For bonus points, they could be [East German](#), combining both. Nowadays the reputation of the [from](#)

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Conspiracy Theorist

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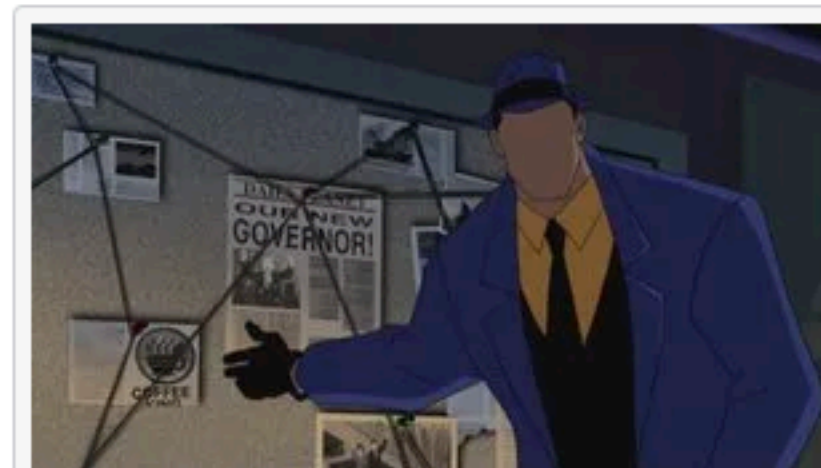
PlayingWith

VideoExamples

Create New

*"Everywhere I go there's someone in a trenchcoat staring at me,
And when I'm not at home I'm sure someone's rummaging through my trash.
Whatever could they want from me? Is it just a part of a giant government
conspiracy?
I gotta go see my doctor about this itchy pentagram-shaped rash..."*

— [Barenaked Ladies](#), "Get in Line"



Most people don't even think to [ask The Question](#).

[Describe Conspiracy Theorist here?](#)

SHYEAH RIGHT. THAT'S JUST WHAT *THEY* WANT YOU TO DO. HAVEN'T YOU SHEEPL
EVER HEARD OF **MKULTRA? YOUR VIBRATIONAL FREQUENCIES ARE TOO HIGH!**
THEY THRIVE OFF OF FEAR! YOUR **ZERO-POINT IS A GREAT DISTANCE FROM FEAR! ALRIGHT, I'LL TELL YOU WHAT. I'LL GIVE YOU THE**
OFFICIAL LINE ABOUT TRUTH-SEEKERS; WHAT *THEY* WANT YOU TO THINK. AND YOU CAN JUST THINK ABOUT THAT. AND THEN, IF YOU'RE
READY TO TAKE THE **RED PILL, THEN MAYBE YOU CAN GO DO SOME DIGGING OF YOUR OWN. MAYBE, JUST MAYBE, YOU'LL LEARN THE REAL**
TRUTH. *BETTER LUCK NEXT TIME, LOW-VIBRATIONAL REPTILIANS!*

A Conspiracy Theorist attributes the ultimate cause of an event or chain of events (usually political, social or historical events), or the concealment of such causes from public knowledge, to a secret and often deceptive plot by a [group of powerful or influential people or organizations](#). Many conspiracy theories state that major events in history have been dominated by conspirators who manipulate political happenings from behind the scenes. The Conspiracy is generally [evil beyond evil](#). And yet despite how evil they are, [they never betray each other](#), so the conspiracy stays together for thousands of years. How they accomplish this is unexplained. It is something beyond the wisdom of our puny minds.

Conspiracy theorists in the media may be [Mad Scientists](#) associated with [Right Wing Militia Fanatics](#) or [Dirty Communists](#), and always seem to come off as [somewhat mentally unhinged](#) (though you and I know better, right?). This seems to be the case even when one of them [catches the trail](#) of a genuine [Ancient Conspiracy](#) or [Government Conspiracy](#). Of course, said conspiracies have a tendency to try to [silence the "kook"](#) once they learn he's on to them, ~~despite the fact that no one would actually believe him telling the truth~~. This tends to backfire in one of two

Product Placement

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"WARNING!"

The following is a product advertisement. You are going to be bombarded by visuals of great looking products, and then entertained by motorsports eye candy. Do not resist the temptation to purchase the products when prompted to do so. Enjoy!"

— Opening screen for [Ken Block's GYMKHANA TWO: THE INFOMERCIAL](#), shamelessly [lampshading](#) the phenomenon^{note}

Otherwise known as a "plug" or "writing commercials right into a show". The practice of prominently displaying or talking about a recognizable product in a program, in exchange for some consideration from the manufacturer, usually monetary. The manufacturer hopes to cause [The Red Stapler](#) effect, but it far more often results in [snarky comments from the peanut gallery](#).

This trope isn't always invoked for mercenary reasons; many times it's just more realistic for someone to be in a shopping mall and walk past actual brands rather than unnamed [Brand X](#). Or a world set [20 Minutes into the Future](#) won't have suddenly lost the culture of billboard advertisements and product logos which defines the modern day. Real brands add *veritas* in these cases. Plus some filmmakers striving for as much realism as possible would rather use recognizable products than [Brand X](#). On the other hand, even when it begins with the best intentions, contractual obligations to have the dialogue actually *mention* a placed product can easily [turn malignant](#).

The least subtle version of this kind of embedded advertising is the [Enforced Plug](#), which, in America, was common in early television (when the commercials literally were considered more important than the programming) and still is in radio.

With reruns, DVD and downloads, this can be the gift that keeps on giving for advertisers. After all, the commercials



