

Mud Slinging: The Inception of Decision (Deception)

Don't believe in yourself. Know yourself.

Politics does not merely reflect division. It manufactures and sustains it. The strategy is simple: fracture attention into horizontal conflict between camps, keep people emotionally invested in the contest, and harvest the distraction. While the mud flies, deeper substitution proceeds elsewhere. What looks like spontaneous public debate is often the surface effect of constitutional erosion.

The Horizontal Trap

Division serves a precise function. It locks attention on left versus right, group versus group, identity versus identity — rather than on the vertical question of what power was actually delegated and what was retained.

When energy is consumed in accusation, tribal defense, and reaction to the latest provocation, scrutiny of structural processes fades. Language grows imprecise. Principles become slogans. Clarity, the prerequisite for informed agency, is the first casualty.

This is not mainly the work of cartoon conspirators. It is the predictable result of incentives that reward votes, funding, narrative control, and institutional survival over original purpose. Each new generation learns to navigate the cage rather than question how it was built.

When Self-Knowledge Is Thin

Lack of self-knowledge raises external authority. When a person substitutes belief for direct knowledge — reasoned from the ratified Constitution and observable reality — that belief gets transferred outward. Precedent gains supremacy. Unratified acts begin to function as law. Institutions assume powers never clearly delegated. Social and tribal signals become decisive.

A decision is not always formed from within. It can be influenced and varied by the signals, emotional weather, and prevailing momentum of others. The individual scans for alignment, calibrates, and then experiences the imported position as their own. Ownership feels authentic. In truth, the decision was often seeded upstream by the very authority that lack of self-knowledge had already elevated.

This cycle reinforces itself. Each borrowed belief deepens the habit of external reliance. Rights begin to feel like mere beliefs. Consent is assumed rather than examined.

Mud as Cover

The Constitution is the law of the land. Unratified acts and judicial precedent that exceed its bounds constitute substitution without Article V consent. Once interpretive supremacy was asserted, every subsequent expansion could rest on precedent. The dead rule the living not because the ratified charter authorized permanent judicial rule over the people who ordained it, but because the doctrinal and political incentive structure rewards treating accumulated opinion as superior to the text.

In this environment, many decisions are incepted rather than formed. People rarely reason primarily from the ratified charter or direct observation of delegated versus retained powers. They adjust their stance to what their side is saying, what the opposition is claiming, or what the current momentum appears to be. The position feels like their own. The mud ensures that this ratification process feels like independent thought.

The Real Cost

The cumulative effect is a population that participates energetically in its own managed decline of agency. Energy that could go toward knowing the charter, examining consent, or building independent structures is spent on tribal defense. Each round of mud-slinging reinforces the conditions that make the mud effective.

People walk away feeling engaged and morally clear, while the actual locus of authority drifts further from the ratified text through the vacuum of self-knowledge.

This is the quiet part: not that people disagree, but that their disagreements are so often manufactured and directed in ways that preserve the very substitution they claim to oppose.

The Only Durable Response

The effective response is not better mud-slinging or more sophisticated tribal signaling. It is the deliberate reclamation of direct knowledge over borrowed belief.

This begins with refusing to substitute belief for knowing — from the ratified Constitution and from observable reality. It continues by treating the Constitution as the law of the land and unratified acts and judicial precedent as substitutions that still require examination. It requires asking, of every claim that would bind: “By what authority?”

Knowledge is not neutral. It is an act of sovereignty. When direct knowing returns, inception becomes visible. Decisions that once felt organic reveal their engineered origins. The slinging loses its hypnotic power because the underlying substitution is no longer hidden — and because the individual has reclaimed the internal ground from which legitimate authority can be recognized.

Independence has always been a minority posture for this reason. It offers no comfort of collective alignment and no protection from the friction of direct responsibility. It simply refuses to trade knowledge for the temporary relief of belonging to a side in someone else’s conflict while authority continues to rise through the vacuum of belief.

The mud will continue to be thrown. The only real question is whether we will keep participating in the conditions that make it effective — or whether we will do the quieter work of restoring direct knowledge and standing sovereign under the law of the land.

The Question Beneath It All

Who am I, apart from the signals I’m receiving right now?

- Do I know what the ratified Constitution actually says, or do I mostly know what my side says about it?
- When I hold a position strongly, can I trace it back to direct reasoning from the charter and observable reality — or did the position arrive already formed?
- If the daily noise quieted for a while, what would I actually conclude about the vertical question of power?
- Am I willing to notice the difference between a belief I grew myself and one I simply agreed to carry?

These questions do not demand immediate answers. They only ask whether we are willing to protect a small piece of internal ground that belongs to us alone.

This observation is released from the ATVICO Canon for public consideration.

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