

# Grand Tour

Seeing the World

Anthony Sellick James Bury Kaori Horiuchi

新たな時代への扉

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## Grand Tour – Seeing the World

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# PREFACE

During the 17th and 18th centuries, wealthy young people took a trip around Europe in order to complete their education. This was called the Grand Tour. They visited famous historical sites, learned languages, and made friends with people in various countries. The Grand Tour helped prepare them for life as international citizens.

The Grand Tour series of books looks at a variety of important trends that are shaping the modern world. Each book examines issues that affect our lives, which will change our lives in the future, and which you will influence in the future.

The topics covered in the essays range widely and are grouped into four sections: the worlds of culture and society, science and technology, business and economics, and politics and international relations. Included are topics that encourage you to look at an everyday thing from a new perspective, topics that showcase the amazing progress and discoveries that are being made, and topics which focus on aspects of the world that need to be changed or which are changing too slowly.

We hope that you will find these topics interesting and thought-provoking, and that they encourage you to learn more about them. We sincerely hope you enjoy your Grand Tour.

Anthony Sellick, James Bury, and Kaori Horiuchi

# CONTENTS

## ***Culture and Society***

Chapter 1	<b><i>I Don't Know What to Believe</i></b> Finding Truth Among Online Lies	7
Chapter 2	<b><i>It's a Hikikomori World</i></b> Why Do Some People Withdraw from Society?	13
Chapter 3	<b><i>Not Just for Fun</i></b> The Importance of Play and Games	19
Chapter 4	<b><i>See It While You Can</i></b> The Risks of Over-Tourism	25
Chapter 5	<b><i>The World's Greatest Gamers</i></b> The Rise of Esports	31

## ***Science and Technology***

Chapter 6	<b><i>3D-Printed Limbs and Robot Doctors</i></b> Amazing Advances in Medicine	37
Chapter 7	<b><i>Fake Burgers and Electric Gum</i></b> The Future of Food	43
Chapter 8	<b><i>The Sports Space Race</i></b> The Impact of Science in Sports	49
Chapter 9	<b><i>Turn out the Lights</i></b> What Is Light Pollution?	55
Chapter 10	<b><i>It's Good to Be Grumpy</i></b> The Positive Consequences of Negative Feelings	61



## ***Business and Economics***

Chapter 11	<b><i>A Full Working Week</i></b> How Long Should We Work? 67
Chapter 12	<b><i>Waste Not, Want Not</i></b> From Recycling to a Circular Economy 73
Chapter 13	<b><i>Try This</i></b> Why Giving Things Away Can Be Good for Business 79
Chapter 14	<b><i>Selling Sports</i></b> The Commercialization of Sports 85
Chapter 15	<b><i>Paying for Information</i></b> The Cost of News 91

## ***Politics and International Relations***

Chapter 16	<b><i>Your Phone is a Soldier</i></b> What Does Cyberwar Mean? 97
Chapter 17	<b><i>The Perils of Perception</i></b> How Much Do We Really Know? 103
Chapter 18	<b><i>It's a Man's World</i></b> The Cost of Ignoring Women's Needs 109
Chapter 19	<b><i>Changing Perceptions</i></b> Can a Country Change the Way It's Viewed? 115
Chapter 20	<b><i>It's the Law</i></b> Identifying Good and Bad Laws 121



# *I Don't Know What to Believe*

## Finding Truth Among Online Lies

### ➤ Useful Words

Choose a word from the list below to complete each sentence.

