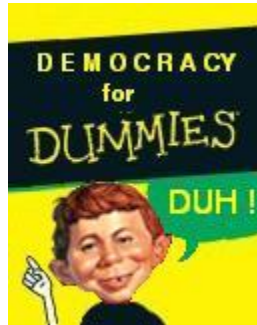


09 SEP 2008

Deception and Delusion: Dummies for Democracy

by Joel S. Hirschhorn



I confess. I believe there is a ruling class that sustains the two-party plutocracy running the nation for the benefit of the rich and corporate class. Their broad strategy is deception and delusion. Tactically, they use government, the mainstream media, the financial services sector, funding of politicians and the two major parties, and many other parts of the culture and economy to maintain their power and control.

Elections do not threaten elites. To the contrary, political debate and elections are important to maintain the illusion and delusion of a real democracy. They are key to prevent outright revolution, marginalize dissidents and political reform efforts, and suppress third parties. Would power plutocrats allow election of a president that threatened their control? Of course not. And no Democratic or Republican presidential candidate ever poses a real threat despite cloaking themselves with labels like maverick, reformer or change agent.

If you accept my worldview, then you know that the ruling class would prefer John McCain over Barack Obama, though they can live with Obama, which is why many, many wealthy people and corporations have poured money into the Obama's campaign and the recent Democratic convention. The chief disadvantage of Obama and Sarah Palin, from the rulers' perspective, is their relative brief stints as politicians. It takes time to corrupt politicians and cement their dependency on and membership in the ruling class. In contrast, McCain and Joe Biden clearly have shown themselves reliable in protecting the status quo two-party plutocracy.

The best way to view most current events is through the prism of the ruling class. Take lower gas prices and the federal takeover of the two mortgage giants Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac. Both occurred relatively soon before the general election, as has far better information about the Iraq war. Manipulation and engineering of national and even world events are designed to serve the interests of the ruling class.

Why does deception and delusion work so effectively? When it comes to politics, current events and history, the vast majority of citizens are uninformed, stupid and dumb, regardless of their educational level. As distracted and compulsive consumers, they fall head over hills for political lies and slick campaign rhetoric.

First, consider younger voters. So much talk is about the increased interest in this presidential campaign by younger people, especially evident in the Ron Paul and Obama campaigns. But consider these facts: For those age 18 to 29 just 20 percent read newspapers and just 11 percent

regularly surf the Internet for news. Most of what people know about candidates' positions on the issues comes from what they learn from unreliable and all too often misleading 30-second commercials. Despite far more widespread and extensive schooling, people today possess no more political knowledge than their parents and grandparents. And don't think that those addicted to The Daily Show and its irreverent view of politics are a lot smarter than those favoring The conservative O'Reilly Factor show. In both groups, only about 54 percent of the shows' politicized viewers scored in the high knowledge category.

Propaganda and misinformation really work. Just prior to the 2003 invasion of Iraq some 60 percent of Americans believed that Iraq was behind the 9/11 attack. But here is the kicker: A year later there was a wealth of information, including the 9/11 Commission report, saying that Iraq had nothing to do with the 9/11 attack. Yet an amazing 50 percent of Americans still believed that Iraq was to blame, and may still think so. As Rick Shenkman, author of *Just How Stupid Are We? Facing the Truth About the American Voter*, concluded: "By every measure social scientists have devised, voters are spectacularly uninformed." Guess who takes advantage of the stupidity of voters, especially younger ones.

If people can believe Obama when he says that the election is not about him but about them, then they also can believe McCain when he says he is a proven change agent and reformer.

The only real difference between Obama and McCain is exactly how they will screw the public and benefit the rich and powerful if elected, not whether they will. If the electorate was really intelligent, they would understand and focus on the similarity between the two, rather than their professed differences. It is what they share – obedience and loyalty to the two-party plutocracy – that matters the most. As long as voters do not understand this, the oppression and destruction of the middle class will continue, despite people thinking they are free and live in a democracy.

