

# Jurassic Locke: A Hacks-Based Model of Modernity



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# Contents: Parts 1 and 2

- ◇ Part 1 (Jurassic Locke 1) is this file, which contains 95 slides:
  - ◇ Slides 3 to 30: starting ca 1600, physics equations drive us to seek shelter in cognitive hacks
  - ◇ Slides 31 to 61: these hacks create modernity's 4 distinctive belief chambers
  - ◇ Slides 62 to 95: visible "dark spot" in belief chamber diagram is like a tumor, explaining many modern peculiarities
- ◇ Part 2 (Jurassic Locke 2) contains an additional 90 slides:
  - ◇ Slides 3 to 12: the PPPH Hack (pleasure/pain-power/harm)
  - ◇ Slides 13 to 26: the Harm Hack, as wielded by Hobbes then Locke
  - ◇ Slides 27 to 30: the libertarian NoHarm Hack
  - ◇ Slides 31 to 50: the Jurassic Locke event and the Panic Hack: "Outrage finds a way"
  - ◇ Slides 51 to 76: the first fully-equipped American Lockosaur
  - ◇ Slides 77 to 90: our new Temple system: public sin but only private expiation

# our ancient "moral model" of reality

- ◇ an irreducible minimum for most humans:

**There is right and wrong, and good and bad, and we have the free will to choose between them.**

**We are rightly praised for choosing right/good, and rightly censured for choosing wrong/bad.**

- ◇ people lacking in this "moral model" are considered sociopaths

- ◇ model often but not always coupled with supernatural

- ◇ eg God created the standards of right and wrong, and will reward or punish accordingly

- ◇ hard to imagine living in groups (or even alone) without this model

- ◇ people must be kept in line (theft, murder, rape etc), and we must pursue our own value judgments

- ◇ it would take something pretty spectacular to dislodge us from this model, no?

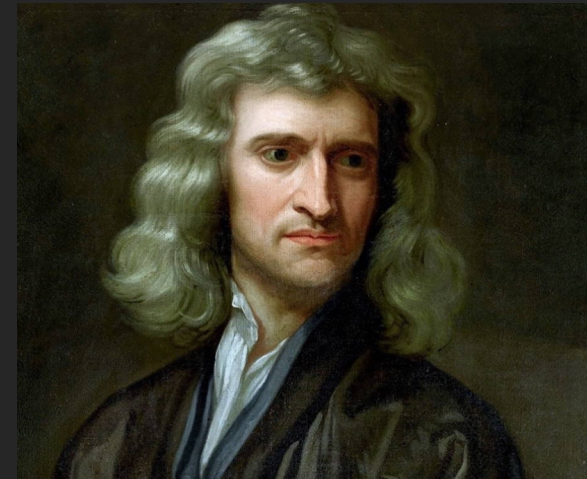


# something spectacular *did* happen

- ◇ starting circa 1600, we get precise mathematical equations that describe how matter & energy behave
  - ◇ 1543 Copernicus calculation of planetary positions
  - ◇ 1609 Kepler laws of planetary motion
  - ◇ 1638 Galileo laws of object motion
  - ◇ 1687 Newton's Principia, unifying Kepler & Galileo: a super-significant cultural milestone
  - ◇ 1790 Laplace correction of Newtonian orbits (removing need for ongoing divine nudges)
  - ◇ 1862 Maxwell equations of electricity & magnetism
  - ◇ 1905, 1915 Einstein special & general relativity
  - ◇ 1905-27 quantum mechanics
  - ◇ 1927 quantum electrodynamics, combining quantum mechanics & special relativity
  - ◇ 1970s Standard Model of particle physics
- ◇ "THESE ARE CORRECT!" was shouted in various ways:
  - ◇ equations made predictions, later confirmed
  - ◇ successful applications of the equations were many & staggering: radio, nuclear bombs

# resulting "mechworld" model of reality

- ◇ faced with these equations, many scientists and non-scientists concluded this is what reality is *like*, at bottom:
  - Everything is tiny bits of matter and energy blindly following mathematical equations**
- ◇ This "mechworld" model of reality soon became super-compelling, esp after Newton (1687)
  - ◇ We may not have *all* the laws yet, but we've seen *enough* to put the smart money on equations, all the way down
- ◇ God seemed to recede incrementally from model, as more science discovered
  - ◇ "God of the Gaps": Laplace on orbital corrections, Darwin on species creation...



# equations turbocharged materialism into something new: **ultra-persuasive & ultra-reductionist**

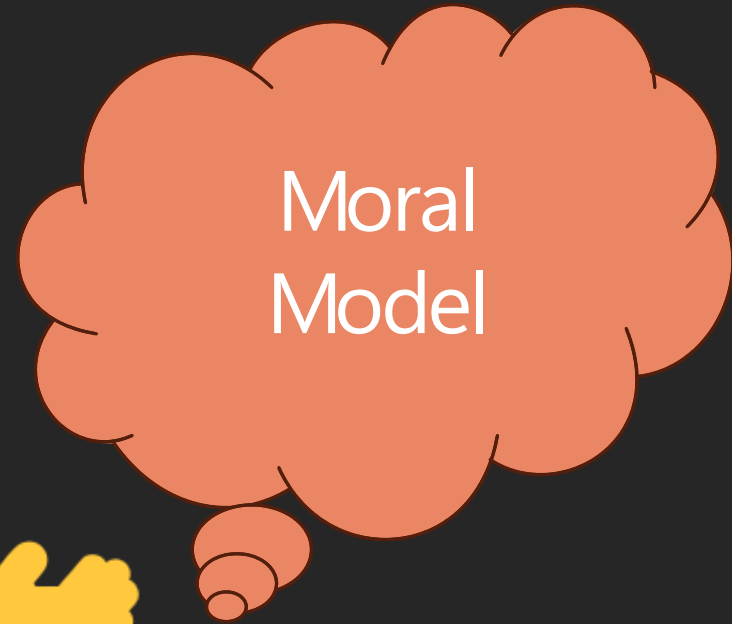
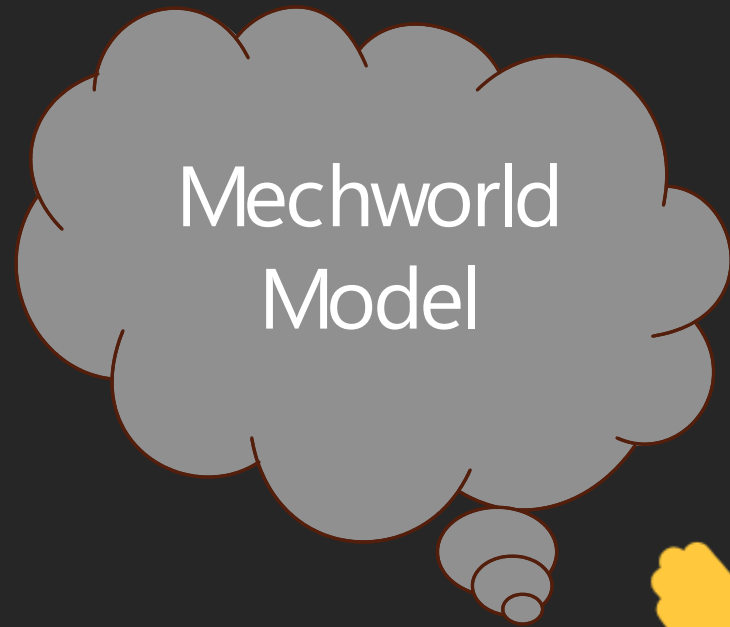
- ◇ Materialism has a surprisingly long history; Democritus thought everything was atoms in motion (340 BC)
  - ◇ Epicurus (306 BC) and Lucretius (60 BC) continued this model
- ◇ But adding *exact equations* to materialism turbocharged it into something ...
- ◇ **ultra-persuasive**
  - ◇ Unlike classical materialism, this is no longer just one philosophical model of reality to choose from among others
    - ◇ It seems to transcend philosophy into "science"; it seems unscientific or mystical to question its control over everything
    - ◇ "What, you're saying your soul reaches out with a ghostly arm to nudge a neuron out of its mathematical path?"
- ◇ **ultra-reductionist**
  - ◇ "It's all just tiny particles blindly following simple equations" is a reductionist extreme (no soul, free will etc)
  - ◇ classical materialists tended to leave room for morally-inflected divine will, fate, and even human free will:
    - ◇ Epicurus famously posited particle "swerve" to allow for free will – but equations don't like arbitrary swerves
- ◇ circa 1600 timing makes this a plausible driver of Enlightenment

# what about Machiavelli?

- ◇ Historians often trace the modernist/materialist/hedonic thread back thru Hobbes to Machiavelli
  - ◇ But Machiavelli (1469-1527) was pre-equations, so does that undercut this model?
- ◇ Interesting facts from *The Atomic Machiavelli*, a 2017 dissertation by Dhruv Jain:
  - ◇ Machiavelli was heavily influenced by the *classical* materialist Lucretius (who summarized Democritus & Epicurus)
    - ◇ Machiavelli copied his entire *De Rerum Nature* (50 BC) by hand
  - ◇ First tract against Machiavelli accused him of being an Epicurean (!)
- ◇ We should see Machiavelli as a modern who got there a little early via classical materialism
  - ◇ as part of the Renaissance revival of classics
- ◇ Posterity rates him so highly *because* the equations soon vindicated his worldview
  - ◇ If they hadn't, he might be seen as something of a historical curiosity now,
  - ◇ as opposed to part of the vital materialist mainstream.



we are now in odd position (since c 1600) of having two models of reality that directly clash





# Ed Witten 2021

- ◆ One of the greatest living physicists articulates mechworld—and *doesn't see it as philosophy* (!)



How is Mathematics Truth and Beauty?  
"Closer to Truth" interview

Q: What does ["discovering mathematics"] mean? Does that mean that mathematics is sort of in this Platonic heaven as some people sarcastically put it?

Witten: Well I can't contribute to philosophical understanding and I won't try. I'll just say that calculus I'm sure has been developed on other planets if there are advanced civilizations on other planets. Any civilization that tried understanding the natural world would find that they needed calculus to understand the motion of the planets. And if they happen to live in a solar system with only one planet they would invent calculus to...describe the motion of projectiles that they could see around them, or balls rolling down an inclined plane as studied by Galileo ...