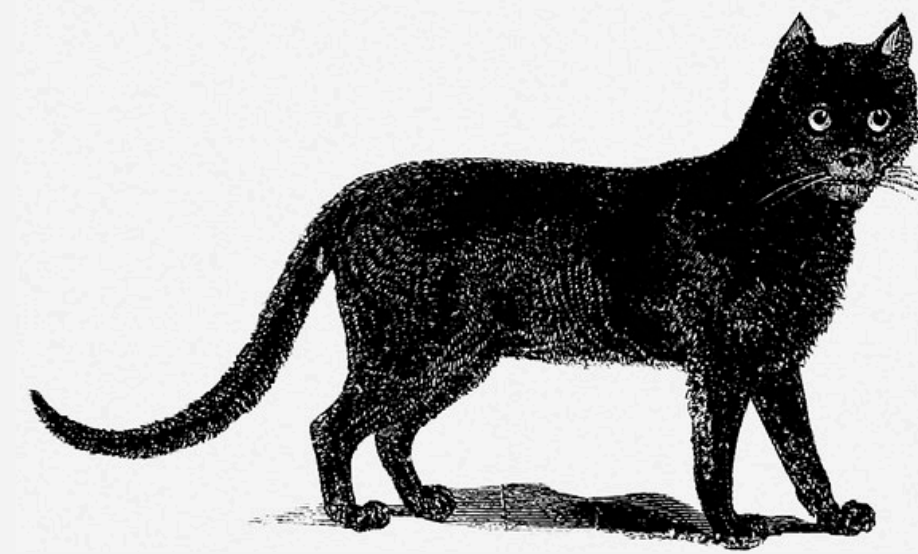
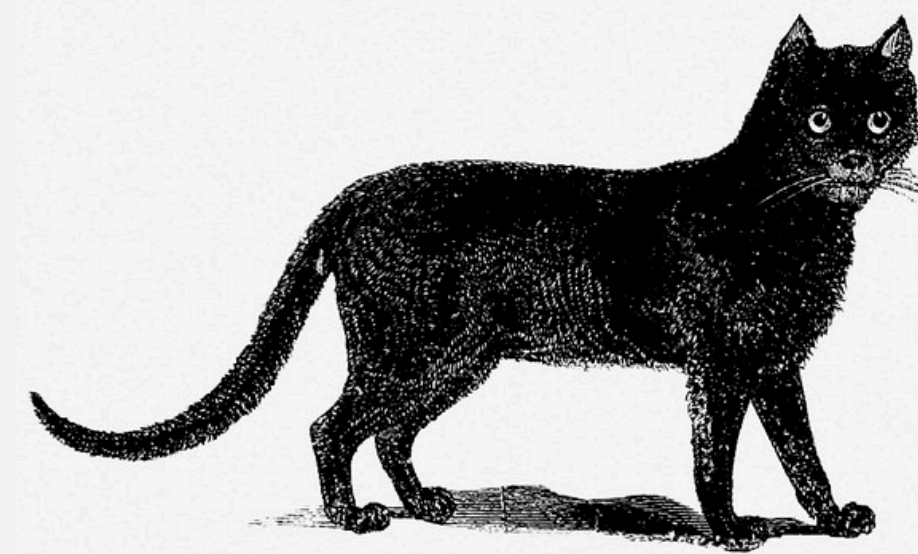
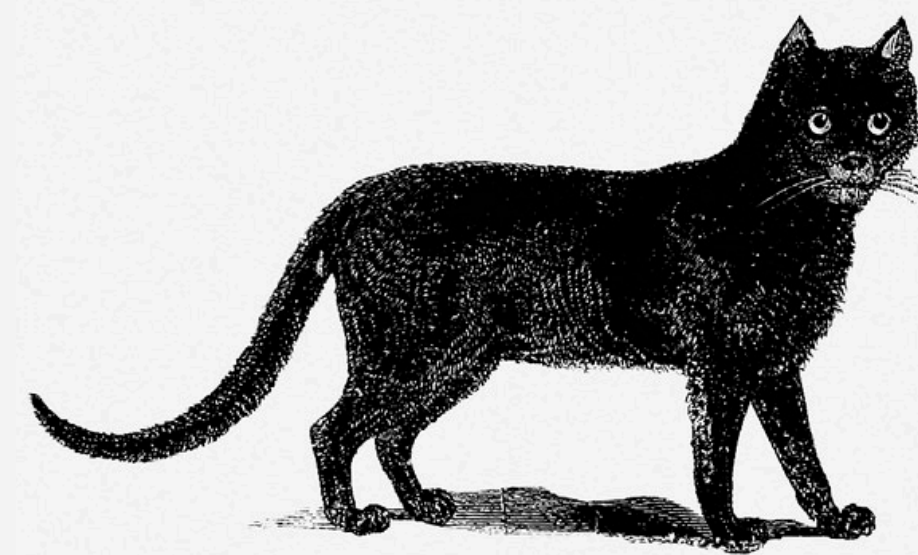
Makes you want an [ice cold Coca-Cola](#), doesn't it?

