

duplicity with devastating mendacity. It's worthwhile then to speculate about some of the procedures of (sleight-of-hand) adhered to by the political magicians of our time – what set of practices allow them success in managing their audience while they unswervingly pursue their **deceptive goals**.

Here then, structured along the lines of a magician's guide to audience **misdirection** are the rules of political **misguidance**: 1. The people's minds will follow the media's focus & the media will follow the official focus. 2. Hide one movement with another. Use a dramatic movement to draw their attention. 3. Keep them occupied with your interpretation of events. 4. Make them afraid. 5. Use sweeping generalizations in your declarations. Create trepidation in your opponents by using vague but ominous descriptions when profiling their aims. 6. Conceal the crucial information. The art of ruling requires secrecy. Your opponents cannot determine with certainty whether your actions are based on lies or on "classified info" only available to you. 7. Spin a good story. It doesn't have to be the truth, if it's plausible & captures their attention. Feel free to **mix lies with truth** – it really doesn't matter if you're caught. If they point to the lies, you point to the true parts – blame the lies on faulty intelligence. 8. Keep the momentum going no matter what. If they discover a part of your deception, deny their explanations & keep on with what you're doing. 9. Restrict their freedom. First take care of steps 4 & 5. Then tighten the screws on political & legal rights – institute monitoring & surveillance – grant your govt special powers to circumvent the existing legal & justice systems. Tell people this is for their own protection. 10. Keep a few aces up your sleeve. Hold them for when the show goes wrong & the audience grows restless. Produce an ace as & when necessary. Make a big show of the ace production – milk it for all you can. 11. Stay one step ahead of the media. They're **inefficient at actually doing any real investigating**.

Like the audience at a magic show, many of us **willingly suspend our disbelief** & accept the illusions at political rallies. As for the masses of people, we're simply parameters that need to be managed & controlled & kept ineffectual while the equation plays itself out. We're an audience whose attention is to be directed while the "great" goals are relentlessly pursued. Politicians believe that the art of politics is to satisfy the seekers after favors and to mollify the inchoate mass with noble sentiments and patriotic phrases.

It requires a determined effort to break out of the boundaries of the mass-media box. Breaking out of the **shallowness** of the box is even harder. Complexity, depth, & real fairness don't sell easily & readily (except to a minority). Most people do **not** desire their discussions of

TO VOTE OR NOT TO VOTE...THAT'S THE QUESTION?

political current events to be framed by history, philosophy, metaphysics, or ethics.

Most politicians need to be on 'Dancing With the Stars' the way they dance around questions. Pre-election guffaw is like a preview of coming attractions in terms of the **not-speaking-from-principle** politicians we have to deal with. Some of the candidates make you realize that **stupidity is not a handicap**.

It is useless to look to modern-day democracy for the cessation of strife when it is itself based on strife. Countries need persons who fear God at the helm. However, religious people are timid & delude themselves that they are serving God. **The jugular vein of the religious body is politics**. It's why Jesus challenged the Pharisees & why Moses challenged Pharaoh; it's why Muhammad (p) challenged the Quraish. Leadership by these Prophets (p) was a directive from God. True Religion – It's the only way to correctly guide a nation. The world needs less politics and more spirituality. Politicians deal with effects and do not go to the ultimate root of most matters, that root which lies in human ignorance and sinfulness. However, politics plays a necessary part in modern life. It would be impossible in this era to do away with it. The remedy is to purify, uplift, & inspire political activities. This can be done by those who have attained some spirituality, through their descent into the political arena.

Religious "leaders" hide behind the political masquerade. Requesting crumbs of "benefits" from godless politicians whilst neglecting the plateful of blessings at God's Divine Banquet Table. Politicians are adept at demonstrating the art of making a statement without saying anything. A satanic art... "I **promised but my promises were deceptions**." Fluff. Violating God's statement of "Speak words that are direct & straight."

