

Disinformation Fuels Distrust At All Levels Of Government | NPR

By Sarah McCammon and Liz Baker

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One day before the insurrection at the U.S. Capitol in January, thousands of miles away in northern California, anger began to boil over at a meeting of the Shasta County Board of Supervisors.

“This is a scandemic, it’s a plandemic, and it’s a damndemic. We’re sick of it!” one woman shouted.

Again and again, residents railed against public officials for enforcing social distancing rules. Some warned of “civil war” and possible violent resistance from militias and other groups.

The potential consequences of false ideas played out in deadly form on Jan. 6, when extremist supporters of former President Donald Trump - inspired by his lie that the November election was stolen - attacked the Capitol. But widespread acceptance of disinformation is shaping the political process at all levels of government.

[...]

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