

Bias & logical fallacies go together like love & marriage

IMPLICIT BIAS

WHAT WE DON'T THINK WE THINK



Why biases and fallacies of logic exist

- Our brains are trying to make sense of the world
- Having beliefs, guidelines, and rules are organizing concepts
- These create certain actions and reactions in our quest to survive and make the world make sense to us



Appeal to tradition

- Things were better back in the “Good Old Days”
- Ignores what was not so good back then
- Might also be called the “Rose-Colored Glasses Syndrome”



Barnum effect

- We cannot accept randomness, so there has to be a plan or a director for everything
- We look for causes and reasons where they may not exist
- Sometimes easy, if inaccurate, answers are accepted
- Conspiracy theories can be another result



Backfire effect

- Challenging someone else's beliefs usually does not make them question those beliefs
- On the contrary, their beliefs are strengthened by the challenge
- This is also known as Defensiveness



Blind loyalty

- Our side says it is right, so it must be right
- Putting loyalty above truth and conscience
- “My country, right or wrong”



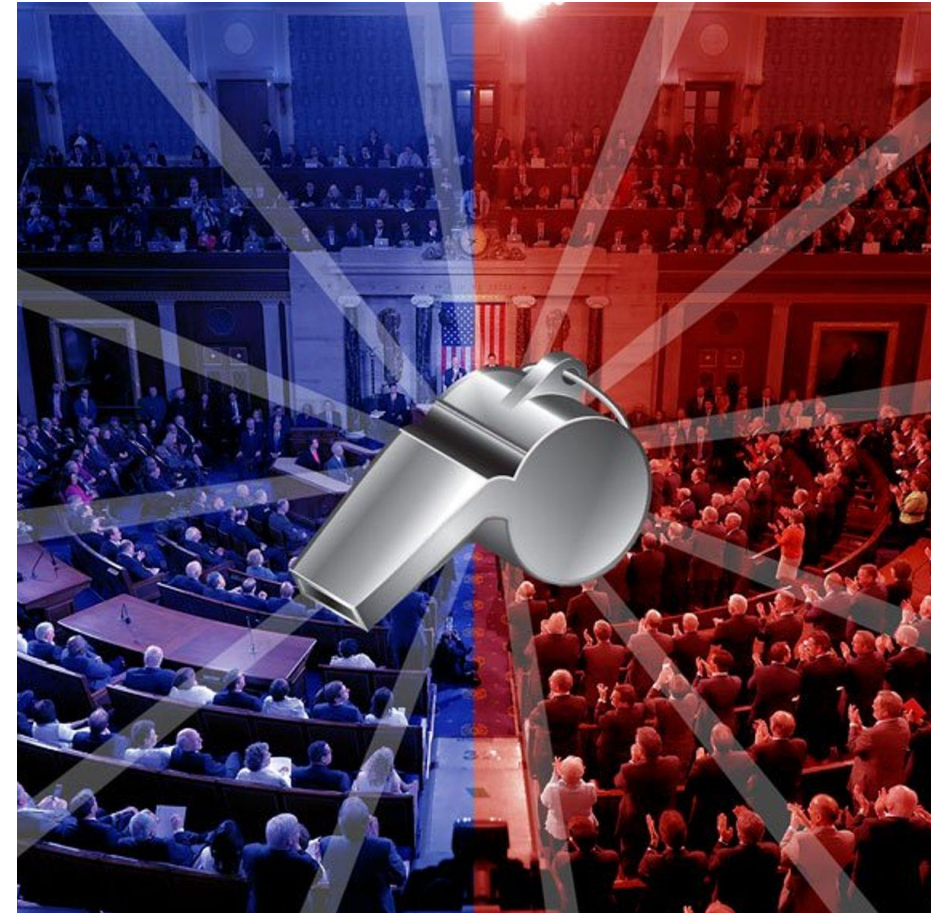
Confirmation bias

- You hate broccoli
- You read or hear something negative about broccoli
- You think, “I always knew broccoli was bad!”
- Your brain accepts and incorporates anything negative about things you already dislike



