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# **A Short History Of Stupid**

**Mark Forsyth** 

# **A Short History Of Stupid:**

A Short History of Stupidity Stuart Jeffries, 2025-11-10 We are living it is often said in a golden age of stupidity in which boneheaded mendacious politicians get elected by voters who ve become too mindless to realise their interests are ill served by narcissists while vapid social media influencers corrupt their no less witless followers with groundless conspiracy theories and eye wateringly foolish takedowns of scientific expertise Our time one might be forgiven for thinking is one in which the fool's gold of stupidity has become a desirable commodity a must have with bumbling celebrities venerated more than those who have more than two brain cells to rub together In this book Stuart Jeffries analyses how we got into this parlous state and wonders if Schopenhauer was right in contending the stupid like the poor are always with us or if rather stupidity is like Japanese knotweed difficult to root out but should be exterminated with extreme prejudice He considers what some of the greatest of human minds Socrates Buddha Voltaire Arendt and among others have to tell us about the slippery nature of stupidity During a narrative that takes us from ancient Greece to artificial intelligence and accompanied by such heroes of stupidity as Flaubert's double act Bouvard and P cuchet Jeffries casts a sceptical eye on attempts to root out stupidity by such means as IQ tests eugenics gene editing and racist education policies finding each attempt to be more stupid than the stupidity they were ostensibly devised to eradicate If today we are living in a fool s paradise has our species become too dim to learn anything from its rich history of folly A Short History of Stupid Helen Razer, Bernard Keane, 2014-11-19 Alain de Botton meets Russell Brand in this glorious rant about everything that drives you mad about the modern world How did everything get so dumb How did we become hostages to idiocy What must we do to be freed from a captor whose ransom note simply reads D oh The deteriorating quality of our public debate and the dwindling of common sense in media politics and culture can drive you to despair and rage It certainly drove writers Helen Razer and Bernard Keane to a desperate act befriending each other for long enough to write a book Join forces with these uneasy allies to fight against a world that has lost its reason Explore what s behind the remorseless spread of idiocy and why there s just so much damn Stupid around you Stupid isn t just ignorance it s not just laziness Worse than the absence of thought Stupid is a virus that drains our productivity and leaves us sick and diminished And Stupid has a long complex and terrible past one we need to understand in order to defeat it A Short History of Stupid traces the origins of this maddening ill examining the different ways in which we ve been afflicted over the last three thousand years It damns those who have spread Stupid and celebrates the brave few who resisted It shows how Stupid tightens the grubby grip of the foolish around our throats Hilarious smart unpleasant infuriating and rude A Short History of Stupid is at once a provocation and a comfort It will spark debate soothe the terminally frustrated and outrage the righteously Stupid It is a book whose Stupid time has come A Short History of Stupidity Stuart Jeffries, 2025-08-21 We are living it is often said in a golden age of stupidity in which boneheaded mendacious politicians get elected by voters who ve become too mindless to realize their interests are ill served by

narcissists while vapid social media influencers corrupt their no less witless followers with groundless conspiracy theories and eye wateringly foolish takedowns of scientific expertise Our time one might be forgiven for thinking is one in which the fool s gold of stupidity has become a desirable commodity a must have with bumbling celebrities venerated more than those who have more than two brain cells to rub together In this book Stuart Jeffries analyses how we got into this parlous state and wonders if the stupid like the poor are always with us or if rather stupidity is like Japanese knotweed difficult to root out but to be exterminated with extreme prejudice He considers what some of the greatest of minds Socrates Buddha Voltaire Arendt and others have to tell us about the slippery nature of stupidity During a narrative that takes us from ancient Greece to artificial intelligence and accompanied by such heroes of stupidity as Flaubert's double act Bouvard and P cuchet Jeffries casts a sceptical eye on attempts to root out stupidity by such means as IQ tests eugenics gene editing and racist education policies finding each attempt to be more stupid than the stupidity they were ostensibly devised to eradicate If today we are living in a fool's paradise has our species become too dim to learn anything from its rich history of folly Stupid Bernard Keane, Helen Razer, 2016-12-01 Alain de Botton meets Russell Brand in this glorious rant about everything A Short History of Drunkenness Mark Forsyth, 2018-05-08 From the that drives you mad about the modern world internationally bestselling author of The Etymologicon a lively and fascinating exploration of how throughout history each civilization has found a way to celebrate or to control the eternal human drive to get sloshed An entertaining bar hop though the past 10 000 years The New York Times Book Review Almost every culture on earth has drink and where there s drink there s drunkenness But in every age and in every place drunkenness is a little bit different It can be religious it can be sexual it can be the duty of kings or the relief of peasants It can be an offering to the ancestors or a way of marking the end of a day's work It can send you to sleep or send you into battle Making stops all over the world A Short History of Drunkenness traces humankind s love affair with booze from our primate ancestors through to the twentieth century answering every possible question along the way What did people drink How much Who did the drinking Of the many possible reasons why On the way learn about the Neolithic Shamans who drank to communicate with the spirit world no pun intended marvel at how Greeks got giddy and Sumerians got sauced and find out how bars in the Wild West were never quite like in the movies This is a history of the world at its inebriated best A Short History of the Motorcycle Richard Hammond, 2016-10-06 What is it about bikes that leaves so many of us powerless to resist This entertaining guide charts the history of the bike from its origin as a cheap means of transport to its modern incarnations a symbol of rebellion a high tech racing machine and the rich kid's plaything Richard Hammond passionate biker and collector of bikes looks at the machines that have propelled people across the world to work to school and occasionally to their doom With his trademark expertise and wit Hammond examines bikers of every type from the happy farmer trundling through fields on his Honda Cub to the Hells Angel terrorising towns on their hog A Short History of the English Colonies in America Henry Cabot

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