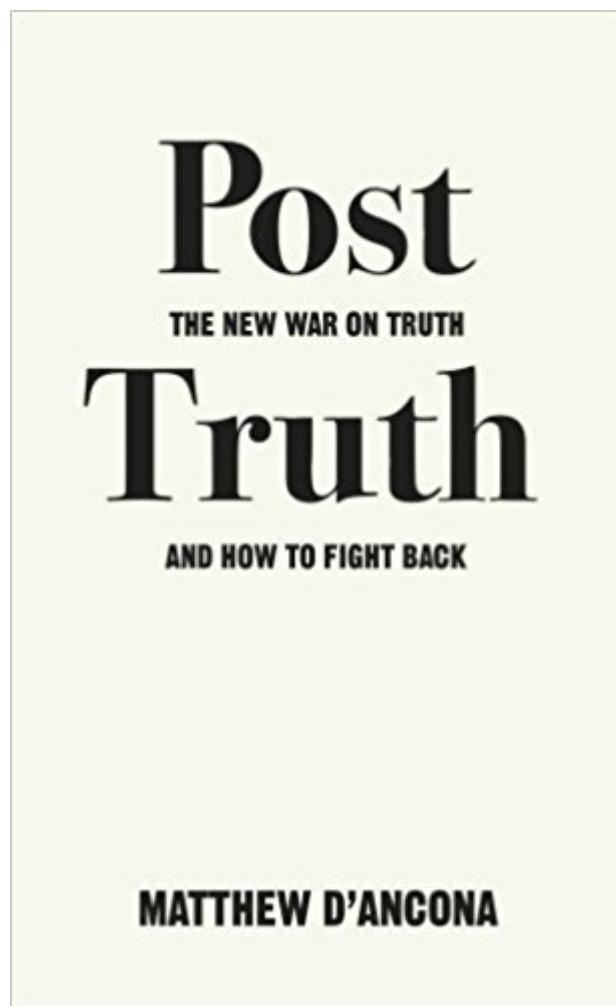


The book was found

Post-Truth: The New War On Truth And How To Fight Back



Synopsis

Welcome to the Post Truth era? a time in which the art of the lie is shaking the very foundations of democracy and the world as we know it. The Brexit vote; Donald Trump's victory; the rejection of climate change science; the vilification of immigrants; all have been based on the power to evoke feelings and not facts. So what does it all mean and how can we champion truth in a time of lies and "alternative facts?" In this eye-opening and timely book, Post Truth is distinguished from a long tradition of political lies, exaggeration and spin. What is new is not the mendacity of politicians but the public's response to it and the ability of new technologies and social media to manipulate, polarise and entrench opinion. Where trust has evaporated, conspiracy theories thrive, the authority of the media wilt and emotions matter more than facts. Now, one of the UK's most respected political journalists, Matthew d'Ancona investigates how we got here, why quiet resignation is not an option and how we can and must fight back.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"D'Ancona's punchy polemic asks questions that are urgently topical and undeniably important." *Guardian* "To anyone who is invigorated by urgent writing, Matthew d'Ancona's work is as startling as a cold shower." *Observer*

Matthew d'Ancona is a British journalist and broadcaster. He writes a weekly column for the

Guardian and was previously editor of the Spectator. He also contributes regularly to the BBC's Today program. Matthew was the Sunday Telegraph's political columnist for 19 years. He also writes for the Evening Standard, the New York Times and GQ. Matthew is a visiting research fellow at Queen Mary University of London and author of several books including *In It Together: The Inside Story of the Coalition*. He is a Trustee of the Science Museum Group, chair of the think-tank Bright Blue and was elected a Prize Fellow of All Souls College, Oxford, in 1989.

In November 2012, Mark Thompson, the former Director General of the BBC, delivered, as part of his Humanitas Visiting Professorship in Rhetoric and the Art of Public Persuasion at Oxford University, a series of three lectures there entitled "The Cloud of Unknowing". The theme of Thompson's lectures was the degeneration of public discourse and particularly of political language in contemporary democratic politics, with the latter becoming more effective as an instrument of political persuasion but less effective as a medium of explanation and deliberation. To illustrate the way in which public language is increasingly prone to exaggeration and paranoia, Thompson examined in some detail Sarah Palin's reference to Obamacare's alleged "death panels" (which d'Ancona also references). Thompson's insights (later worked up into his 2016 book "Enough Said. What's Gone Wrong with the Language of Politics") were extremely prescient. Since 2012, the phenomenon of post-truth expression, and particularly Fake News, has become a mainstream concern given the misrepresentations of the EU referendum campaign and, above all, the election of Trump as 45th President of the United States. There has accordingly been a flurry of books on the subject. Matthew d'Ancona's book being subtitled "The New War on Truth and How to Fight Back". Incidentally, whilst d'Ancona's fairly brief book is amply footnoted it does not contain a bibliography, and there is no reference anywhere in the text to Mark Thompson's pioneering work. D'Ancona's mission is threefold: to expose the

the ÂfÂ¢ÂA â ¬Ã Â“plutocratic, political and algorithmic firepowerÂfÂ¢ÂA â ¬Ã Â• of the Post-Truth stakeholders are varied and plausible and his call to the barricades genuinely rousing, although his faith in satirists to ÂfÂ¢ÂA â ¬Ã Â“act as picadors in the fight against Post-TruthÂfÂ¢ÂA â ¬Ã Â• is almost certainly over optimistic. As Peter Cook was fond of pointing out, Weimar Berlin had the worldÂfÂ¢ÂA â ¬Ã Â„cs most sophisticated political cabaret but that did nothing to stem the rising tide of fascism. In the final analysis, setting aside all the shortcomings outlined above, this is a well-written, wide-ranging, informative and thought-provoking book which will be very appealing to those who share its authorÂfÂ¢ÂA â ¬Ã Â„cs wish ÂfÂ¢ÂA â ¬Ã Â“to defend Enlightenment values.ÂfÂ¢ÂA â ¬Ã Â• I just wonder if, considering the persistence of religious values, the advent of ersatz religions such as Marxism and fascism and of pseudo-sciences like Freudianism, or even the enormous popularity of activities like gambling, rationalism has ever been quite as firmly entrenched as he assumes.

Short and to the point! Very Insightful!

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