Q: And no matter where they are in the universe they would come up with the same answer?

Witten: Yes, I'm sure calculus is universal. The things we argue about in daily life are not universal. They're particular to us. But calculus is universal.

universal  
objective truth

math  
science  
physicalities

not universal  
not objective truth

the things we argue about:  
right/wrong, politics, religion

# mechworld model has "bite": it determines our expectations about space aliens

aliens will presumably agree with us



$2 + 2 = 4$

coal burns

salt dissolves in water

I weigh 300 pounds

solid

aliens may well disagree with us



God exists

murder is sinful

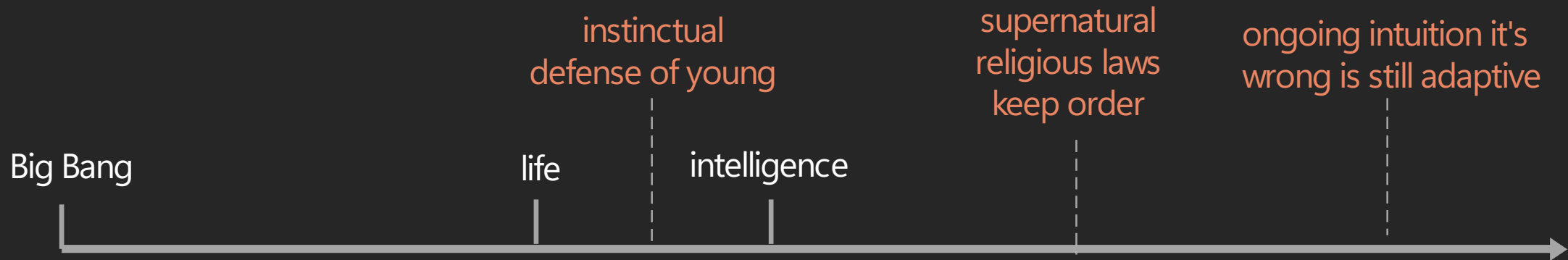
saints' relics cure disease

I ought to resist gluttony

suspect

# mechworld is toxic on contact to moral model

- ◇ if mechworld is true and complete, then:
  - ◇ we have no free will to choose between right/wrong and good/bad, so praise & blame make no sense.
  - ◇ Even if we had free will, our standards of right/wrong/good/bad are merely the resulting of blind conditioning, with no "true north" and no objective validity.
- ◇ mechworld has remarkable ability to subsume objections to itself back into its model, with "mechsplanations"
  - ◇ "But we've always believed in God!" MECHSPLANATION: God was an evolutionarily adaptive cultural belief.
  - ◇ "But it's obviously wrong to kill innocent children!" MECHSPLANATION: this belief arose on the Great Mech Timeline:



# Hume's Chasm: IS vs OUGHT

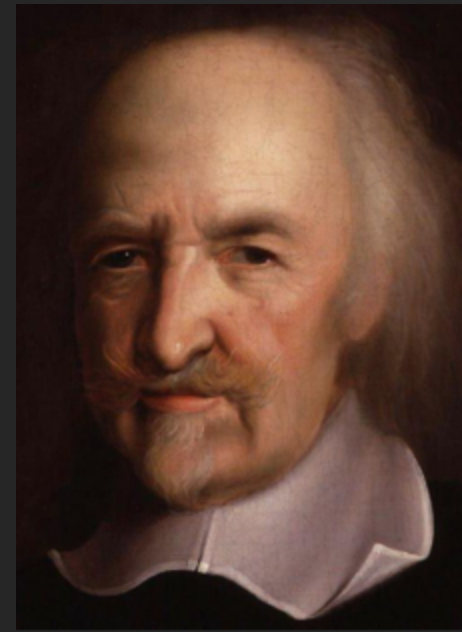
- ◇ In 1739, David Hume argued there's an unbridgeable chasm between IS and OUGHT:
  - ◇ In every system of morality which I have hitherto met with ... the author proceeds for some time in the ordinary way of reasoning, and establishes the being of a God, or makes observations concerning human affairs; when of a sudden I am surprised to find, that instead of the usual copulations of propositions, is, and is not, I meet with no proposition that is not connected with an ought, or an ought not. This change is imperceptible; but is, however, of the last consequence. For as this ought, or ought not, expresses some new relation or affirmation, it's necessary that it should be observed and explained; and at the same time that a reason should be given, for what seems altogether inconceivable, how this new relation can be a deduction from others, which are entirely different from it. But as authors do not commonly use this precaution, I shall presume to recommend it to the readers; and am persuaded, that this small attention would subvert all the vulgar systems of morality, and let us see, that the distinction of vice and virtue is not founded merely on the relations of objects, nor is perceived by reason.
- ◇ Not accidental Hume was thinking about IS vs OUGHT at this time
  - ◇ Newtonian physics arrived in 1687; mechworld was in the intellectual air



# Hobbes 1651

- ◇ Hobbes (1588-1679) was a scientist as well as political theorist
  - ◇ visited Galileo in 1634 during his house arrest
  - ◇ applied chain-of-physical-causes model to optics (rejecting Aristotle)
- ◇ His *Leviathan* (1651) begins:

For seeing life is but a motion of Limbs, the beginning whereof is in some principall part within; why may we not say, that all Automata (Engines that move themselves by springs and wheeles as doth a watch) have an artificiall life? For what is the Heart, but a Spring; and the Nerves, but so many Strings; and the Joynts, but so many Wheeles, giving motion to the whole Body, such as was intended by the Artificer?



# Paul-Henry Thiry 1770

- ◇ ferocious French atheist & encyclopedist, writing under pseudonym "Mirabaud"
- ◇ His book *The System of Nature* (1770) was very influential

The universe, that vast assemblage of every thing that exists, presents only matter and motion: the whole offers to our contemplation, nothing but an immense, an uninterrupted succession of causes and effects

Thus man is a being purely physical...submitted to the necessary, to the immutable laws [of Nature] that she imposes on all the beings she contains ... Man's life is a line that Nature commands him to describe upon the surface of the earth: without his ever being able to swerve from it even for an instant. .. his ideas come to him involuntarily ... he is unceasingly modified by causes ... He is good or bad—happy or miserable — wise or foolish— reasonable or irrational, without his will going for anything in these various states.



# Robert Owen 1816

- ◇ One of the "utopian socialists" derided by Marx
- ◇ Successful Welsh textile manufacturer, became philanthropist, author, and social reformer
- ◇ Founded utopian community of New Harmony, Indiana, which failed two years later

The will of man has no power whatever over his opinions; he must, and ever did, and ever will believe what has been, is, or may be impressed on his mind by his predecessors and the circumstances which surround him. It becomes therefore the essence of irrationality to suppose that any human being, from the creation to this day, could deserve praise or blame, reward or punishment, for the prepossessions of early education.



# Laplace

- ◆ French mathematician & physicist (1749-1827): "the French Newton"

We may regard the present state of the universe as the effect of its past and the cause of its future. An intellect which at a certain moment would know all forces that set nature in motion, and all positions of all items of which nature is composed, if this intellect were also vast enough to submit these data to analysis, it would embrace in a single formula the movements of the greatest bodies of the universe and those of the tiniest atom; for such an intellect nothing would be uncertain and the future just like the past would be present before its eyes.

- ◆ His famous exchange with Napoleon
  - ◆ Napoleon: Where does God fit into your model?
  - ◆ Laplace: I have not had need of that hypothesis.





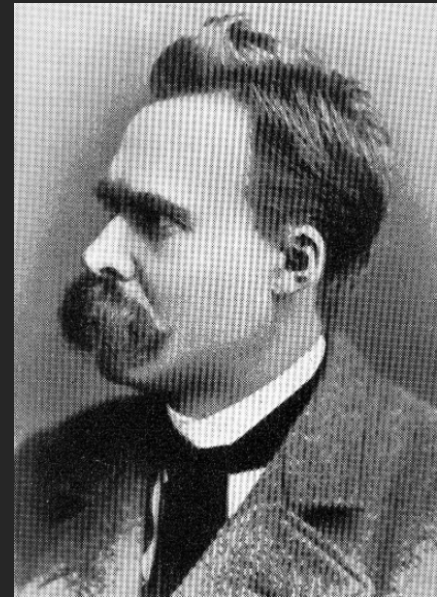
# Nietzsche 1876

- ◆ His *Human, All Too Human* channels Laplace:

At the sight of a waterfall we think we see in the countless curvings, twisting and breakings of the waves capriciousness and freedom of will; but everything here is necessary, every motion mathematically calculable. So it is too in the case of human actions; if one were all-knowing, one would be able to calculate every individual action, likewise every advance in knowledge, every error, every piece of wickedness. The actor himself, to be sure, is fixed in the illusion of free will; if for one moment the wheel of the world were to stand still, and there were an all-knowing, calculating intelligence there to make use of this pause, it could narrate the future of every creature to the remotest ages and describe every track along which this wheel has yet to roll. The actor's deception regarding himself, the assumption of free-will, is itself part of the mechanism it would have to compute.