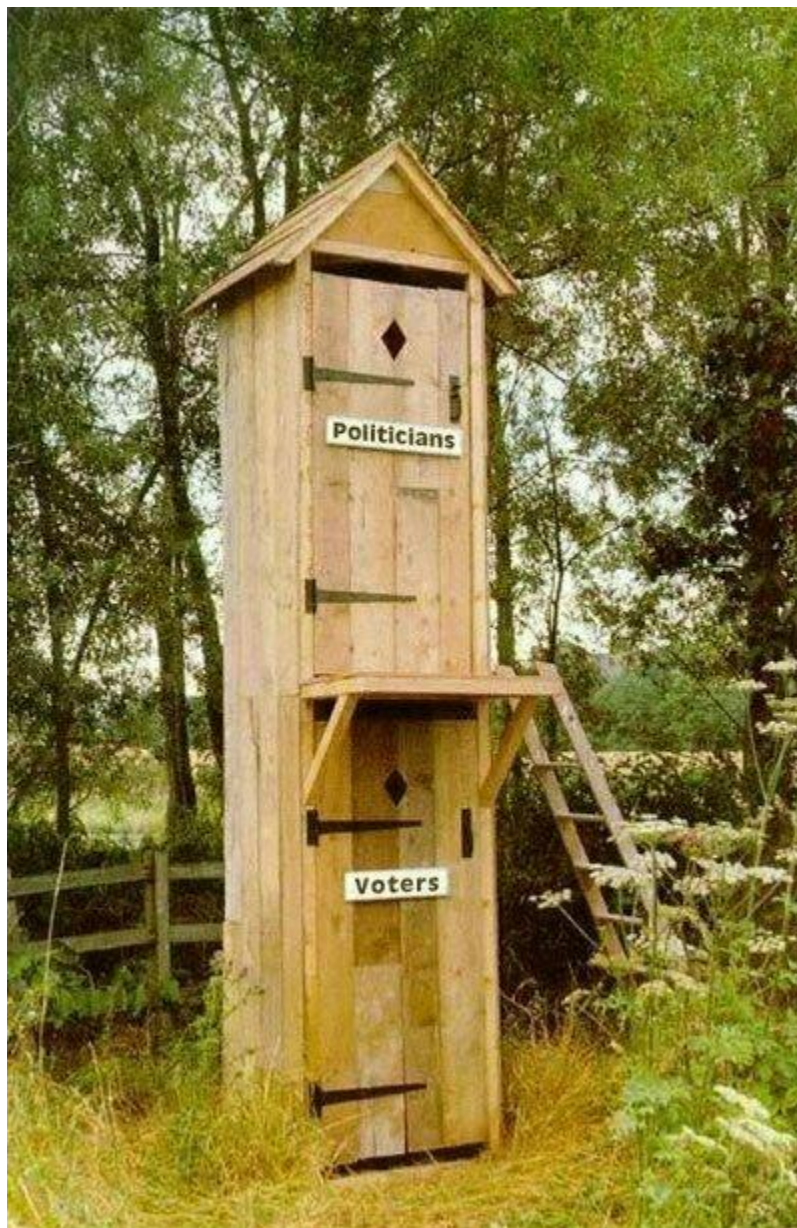
Mostly, Americans are free to remain vulnerable to deception and delusion.

Democracy for dummies is what we have and what the majority deserve. For the rest of us the difficult challenge is to find ways to fight the political system that are not marginalized and only satisfy our egos. As long as you are an enthusiastic supporter of any Democrat or Republican you are a willing participant in our fake democracy. Most voters persist in believing in the myth that some Democrat or Republican can and will reform the political system, fix the economy, and restore American democracy. They refuse to face the painful truth that this is simply not true. They rather keep embracing the delusional myth.

Consider these wise words of John F. Kennedy: "The great enemy of the truth is very often not the lie – deliberate, contrived, and dishonest, but the myth – persistent, persuasive, and unrealistic. Belief in myths allows the comfort of opinion without the discomfort of thought."

And so millions of Americans suffering from habitual stupidity will cast their votes confident that they have discovered the truth. Like the march of the penguins diving into icy water without thinking they have any other choice, they succumb to the big myth that this year cost about \$1 billion to keep alive. These voters are dummies for democracy. The rest of us will vote for Ralph Nader or some other third party candidate, or refuse to vote at all, and seek ways to ignite the Second American Revolution.