Muhammad, Prophet of God, demonstrated **NONE** of the above political deception currently in vogue by nicely dressed suit-and-tie politicians. He ruled with God's Law & when he spoke **his words meant everything**. Politicians need to urgently study his art of ruling. He taught that politics is not a matter of ruling over the people or of exercising power... **it is the performance of service to people**, contributing to the welfare of the people. In the book "The 100" Michael Hart stated that **Muhammad was the only man in history who was supremely successful on both the religious & secular levels**. *Disagree?* Based on what? Ignorance & prejudice? Politicians need to study the amazing development of the city of Madina under the leadership of Muhammad (p). **Those "religious leaders" who genuflect to politicians must be pitied.**

Elections have created this war-ravaged world, this world of economic strangulation, a world of fork-tongued politicians. Apply the truthful way of Muhammad (p) to bring the much needed peace & happiness that belongs to humanity. **Sacred Politics!** Unlike the "scared politics" practiced by evil power-seekers.

Is there a better way? **Parliamentary University!** ...with a sacred touch. Where only the brightest minds & moral souls serve the populace. How many politicians have taken sexual favours from gullible girls & boys; taken bribes? Many do **not** deserve their positions?

The driving faith of politics has become the notion that the toxic mixture of moral hypocrisy & unfettered greed is a formula for "victory." **The discontent sweeping the planet is born out of the paralysis of traditional political institutions & the iron tyranny of global finance.** Finally let's reflect on Khalil Gibran's words...

**Are you a politician asking
what your country can do for you
or a zealous one asking
what you can do for your country?
If you are the first,
then you are a parasite;
if the second,
then you are an oasis in the desert.**

You Must USE the BALLOT, too!

**We have scores of men,
Bold and earnest, brave and true,
Fighting with the tongue and pen,
And we value what they do.
But, my friends, To gain our ends,
You must use the ballot, too.
Politicians, votes in mind,
Smiling, affable and kind,
All use camouflage to-day.
As you go upon your way,
Walk with caution, move with care;
Camouflage is everywhere!
When we tell about our cause,
Politicians only smile;
While they mould and make our laws,
What care they for rank or file?
"Preach and pray," They sneer and say;
"We'll make laws the while."
We want men who dare to fling
Party ties and bonds away;
Who will cast them off, and cling
To the RIGHT, and boldly say,
"No evil notes shall get our votes."
Then shall our cause gain the day.**

**For those looking for
security, be forewarned**

Politics
**that there's nothing more insecure
than a political promise**

In his book, **Propaganda**, published in 1928, Edward Bernays wrote that the "intelligent **manipulation** of the organised habits & opinions of the masses was **an important element in democratic society**" & that the **manipulators** "constitute an **invisible government** which is the true ruling power in our country." Instead of propaganda, he coined the euphemism "public relations." Be careful when politicians wax poetic about "democracy." **This farce is no better than a blind & mechanical counting of heads.** Political wisdom & justice have become mere functions of a numerical majority. Democracy, a **pseudo-religion**, is a weak form of govt in which people are merely counted & **not weighed**. Politics is all drama, outrage & a clash of opinions & is compelling fare. **Real content** takes a back seat to **uninformed** emotionally stated ideological opinion & intense verbal battles. In the end there's an **illusion** that one is better informed on a given topic when in fact all that's likely to have occurred is polarization or replacement of intellectual consideration with emotional opinion. Emotive terminology & phraseology, whether in the form of patriotic statements, affected outrage, strongly proclaimed determinations, indignant righteousness, or appeals to trust & faith instead of real questioning & investigation – all these have the effect, **not** of truly informing, **but** of restricting & delimiting thinking within certain parameters. It's **not** so much the control of what we think, **but** the control of what we think **about**. Politicians appeal to passions & prejudices rather than to reason, and is in all respects, persons of intrigue & deception, of sly cunning.

