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**Twitter description:** Prof. at Univ. of Hartford. Interested in political communication and intractable conflicts. ICA fellow and lifetime member. Author of numerous publications.

**Description of the organization from a third party source:** "Donald G. Ellis is a Professor in the School of Communication at the University of Hartford. His research interests are in the area of ethno-political conflict with particular emphasis on communication practices between ethnic groups in conflict."

**Scraped text from their home page of their website:** Titles: Peace and Conflict Politics | Israel, Middle East Politics, and Communication

**Headings:** Peace and Conflict Politics; Israel, Middle East Politics, and Communication; Don't Think for Yourself: Get Your Opinions from Some Reliable Source; Share this;; Share this;; Polarization: Or, How We Came to Distort Reality So Thoroughly; Share this;; Peace and Conflict Information Silos; Share this;; Don't Think for Yourself: Get Your Opinions from Some Reliable Source; Share this;; Is Trump a Madman?; Share this;; Trump and the Post-Truth Mentality; Share this;; Blah, Blah, Blah, and Claims of Media Bias; Share this;; Russia Invades Ukraine: My Take; Share this;; Don't Think for Yourself: Get Your Opinions from Someone Who is a Better Thinker; Share this;; Follow Blog via Email; Israel-Palestine; Fierce Entanglements Cover; Goodreads; Recent Posts; Archives; Categories; Blog Cloud; Blog Stats; Meta; Follow me on Twitter; New York Times Opinion; Blogroll; Bloglog; Blogtopsites; Blogarama; Top Clicks; Top Posts & Pages; Blog Stats; Calendar; ; ;

**Paragraphs:** The below just needs to be said every once in a while.; An alarming number of Americans believe some Trumped up version of reality that is so far from the truth - and so outrageous - that you have to wonder what is happening to the political communication process. Of course, examples are easy: Hillary Clinton kept children in a basement, or Obama was actually born in Kenya and is not a "real" American, or Covid vaccinations are a government plot, ad infinitum. At first blush you just figure that these people are playing with you, that they don't "really" believe such things. But then you discover that they are serious, and their delusions are legion.; And the majority of these theories are right wing theories that seem to be most susceptible. A band of conservatives who dislike a political candidate for a parallel reason are available for the next delusion. A common refrain is to "think for yourself." They are encouraged to find information, process the information, and come to a conclusion. Consequently, to "be your own man" is somehow associated with an individualism and is sufficiently justificatory such that simply convincing yourself that you "thought for yourself" is good enough. I have an opinion and by God I'm going to stick to that opinion simply because it is mine.; I do the opposite. I tell the holder of these inaccurate beliefs to get their opinions from someone else. Don't think for yourself because that will

just lead you down a crooked path besieged on both sides by bad information, inaccurate facts, warped conclusions, and a general bias that reflects pre-existing attitudes that work like barriers to more defensible reasoning. This is no trivial matter because the people in the news who are delusional are not only the likes of QAnon, The Proud Boys, or evangelicals selling redemption for votes. Rather, they are prominent politicians, media figures, corporate leaders and their foundations, and yes US senators and congress men and women.; It is true enough that the left has some share of exaggerations about say political conspiracies, corporate plots, or climate change. But it is safe to say, and I believe this can be defended with empirical precision, that leftist and more liberal groups are not making wildly fringe arguments based on "the big lie" or Jigged-up fear about government plots in control of your body. Democrats are simply more likely to rely on science and trust the authority of experts along with an increased willingness to deliberate and subject ideas to the best forms of analysis and criticism.; Finally, we should not ignore the role of education with respect to reasoning and decision-making as well as recognizing false argument and various biases. Citizens in a democracy must learn how to make the best decisions possible and utilize the tools of reason and science as well as the humanities. Improving one's ability to strengthen opinions takes time and experience. The education process is the best way to spend that time and gain that experience.; I would recommend the following book as an excellent place to grapple with these issues.; Steven Nadler and Lawrence Shapiro (2021). "When Bad Thinking Happens to Good People." Princeton University press.; Posted on December 1, 2023 | \_x000D\_