1. The typhoon was \_\_\_\_\_. Every building in town was damaged or destroyed.
2. A(n) \_\_\_\_\_ claimed he saw a ghost at our school. We were shocked when we saw the story reported on the television news.
3. You must go to the new ramen restaurant. Its Super Spicy Ramen is \_\_\_\_\_!
4. I left my phone on the train. Luckily, a(n) \_\_\_\_\_ person handed it in at the station.
5. My friend Shahida is a Muslim, but I'm not \_\_\_\_\_ at all.

religious      trustworthy      devastating      hoaxer      extraordinary

### ➤ Reading

① 02~08 

02 

- 1 The internet allows us to access more accurate information than at any other time in history. It also exposes us to more misinformation than at any other time in history. As well as the journalists who want to inform us and the educators who want to teach us, there are the politicians who want your vote, the
- 5 foreign governments who want to control your vote, the religious who want you to believe as they do, the bigots who want you to hate as they do, the companies who want your data and your money, the criminals and scammers who want your data and your money, the satirists who want to make you laugh, the hoaxers

who want to trick you, the confused, and the mentally ill. How can we tell if something is a true story, propaganda, an advertisement, a con, a hoax, a joke, or the delusions of someone who is mentally ill? Fortunately, the philosophical tools of critical thinking, the methods of science, and the investigative tools of journalism can help us to find the truth in a post-truth world.

03 

**2** Philosophy provides us with the laws of logic that allow us to analyze and appraise ideas. However, just because an idea is logical does not mean it is true. Fortunately, philosophy also gives us a useful definition of truth: the truth of a statement or an idea depends on how well it fits with reality. Science focuses on the study of reality and teaches us that we should disbelieve an idea until we have evidence that supports it. Furthermore, the amount of evidence we need to believe an idea depends on the claim that is being made. The cosmologist Carl Sagan summarized this very well when he said that “extraordinary claims require extraordinary evidence.” Like philosophy and science, journalism also teaches us that any idea or claim should be questioned, and that the sources of any claim or idea must also be examined.



Fake news can be dangerous.

04 

**3** For example, if your friend tells you that they have a pet dog, should you believe them? Owning a pet dog is not uncommon, and if your friend is usually reliable or trustworthy, you probably do not need any more evidence than their word. Furthermore, you can ask your friend (and other friends) for details about the dog, and you can easily visit your friend to see the dog for yourself. As a result, you should probably believe your friend. However, if a stranger tells you that they also have a pet dog, and that their dog is invisible, can fly, and enjoys watching kabuki plays, you should demand a huge amount of evidence before you believe that they have such an amazing, world-changing dog. Let's consider some real-world examples.

05 

4 Many people use social media to communicate with their friends. However, many people also form friendships that are wholly online. This can be very dangerous because fake social media profiles are very common. Between  
 45 September 2018 and March 2019, Facebook alone deleted more than 3 billion fake profiles. Many criminals use fake social media profiles to contact people, which is known as catfishing. Financial criminals often use online dating profiles to begin a romance and then trick their victims into giving them money. In 2018, more than 20,000 people lost more than \$140 million in just the US. More  
 50 disturbingly, sex criminals often target children and teenagers in order to obtain private pictures and videos which they then sell online. The emotional and psychological impact of being the victim of such crimes can be absolutely devastating. How much should we trust an online friend? Not much, because if you have not met a person in real life, then you have no idea who that person  
 55 really is.

06 

5 Millions of people around the world have watched videos online explaining that the world is not round but flat. What would it mean if it were true? First, it would mean that many of  
 60 our ideas about history, geography, and science are wrong. Secondly, it would mean that hundreds of thousands of people, including pilots, sailors, politicians, military leaders, and scientists, are all lying to us. As a result, we  
 65 should expect an enormous amount of high-quality evidence, and not just some YouTube videos and websites.



The  
 FLAT EARTH  
 SOCIETY

07 

Some people think the world is flat. Could they be right?

6 Believing incorrect ideas can have serious consequences. In Japan in 2013, nearly 70  
 70 percent of girls received the HPV vaccine, which can prevent a form of cancer that kills nearly 3,000 Japanese women every year. However, the proportion of girls getting the vaccine dropped to below 1 percent by 2015 because people opposed to vaccines spread false information about the safety of the HPV vaccine.

