

# Lies

**In all democracies, politicians occasionally lie to cover up scandals or exaggerate their legislative accomplishments.**

**In the United States, the rise of the right-wing news media in recent decades has tempted politicians to play to their own supporters without worrying whether their rhetoric is inflammatory or fair.**

**But the construction of an alternate reality that obviates the very possibility of conducting politics on the basis of truth is a novelty in this country.**

**And it is increasingly becoming obvious that it will serve a clear purpose: to prepare the ground for egregious violations of basic democratic norms.**

**Yascha Mounk,  
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