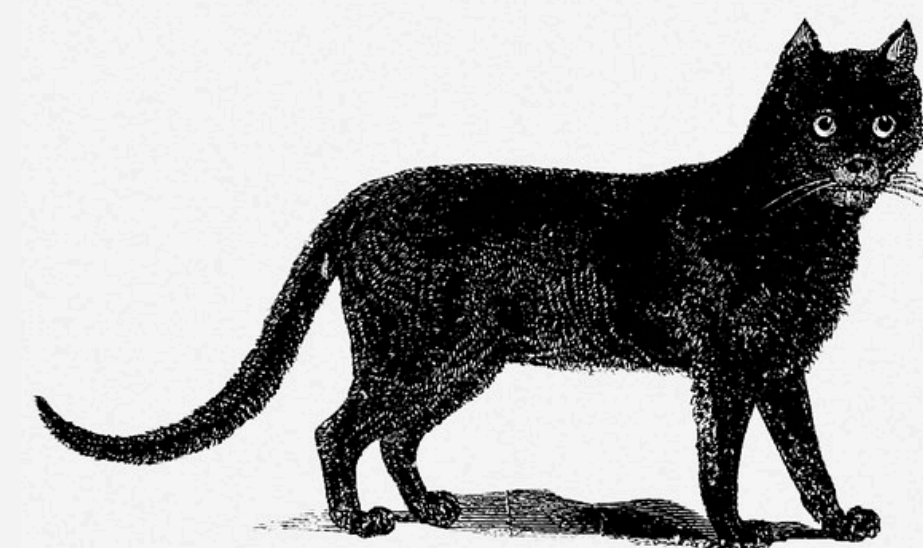
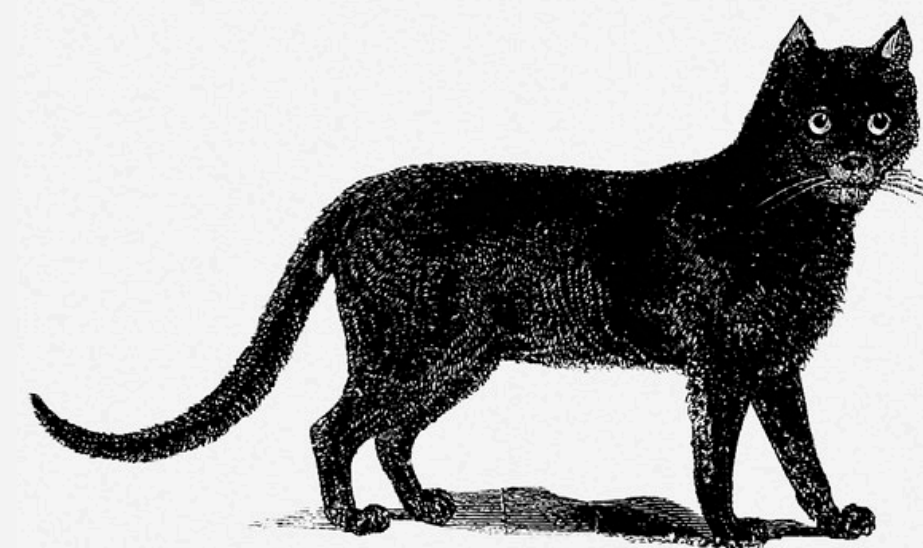
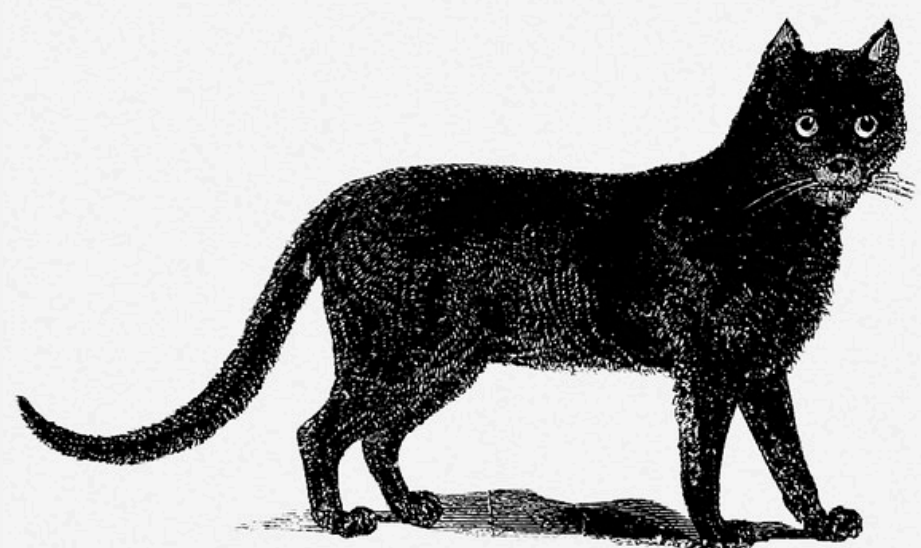
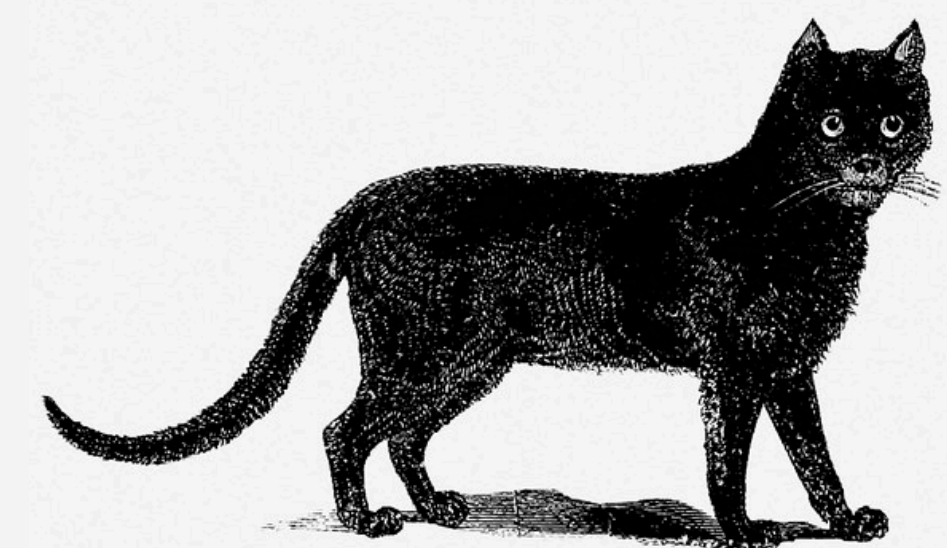
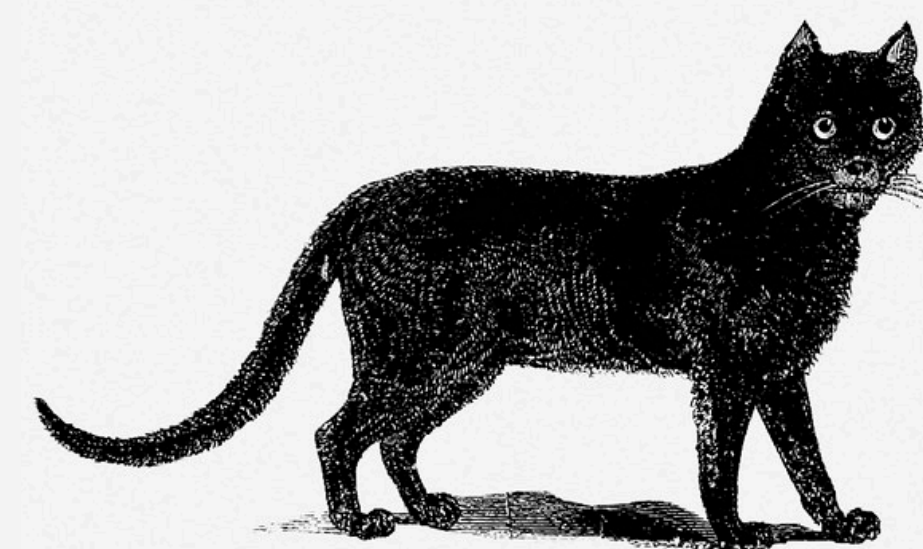
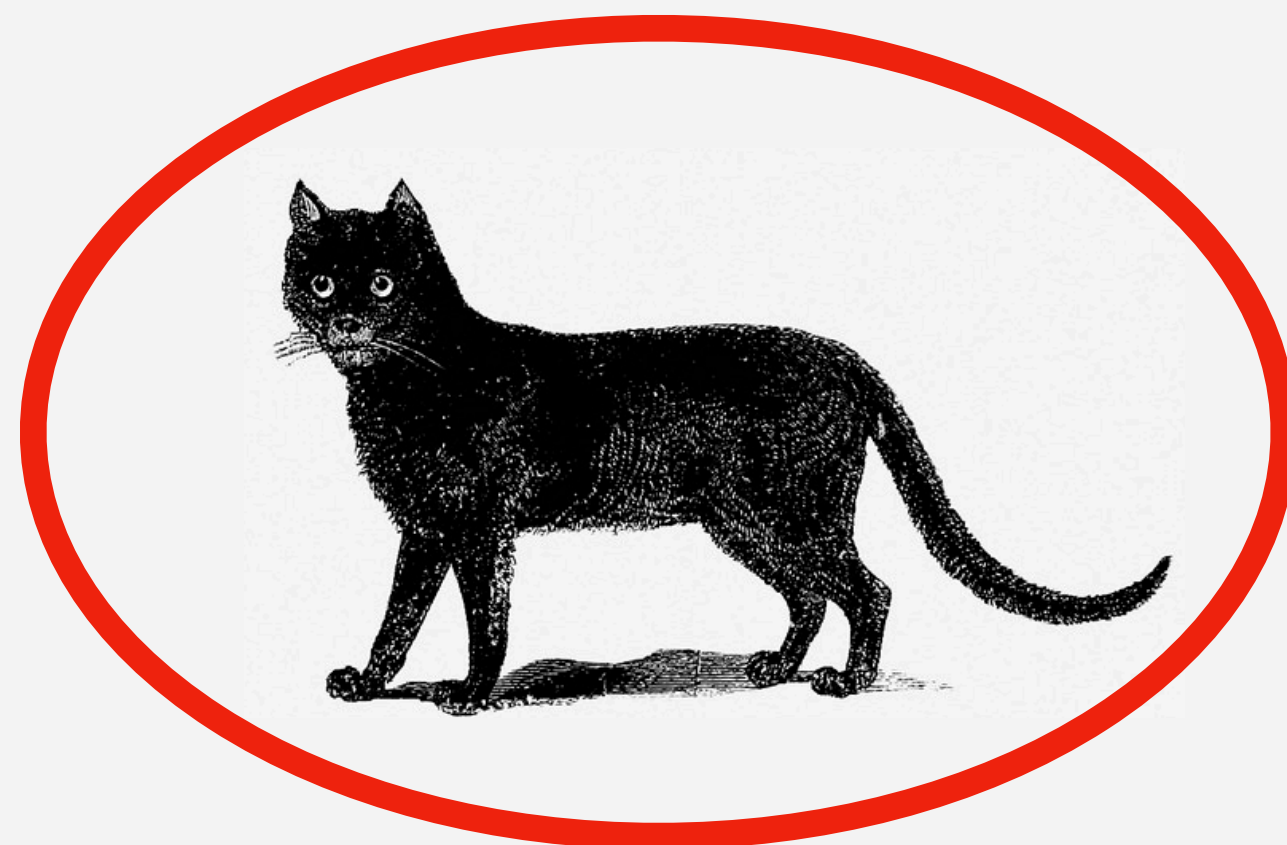
