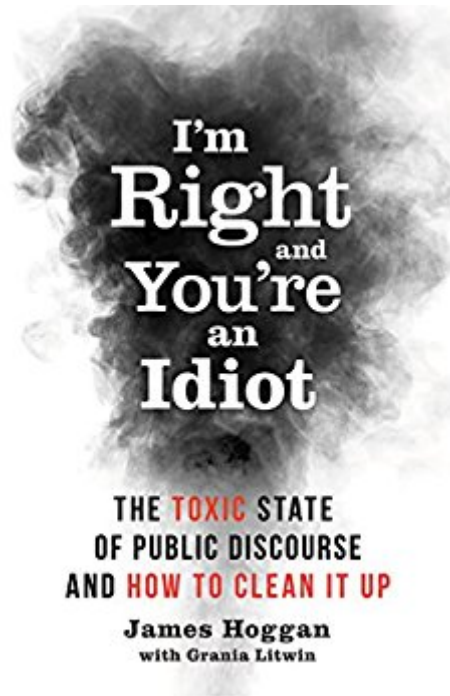# I'm Right And You&#146;re An Idiot: The Toxic State Of Public Discourse And How To Clean It Up

## Synopsis

The most pressing environmental problem we face today is not climate change. It is pollution in the public square, where a smog of adversarial rhetoric, propaganda, and polarization stifles discussion and debate, creating resistance to change and thwarting our ability to solve our collective problems.In I'm Right and You're an Idiot, author and David Suzuki Foundation chair James Hoggan grapples with this critical issue, conducting interviews with outstanding thinkers from the Himalayas to the House of Lords. Drawing on the wisdom of such notables as Thich Nhat Hanh, Noam Chomsky, and the Dalai Lama, his comprehensive analysis explores: How trust is undermined and misinformation thrives in today's public dialogue Why facts alone fail â " the manipulation of language and the silencing of dissent The importance of reframing our arguments with empathy and values to create compelling narratives and spur action. Our species' greatest survival strategy has always been foresight and the ability to leverage our intelligence to overcome adversity. For too long now this capacity has been threatened by the sorry state of our public discourse. Focusing on proven techniques to foster more powerful and effective communication, Â this bookÂ will appeal to readers looking for both deep insights and practical advice.James Hoggan is president of the Vancouver PR firm Hoggan & Associates, chair of the David Suzuki Foundation board, and founder of the influential website DeSmogBlog. He is author of Climate Cover-Up and Do the Right Thing.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

From the vantage point of my position as Mother Tree looking over the permies.com discussion board, I get to see first-hand the problems that arise as different people, with different backgrounds, different cultures, different viewpoints and different ways of thinking and communicating come together to try to discuss ways to make the world a better place. Over many years the owner of this site, Paul Wheaton, has crafted rules to try to make the discussion that happens here more constructive. I tend to do things more intuitively, but somehow I tend to come to the same moderating decisions as Paul about 95% of the time, so eventually he decided to leave most of the decisions to me so he could go off and do other things. I never really felt qualified for the role, but I felt it was an important one so I stepped up and do my best to smoothe things over where needed, scold members when necessary, remove posts that don't meed our publishing standards, and basically do whatever I can, however inadequately, to generate productive discussion.Last year I browsed the New Society Publisher's book catalogue and spotted the intriguing title of I'm Right and You're an Idiot: The Toxic State of Public Discourse and How to Clean it Up by James Hoggan. It's not often that a book title stops me in my tracks, but this one pushed all my buttons. The "I'm Right and You're an Idiot" bit was so very typical of the sort of statement that we jump on when we see it at permies, heralding as it does the end of any useful discussion and the start of pointless, heated debate which does nothing but drive away anyone who was actually hoping to find something useful to read, that it triggered all my moderating instincts.

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