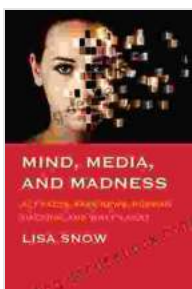


# Alt Facts, Fake News, Russian Hacking, and What Next: A Comprehensive Guide

In the wake of the 2016 US presidential election, the terms "alt facts," "fake news," and "Russian hacking" have become ubiquitous in our political discourse. These terms are often used interchangeably, but they actually refer to distinct phenomena.

In this article, we will explore the complex web of alt facts, fake news, Russian hacking, and their implications for the future of democracy. We will begin by defining these terms and discussing their origins. We will then examine the role that these phenomena played in the 2016 election and discuss the challenges they pose to our democratic institutions. Finally, we will offer some recommendations for how to combat alt facts, fake news, and Russian hacking.

The term "alt facts" was coined by Kellyanne Conway, a counselor to President Donald Trump. Conway used the term to describe statements that are not supported by the facts, but that are nevertheless presented as true. Alt facts are often used to justify policies or actions that are unpopular or controversial.



## Mind, Media, and Madness: Alt Facts, Fake News, Russian Hacking, and What's Next by Deborah Plisko

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

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For example, Conway claimed that the crowd size at Trump's inauguration was "the largest audience to ever witness an inauguration, period." This claim was contradicted by photographs and videos of the event, which showed that the crowd was significantly smaller than the crowd at President Obama's inauguration. However, Conway continued to insist that her claim was true, even after she was presented with the evidence to the contrary.

Alt facts are a dangerous threat to our democracy. They undermine trust in our institutions and make it difficult to have informed debates about important issues. When people are presented with two conflicting sets of facts, they are likely to believe the one that confirms their existing beliefs. This can lead to polarization and gridlock, making it difficult to find common ground and solve problems.

The term "fake news" is used to describe stories that are intentionally created to deceive people. Fake news stories are often spread through social media and other online platforms. They are often designed to look like real news stories, but they contain false or misleading information.

Fake news stories can have a significant impact on public opinion. They can be used to spread propaganda, promote hate speech, or even influence elections. For example, during the 2016 US presidential election, Russian trolls created and spread fake news stories about Hillary Clinton.

These stories were designed to damage Clinton's reputation and help Trump win the election.

Fake news is a serious threat to our democracy. It can mislead voters, undermine trust in our institutions, and even lead to violence. It is important to be able to identify fake news stories and to be critical of the information that we consume.

The term "Russian hacking" refers to the Russian government's efforts to interfere in the 2016 US presidential election. These efforts included hacking into the computer systems of the Democratic National Committee and the Clinton campaign. The Russians also used social media to spread fake news stories and propaganda.

The Russian hacking was a clear attempt to influence the outcome of the election. The Russians wanted Trump to win, and they used a variety of手段 to try to make that happen. Their efforts were successful, and Trump won the election despite losing the popular vote.

Russian hacking is a serious threat to our democracy. It shows that our electoral system is vulnerable to foreign interference. It is important to take steps to protect our elections from future attacks.

Alt facts, fake news, and Russian hacking are all threats to our democracy. These phenomena can mislead voters, undermine trust in our institutions, and even lead to violence.

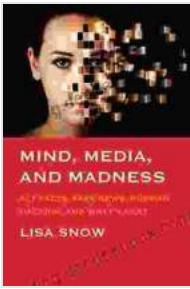
It is important to be aware of these threats and to take steps to combat them. We need to be critical of the information that we consume, and we need to be able to identify fake news stories. We also need to support our

democratic institutions and make sure that they are able to withstand foreign interference.

The future of democracy depends on our ability to address these challenges. If we can do that, then we can build a more informed, engaged, and resilient democracy.

Here are some recommendations for how to combat alt facts, fake news, and Russian hacking:

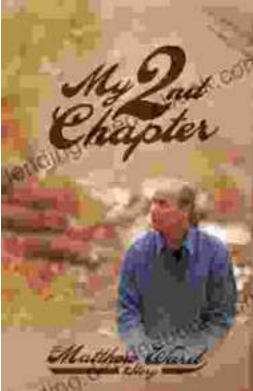
- **Be critical of the information that you consume.** Don't just believe everything that you read or hear. Question the source of the information and consider whether it is credible.
- **Be aware of your own biases.** We all have biases, and they can influence the way that we perceive information. Be aware of your own biases and try to avoid letting them cloud your judgment.
- **Support independent journalism.** Independent journalists are essential for holding those in power accountable and for providing the public with accurate information. Support independent journalism by subscribing to newspapers and magazines, and by donating to organizations that support independent journalism.
- **Educate yourself about the threats to democracy.** The more you know about the threats to democracy, the better equipped you will be to combat them. Learn about alt facts, fake news, Russian hacking, and other threats to democracy.
- \*\*Get



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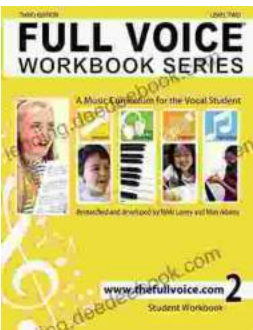
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