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★ Lies that Kill: A Citizen's Guide to Disinformation.

By Elaine Kamarck and Darrell M. West

Aug. 2024. 160p. Rowman & Littlefield, \$27 (9780815740728); e-book (9780815740735). 320

In the last decade, public discourse in America has become increasingly contaminated by aggressive disinformation campaigns to mislead the public in order to advance certain political or financial agendas. Kamarck and West examine this phenomenon in *Lies That Kill*, showing that in many instances the book's title is not hyperbole—many public figures have been threatened with or been the victims of violent attacks perpetrated by people motivated by false information spread by malicious actors. The authors make the point that disinformation is spread not only by conservative Republicans and malicious foreign agents but, to a much lesser degree, left-wing Democrats. They examine how disinformation, spread with lightning-fast efficiency on the internet and many social-media platforms, poisons discourse on election integrity, public health, race relations, and other vital issues. Thankfully, they conclude with a final chapter detailing how the government, various agencies and think tanks, and the general public are detecting—and can detect in the future—false narratives and arrive at some semblance of truth. Everyone, whether they work in the public sector or are private citizens, will find this book invaluable.

- Gary Day

YAVC: Students navigating the ever-changing media landscape will learn much here that can inform critical thinking.
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