**Political power, cut adrift from religion,
is a deadly poison; wedded to religion,
it is an antidote for all poisons.
Gandhi confirms this: "Those who say
religion has **nothing** to do with politics
do **not** know what religion is."**

If a man like Muhammad were to assume the leadership of the modern world, he would succeed in solving its problems that would bring it the much needed peace & happiness

We do not need to redefine or resculpt Islam into an activist religion; it has always been a religion of pragmatic solutions to real problems.

We need more theology, not less.

We need more godly politicians.

How right was the Russian writer Maxim Gorki: “It is necessary to lift oneself above politics. Politics has always a **repugnant** character because it is inevitably founded **on the lie, the calumny, & violence.**” **One could add cynicism & hypocrisy.** In the **hallowed** Quran, God, the One politicians love to hate because His words expose them for who they truly are, says: “**The powerful among the unjust speak out words of promise only to lead-on & deceive. What they have brought is deception. God will make it come to nothing....and will show the truth to be the truth...though the guilty may be averse to it.**”(35:40) Their abominations can’t be committed with a clear conscience, anymore. This verse exposes their net of lies.

The statesmen, rulers, or politicians by whose decisions history itself is now being made, who control tremendous power, are the ones who need guidance and wisdom, prophetic warning and personal awakening if they are not to lead their nations – and with them all mankind – into the abyss of colossal catastrophe.

Let’s look into current day deceptive politics, starting with these descriptions: Politics, n:Poly “many” + ties “blood-sucking parasites.” So apt. It is the art of getting votes from the poor & campaign funds from the rich by promising to protect each from the other. Orwell summed it up like this: **politics is a mass of lies, evasions, folly, hatred & schizophrenia.** Whatever benefit has come from politics physically has had to be paid for spiritually, for it has **poisoned** human relationships.

Socrates held a low view of politics. He did not believe it had any room for complete honesty, justice, and

truth. It was a clash of egos and a struggle for power. His opinion of the multitude, their ethical standards and quality of correct judgement, was equally low. But he believed it possible, given enough time, to lift them up and persuade them to follow better ways. This was, however, a matter for working upon a few individuals at a time, not publicly and politically but privately.

When Plato came to comprehend that politicians could not improve the character of the people by their activities, when he saw that **politics did not conduce** towards pursuit of the good, he gave up meddling in it altogether.

Politics in our time has come to mean the **numbing** quietude of the polling booth, the **deadening** platitudes of petition campaigns & political oratory, car-bumper & T-shirt **sloganeering**, the **contradictory** rhetoric of manipulative politicians, the **spectator sports** of public rallies & the larger-than-life posters that **assault** our senses. All **hollow** political theater that has replaced genuine politics.

The **master political propagandist**, like the **advertising expert**, follows Hitler’s words: “Through clever & constant application of propaganda, people can be made to see **paradise** as **hell**, and also the other way round.” The propaganda buzz words of today are undoubtedly ‘**freedom**’ & ‘**democracy**,’ extolled ad nauseum, yet rarely discussed in substance.

The devilish political propagandist circulates “intentionally biased” information. They know that **partial truths serve as more effective instruments of deception than lies.** They have thoroughly debased & devalued political language, creating the mere appearance of value & legitimacy. Trying to impress the public with statistics of economic growth. By using accurate details to imply a misleading picture of the whole, the artful propagandist, **makes truth the principal form of falsehood.** Such “work” will not be blessed: “Its **worthless. God does not uphold the work of those who practice corruption.**” (Quran 10:81) **Truth cannot be devalued. It is the only real building block in the architecture of a moral society.**

Even the best institutions can give a person no active help. Perhaps the most they can do is to leave them free to develop themselves & improve their individual condition. In all times people have been prone to believe that their happiness & well-being were to be secured by means of political institutions rather than by their own

conduct. It becomes pertinent to quote from God: “**Truly, God does not change the condition of a people until they change what is in themselves.**” (Quran 13:11) Hence the value of political legislation as an agent in human advancement has usually been **much over-estimated.**