- 7 The examples above show us the dangers of being wrong. As a result, we  
 75 should use the tools that philosophy, science, and journalism give us to investigate the claims and ideas we are exposed to every day. A good rule to follow is this: the more it will cost you to be wrong, the more you should do to ensure that you are right.

### Notes

**scammer** 「詐欺師」 **con** 「ペテン、嘘」 **a post-truth world** 「ポスト真実の世界」 ポスト真実とは、客観的な真実よりも感情的な訴えや個人的信条が世論や政治に影響を及ぼす状況を意味する。そのような風潮がみられる世界のこと。アメリカのトランプ政権発足やイギリスの EU 離脱をめぐる論争を反映した用語。 **cosmologist** 「宇宙科学者」 **Carl Sagan** 「カール・セーガン (1934-1996)」 アメリカの天文学者、作家。宇宙に関するドキュメンタリー番組を制作し、司会も務めた。 **world-changing** 「世界を変えるような」 **catfishing** 「キャットフィッシング、なりすまし」 catfish は元々「ナマズ」を意味する。インターネット上で個人情報を偽り、相手を騙す行為。 **dating profiles** 「出会い系プロフィール」 デートを目的として作られた人物紹介。 **the HPV vaccine** 「子宮頸がん予防ワクチン」 **HPV** (= **human papillomavirus**) は子宮頸がんの原因とされるヒトパピローマウイルスの略語。

## Questions for Understanding

### Part 1

*Look at the following statements about the passage. Write T if the statement is True, and F if it is False. Write the number of the paragraph where you find the answer in the parenthesis.*

- 1) \_\_\_\_ According to the passage, it is not always easy to identify whether online information is true or false. ( )
- 2) \_\_\_\_ The passage informs us that we should assume that an idea is true if it is logical. ( )
- 3) \_\_\_\_ We should think carefully before forming a friendship on social media. ( )
- 4) \_\_\_\_ Thinking about what the world would be like if an idea was true can be a helpful way to uncover the truth. ( )

### Part 2

*Look at the following questions about the passage. Check the best answer for each.*

- 1) Which word has the closest meaning to the word “appraise” in Paragraph 2 (line 15)?  
 a. ☐ estimate   b. ☐ evaluate   c. ☐ rate   d. ☐ approve

- 2) According to the passage, what is “catfishing”?
- ☐ Deleting somebody’s social media profile in order to bully them
  - ☐ Creating a fake social media profile as a joke
  - ☐ Using a fake social media profile for illegal activities
  - ☐ Posting fake information on your social media profile
- 3) What does the passage imply regarding the spread of misinformation about the HPV vaccination?
- ☐ The HPV vaccine will gradually become more popular.
  - ☐ Some Japanese women will die unnecessarily.
  - ☐ Boys will start to receive the HPV vaccine in Japan.
  - ☐ The HPV vaccine will become more expensive.
- 4) Which of the following is the key theme of the passage?
- ☐ It is easy to find useful and accurate information on the internet.
  - ☐ It is easy to study science, philosophy, and journalism online.
  - ☐ We should never trust the internet because people spread misinformation.
  - ☐ Checking whether information is correct is everybody’s responsibility.

## Summary



*Fill each space with the best word from the list below.*

consequences	misinformation	investigative
accurate	exposed	bigots

For many of us today the internet is our primary source of information. Using it, we can rapidly find 1) \_\_\_\_\_ information about nearly any subject. However, there is also a huge amount of 2) \_\_\_\_\_ from satirists, criminals, and 3) \_\_\_\_\_. The 4) \_\_\_\_\_ of being fooled and accepting untrue information as true can be very serious, and potentially deadly. How can we make sure that the information we are 5) \_\_\_\_\_ to is correct? Fortunately, the traditional 6) \_\_\_\_\_ techniques developed by philosophers, scientists, and journalists can still help us find the truth among a sea of lies.

## ➤ Over to You

Choose *ONE* of the statements below. Prepare a short response giving your opinion.

- Social media companies should check whether information is true or not.
- Newspapers and magazines are more reliable than the internet.

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