- ◆ His "eternal recurrence" is an application of this mechworld model

- ◆ With infinite time a configuration must repeat, at which point everything loops



# Joseph Henry Allen 1876

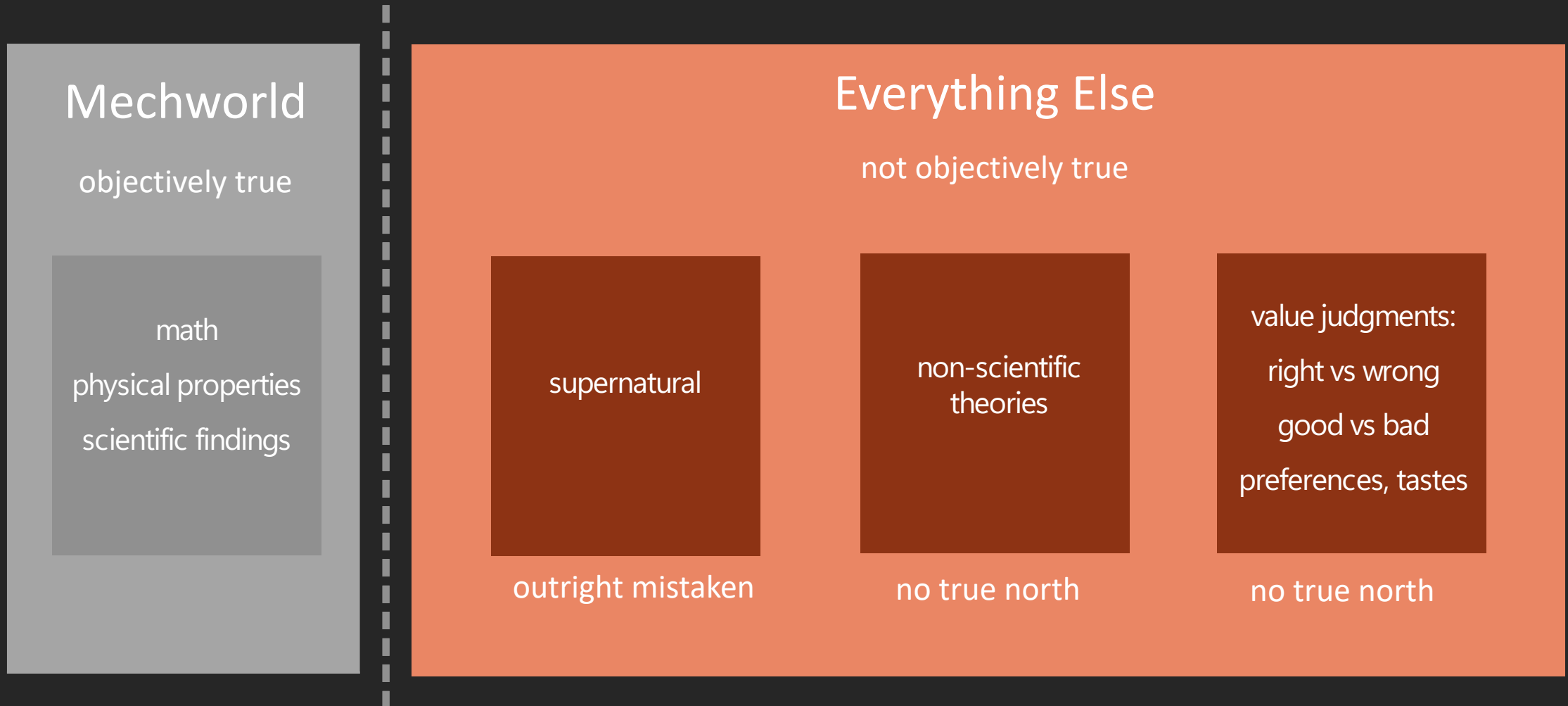
- ◇ Unitarian pastor, author, Harvard Divinity professor (1820-1898)
- ◇ His *Three Phases of Modern Theology (Calvinism, Unitarianism, Liberalism)* gives a fascinating "saw it myself" account of the transition

Think of the steps that have been taken since: Galileo's discoveries about the planets ... Kepler's laws of planetary motion ... Newton's theory of universal gravitation, displacing arbitrary will as the direct cause of the celestial motions; Franklin's proof that lightning and electricity are the same, doing away the superstitious awe at thunder-storms; Laplace's nebular hypothesis, so generally accepted, carrying back the origin of the solar system to incalculable remoteness; demonstration of the speed of light and distances of the stars, destroying utterly the old belief in a local heaven; geological proofs of the uniformity of cosmic forces and antiquity of the globe, disproving absolutely the popular chronology of creation; ... and now the scheme of evolution by natural process, apparently destined, with whatever modification, to supersede and swallow up every other theory of the transmission of life and the inheritance of natural good or evil..

One point, at least, they may fairly claim to have established in what I suppose is now the general consent among us, that one may distinctly rule out from his belief every thing that is technically supernatural...



# mechworld divides beliefs into two types: solid & suspect



# Rigor vs Vigor

- ◇ When we think about the implications of mechworld, we tend to end up here:
  - ◇ **We're machines who've realized we're machines, but have to go back to pretending we're not machines in order to function**
- ◇ Why? Because everything we need to *live*, including the moral model, is on the right
  - ◇ semi-conscious placebo beliefs become a guilty background feature of modern life



# Kepler's Star analogy



solid

zapped, irradiated, collapsing placebos

Mechworld



Everything Else

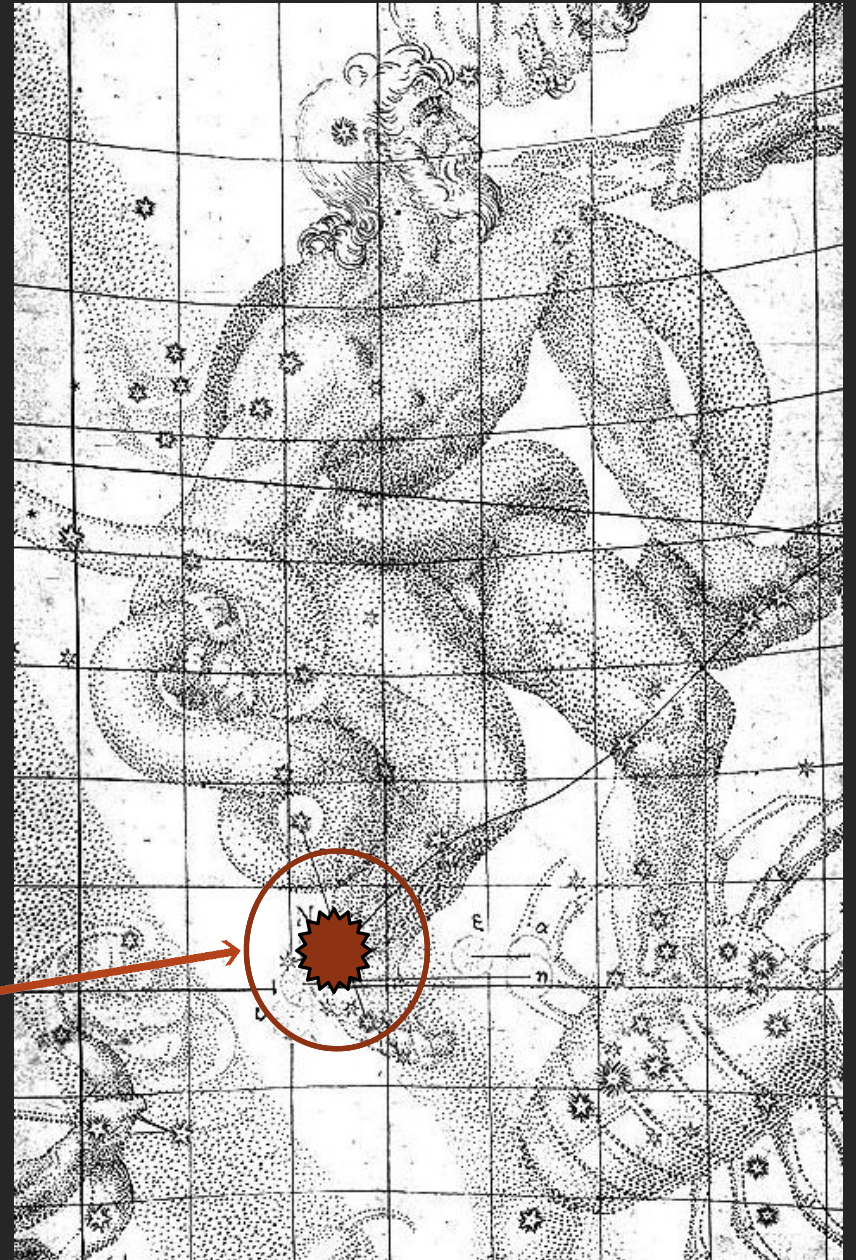


# the real Kepler's Star

- ◇ A new "star" appeared in the sky on October 8, 1604
  - ◇ a super bright supernova visible during the day for 3 weeks
  - ◇ still the most recent supernova visible to naked eye
- ◇ The astronomer Kepler charted it in 1605



Johannes Kepler  
(1571-1630)



in constellation Serpentarius ("serpent bearer")

# Kepler's Star as metaphor for the new "star" that appears in our intellectual sky ca 1600

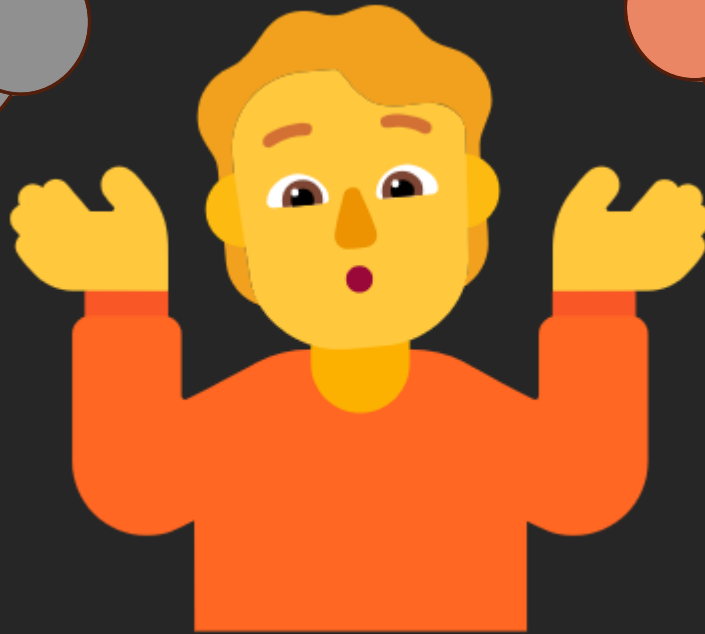


- ◇ The star's date (1604) and name (Kepler) make it a nice metaphor for this new "star" in our intellectual sky
  - ◇ its constellation "Serpent Bearer" doesn't hurt either, given its eventual impact on religion
- ◇ In this presentation, "Kepler's Star" stands for materialism turbocharged by exact equations,
  - ◇ as an idea that appears over our intellectual landscape circa 1600
  - ◇ Unlike the actual supernova which quickly faded, this metaphorical Kepler's Star grew brighter over time
- ◇ Metaphor will picture Kepler's Star as emitting a sort of killing radiation (mechsplanations),
  - ◇ that our beliefs need to take shelter from (with [hacks](#)), lest they get zapped.
  - ◇ Only the Mechworld chamber is immune: beliefs there are impervious to mechrays.
    - ◇ Unfortunately they also provide no impetus; they can't guide our lives.

