



Tainted Truth: The Manipulation of Fact In America

By Cynthia Crossen

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In this important and provocative book, Cynthia Crossen reveals how the manufacturers of silicone breast implants did not disclose information regarding the dangers of the implants, how the demise of the cloth-diaper industry was influenced by questionable statistics paid for by Procter & Gamble -- the leading supplier of disposable diapers, and how even the confirmation of Clarence Thomas to the Supreme Court was influenced by fast and biased polls.

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Tainted Truth: The Manipulation of Fact In America By Cynthia Crossen Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #1394317 in Books
- Published on: 1996-01-25
- Released on: 1996-01-25
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 8.44" h x .90" w x 5.50" l, .81 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 272 pages

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Crossen, a reporter and editor for the Wall Street Journal, asks us to take a hard look at the "facts"--statistics, surveys and medical studies, among others--which inform our decisions as consumers and as citizens. Noting that Americans profess a healthy skepticism about the data that advertisers, politicians and the media throw at them, Crossen argues that we nevertheless tend to let data sway our choices and our opinions because this sort of information often appears to be the most reliable guide we have. But "information," however persuasive, is never neutral, and the purpose of this book is to expose the interests that underlie the "truths" we have come to trust. Particularly disturbing, the author notes, is that scientific and academic research, which has traditionally represented the disinterested pursuit of knowledge, is increasingly underwritten by corporate sponsors seeking to manipulate the results. As Crossen demonstrates, we are neither trained nor inclined to interrogate the methodology behind the production of the facts that pervade our lives. As a result, she warns, we are at grave risk of being perpetually misled. The author urges both tighter controls on the practices of the research industry and greater awareness on the part of the public. Her book is unremittingly cynical, but Crossen's uncovering of deceptions behind the "truth" as we know it suggests that her cynicism is not unfounded.

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From Library Journal

Crossen, a Wall Street Journal editor, confirms what the current debate on healthcare demonstrates so clearly: that sophistry is alive and well in this country. It is not just that we are surrounded by bad information but that we are being defrauded by information that has been distorted to serve selfish purposes. Statistics, especially, are used to miseducate the public. Thus, for example, Quaker Oats sponsors studies that claim to show that oatmeal reduces cholesterol and the risk of heart attack and inveighs against studies indicating it has no such effect. The public not only needs to be educated to recognize such sophistry, but the media and universities need to be more responsible about their reporting and research. Recommended for all academic and public libraries.

Jeffrey R. Herold, Bucyrus P.L., Ohio

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From [Booklist](#)

It's amazing how apathetic and accepting Americans have become to the relentless barrage of half-truths masquerading as hard-core fact. Sure, everybody with common sense assumes advertisers use questionable data, and political polls are notoriously loaded with inaccuracies. But how often are the motives of scientific research funders examined? And how many people realize the influence a Gallup has over legislative policy? In reporter-editor Crossen's book, such questions are vigorously prosecuted, and the answers are frightening. Her extensive research points to the way major businesses (pharmaceutical and tobacco companies are two notorious examples) produce sham data to support their own products' benefits and have been able to convince people despite such data's variance from common sense. She shows how Clarence Thomas' nomination to the Supreme Court was greatly helped by hasty and inaccurate polling, and she describes how a "deeply compromised" public policy study by the advocacy group Food Research Action Center misled the *New York Times* in a report on childhood hunger. Her closing chapter outlines some useful solutions to the problems of distortion she spotlights. Jaded consumers and voters can definitely use Crossen's findings.

Aaron Cohen

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Karla Whisenant:

Here thing why this specific Tainted Truth: The Manipulation of Fact In America are different and reputable to be yours. First of all looking at a book is good nevertheless it depends in the content of it which is the content is as delicious as food or not. Tainted Truth: The Manipulation of Fact In America giving you information deeper and in different ways, you can find any publication out there but there is no e-book that similar with Tainted Truth: The Manipulation of Fact In America. It gives you thrill reading journey, its open up your own eyes about the thing that will happened in the world which is probably can be happened around you. You can bring everywhere like in recreation area, café, or even in your method home by train. Should you be having difficulties in bringing the imprinted book maybe the form of Tainted Truth: The Manipulation of Fact In America in e-book can be your choice.

Joann Hamilton:

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