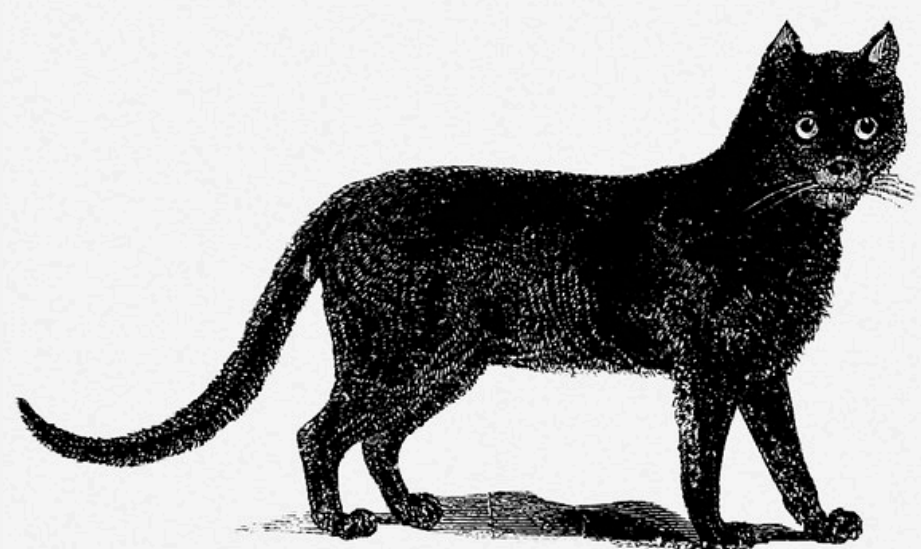
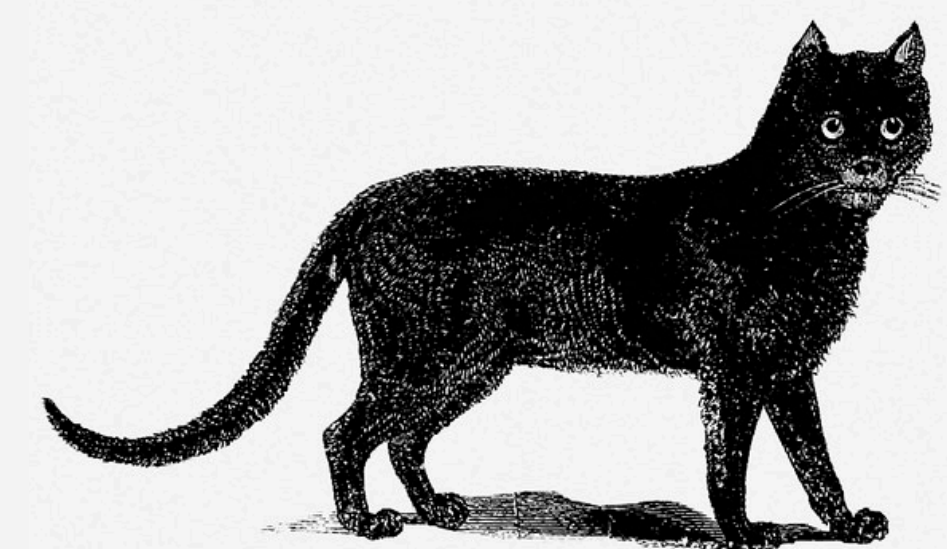
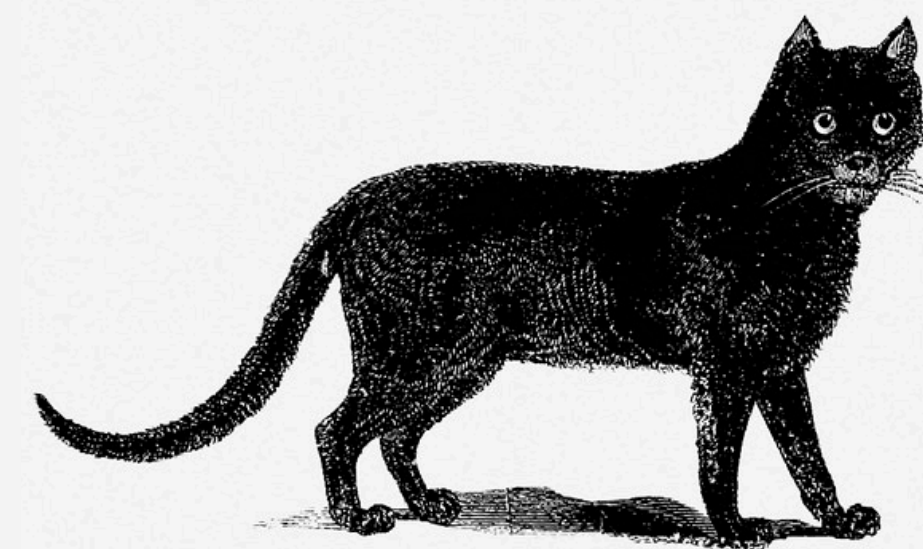
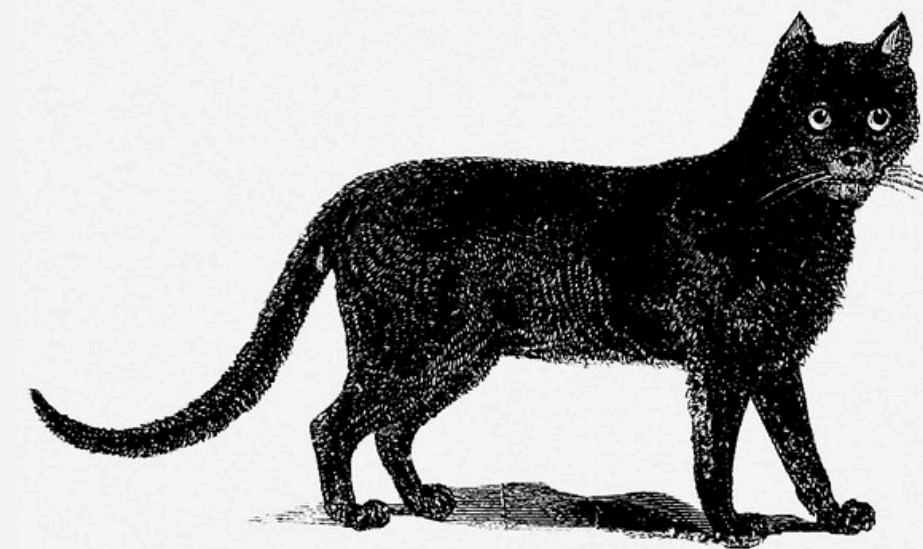
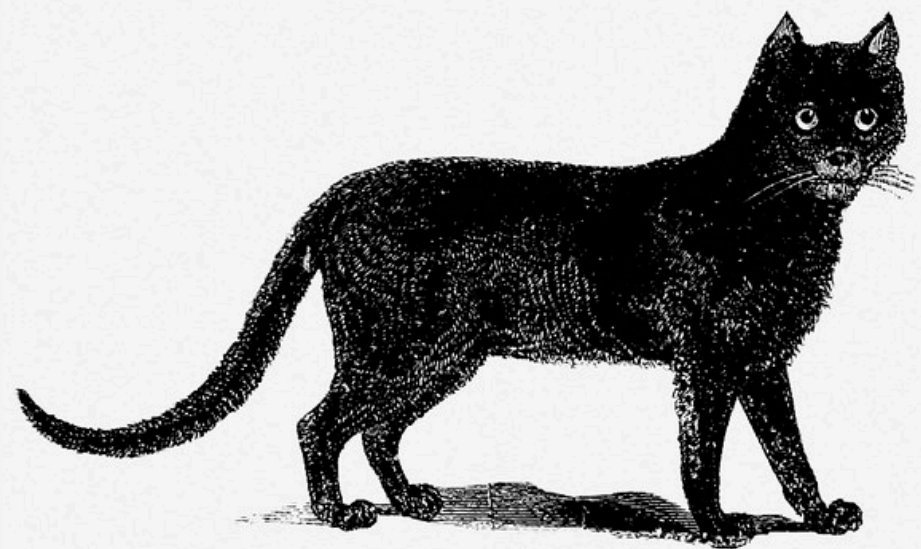
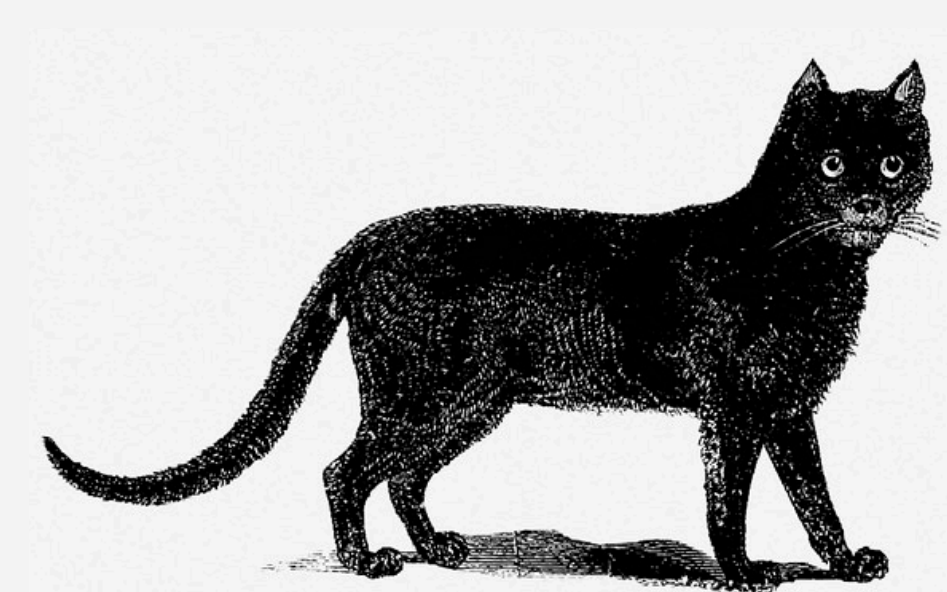