but despite power of Kepler's Star,  
the moral model still thrives alongside it

Mechworld  
Model

Moral  
Model

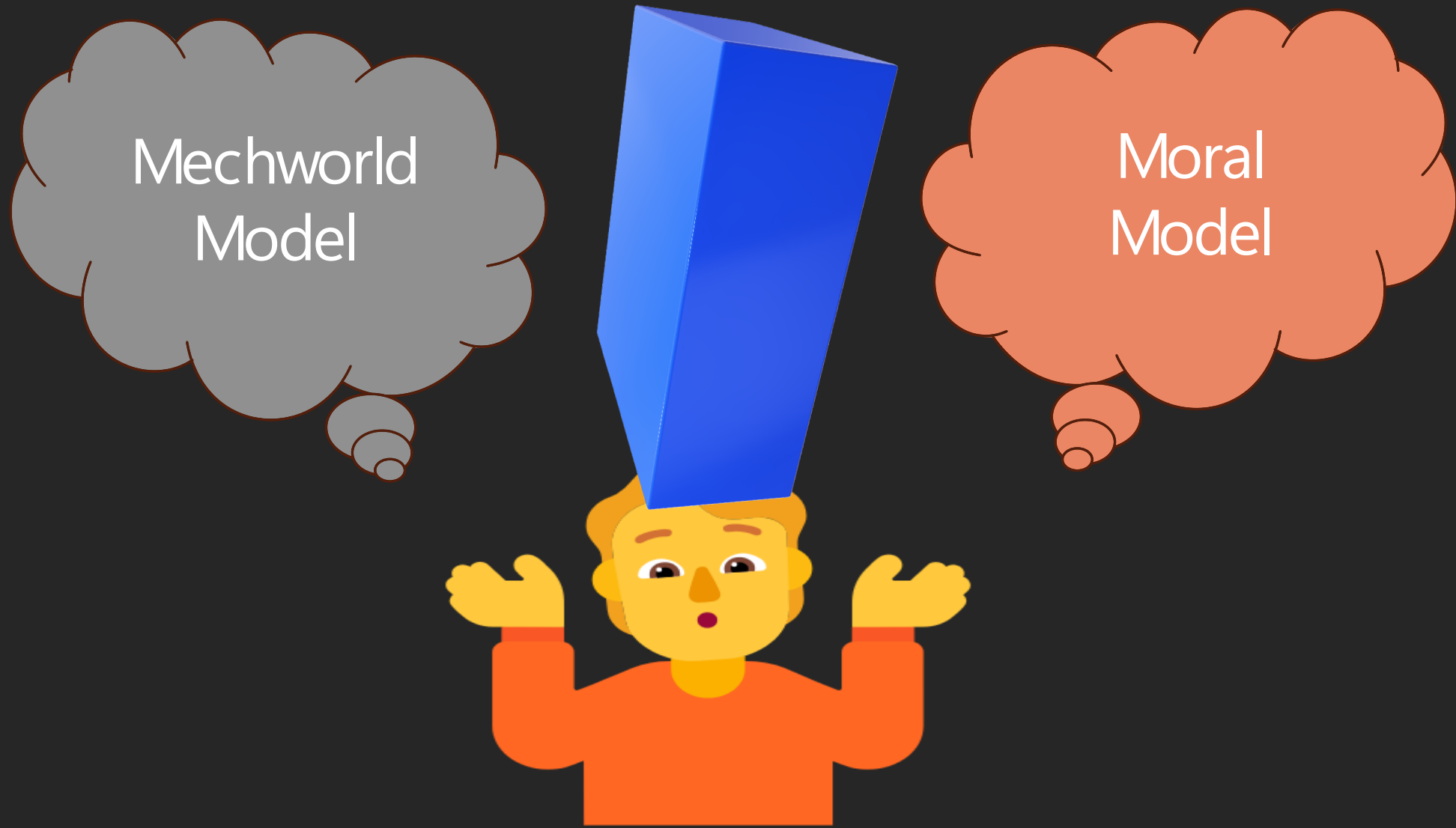




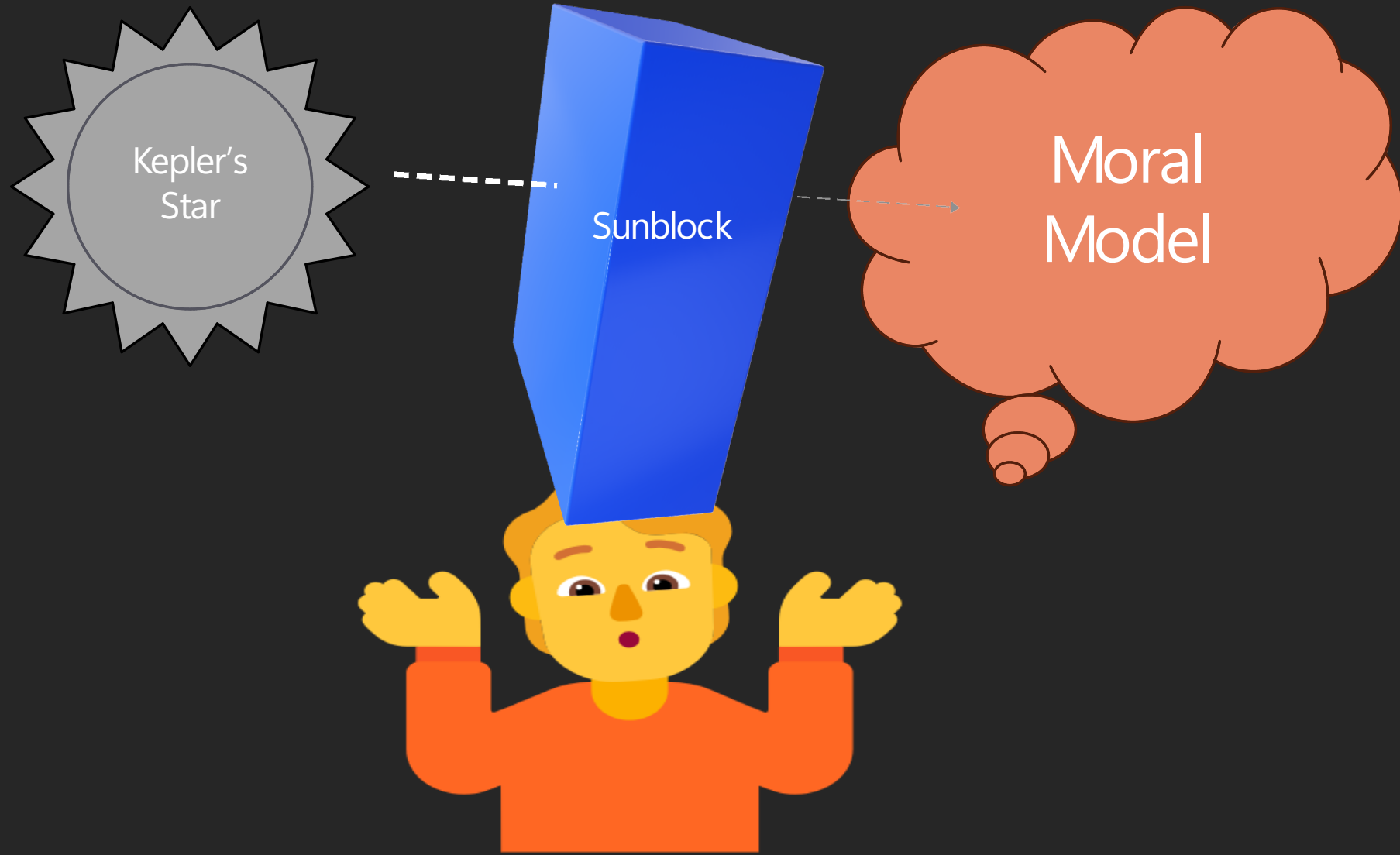
# even mechworld zealots hold moral model beliefs

- ◇ Hobbes, Thiry, Owen, Nietzsche et al still had very intense beliefs about right/wrong/good/bad ...
  - ◇ and very particular programs they argued it would be *good* for humanity to follow—
  - ◇ as if humanity had free will—and as if their own ideas weren't merely conditioned beliefs with no objective validity.
- ◇ It's as if the mechworld model became just a detail, inconsistently woven into a larger moral model argument
  - ◇ eg the atheist Thiry saw nature as 100% determined by scientific causation, hence religion is a priestly fairy tale told to keep monarchs in power. Yet he intensely *blamed* them for it, and imagined readers could freely opt into his secular system. And he imagined his new system was somehow objectively better (despite lack of any such standards in mechworld).
- ◇ 400 years after equations started arriving, there are still about 2 billion Christians and 2 billion Muslims
  - ◇ and many other supernatural beliefs: "law of attraction", soulmates, ghosts
- ◇ Even among atheists, value judgments are still going strong: racism is awful, climate denial is awful ...
- ◇ So have we simply shrugged off mechworld? Has it had no impact on our own moral models?

cognitive buffering shields  
moral model from mechworld



cognitive **hacks** are like sunblock,  
shielding our Moral Model beliefs



# clue implying **hacks**: Why does this classic conditioning mechsplanation land so differently?

conditioning mechsplanation against **religion**:

If you grew up in Old Europe you'd be Christian, and in Arabia you'd be Muslim.

This suggests our religions are a product of our conditioning and not objectively true.

Gotcha, religion!



This is perceived as a reasonable point. A modern Christian will say:

I still believe Christianity is true, but I can see how unbelievers would see this conditioning effect and have some reasonable doubts.

A modern Christian will not say: **But Islam is clearly *wrong* and Christianity is clearly correct! Don't relativize this with conditioning!**

conditioning mechsplanation against **anti-racism**:

If you grew up in Old South you'd support slavery, and in Old India you'd support caste system.

This suggests our taboo against racism is a product of our conditioning and not objectively true.

