

# The Basic Laws of Human Stupidity

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The basic laws assert that Cipolla and Taleb (2021)

1. Always and inevitably everyone underestimates the number of stupid individuals in circulation.
2. The probability that a certain person be stupid is independent of any characteristic of that person.
3. A stupid person is a person who causes losses to another person or to a group of persons while himself deriving no gain and even possibly incurring losses.
4. Non-stupid people always underestimate the damaging power of stupid individuals. In particular non-stupid people constantly forget that at all times and places and under any circumstances to deal and/or associate with stupid people infallibly turns out to be a costly mistake.
5. A stupid person is the most dangerous type of person. A stupid person is more dangerous than a bandit.

## References

Cipolla, Carlo M., and Nassim Nicholas Taleb. 2021. *The Basic Laws of Human Stupidity*. New York: Doubleday.