

The Big Lie

Hitler says if you tell a lie that's of a certain scale that's big enough, people won't believe that you could deceive them on that scale. And since they believe it and take it in at first, they don't want to disbelieve it later on. It becomes part of their life; it becomes what we now call an alternative reality.

It begins to shape politics.

It begins to instantiate itself not only in memory, but in policy.

You act as if it's true and you move on to do things as though it were true.

So, in our example, if we pretend that Trump won the election in 2020, then we have an argument for suppressing votes because we can say, well there was fraud, therefore we should suppress votes.

Timothy Snyder, April 29, 2022