Is democracy up to the challenge?

The New York Times

President Trump's War on Science

By The Editorial Board

The Progressive

"OTTO MAKES A CASE THAT CAN'T BE REFUTED. HERE'S HOPING VOTERS EVERYWHERE TAKE HIM SERIOUSLY—SOON." —BILL NYE

THE WAR ON SCIENCE

WHO'S WAGING IT

WHY IT MATTERS

WHAT WE CAN DO ABOUT IT

SHAWN OTTO

FOREWORD BY LAWRENCE M. KRAUSS

Christine Todd Whitman: Why a Former Bush Official Says Trump has Declared a War on Science

University of Washington

Trump administration is fighting a war against science

John Richard Schrock 12 October 2019

United States government actions violate and deny bona fide science on an "almost weekly" basis, according to a report released in early October.

Trump Issues Executive Order that Could Result in Rejection of Scientific Advice

SPECTRUM NEWS

Week 130: Trump Takes His War on Science on the Road

Administration relocates science jobs, refuses to fill others, and lifeline to polluters (while silencing citizens).

Trump's order to trim science advisory panels sparks outrage

WGBH NEWS

ISDA Relocation Is Part Of Trump War On Science,' Says Corby Kummer

shawnotto.com
“Wherever the people are well informed they can be trusted with their own government...”

The fundamental argument for democracy
The argument is starting to erode
It’s not just Trump.
Thomas Jefferson
Scientist-Statesman
on democracy

“WTF?!!”

“Wherever the people are well informed they can be trusted with their own government…”

1. Complexity
2. Objectivity
3. Grievance-Identity
A matter of know-how has become a matter of belief.

1. Complexity
2. Objectivity

Journalists have embraced subjectivity even as we gain more objective knowledge than ever


We only do something if we can do it better than anyone or if no one else is doing it.
* We must add value. We must be unique.
Three things to remember for each story:
* Context
* Authority
* Not just what is happening, but what it means
There is no such thing as objectivity.
* There is such thing as fairness.
* But everyone sees everything through their own filter. Acknowledge that, let it liberate you. Let it regulate you.
* We are not guided by political identification, by ideology or dogma. But every decision we make, from what to cover to how to cover it, is made through our own subjective judgments.
* We are guided by an ability to be transparent and independent, to clearly assess what’s going on in our community and have the courage to plainly state the truth.
2. Objectivity

Journalists have embraced subjectivity even as we gain more objective knowledge than ever.

**Journalism**

Linda Ellerbee
Co-host of NBC News Overnight, ABC’s Our World, and Nickelodeon’s award-winning Nick News

“We report news, not truth. There is no such thing as objectivity.”

**Propaganda**

Margarita Simonyan
Editor-in-chief News and pro-Russia propaganda network RT.

“All journalism is opinion. This is only a matter of degree.”

Quoted in a 2015 interview with Kommersant FM radio, Moscow
3. Grievance-Identity

Worldwide social media publishing platforms editorially reward bias.
Suzie Scientist: I can show with these apples that Paul Postmodern is objectively wrong.

Paul Postmodern says 2+2=6

Suzie Scientist says 2+2=4

Media Marcel says two sides to every story.

Irrefutable Evidence:

传导电流

\[ 2^2 = 4 \]

\[ 2 + 2 = 6 \]
Politicians: How about a **compromise**? New law: \(2+2=5\)

Edenco gains from their manipulation, but the environment is degraded. Citizens on **both** sides feel **embittered**, and **loyal** to their tribe.

shawnotto.com
A Little Fairy Tale

“The system is rigged!”

IT’S A HOAX!
THEY’RE STUPID,
BAD, GREEDY,
AWFUL PEOPLE
A Little Fairy Tale

Lessons learned?

Complexity  Objectivity  Grievance-Identity

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Thank you for listening.

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