Politicians and media people often praise the smart public and smart voters as if they inevitably make the best, most intelligent and informed electoral decisions. This is sheer hype designed to maintain the political status quo. There is only one smart fact: Every single Democrat and Republican candidate lies. Why do they keep lying? It works.



Not too smart, is it ?
So why continue to re-elect them over and over and over ?

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EVERY politician lies - show me Ron Paul's lies

I mean it. The man has been a Congressman for 20 years, and you can pretend he is inconsistent in pork (voting against the expenditure but for his district's share of the fund if it goes through) if you want to, and I won't waste time arguing it although I disagree with it.

Show me a single lie.

Unfortunately, his lack of ego driving to corruption also means he has no clue how rare that is and how much that itself inspires people to vote away from the two corrupt parties as 'lip service' to ideals never will. In that one

case, the man is the message. You may disagree with it, but I don't see how you can honestly argue that he is insincere.

However, I agree there is no meaningful difference between the two main party candidates, however, which is why I will be voting 3rd party this year for the first time in my life if my vote for Ron Paul won't be counted.



Most serious Ron Paul lie

Joel
S.
Hirschhorn

In my opinion when Paul has proclaimed he is a champion for the Constitution it is a lie. Why? Because if it was true, then Paul would have become a strong advocate for obeying Article V and its option of a convention of state delegates to consider proposals for constitutional amendments. The Founders placed this option in the Constitution because they anticipated that Americans would lose trust and faith in the federal government and they wanted a means outside the three branches of the federal government to enact changes in the supreme law of the land. Be clear, the one and only requirement given in Article V for having a convention has long been satisfied, because some 600 applications from all 50 states have been submitted to Congress. But Congress has refused to obey their oath of office and the Constitution. Interestingly, many of Paul's favorite government reforms could only be achieved through constitutional amendments that Congress has never and will never propose. Learn the facts about the Article V convention option at www.foavc.org; also the only place where you can read actual state applications...

Bill
Walker

One more point about Ron Paul

Joel is being polite about Ron Paul and his lies. I am not so polite. Joel did not mention that in 2006 Ron Paul, along with all other members of Congress joined in a federal lawsuit, in criminal violation of their oath of office, as admitted by their attorney of record the Solicitor General of the United States, to assert under the political question doctrine the members of Congress, including Paul, had the right to veto or ignore the Constitution of the United States.

Paul has stated on countless times he supports the Constitution. In fact, his whole political career is based on this assertion. The facts are he joined a lawsuit to assert the exact opposite. It is a matter of public record and can be read in full at www.foavc.org FAQ pages, FAQ 9.1.

I think this proves Ron Paul lies given the centerpiece of his whole political campaign can be shown to be an outright lie based on easily checked public record.

[Bill
Cain](#)

Omission is the Greatest Lie

It was Orwell who said that "omission is the greatest lie", and everyone -including Paul and Kucinich - is guilty of this.



[William
H. White](#)

Undermining the Power Elite

Your analysis is spot on. One way to undermine what C. Wright Mills called the "Power Elite" is to give voters real power, by passing, through initiative petitions, Voter Consent Laws. And doing it with effective slogans that advance a seemingly simple idea, but with the power to disrupt the current electoral shell game.

See: [Real Change Means Changing Our Elections to Office](#)

Your indictment is absolutely correct and wonderfully written, but I think the real trick is to figure out how to take some of that power back. Our ruling elites do not have absolute power and they make mistakes. For example, as you know, the American Revolution was really about one ruling class in England being replaced by another in America; however, the slogans about liberty and equality used to sell the fight to poor farmers has haunted them (Washington, Adams, Hamilton, et al) ever since.

Most fundamentally because some such as Jefferson and Madison really believed it and a brilliant piece of propaganda call "Common Sense" seized control of the message. Now, I think we have a shot a replacing "No taxation without representation" with "Legitimate consent requires the ability to withhold consent", or something like that.

We CAN leverage their hypocrisies against them, especially now with so many feeling the country is on the wrong track and we have this moment, likely brief, when the internet is still both powerful and free. So I am asking you to help because you manifestly have the clarity of mind and powerfully simple prose to make a real difference. Lets follow up the diagnosis with a treatment, and make them howl.