

Social media

In an era of social media and nonstop news from endless outlets, the politicians who get the most attention are those who create unusual, supposedly “authentic” characters for themselves.

This system rewards narcissists and what the philosopher Harry Frankfurt calls “bullshitters”: people distinct from liars in that they have no interest in what's true or not.

They just say what sounds good. Their high verbal intelligence reduces their need for analytic intelligence.

Simon Kuper, Financial Times, July 2, 2020, on the rise of the attention economy and mediagenic rightwing nationalists