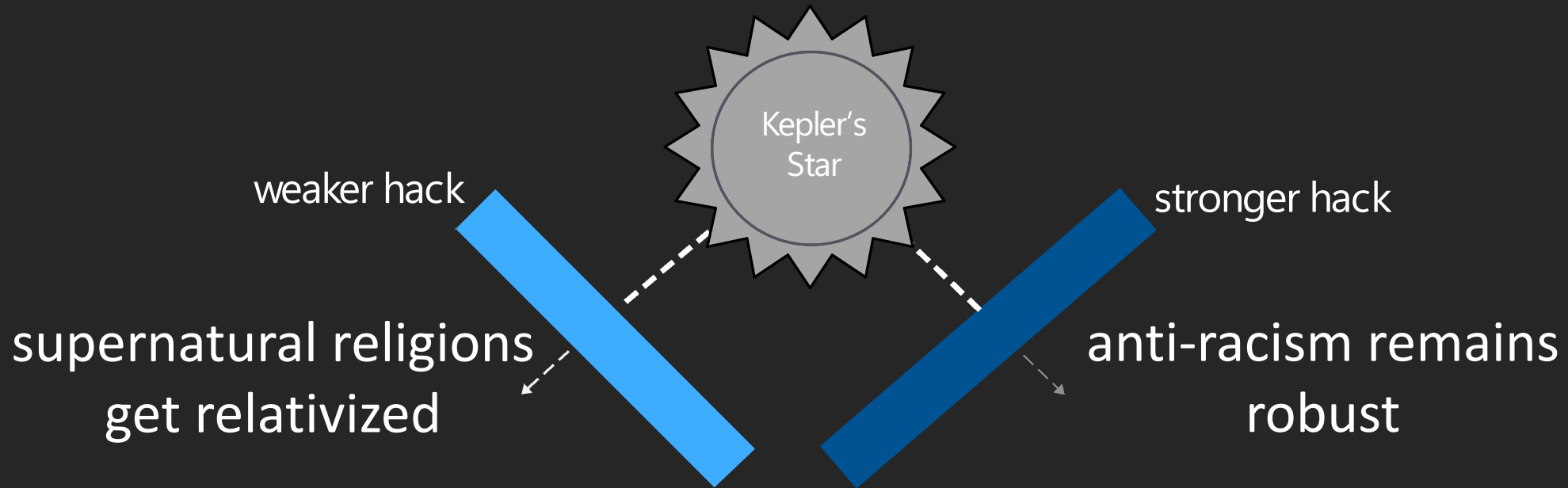
Gotcha, anti-racism!



This is perceived as bizarrely irrelevant. A modern will say:

**But slavery and caste system were clearly *wrong*! And something is wrong with *you* if you try to relativize these evils away with a weird conditioning argument.**

these mechsplanations land differently because religion & anti-racism are shaded by different hacks



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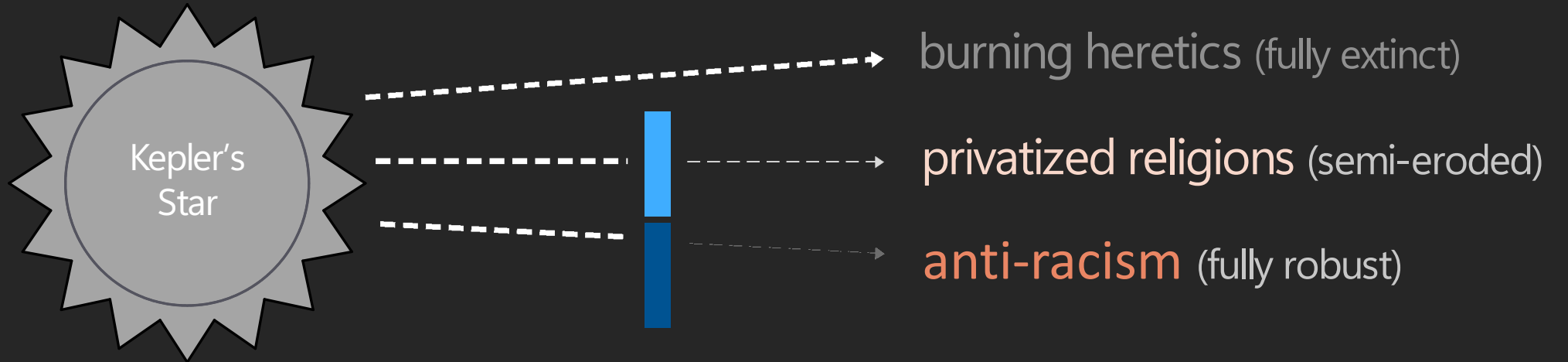
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Gotcha, anti-racism!

cognitive **hacks** are like sunblock,  
shielding beliefs in moral model



# groping toward a visualization

- ◇ it felt like "Kepler's Star" divided beliefs into different categories / buckets, eg:
  - ◇ moral panics against racism, sexism, abortion seemed fully shielded (don't even think of Kepler's Star)
  - ◇ private religions seemed to survive, but only semi-shielded and somewhat anemic
- ◇ It felt like robust medieval religion got quashed "downward" into a smaller box
- ◇ It felt like our new secular moral panics were in a different box to the "right" that burst upward, filling the vacuum
  
- ◇ But what exactly did "up" or "down" mean on this visualization, and what would "left" and "right" mean?
- ◇ 2 years of playing with this material finally led me to **two axes** that seem most helpful
  - ◇ Everything seems to snap into place, once you use these two axes
- ◇ Why? Because Hobbes & Locke thought *in terms of* these axes, and they architected modernity

# first axis (Y/vertical) = functional certainty

- ◇ the "functional certainty" of a belief is how the believer treats those who doubt it
  - ◇ we normally think of certainty as our subjective internal certainty, but that is not very helpful in visualizing modernity
  - ◇ Example: a Christian today may fully believe Christ is Lord (with 100% internal certainty),
    - ◇ BUT he treats Hindu and Muslim beliefs with far more respect than he does mathematical errors or Holocaust denial
- ◇ 4 degrees of functional certainty, in beliefs one holds:
  - ◇ **Comprehender:** (for science, math, physical properties) doubt is irrational
  - ◇ **Believer:** (for "private" beliefs like religion, self-help) doubt is rational & decent
  - ◇ **Referee:** (for policing crime, gov policy, jury trial votes) doubt may be rational and/or decent, but overridable
  - ◇ **Enforcer:** (for moral panics like Holocaust, racism, abortion) doubt is indecent