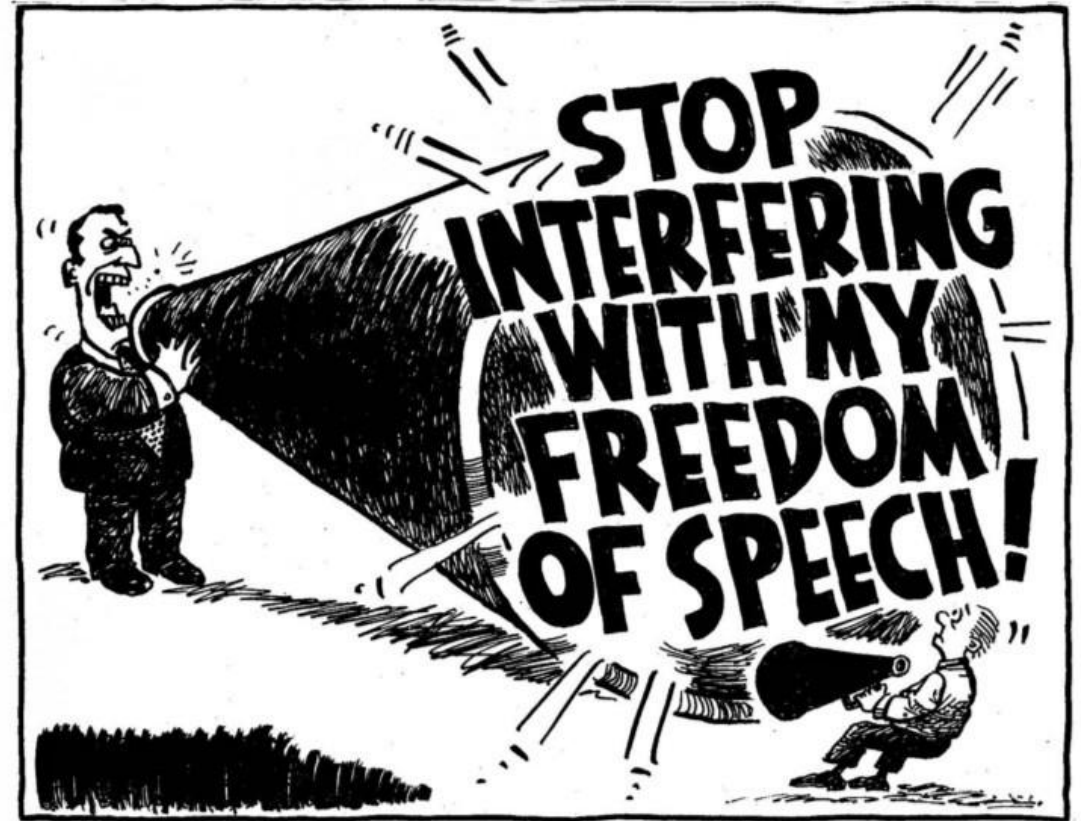
Dog-whistle politics

- Words, slogans, or phrases intended to arouse and incite supporters
- Can reflect biases or stereotypes of others
- Sometimes the ideological appeal is concealed or just hinted



Free speech fallacy

- Freedom of speech is sometimes used to justify any speech or idea
- It is also used to justify “Safe Places” where no opposing beliefs are allowed



Fundamental attribution

- Blaming other people or their characteristics for their failures
- Assigning causes for conditions even though we know nothing about the person or situation except what we can see superficially



In-Group bias

- Favoring someone in our own group
- Viewing someone not in our group as fundamentally different
- This can cause suspicion and false beliefs