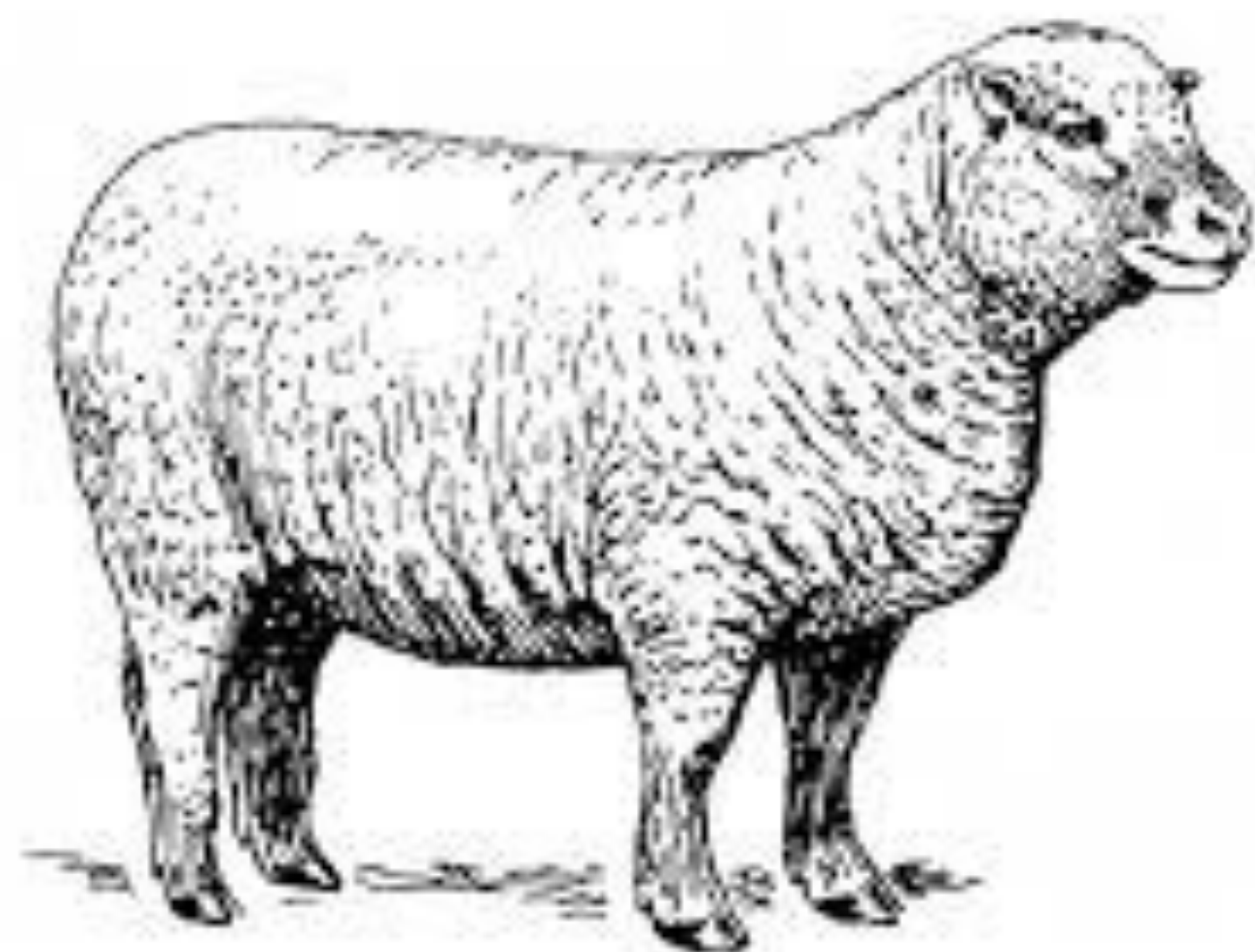
“There Are Currently 16.1 Million Ford F-Series Pickups on U.S. Roads.”

