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Trump's Attack on Iran

Book Review: The Art of Thinking Clearly
The Brief History of Human Kind



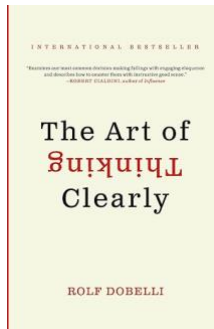
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Book Review: The Art of Thinking Clearly

Author: Rolf Dobelli

Publisher: Harper Collins (2014) (306 pages)



In the 1960s psychologists began to examine scientifically, how people think, decide and take action. The result, explains the author of this book, Rolf Dobelli, was a “theory of irrationality that states: thinking is in itself not pure,

but prone to error.” This, they found, was true of all people, including the highly intelligent, resulting in everyone falling into the same cognitive errors.

More interestingly, it appears we all “systematically err in the same direction.” If this is indeed true, it means we all make predictable mistakes. If it is true, and it appears to be, we should be able to fix at least some of them and avoid making these errors in our lives.

Dobelli has gathered 99 errors common to us all.

Reading this book will certainly increase one’s awareness of possible errors, which will lead to better decisions.

ou are roaming the Serengeti some 50,000 years ago, and your hunter-gather companions suddenly break into a desperate run away from some disturbance. What should you do?

Mindlessly follow, or consider the possibility that it is a gazelle rather than a predator. Having seen a thoughtful companion become some animal’s lunch you run with the crowd.

“Social proof” is the legacy of this herd instinct that dictates that individuals are behaving correctly when they act the same as other people. Social proof is behind stock market

bubbles, as well as stock market stampedes. It is no different in the worlds of fashion, management techniques, and diets.

Social proof informs even simple decision such as selecting a restaurant in an area with which you are unfamiliar. It seems sensible to choose the one that is full over a poorly patronized one. Sunk Cost Fallacy

So often in business, there is the sense that having invested so much, it would be wrong to stop now. Stopping now, makes the investment seem a mistake. The sunk cost fallacy is most dangerous when we have invested time, money, energy, commitment or love in something.

The need for consistency drives this type of irrational behavior. Deciding to cancel the project before it is completed is to admit that we had made a mistake.

Sometimes the consequences of this thinking error costs lives as when America extended their involvement in the Vietnam War. Their thinking: ‘We’ve already sacrificed so much for this war; it would be a mistake to give up now.’ In the investment arena, the error leads people to believe a share is good value because it is 50% below the peak price. The share price is what it is, and comparison is irrelevant. All that matters is whether the share goes up or down in the future.

We cannot do enough to protect ourselves from our thinking errors and the author sites 99 such errors. Much of the material in this book can be found scattered elsewhere. The value of this book is that the information is in one place.

How'll I Become Citizen of the Year

By Musafir

I'm just an average man from Kalamazoo that no one's ever heard of outside Kalamazoo County, but my ambition is to become Michigan's citizen of the year. I've been watching inspirational videos on YouTube and reading obituaries of past citizens of the year. Most of them are only mentioned after they die. Anyway, here's my plan:

I'll find out who decides who'll become the citizen of the year. I'll be really nice to them and send them Christmas stockings during holidays. I'll ask them how they maintain their youth and grace. I'll ask the bald people the secret of maintaining healthy sideburns.

I'll add fun accents to my speaking and will don a beret with a world citizen logo for distinction. Maybe I'll wear a "I love gays and lesbians" badge to attract Buttigieg voters (another Michigander).

I'll hum "I Hope I Get It," from "Chorus Line," under my breath in the supermarket.

I'll bake cookies shaped like Kalamazoo for everybody and balance one on my head as if I'm kidding but not really.

I'll encourage some of the other candidates to run for city council.

During debates I'll squinch my eyes shut so tight while laughing that I faint. When I come to, and the other candidates ask if I'm O.K., I'll tell them, "Oh, you know, just another vision of Lincoln's ghost."

I'll get everyone from my hometown to buy T-shirts with my airbrushed image and the phrase Make Kalamazoo Great Again!

When I'm alone, I'll give myself pep talks in the mirror by saying, "Hello, Mr. Citizen of the year; I'm rested, I'm ready, and I'm invincible.

When everyone's voting, I'll lighten the mood by asking, "Who did you put for Best Supporting?"

For the talent portion of the competition, I'll sing "YMCA" while juggling three balls at the same time.

I'll forge letters of recommendation from the Dalai Lama and the Pope.

Right before they announce the winner, I'll jump out of my chair and start thanking everyone and squealing, "Thank you all so much! I *never* expected this! We are all here to serve, we are all people's servants"

Finally, should I win, during oath taking I'll say, "I swear to tell my own truth. Long live Kalamazoo."

Current Affairs

Mr. Trump's Attack on Iran

By Anil Shrivastava

US President Donald Trump's decision to launch direct military strikes on Iranian nuclear sites marks a turning point not only in US-Iran relations but also in America's long-touted strategy of restraint in West Asia. While the strikes may have delivered a temporary tactical success, they also risk opening a Pandora's box of long-term geopolitical instability. For a leader who campaigned on promises to end "forever wars", who prided himself on avoiding new conflicts in his first term and who believes he is the most deserving candidate for the Nobel Peace Prize, this abrupt escalation feels like a remarkable and dangerous departure.

