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Stevan E. Hobfoll

# Tribalism

## The Evolutionary Origins of Fear Politics

- Places the concept of “tribal politics” within the context of Trump’s rise, the 2016 Election, and growing polarization in American politics
- Provides an empirical and evolutionary basis for the prevalence of tribal politics and the politics of fear, distinct from most books on the topic that employ a historical or political approach
- Is of interest to students and scholars in sociology, psychology, and political science, as well as those in “harder sciences” and public policy

Unearthing the most primal motivations behind the fear politics movements sweeping across the USA, Europe, and the Middle East, Stevan E. Hobfoll examines how the increasing sense of threat from the political and cultural “other” or “outsider” engenders an evolutionary, built-in “defend and aggress” response. This deep-wired evolutionary response is a defining aspect of our tribal origins and has allowed for the rise of propaganda, extremist politics, and—in turn—violence. In this timely work, which binds theories in psychology, sociology, evolution, biology, linguistics, iconography, rhetoric, and religion, Hobfoll explores the tribalist roots of radical militant Islam, violence against women, white supremacy, the rise of authoritarian leaders, and an increasingly polarized and uncompromising political landscape. Grounded in evolutionary psychological research, Hobfoll’s long term study of stress, and in conversation with contemporary academic literature, *Tribalism* not only offers an explanation for society’s worst impulses, but also points us towards the best protections against tribalism and other evolutionary traps.

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