Identity fallacy



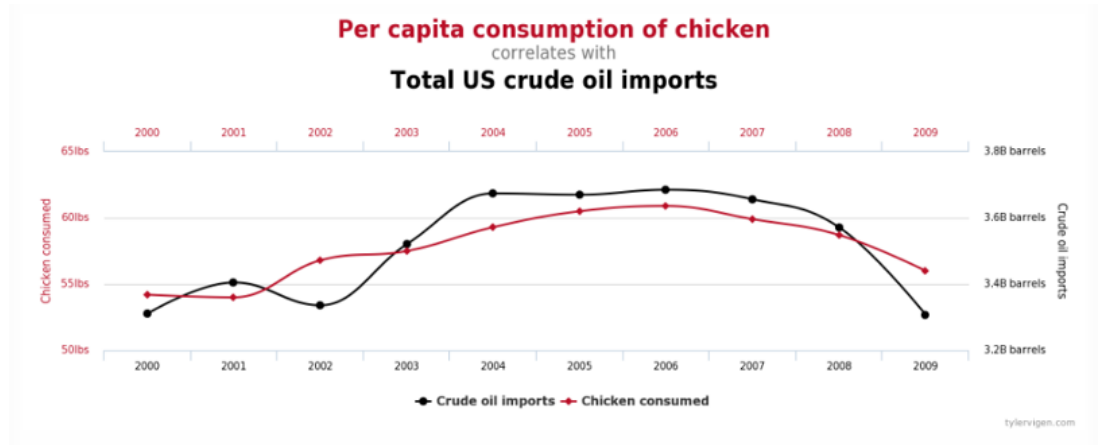
Moral superiority

- God is on our side, therefore, we are in the right
- The German Army used the slogan “Gott mit uns” (God is with us) for many years
- Including World War II



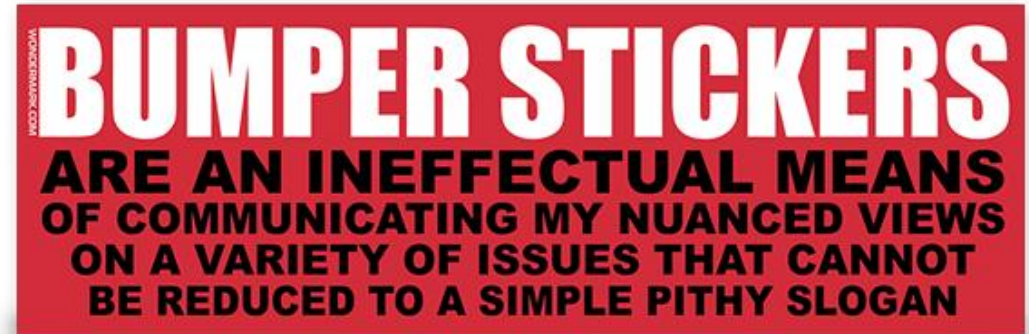
Post Hoc correlation

- Consumption of chicken and crude oil imports follow a similar pattern
- Chicken and oil have nothing to do with each other
- Correlation does not equal causation



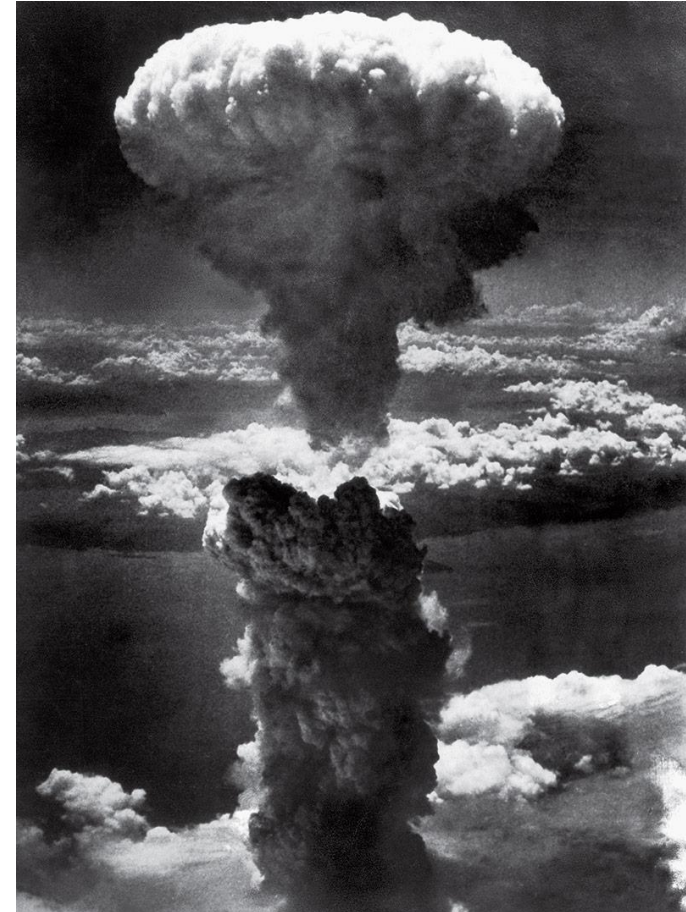
Reductionism

- Oversimplifying by relying on catchphrases and slogans
- Offering very easy solutions to complex problems



