

Lies

**Ordinary lying,
knowingly telling untruths, is common.**

**Big lying,
peddling a full-fledged alternative reality
akin to the Marvel Universe, is not.**

**Big lies are
the territory of prophets and demagogues,
people who hear divine voices themselves
or play at divinity for others. They are
self-contained intellectual paradigms
immune from scientific falsification.**

**Gideon Rose,
Foreign Affairs, March/April 2021**