Brett Foote, “There Are Currently 16.1 Million Ford F-Series Pickups On U.S. Roads,” April 9, 2021, <https://fordauthority.com/2021/04/there-are-currently-16-1-million-ford-f-series-pickups-on-u-s-roads/>.









“No matter how qualified he is and how urgent and relevant his expertise is to the problem at hand, his warnings will be treated like madness or lies. The Ignored Expert will be ignored by his peers, or reviled and ridiculed regardless of evidence, credibility or persuasiveness, and his warnings are often covered up by shady governments.”

Ignored Expert

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"Prophet is concerned that this will make the aliens come back... But everyone blows him off, and sure enough, the aliens come back. Wow, who could have seen that coming? If only there were someone around here whose name means "someone who predicts things"!

— Zero Punctuation on Crysis 3

The less mythic, more secular subtype of [Cassandra Truth](#), the Ignored Expert is a scientist or expert who predicts a major disaster to happen, but is not [believed by his contemporaries](#).

No matter [how qualified](#) he is and how urgent and relevant his expertise is to the problem at hand, his warnings will be treated like [madness](#) or [lies](#). The Ignored Expert will be [ignored](#) by his [peers](#), or [reviled and ridiculed](#) regardless of evidence, credibility or persuasiveness, and [his warnings are often covered up by shady governments](#). If he's lucky, he'll manage to persuade a

philanthropist to help, or make [The Hero](#) aware of the problem. In extreme cases, he will be fighting nearly alone to stop (or at least expose and delay) a nigh unstoppable disaster. His situation isn't helped if he has a reputation as (or is) an [Agent Mulder](#).

In natural [disaster movies](#) or [Science Is Bad](#) stories, expect the Ignored Expert to be the [lone voice of sanity](#) warning against a particular course of action that will, of course, be taken. That action could be entrusting the [newborn AI](#) with control over [nuclear missiles](#), releasing [The Virus](#) in a field test, administering [Super Serum](#) to criminals, or the use of machines [Powered by a Forsaken Child](#). His natural enemy will be the [Suit with Vested Interests](#).

