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Not A Scientist: How Politicians Mistake, Misrepresent, And Utterly Mangle Science



Synopsis

An eye-opening tour of the political tricks that subvert scientific progress. The Butter-Up and Undercut. The Certain Uncertainty. The Straight-Up Fabrication. Dave Levitan dismantles all of these deceptive arguments, and many more, in this probing and hilarious examination of the ways our elected officials attack scientific findings that conflict with their political agendas. The next time you hear a politician say, "Well, I'm not a scientist, but I'll be ready." you'll be ready. 6 photographs, figures

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

• "This deliciously mordant critique [is] a key handbook for an era of 'alternative facts' and pressures on research." - Barbara Kiser, Nature
• "Levitan's anecdotes range from the ridiculous to the terrifying . . . If it were up to me, it would be required reading for all congressional staffers working on issues related to science, engineering, and technology." - Sheril Kirshenbaum, Science
• "A clever, timely guide to the sneaky ways sleazy politicians bamboozle us on climate change and other scientific issues. Ernest Hemingway said every good writer needs a built-in, shockproof BS detector, and now thanks to Dave Levitan we can all have one." - Dan Fagin, author of the Pulitzer Prize-winning Toms River
• "Read Dave Levitan's bare-knuckled book for insight into the manipulations and distortions by anti-science politicians who have chosen to act as advocates for vested corporate interests rather than the people they're supposed to represent." - Michael Mann, Distinguished Professor, Penn State University, and co-author of The

Madhouse Effectâ œWith this compelling and enjoyable book, Dave Levitan may have put the "I'm not a scientist" line out to pasture for good. While I expect politicians may not read it, the public should! Science issues will be at the heart of every important decision our new President makes.â • - Lawrence M. Krauss, theoretical physicist and author of The Greatest Story Ever Told . . . So Farâ œLevitan's level-headed examination of these rhetorical gymnastics is a vital antidote to and warning against a dangerous, regressive future. A no-holds barred takedown of political idiocy and the terrifying reality of science denial.â • - Kirkus Reviews

Dave Levitan is a journalist whose work has appeared in the Philadelphia Inquirer, Scientific American, Slate, and many other outlets. He lives near Philadelphia with his wife.

Too partisan. This book focuses exclusively on distortions of science by Republicans while in fact both parties have been egregiously guilty of such abuse of the scientific corpus for political gain. I would hope that the next effort of this sort would be a more non-partisan effort.

Great book that so many people should read. Delves into how we as a nation and globally are not trusting of scientific results due to politicians hands in studies and changing and manipulating for their own short term gains. A must read.

This is an informative and entertaining read. As a scientist and a teacher, I will be using this in my general education classes. Well-researched and well-written.

Well researched. Easy to understand. Engagingly explained. Everyone needs to read & discuss in order to listen critically to politicians when they tout their party line instead of speaking truthfully.

Very well written and timely in this age of Trump. Would recommend it to those who get frustrated with politicians attempting to use science as an argument for their agenda.

We've all seen how so many of the current crop of politicians habitually misstate the facts. Dave Levitan examines the various ways in which they do so, separating those ways into twelve categories. I might take issue with his characterizations; but the usefulness of this book is that it presents examples of politicians making incorrect and often absurd claims about all manner of scientific findings, from human health to renewable energy. It's not the first book to do that, of

course. But it is one of the most accessible I've read.

Definitely worth reading. This book is needed now, more than ever. The impact of falsehoods relating to science is frightening. In order to hold those in power accountable, we need well-written and researched books like this. Well-done.

Essential reading and makes really good points.

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