**Image; Nov 12; Posted by Donald Ellis; ; Finding New Ways to Communicate; I will admit that my first reaction to the attack on Israel by Hamas was to "unleash hell" in retaliation. Revenge is a difficult emotion to control. At times like this I get that sense of psychological surety as if I could somehow sweep Hamas away by flicking them off me like so many annoyances that can be easily disposed of. Military action lends itself well to this sort of thinking as it is usually associated with gaining ground or killing soldiers from the other side.; But, alas, this is not how foreign policy works. And there are clear operational and procedural steps that must be confronted if we want to truly solve the problem. Responding too aggressively will put the hostages in jeopardy, escalate the intensity of the potential outcomes, and increase the polarization that already exists between the two sides.; But trying to "solve the problem" is now just the problem. It has become apparent to me that the typical attempts at conflict management and resolution, whatever you want to call it, have failed.; The political arena is filled with seminars, discussion groups, training, and various forms of control mechanisms designed to discourage aggressiveness or change attitudes about the other group. And I have been a part of plenty of them. These groups typically draw on social science theory in an effort to change the reality of the conflicting groups. For example, members of conflicting groups (e.g. Israelis-Palestinians, Blacks-Whites, Muslims-Jews) might meet on a regular basis and engage in some joint project. This, according to theory, stimulates collaboration and teaches the participants to learn the habits of cooperation.; Israelis have been lectured to and chided more than a recalcitrant child and even so they woke up one morning and saw**

the genocidal monster called Hamas in the backyard. Things are not going well here. Still, how do you deal with a stubborn monster. The monster is not rational to the extent that there is not some justifiable relationship between the monsters' behavior and a desirable outcome. In Hamas's Statement of Principles the destruction of the state of Israel and reclaiming the land are foundational goals that guide Hamas's behavior. Hamas believes that the entire Zionist project is illegitimate including the historical documents that established the state of Israel. The land is indivisible and sacred. This leaves no room for the State of Israel. It means that nothing is negotiable, nothing can be shared, and neither side can tolerate the other's presence.; It is clear that Israelis were caught flat-footed, and the charge that Netanyahu took his eye off the ball as he spent his time trying to save his political life, is defensible. Netanyahu speaks to the matter of leadership during a time of crisis and its role in setting the conditions of the conflict to the best of his ability. But Netanyahu will not be ousted so easily. He has the respect of many Israelis and they believe he can protect them during a time of war. As Einstein observed, the definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and over and expecting different results. We must find new ways to communicate. But what kind of communication understands killing babies and children? How do we learn new ways to communicate when mass killing is the norm? How do we learn new ways to communicate when both are labeled morally unacceptable by the other? Recently, an Israeli Defense Forces specialist observed that Israel will have to take steps that are wider and typically considered unacceptable by the United States. If so, we will have circled around to the beginning where, once again, we will have done the same thing with the same results, and we will have to find new we ways to communicate.; ; ; Posted in Communication and Conflict Resolution, Peace and Conflict Politics, Political Conflict; Comments Off on; Aug 16; Posted by Donald Ellis; Polarization: or How We Came to Distort Reality so Thoroughly; I like to talk politics. And I'm really not so concerned about "winning an argument" or crushing someone's position just to satisfy myself. No, I'm more interested in how they think. Sometimes, dare I say much of the time, listening to some argue politics is just appalling. Their command of data and facts, along with reasoning processes that accompany such facts are just debilitating.; So how is it that your cranky old uncle at Thanksgiving can ruin the day with his cockamamie opinions; how is it that the nice kid you socialize with can actually believe that Hillary Clinton has secrets in her home basement; or, can you really prove to me that the government is trying to vaccinate people so I can control them.; How people configure a set of ideas that are bound together by some mechanism or functional interdependence is the real question. Examining someone's beliefs or ideological system always unearths a specified attitude or belief that goes with a collection of others. We assume that a person, for example, who holds a conservative position in one capacity will hold additional beliefs and attitudes in the same conservative capacity.; For example, if a person strongly believes in lower taxes they are probably conservative and believe in fewer government programs supported by those taxes. Such a conservative probably believes in strong protections for the American values system and is thereby supportive of the military and military interventions. Our hypothetical political character opposes federal