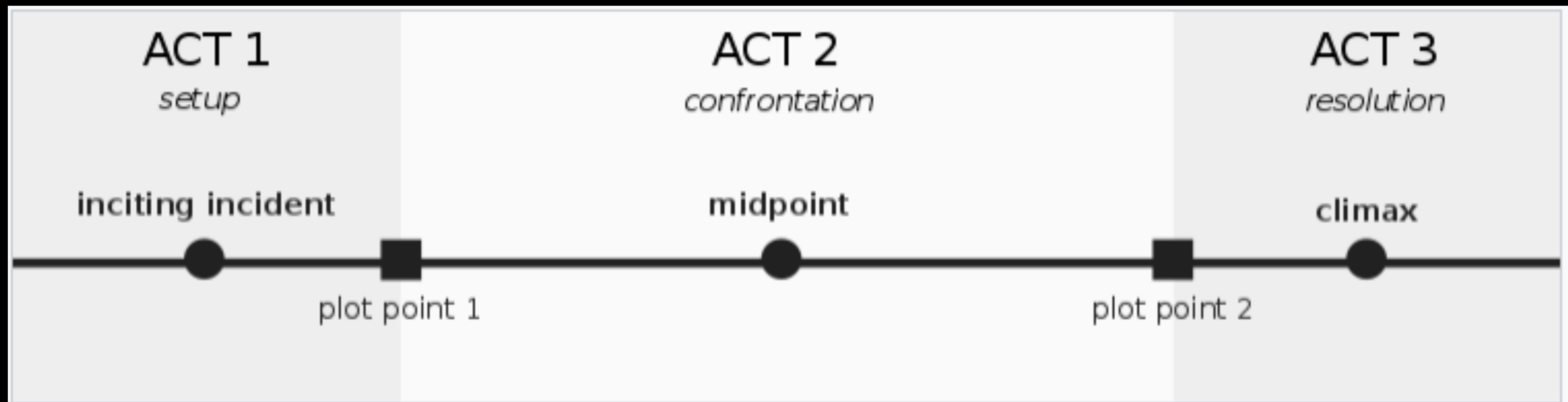
If the Ignored Expert himself created the phenomenon he is warning against, he's the [Reluctant Mad Scientist](#). May or may not be a [Conspiracy Theorist](#) whose his claims and warnings turn out to be right.

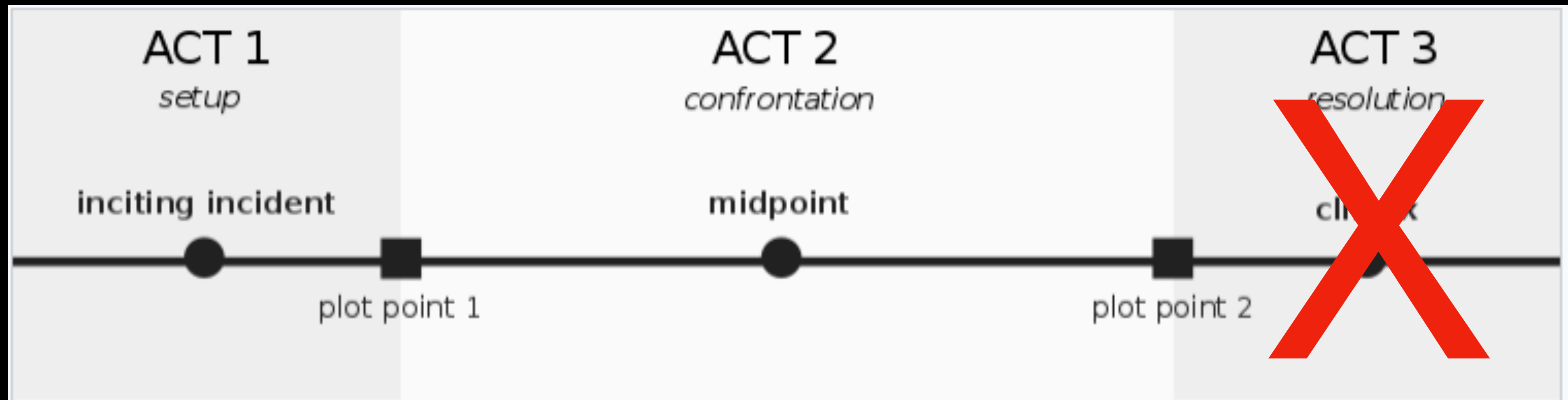
This trope was previously named after [Superman's](#) father, Jor-El, a Kryptonian scientist whose dire warnings that their home planet [would die](#) were ignored. Famously, he managed to [save his son](#), Kal-El, by putting him on an escape pod and sending him to [one of the most successful media franchises in history](#).



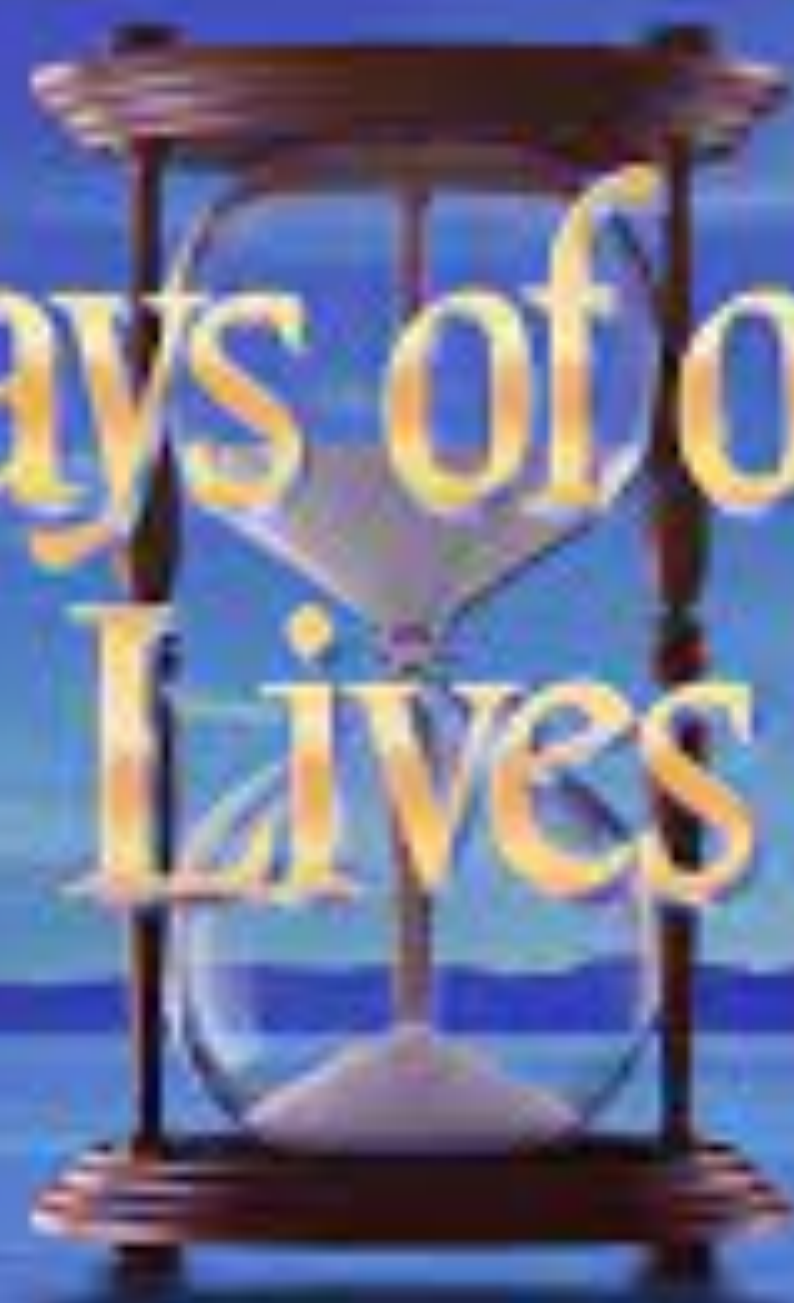
And yet it blows. ☹

I'd like a tattoo that is popular with people who want to be different.