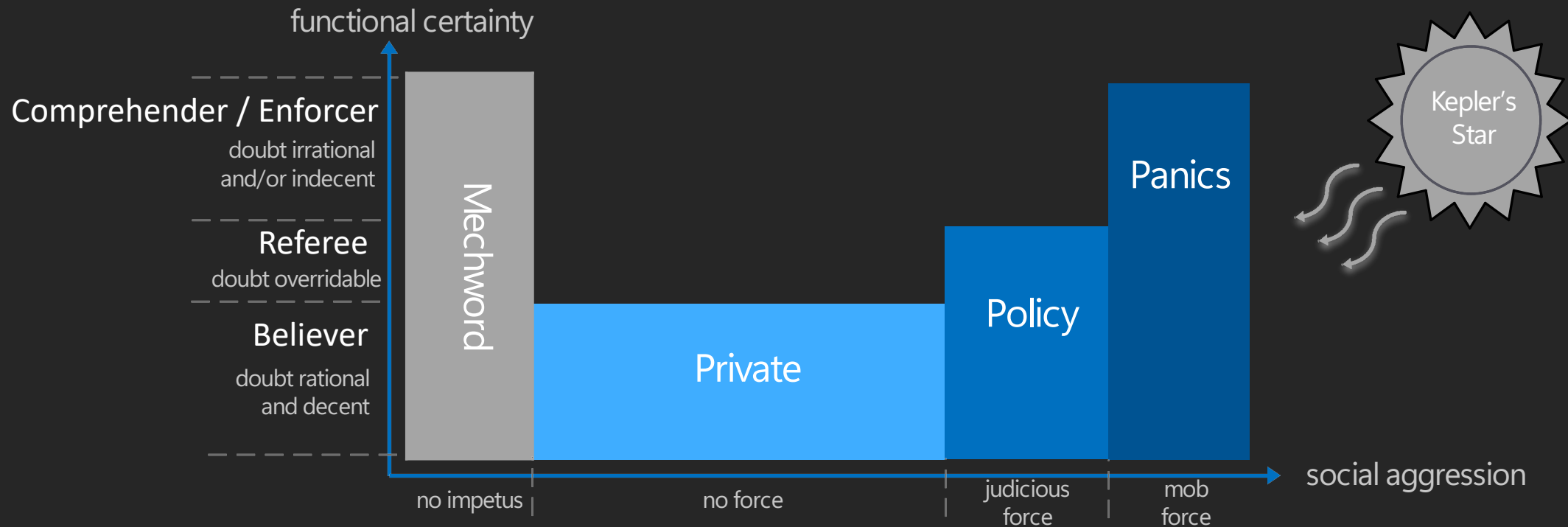


# second axis (X/horizontal) = social aggression

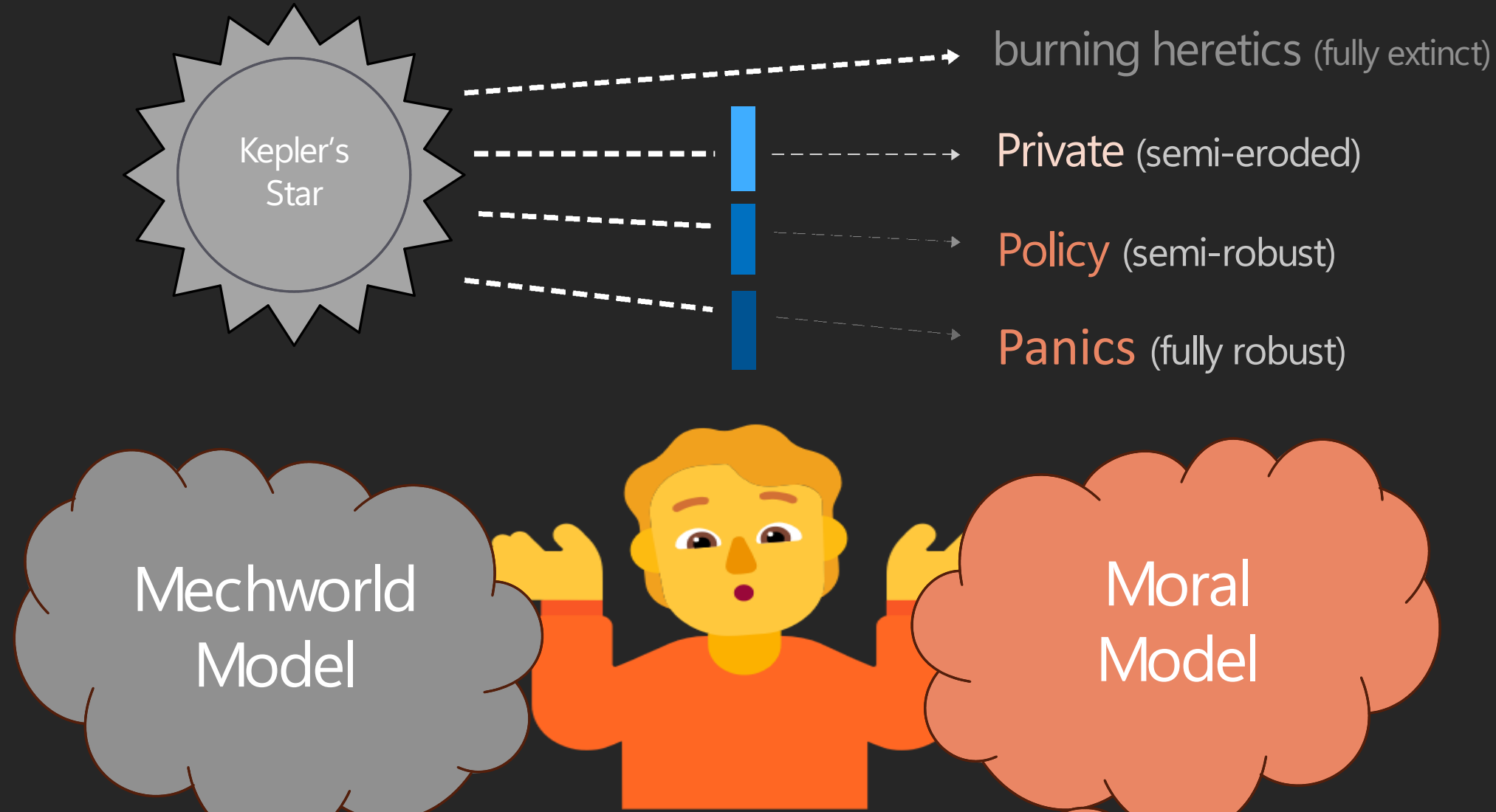
- ◇ beliefs incite different degrees of "social aggression"
- ◇ 4 degrees of social aggression:
  - ◇ **no impetus**: (for science, math, physical properties) no impetus to take any
  - ◇ **no force**: (for "private" beliefs like religion, self-help) impetus to do something, short of coercing others
  - ◇ **judicious force**: (for policing crime, gov policy, jury trial votes) judicious coercion of others (eye for eye, tradeoffs)
  - ◇ **mob force**: (for moral panics like Holocaust, racism, abortion) activated mob (contamination model, need for 100% purity)

# modernity has 4 distinct belief chambers

- ◇ **Mechworld:** ("objectively true") math, scientific findings, physical properties
- ◇ **Private:** non-scientific beliefs (incl any supernatural) that aren't involved in stopping secular harms
- ◇ **Policy:** governmental type procedures for dealing with ordinary sub-Panic secular harms
- ◇ **Panics:** moral panics over grand secular harms (racism, sexism, Holocaust etc)
  - ◇ We may disagree on which specific beliefs we slot into each chamber, but we agree on the architecture

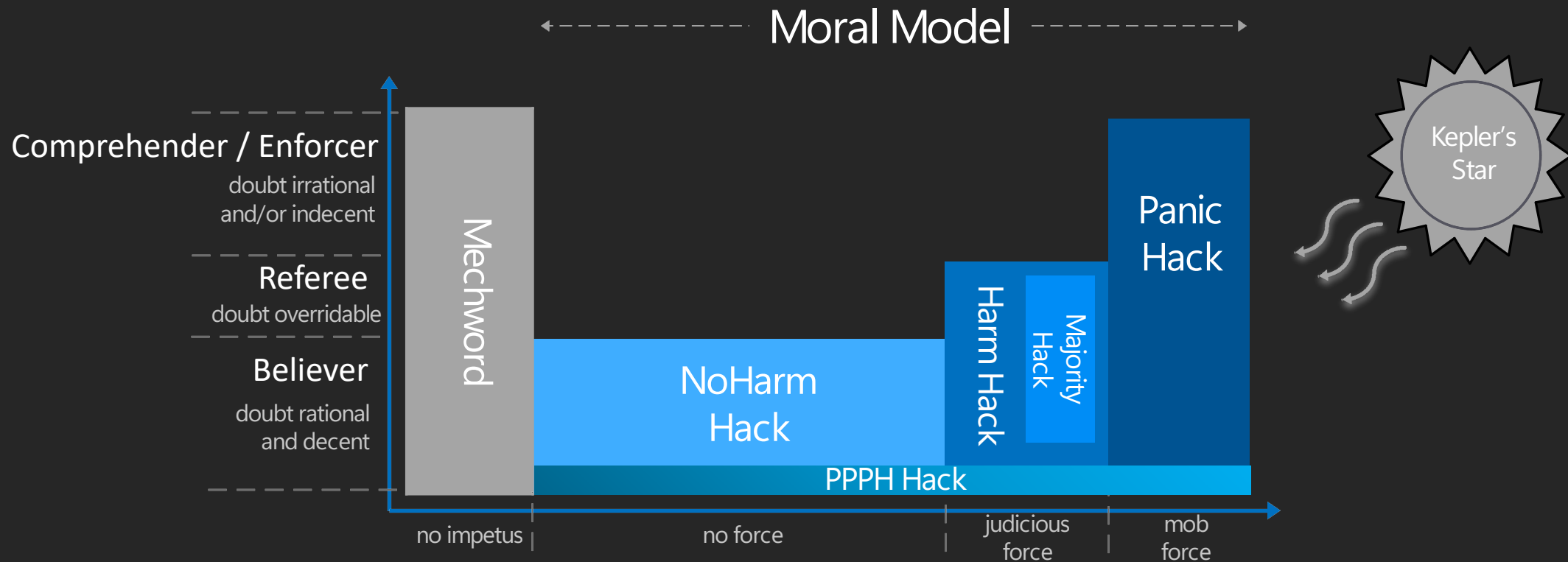


# hacks provide different degrees of cognitive shading



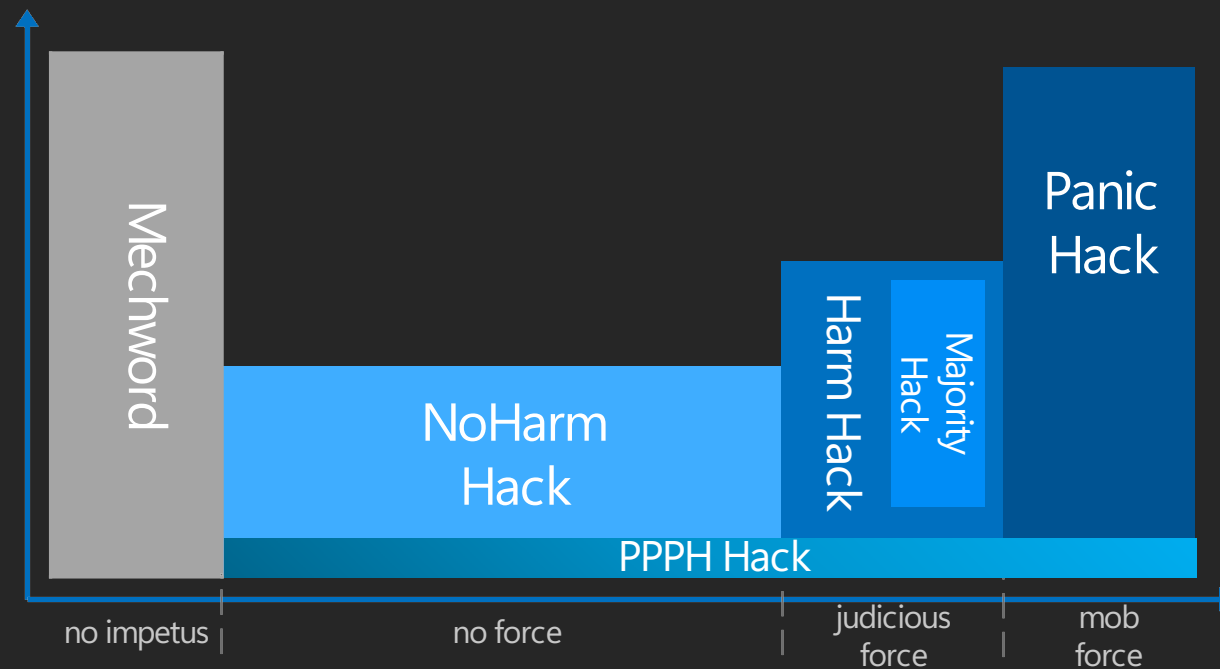
# Moral Model is now shielded by cognitive hacks

- ◇ All beliefs to right of Mechworld have taken refuge under certain cognitive Hacks (like sunblock)
- ◇ Mechworld beliefs need no hacks since they're already compatible with mechworld