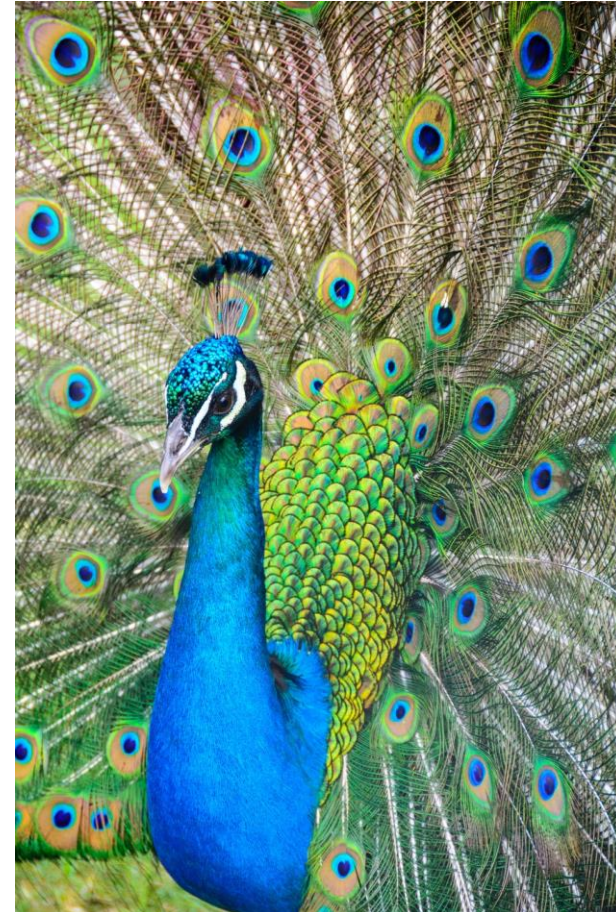
Scare tactics

- We have to do _____ to avoid Armageddon
- We are justified in doing anything to prevent bad things from happening to us



