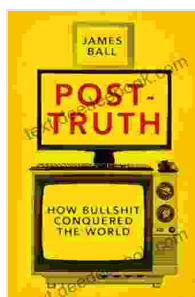


Post-Truth: How Bullshit Conquered the World

In a post-truth world, facts don't matter as much as feelings and beliefs. This has led to a rise in the spread of misinformation and the erosion of trust in institutions and experts.

The term "post-truth" was first coined by Steve Tesich in a 1992 essay. Tesich wrote that in a post-truth world, "truth is no longer a precondition for belief." He argued that this was due to the rise of mass media and the decline of traditional sources of authority.



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by James Ball

★★★★☆ 4.5 out of 5

Language : English

File size : 909 KB

Text-to-Speech : Enabled

Screen Reader : Supported

Enhanced typesetting : Enabled

Word Wise : Enabled

Print length : 320 pages



In recent years, the term "post-truth" has been used to describe the current political climate in the United States and around the world. The election of Donald Trump in 2016 was seen by many as a watershed moment in the rise of post-truth politics. Trump has repeatedly made false statements and has shown a disregard for the truth.

The post-truth phenomenon is not limited to the United States. It is a global trend that is being fueled by the rise of social media and the decline of traditional media. Social media platforms like Facebook and Twitter allow people to share information quickly and easily, but they also provide a breeding ground for misinformation and propaganda.

The post-truth phenomenon has had a number of negative consequences. It has led to a decline in trust in institutions and experts. It has also made it more difficult to have informed discussions about important issues.

There are a number of things that can be done to address the post-truth phenomenon. One important step is to increase media literacy. People need to be able to identify and evaluate information so that they can make informed decisions about what to believe.

Another important step is to support independent journalism. Independent journalists are less likely to be influenced by political or corporate interests. They can provide the public with accurate and unbiased information.

Finally, it is important to encourage critical thinking. People need to be able to think for themselves and to question the information that they are presented with. They need to be able to identify bias and to evaluate the credibility of sources.

The post-truth phenomenon is a serious problem, but it is not insurmountable. By working together, we can create a more informed and more truthful world.

Causes of Post-Truth

There are a number of factors that have contributed to the rise of post-truth politics. These include:

- * The rise of social media: Social media platforms like Facebook and Twitter allow people to share information quickly and easily. However, they also provide a breeding ground for misinformation and propaganda.
- * The decline of traditional media: Traditional media outlets like newspapers and television news have been in decline for a number of years. This has led to a decrease in the amount of accurate and unbiased information available to the public.
- * The increasing polarization of society: Society is becoming increasingly polarized, with people on both the left and the right becoming more entrenched in their views. This makes it more difficult to have informed discussions about important issues.
- * The rise of populism: Populist leaders often appeal to people's emotions and fears. They are more likely to use rhetoric that is divisive and misleading.
- * The decline of trust in institutions: Trust in institutions like the government, the media, and the scientific community has been declining for a number of years. This makes it easier for people to believe false information.

Consequences of Post-Truth

The post-truth phenomenon has had a number of negative consequences. These include:

- * A decline in trust in institutions and experts: People are less likely to trust institutions and experts when they believe that they are not telling the truth. This makes it more difficult to address important issues.
- * An increase in the spread of misinformation and propaganda: In a post-truth world, it is easier for misinformation and propaganda to spread. This can have a number of negative consequences, such as:
- * It can lead to people making

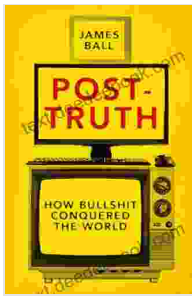
decisions based on false information. * It can make it more difficult to have informed discussions about important issues. * It can erode trust in institutions and experts. * It can polarize society. * A decline in the quality of public discourse: In a post-truth world, it is more difficult to have informed discussions about important issues. This is because people are more likely to dismiss information that they don't agree with as "fake news."

Addressing Post-Truth

There are a number of things that can be done to address the post-truth phenomenon. These include:

* Increasing media literacy: People need to be able to identify and evaluate information so that they can make informed decisions about what to believe. This can be done through education and training. * Supporting independent journalism: Independent journalists are less likely to be influenced by political or corporate interests. They can provide the public with accurate and unbiased information. * Encouraging critical thinking: People need to be able to think for themselves and to question the information that they are presented with. They need to be able to identify bias and to evaluate the credibility of sources. * Promoting a culture of respect and tolerance: It is important to create a culture of respect and tolerance in which people are willing to listen to and consider different viewpoints.

The post-truth phenomenon is a serious problem, but it is not insurmountable. By working together, we can create a more informed and more truthful world.



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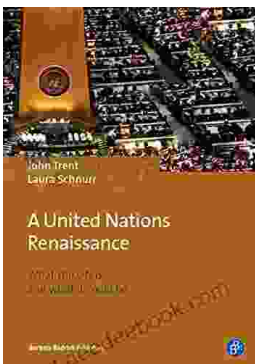
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