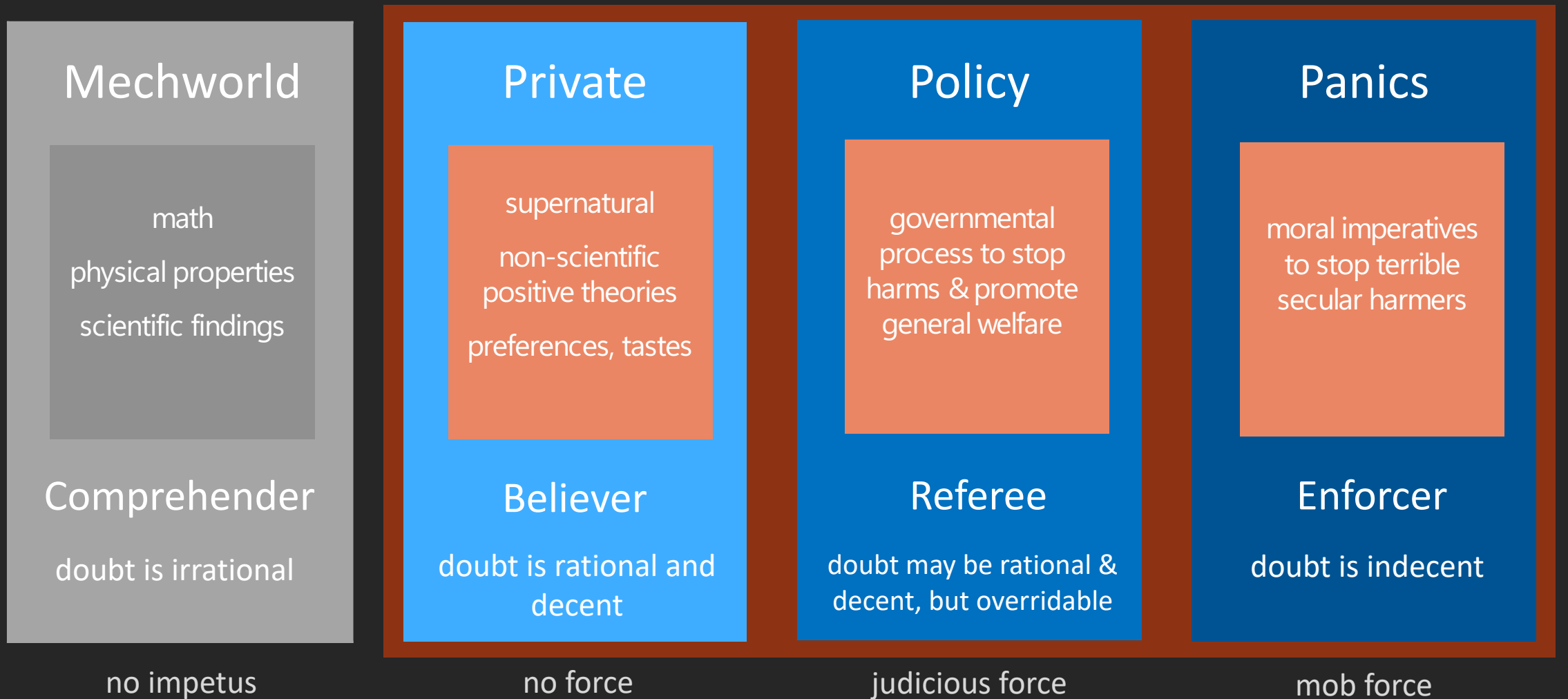
# the 5 cognitive **hacks** that protect Modernity

- ◇ **PPPH Hack**: pleasure/pain-power/harm seems more "real" than medieval **VSGS** (virtue/sin-God/Satan)
- ◇ **Harm Hack**: actual "real" (secular) harm creates perceived common sense need to settle the matter
- ◇ **NoHarm**: if you're not "really" harming anyone you should be free to believe **supernatural** + exposed **oughts**
- ◇ **Majority Hack**: democratic will of majority only legitimate basis for government policy & use of force
- ◇ **Panic Hack**: certain secular harms so enormous (racism etc), they trigger circularly reinforcing outrage
  - ◇ creates moral contamination logic, with suppression of dissent & need for 100% purity



# modernity has 4 chambers for 4 types of beliefs

← - mechworld model →      ← - - - - - moral model - - - - - →



# Hacks are like sunblock, shielding us from Kepler's Star

Shielding:

NoHarm  
Hack

Harm  
Hack

Majority  
Hack

Panic  
Hack

PPPH Hack

Mechworld

math  
physical properties  
scientific findings

Comprehender

doubt is irrational

MPF 15

supernatural  
non-scientific  
positive theories  
preferences, tastes

Believer

doubt is rational and  
decent

MPF 30

governmental  
process to stop  
harms & promote  
general welfare

Referee

doubt may be rational &  
decent, but overridable

MPF 45

moral imperatives  
to stop terrible  
secular harmers

Enforcer

doubt is indecent

# Hacks create different degrees of functional certainty; functional certainty = how you treat doubts

## Mechworld

puzzlement  
bemusement  
desire to cheerfully  
show them the proof  
so they'll see it

## Comprehender

doubt is irrational

## Private

"agree to disagree"  
at most an attempt  
to persuade,  
understanding it  
may well not work  
certainly no force

## Believer

doubt is rational and  
decent

## Policy

attempts to  
persuade other  
side, with coercion  
rightly ensuing if  
your side wins thru  
the proper process  
(election, trial etc)

## Referee

doubt may be rational &  
decent, but overridable

## Panics

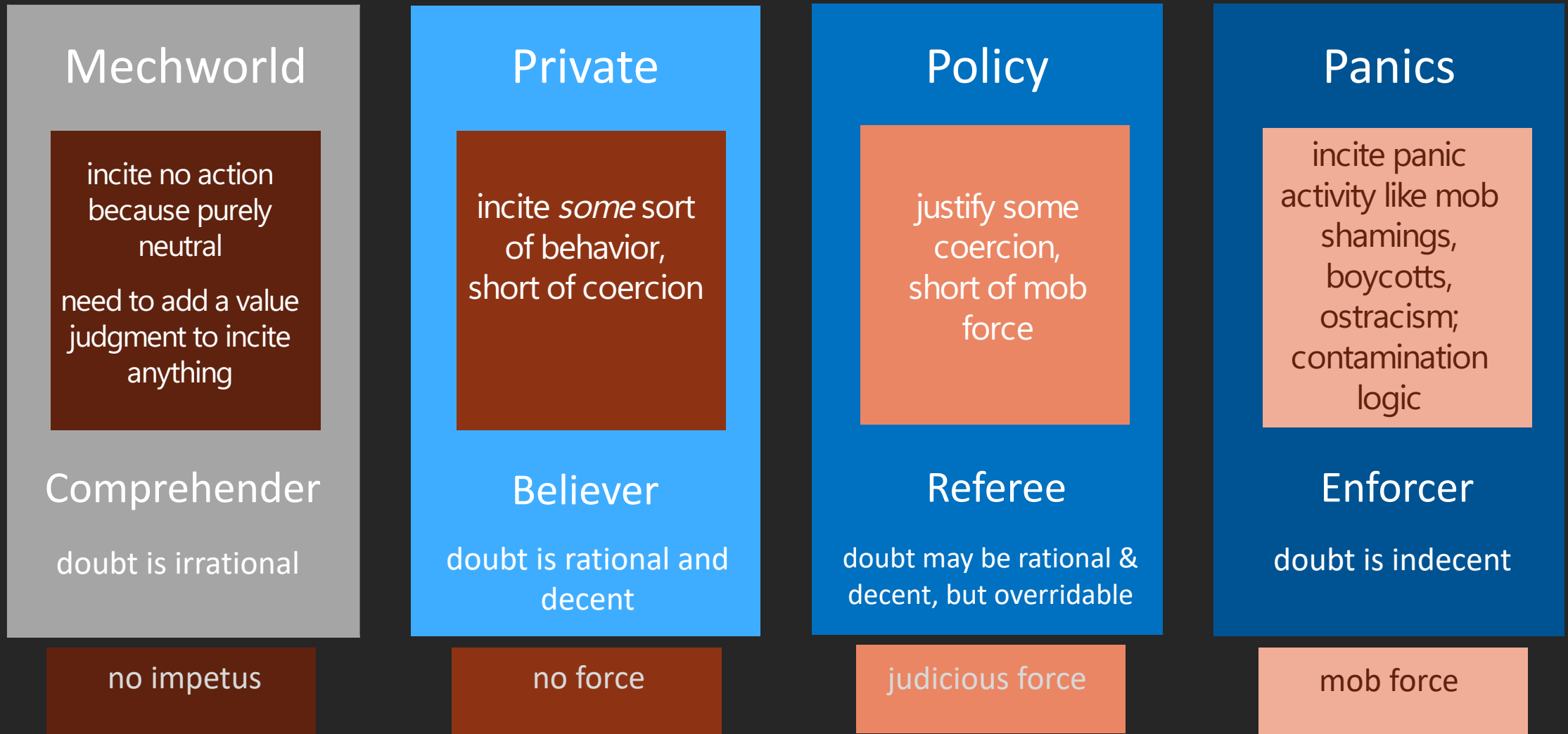
scolding  
severing relations  
getting them fired  
mob swarming