aid to education, a state-controlled economy, and union organization.; The person who supports this reasonably coherent political position has been labeled an "ideologue." But the question that is difficult pertains to how these ideas are packaged together and considered to represent an orderly and defensible ideological system. Such a system, as briefly described above, is a fairly consistent conservative position that is recognizable and defensible. But what happens when that collection of ideas gets contaminated by nonlogical, or empirically indefensible, or deeply personal and subjective ideas that are seeking to find a different order, one organized more by personal emotions or feelings rather than issue-based analysis.; One of the problems of contemporary debate over controversial issues is the attachment of emotions to the various planks in the system described above. So, one person might hold and represent the conservative position above but "hate" the other person and feel that they are personally morally degenerate or intellectually dishonest. They then turn any engagement about the issues into a personal and emotional clash that has little to do with the issue and much to do with the polarization that results.; The result is increased attention to other groups that individuals identify with. These are ethnic, religious, or political groups and they are typically associated with intense emotions and strong feelings of defensiveness. The participants in the conflict move away from issue-based matters and are more drawn to emotional bonds which are characterized by deep psychological reactions to threat and the various meaning distortions that accompany group identity.; This results in a downward spiraling of emotions that feeds the divisions between groups. We can see the consequences of this in the current state of American politics - polarization.; Posted in Communication and Conflict Resolution; Comments Off on Polarization: Or, How We Came to Distort Reality So Thoroughly; Communication with other information management systems, to be blunt as well as simplistic and obvious, is an important part of any endeavor to analyze our effective institutions and figure out what they are doing and how effective they might be. An information silo is an information management system that is unable to freely communicate with other communication systems because of certain types of structural barriers that result in incommensurability. And while incommensurability can be established in many ways including ethnic, educational, political, and stylistic differences, they construct silos nonetheless and these silos are responsible for the polarization that characterizes the two sides of an issue.; The business world is full of information silos and groups that differ thoroughly, but they continue to struggle with how to make contact (that is, communicate) with those in other groups. Questions about the quality of information, the nature of disinformation, partisan silos, and polarization are important questions to ask because we have always struggled with information silos and issues pertaining to the qua

**Scraped text from their about page of their website:** Titles: Things of Interest | Peace and Conflict Politics

**Headings:** Peace and Conflict Politics; Israel, Middle East Politics, and Communication; Things of Interest; Share this;; Leave a comment; Comments 2; Leave a Reply Cancel reply; Follow Blog via Email; Israel-Palestine; Fierce Entanglements Cover; Goodreads; Recent Posts; Archives; Categories; Blog Cloud; Blog Stats; Meta; Follow me on Twitter; New York

Times Opinion; Blogroll; Bloglog; Blogtopsites; Blogarama; Calendar of Posts; Top Clicks; Top Posts & Pages; Blog Stats; Calendar

**Paragraphs:** Settler Discourse in Discourse Studies; Myths about Ukraine; Discursive dilemmas and religious settlers; Relevant book reviews and articles from other sources.; Academic.edu for quick access to some publications; 9 Questions you have about Syria: Click here.; Op-ed piece in Hartford Courant about Muslim rage. Click here.; Aljazeera is always a perspective: <http://www.aljazeera.com/>; SUCCESS: Sunday Times Removes Doctored Iranian Photo <http://honestreporting.com/success-sunday-times-removes-doctored-iranian-photo/>; Book Flier for Ellis Deliberative Communication book; Muslim Brotherhood Owns Egypt from Foundation for Defense of Democracies, July 9, 2012; Syrian Civil War Insights Insight on Syrian Civil War; Below Michael Freund writes about the green line which I think is an important issue. Having just spent two months in the territories I think he is correct . What do you think?; KISS THE GREEN LINE GOODBYE\_x000D\_

**Michael Freund**Jerusalem Post, June 20, 2012; The announcement [in June] that a deal had been reached between the government and the residents of Beit El's Ulpana neighborhood will hopefully bring a peaceful end to an otherwise painful episode. After months of wrangling, the two sides reached an accommodation that will bring about the relocation of the homes at the heart of the dispute along with additional building in other parts of Beit El.; This entire affair, which threatened to resurrect old wounds in Israeli society, was the opening salvo in a campaign by Israel's Left to force the government to demolish Jewish homes in Judea and Samaria that it deems to be illegal. In the coming months, similar conflicts are likely to arise over other Jewish outposts such as those at Givat Assaf and Migron, as the Left seeks to turn back the clock and undermine Israel's presence in the territories.; But the ideologues on the Left are missing the point. The battle over the future of a Jewish presence in Judea and Samaria is over....; Consider the following. According to an Interior Ministry census published at the start of the year, there are an estimated 722,000 Jews currently living in the areas that were liberated by Israel in the 1967 Six Day War. This includes over 300,000 who dwell in parts of eastern and northern Jerusalem that were taken back from Jordan, another 340,000 who reside in Judea and Samaria, as well as 60,000 people who live and study at various educational institutions in the area.; The significance of this statistic is enormous. It means that nearly one out of every 10 Israelis now lives beyond the so-called Green Line. That is more than the population of Tel Aviv and Haifa combined.; Hence, in just 45 years, since the miraculous victory of the Six Day War, the number of Jews living in Israel's ancient heartland has gone from zero to 700,000 and it is still growing at a hefty clip. Indeed, in 2011, the Jewish population of Judea and Samaria grew at a pace of 4.3 percent, which is more than double the national average.; Needless to say, this number is even more remarkable when one considers the inordinate number of political, diplomatic and bureaucratic obstacles that have stood in the way of restoring the Jewish presence in the territories. Nowhere else in the world is so much attention paid to the pouring of concrete or the approval of blueprints. Whenever someone in Itamar or