The operation, bold as it may be, leaves more questions than answers. Chief among them: what exactly does the United States hope to achieve by crossing this Rubicon? The stated goal is clear: to curtail Iran's nuclear ambitions. Yet history shows that

military strikes, no matter how precise, rarely force a state to abandon such a deeply entrenched – ed national project. Rather, they tend to deepen resolve, provoke retaliation, and trigger unpredictable cycles of violence. Iran's vow to respond, and its capability to do so through both direct and asymmetric means, underscores the risk that these strikes may only be the opening salvo in a far wider confrontation. There is also the curious case of timing. Barely two days separated Mr. Trump's ultimatum to Tehran from the actual strikes- far short of the "two weeks" initially given. Whether this was a calculated ploy to disorient Iran or another sign of collapsed behind-the-scenes diplomacy remains unclear.

What is certain is that this sudden use of force has outpaced both regional diplomacy and international consensus, potentially setting off a chain of escalation that may be

impossible to control. Domestically, this move is equally fraught. Mr. Trump's political brand rests heavily on an image of pragmatic non-interventionism - an America that secures its interests without spilling blood abroad. These strikes complicate that narrative. Critics from within his own ideological camp are beginning to question whether this action is a betrayal of that stance, global standing, and domestic unity is worth the strategic gamble. Supporters may argue that Mr. Trump is reasserting American strength and forcing Iran into serious negotiations.

But this assumes that Iran, having faced years of Israeli and Western pressure, will now suddenly capitulate to US demands because of targeted airstrikes. That is a perilously optimistic assumption. The uncomfortable truth is that military force rarely creates the diplomatic space its architects hope for. More often, it narrows options, hardens positions, and pushes conflicts into uncontrollable territory. Unless the US has a credible post-strike strategy - one that involves more than threats of further action - this gamble may not bring security or peace, but

rather a deeper entanglement in a volatile region. Mr. Trump may have made his move. But the forces he has set in motion may now move beyond his command.

Humor: Fortune cookie

I've been frequenting Chinese restaurants from my early youth. It's not because I necessarily like to eat Chinese food, it's more for reading my fate found inside fortune cookies. Since I never had anyone as a mentor in my life, messages inside fortune cookies have always guides my actions. Most of all, Its predictions have always come true.

For example, one fortune cookie read, "You'll be communicating with dead people." That night I had a nightmare about one of my teachers whom I hated the most punishing me. Worst of all, I dreamed of beating him back so badly that he fled and disappeared from my life.

One time the fortune cookie read, "Your kitchen will restock itself." It really happened. The grocer delivered my neighbor's order to my home. I kept mum and my neighbor never enquired about that.

One time the message in my fortune cookie read, "The fortune you are seeking is in another cookie." I was so disappointed that I ordered another meal to find out what the other cookie had to say.

A word of caution about fortune cookies: All fortune cookies are not Chinese. You'll find some phoney ones in Thai restaurants too. However, according to my research, you should only believe in Japanese cookies not Chinese cookies.

The origins, which, in the U.S., actually can be traced back to the many Japanese people operating Chinese restaurants in Los Angeles and San Francisco, where the cookies were made on iron grills. In certain regions of Japan, cookies folded around paper can be found referenced in art and literature as early as the 1870s.

Some estimates claim that around 3 billion fortune cookies are produced every year—one Brooklyn-based factory alone makes 4.5 million each day. Chinese cookies are American staples as the U.S. leads the world in fortune cookie production and consumption. Wonton Food Inc., based in Brooklyn, is the largest manufacturer of fortune cookies in the world. Although the crunchy confections are served in Chinese restaurants elsewhere in the world as well, it's most popular in the U.S.

Mars will get rings like Saturn

China will undergo a revolution

Your days will get lot longer than others'

The earth will collide with a comet in 2022

The fortune you are seeking is in another cookie

All fortune cookies are not Chinese. You'll find some phoney ones in Thai restaurants too.



1. Whose lavish wedding has sparked protests recently?

Jeff Bezos and Lauren Sánchez

2. Where was the 17th BRICS Summit 2025 held?

Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

3. Hungary's parliament just passed a constitutional amendment that bans what?

LGBTQ+ events

4. Which country reportedly earned \$364 million from arms deals with US companies to supply ammunition to Ukraine?

Pakistan

5. What does COP stand for?

COP stands for Conference of the Parties, referring to the annual UN climate change conferences. The term is used to number each yearly meeting under the UNFCCC framework

6. What does the term 'Incumbent' stands for?

An incumbent is the person who currently holds a political office and may be running for re-election.

7. Which indicator suggests a news source credibility?

Present of citations and references

8. Which news source is considered non-partisan and free of bias?

Associated Press

9. What does the GDP growth rate measure?

The percentage increase in a country's economic output over time.

10. What economic condition is described by the term Stagflation?

Stagflation combines stagnant economic growth with high inflation and often high unemployment. It's challenging for policymakers because inflation and recession occur simultaneously.