By voting for a president once in every five years, however conscientiously this duty may be performed, can exercise **but little** active influence upon any person’s life & character. The function of Govt is negative & restrictive, rather than positive & active; being resolvable principally into protection – protection of life, liberty & property. Laws, wisely administered, will secure people in the enjoyment of the fruits of their labour, whether of mind or body, at a comparatively small personal sacrifice. No laws, however stringent, can make the **idle industrious**, the **thrifless provident**, the **drunken sober**, the **immoral moral.** Such reforms can only be effected by means of individual action & self-denial; by **better habits driven by spirituality**, rather than by greater rights. Where is the moral/spiritual message in the AIDS campaign? “Use a condom” is a message of governmental immorality & irresponsibility.

The Government of a nation itself is usually found to be but the reflex of the individuals composing it. **The noble people will be nobly ruled, and the ignorant & corrupt, ignobly.** The worth & strength of a State depend far less upon the form of its institutions than upon the character of its people. For the nation is only an aggregate of individual conditions. Civilization itself is but a question of the personal improvement of the men, women & children of whom society is composed.

National progress is the sum of individual industry, energy & uprightness, as national decay is of individual idleness, selfishness & vice.

When our governments want to sell us a course of action, they do it by making sure it’s the only thing on the agenda, the only thing everyone’s talking about. They pre-load the ensuing discussion with highly selected images...and prejudicial language, dubious linkages, weak or false “intelligence” & **selected “leaks”.** With the ground thus prepared, politicians are happy if you then “**use the democratic process**” to agree or disagree. Their intention is to mobilize enough headlines & conversation to make the whole thing **seem** “real & urgent.”

Propaganda. It strikes at psychological weak points & presses all the right buttons necessary to

reprogram whole populations. The best example is when the Nazis reprogrammed a whole population of decent Germans into a massive killing machine by **pressing the buttons of fear, insecurity & bitterness** through carefully constructed artwork & speeches. The Americans have become a massive killing machine by pressing the same buttons. Politicians worldwide use the same tricks. Fear. Insecurity. Bitterness. It would be nice if it didn’t work that way. That people form all their conclusions based on logical reasoning, but it does work that way, and most people aren’t logical.

Propaganda (emotional & intellectual fraud) has been raised to a high art. It has infiltrated all forms of media & social situations. To see with the eyes of the masses — that is the whole secret of effective propaganda. When a parent tells a child that all individuals of “X” type are evil, that’s **propaganda.** Banners & flags extolling a presidential candidate is **propaganda** but speaks in a dead language because most people do not believe it. When TV anchors convince us that whole nations, cultures, religions, or races are evil, that’s **propaganda.** When big business convinces us that it has our interests covered better than our constitution or govt, that’s **propaganda.**

In politics there is widespread **double-talk** & publicly upheld **untruth.** Organized politics cannot save the world from the ruin that awaits it. We may wish them well in their attempts but we cannot help seeing facts which all history causes us to see.

“**A politician is a professionally dishonorable man. In order to get anywhere near high office he has to make so many compromises & submit to so many humiliations that he becomes indistinguishable from a streetwalker.**” Mencken

Like a magician working his sleight-of-hand deceptions to deceive & misdirect the eye, political sleight-of-hand artists work their deceptions to deceive & misdirect a society’s collective mind & attention. The **mass media** provide the stage on which the theatre of deception unfolds & on which the audience’s rapt attention remains focused. It’s large scale spectacle, full of drama & emotion, fear & prejudice, ideological politics & dubious aims, but ultimately hollow & bitter as these magicians are not working a benign entertainment but applying deceit &

Whoever does not Judge & Rule according to what God has Revealed, such are the disbelievers

Quran: 5:44

Charlie Chaplin noted: “I remain just one thing, and one thing only – and that is a clown. It places me on a far higher plane than any politician.”

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