Days of our Lives



Wish-Fulfillment

Follow

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Using the control that being a writer affords to create a story that addresses one or more outcomes that the author wishes would come about; that is wish fulfillment. [There is nothing at all wrong with this, in and of itself](#). If [Real Life](#) fulfilled every psychological need we human beings have, we probably would not want to write fiction at all. Nor is there anything *inherently* unhealthy about using fantasy to compensate for a deficiency in [Real Life](#); as long as one avoids becoming a [Daydream Believer](#), [Escapism](#) and fantasy and Wish Fulfillment are healthy ways a human psyche can deal with dissatisfaction.

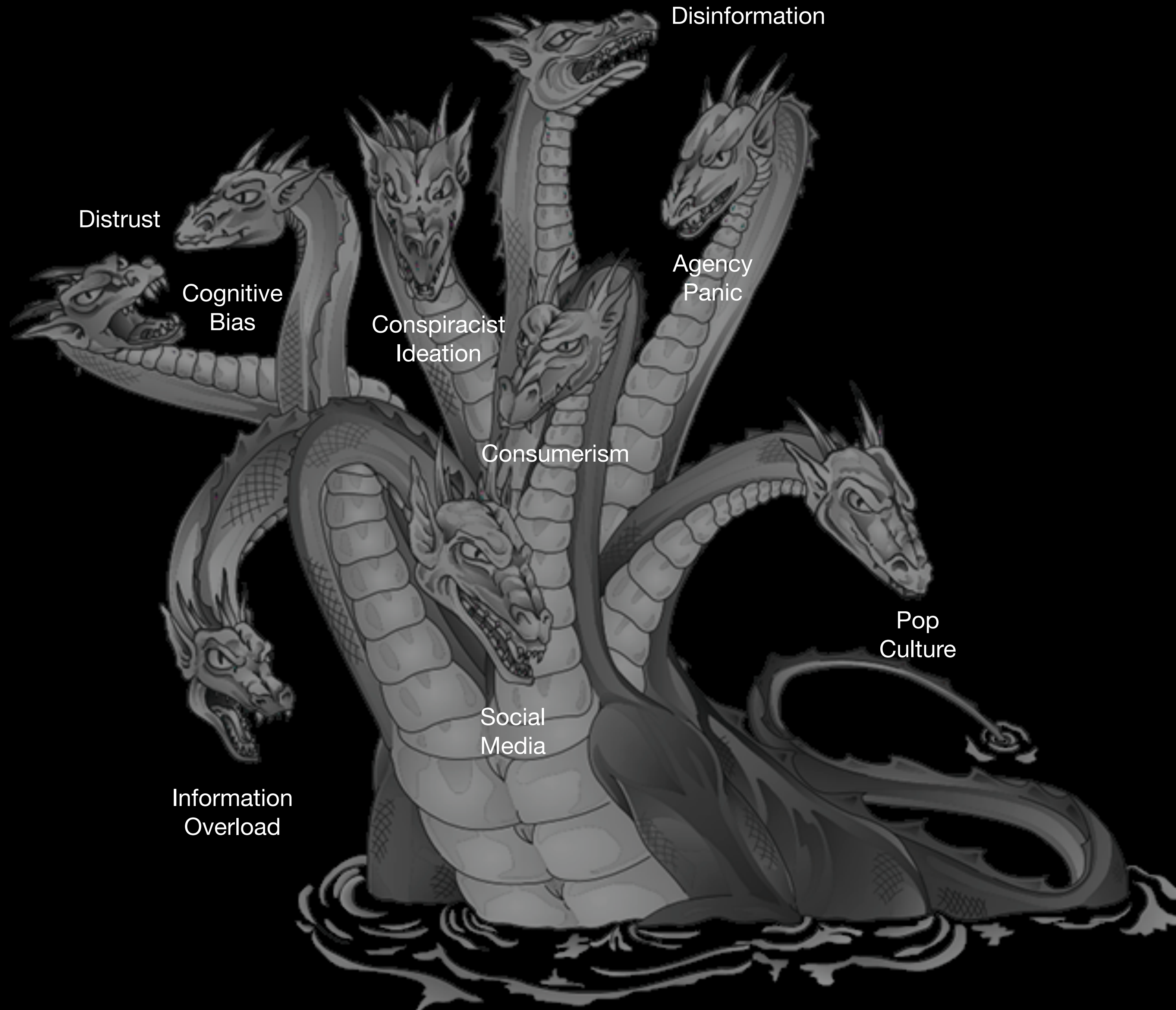
Human beings have needs, and some of these needs are psychological in nature. This is an undeniable fact. When a person's [Real Life](#) does not provide all of these psychological needs, they can turn to fiction in order to provide for these needs. For instance, someone lives a very boring life going to an utterly mundane job and has no excitement at all. Said person's need for variation and stimulation is not being catered for. Thus, this person might feel very attracted towards stories where an [otherwise-normal person they can easily relate to suddenly becomes an extraordinarily powerful being and is thrust into a wild and thrilling series of events](#).

This, in turn, is why people sometimes defend fictional characters [as if they were real](#), because they are not defending the character but idealized versions of themselves and/or embodiments of their values. An attack on the character is seen as an attack on traits they (the real person) *personally possess and/or admire*.

While it's a neutral term and an undeniable part of fiction in general, wish fulfillment is rarely mentioned in a positive light in reviews. Usually, bringing up the term suggests that the author sacrificed quality in plotting, pacing, characterization, etc. in order to facilitate their **own** wishes. However, it is entirely possible to have Wish Fulfillment stories that are still fluid and well-written; but **be careful**- do it too much, and it stops improving the story and just becomes indulgent instead. The conclusion being: don't worry too much about using these tropes as long as you pay particular care to that balance.

It is also possible for a work to be [Wish-Fulfillment](#) for the audience either, instead of, or as well as the author. People whom the work targets will be more willing (to a point) to suspend their disbelief over [certain aspects](#) of the work if it





The End