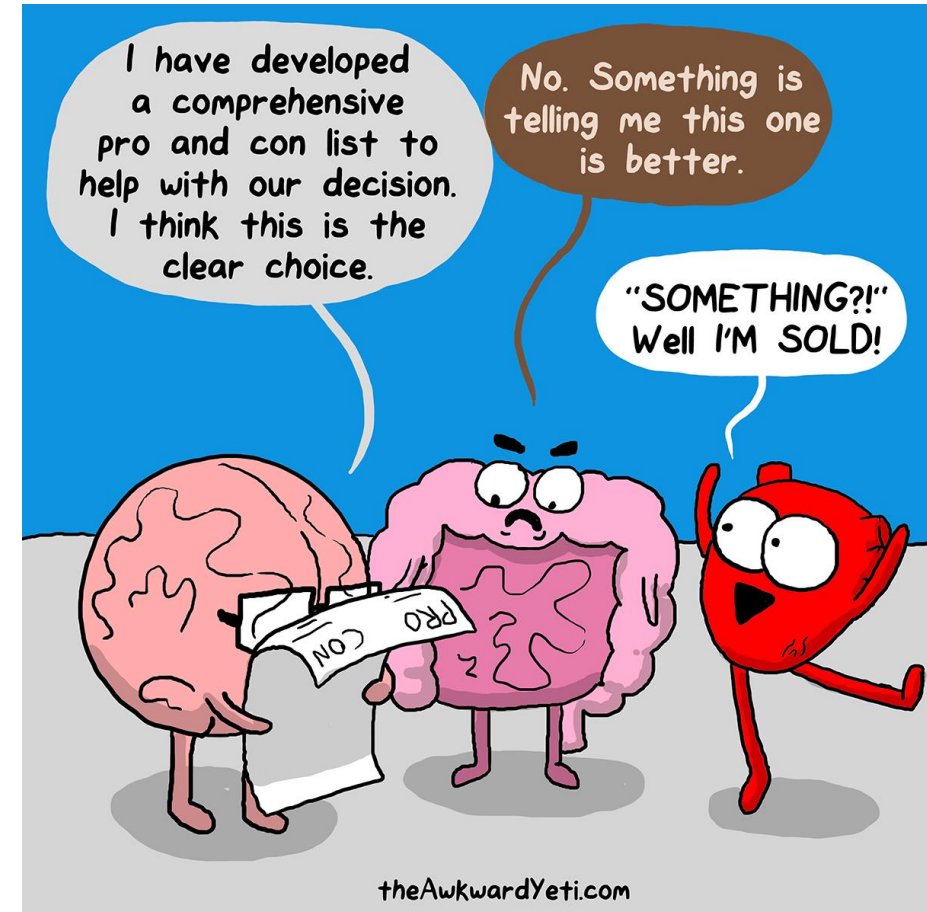
Self-serving bias

- The peacock thinks he is the grandest bird in the land
- He must be deserving of everything
- Anything that helps oneself is viewed as good
- “Looking out for Number 1”



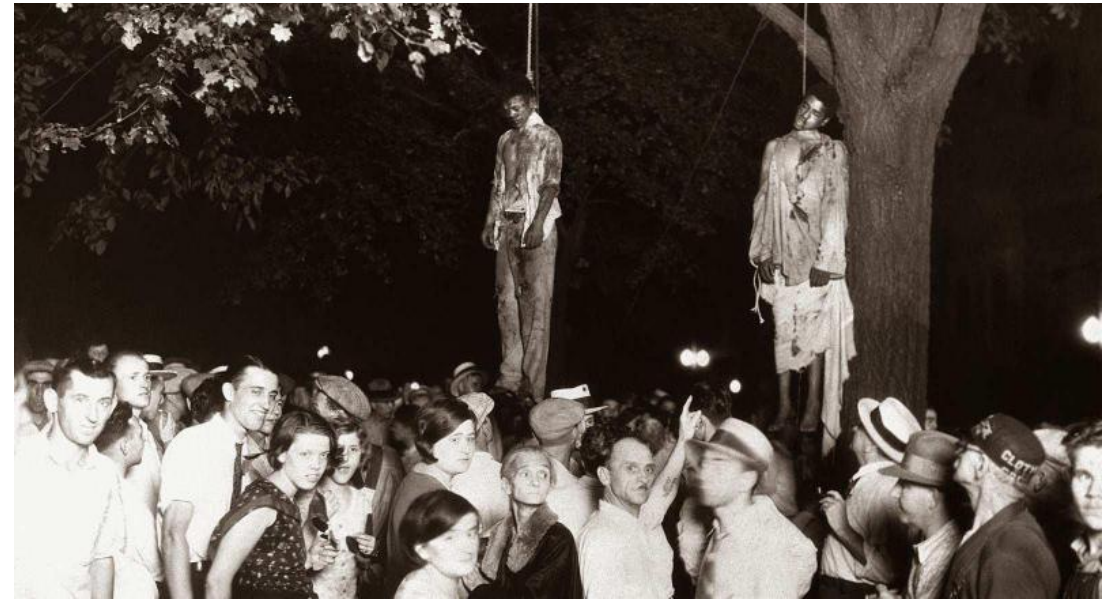
Trust your gut fallacy

- Going “with your gut” can mean:
- Ignoring facts
- Ignoring science
- Ignoring expert advice
- Ignoring anything external to you
- Ignoring negative consequences



Wisdom of the crowd

- If a majority of people agree on something, that makes it right
- The majority of people in a given situation may not necessarily be right
- In the extreme, “wisdom of the crowd” can become mob mentality
- This mob thought they were right to do this



This is just a sampling of biases and logical fallacies.

- For much more, see:

[Master List of Logical Fallacies by Owen M. Williamson](#)

References

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Created: 2019 December

Revised: 2021 January