

## Solving America's Problems: It's Simple

America's problems are many. They seem complex. But careful analysis reveals a single root cause. Once that root cause is identified, it can be extirpated. Here's how.

Growing inequality and divisions within our society underlie all our problems and frustrate efforts to solve them. These problems cannot be solved by the free market, which is, indirectly, actually a contributing cause.

Government is the only vehicle for addressing widespread social problems. Today, it is paralyzed by partisanship and unable to achieve legislative majorities favoring solutions to our greatest problems (and opportunities). The government has been corrupted and broken down.

- ☛ That's because our politics has broken down, dividing the parties into warring factions.
- ☛ That's because the electorate has itself been divided into warring factions in alternate realities.
- ☛ That's because communications media build and support alternate realities for each faction.
- ☛ That's because owners of influential media can make more money feeding hate and division.

**Aha! The American system of laissez-faire capitalism makes sowing hate and division profitable!!!** This is the critical insight of our analysis: The profitability of divisiveness is the root cause of all our problems.

That suggests the single most powerful way to address our problems:

- ☛ **take away the profit from broadcast and social media derived from inciting public harm through hate and division.**

But, you say, freedoms of speech make this nearly impossible.

Nearly, yes, but *not completely* impossible! Freedom from liability does not extend to speech likely to cause "clear and present danger" (*Schenck v. United States*, 249 U.S. 47 (1919)). To take the profit out of media promoting hate and division, then, we must associate socially harmful communications tightly with a clear and present danger that withstands judicial challenge.

This can be done.

Versions of libel and slander laws can be extended to instances of *public* harm. Such harm would have to be validated by class actions of individuals proving to a jury that specific communications played an essential role in the causation of the harm suffered. Once proven, the original source and *intentional spreaders* of the proven harmful content can be held financially or criminally responsible. This would catch click-baiters, targeting algorithms, and propaganda broadcasters.

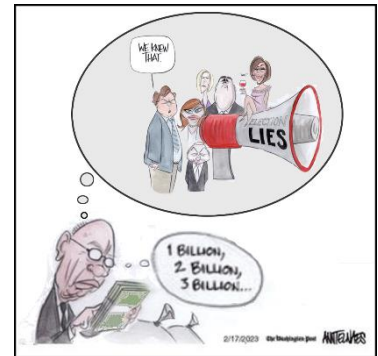
By making harmful communications significantly risky, the profit incentive for creating outrage-based divisions will atrophy.

With less divisive, truth-bending communications, alternate realities cannot be maintained. Without alternate realities, extreme divisiveness cannot be sustained. Without extreme divisions within the electorate, extreme partisanship in our politics will attenuate — especially if complemented by voting reforms that eliminate such anti-moderating processes as gerrymandering, closed primaries, voter suppression and vote-counting shenanigans (and constitutional changes as noted [here](#)).

With the attenuation of extreme partisanship in our politics, more effective government becomes possible. With more effective government, our society's real problems can be addressed.

**It's that simple! We must take the profitability out of harmful communications.**

A carefully executed plan of creating and publicizing class action litigation by the survivors of those lost to propagandized vaccine hesitancy should do the trick!



**A thought experiment:** What would a Fox News with a Tucker Carlson have done to the '60s civil rights movement?