Kiryat Arba decides to enclose a porch or redo the kitchen, it inexplicably threatens to become an international incident, eliciting the most irrational of responses from the plenary of the United Nations to the halls of the US State Department. And Israel's vaunted bureaucracy certainly does not make things any easier for our brethren in Judea and Samaria, who often have to obtain a dizzying array of permits to build their homes.; But despite it all, the Green Line is dead and buried.... It is no longer of any relevance, politically or otherwise. Jewish life in Judea, Samaria and eastern Jerusalem is growing and flourishing, and there is no human power on earth that is going to uproot or move hundreds of thousands of Jews from places such as Ariel, Tekoa or Hebron.; Even in the battle for Israeli public opinion, the Left's failure has been colossal. Last [month], the results of an annual survey measuring the Israeli public's views of the settlement enterprise were released.... The survey, which was conducted by Dr. Miriam Billig and Dr. Udi Lebel of the Ariel University Center, found that a whopping 64% of Israelis support Jewish settlement of Judea and Samaria. A similar percentage said that settling the territories is a "truly Zionist deed," and 57% said they view Judea and Samaria as Israel's security belt.; So despite years of demonization and delegitimization, the Jewish settlement initiative still commands profound respect and widespread support. And notwithstanding the media's predilection to depict all Jewish settlers as bearded, gun-toting men with soup-bowl size yarmulkes on their heads patrolling barren hilltops, anyone who has visited Judea and Samaria knows better.; The population is as diverse as it is large, and it encompasses a broad array of people from a variety of religious, educational and socioeconomic backgrounds. There are secular farmers, observant hi-tech executives, female yoga instructors and Russian immigrant physicists. Some have chosen Judea and Samaria for ideological or religious reasons, while others have done so for convenience and quality of life. But whatever the motive, the repopulation of Judea and Samaria with Jews represents a remarkable triumph of the human spirit, and a validation of the pioneering ethos upon which this country was founded.; There are to be sure many challenges that still lie ahead, as pressure will continue to mount on Israel to draw boundaries and accede to some form of partial territorial retreat. The Palestinians and their allies will surely continue to insist on statehood and the expulsion of Jews.\_x000D\_

But the Jewish people have withstood far greater threats in the past. We have overcome diplomatic disapproval, international hostility, and unjustified opprobrium to reclaim the land that is ours by history and by right.; When Jeremiah (31:4) foretold that "you will yet plant vineyards in Samaria," and that the sounds of rejoicing would again be heard in the cities of Judea (33:10-11), he knew of what he spoke.... So to our critics and foes I have one small piece of friendly advice: you had better get used to it, because the Jewish people are here to stay.; While I have not verified the facts cited in the article, one would do well to notice the measured and dispassionate tone of the author. The article seems to gain significant credibility from the dearth of invective and propaganda terms.; One might contrast this author with many on the American Left. There one frequently finds attacks on "zionists"-a not-so-newly coined pejorative meaning just about

anything evil-and others. Commentators seem to inject all manner of loaded propaganda and defamatory terms and unsupported axiomatic statements where facts seem appropriate.; At the same time, those on the "dispassionate Left" might consider measuring commentators and leaders with whom they agree by the relative percentage of invective and ad hominem attacks their comments include. Of course, one should make an exception in the case of anything yours truly might write or say about . . . ; My two cents.; DJ; Good luck with your one-state "solution". There are other demographic data one might want to consider in that connection.; ; `document.getElementById( "ak_js_1" ).setAttribute( "value", ( new Date() ).getTime() );`; This site uses Akismet to reduce spam. Learn how your comment data is processed.; Enter your email address to follow this blog and receive notifications of new posts by email.; Email Address;; Follow; Fierce Entanglements (Available on Amazon.com); Blog at WordPress.com.

**Scraped text from their mission page of their website:** Titles: NA

**Headings:** NA

**Paragraphs:** NA

**Scraped text from their history page of their website:** Titles: NA

**Headings:** NA

**Paragraphs:** NA

**Summaries of Links:** Based on the information provided, it can be inferred that the organization is a blog or website focused on peace and conflict politics. The website contains various categories related to conflict resolution, political conflict, media and politics, and peace and conflict information silos. The organization also publishes articles on specific topics such as polarization, claims of media bias, and the invasion of Ukraine by Russia. The website seems to have a focus on political and social issues, with a particular interest in analyzing and discussing current events and their implications for peace and conflict. The organization also appears to have a strong social media presence, as there are multiple links for sharing articles on platforms such as Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, and Tumblr. ""