

Trolling Ourselves to Death

DEMOCRACY IN THE AGE OF SOCIAL MEDIA

JASON HANNAN

OXFORD
UNIVERSITY PRESS

OXFORD

UNIVERSITY PRESS

Oxford University Press is a department of the University of Oxford. It furthers the University's objective of excellence in research, scholarship, and education by publishing worldwide. Oxford is a registered trade mark of Oxford University Press in the UK and certain other countries.

Published in the United States of America by Oxford University Press
198 Madison Avenue, New York, NY 10016, United States of America.

© Oxford University Press 2023

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted, in any form or by any means, without the prior permission in writing of Oxford University Press, or as expressly permitted by law, by license, or under terms agreed with the appropriate reproduction rights organization. Inquiries concerning reproduction outside the scope of the above should be sent to the Rights Department, Oxford University Press, at the address above.

You must not circulate this work in any other form
and you must impose this same condition on any acquirer.

Library of Congress Control Number: 2023040389

ISBN 978-0-19-755777-8 (pbk.)

ISBN 978-0-19-755776-1 (hbk.)

DOI: 10.1093/oso/9780197557761.001.0001

Paperback printed by Marquis Book Printing, Canada

Hardback printed by Bridgeport National Bindery, Inc., United States of America



Contents

Acknowledgments ix

Introduction 1

1. Technology 16

2. Disenlightenment 30

3. Unreason 46

4. Shame 60

5. Conspiracy 82

6. Trust 102

Conclusion 121

Notes 131

Index 159