## Enforcer

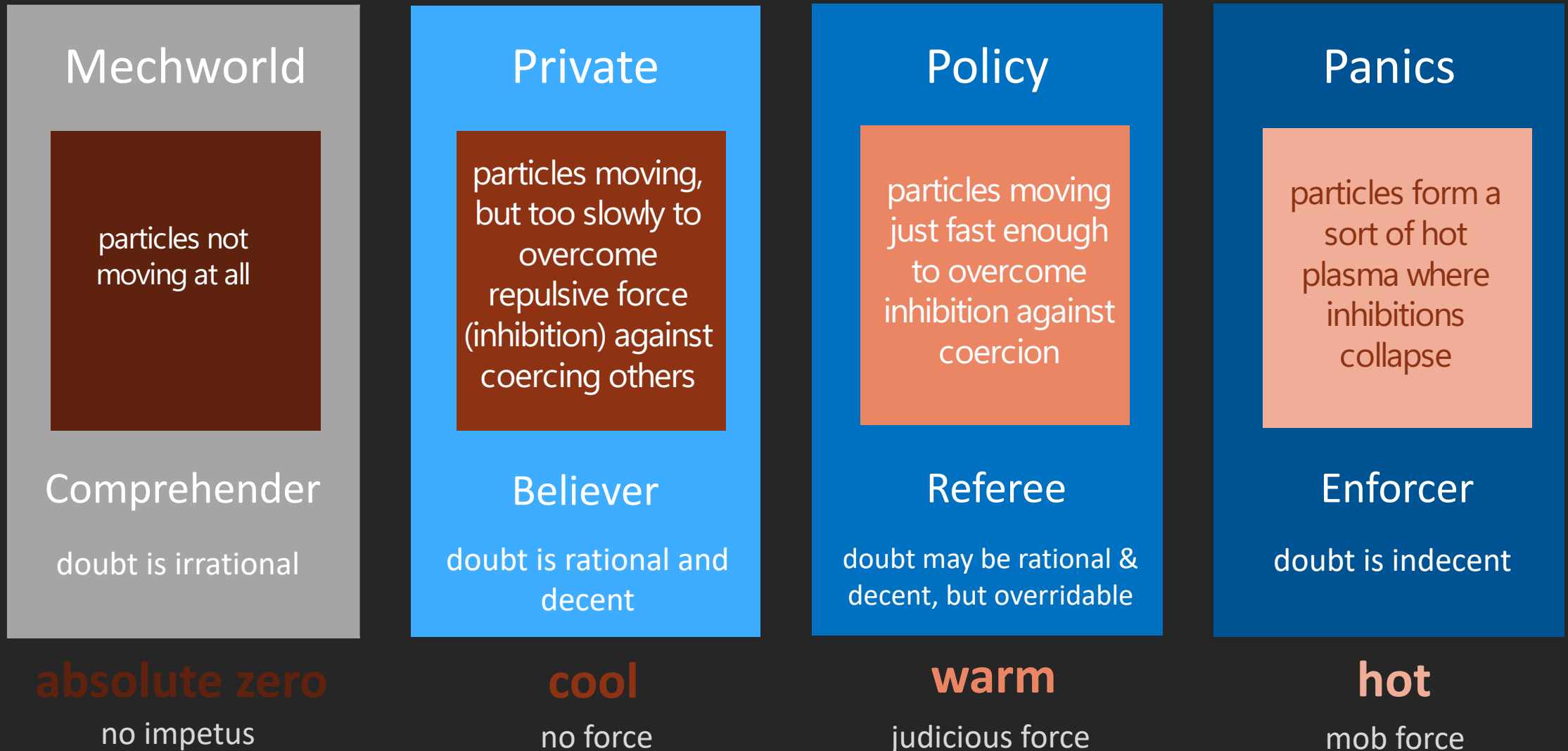
doubt is indecent



# the hacks enable different degrees of social aggression



# social aggression is like **moral temperature**



# Latin mottos

Mechworld

ID EST

It is

Comprehender

doubt is irrational

no impetus

Private

PLACEBO

I will please (myself)

Believer

doubt is rational and  
decent

no force

Policy

PROTEGO

I protect

Referee

doubt may be rational &  
decent, but overridable

judicious force

Panics

PERFURO

I rage

Enforcer

doubt is indecent

mob force

# the hacks create 4 lanes, like treadmills

knowledge!



## Science

ever more discoveries  
in Science & Math

(as old theories seem  
wrong or incomplete)

happiness!



## Private

ever evolving personal  
growth & tastes

(the Hedonic Treadmill:  
resets as prior income  
& pleasures no longer  
satisfy as much)

general welfare!



## Policy

ever evolving legislation  
and regulation

(as prior attempts seem  
less evolved or relevant  
to current situation)

decency!

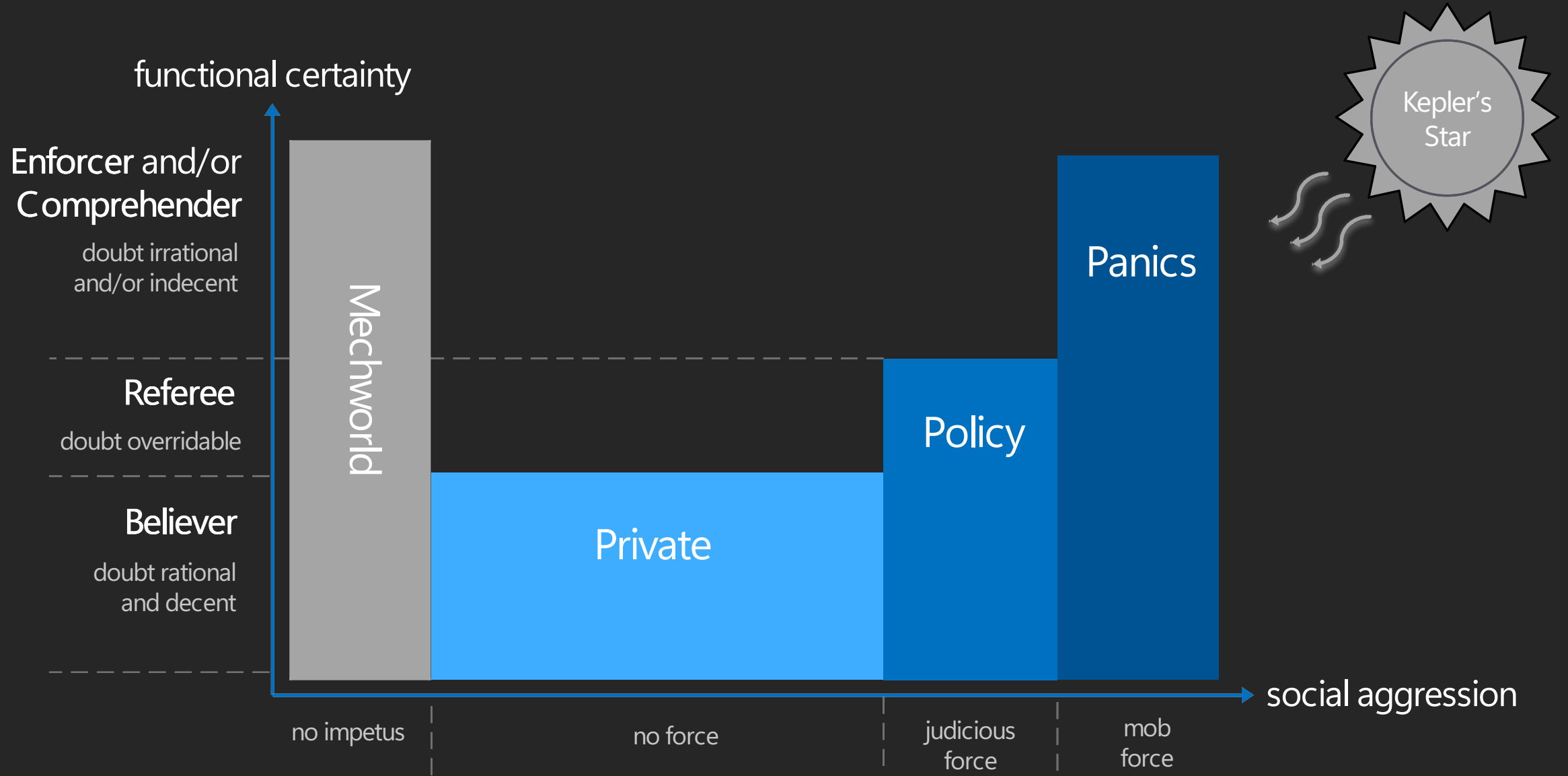


## Panics

ever more atrocities  
to notice & oppose

(the arc of the moral  
universe, bending  
toward justice)

# visualization of modernity's 4 belief chambers

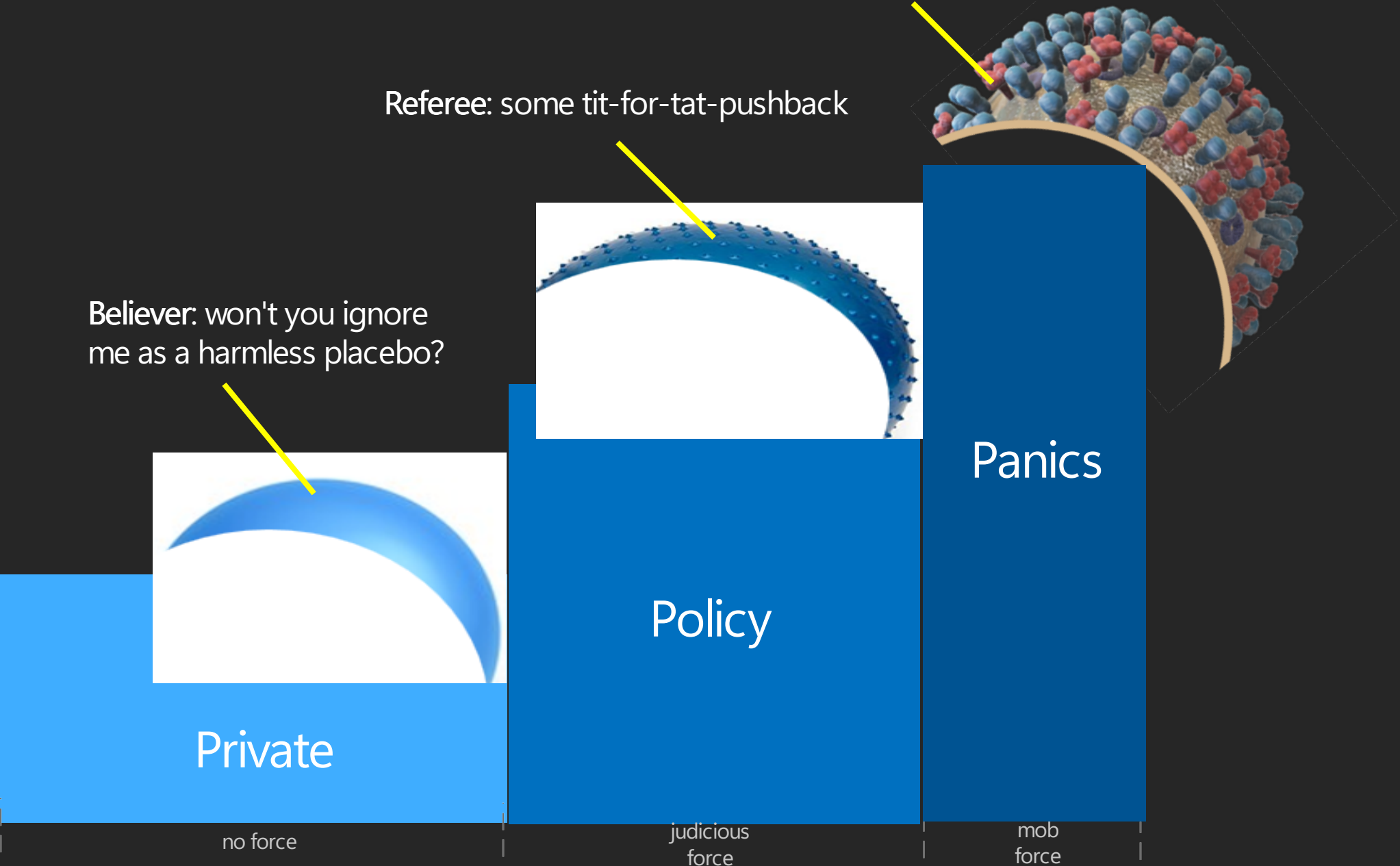


# chamber "surfaces"

Enforcer: prickly antibodies to actively eradicate any indecency in area ("Hard Rind")

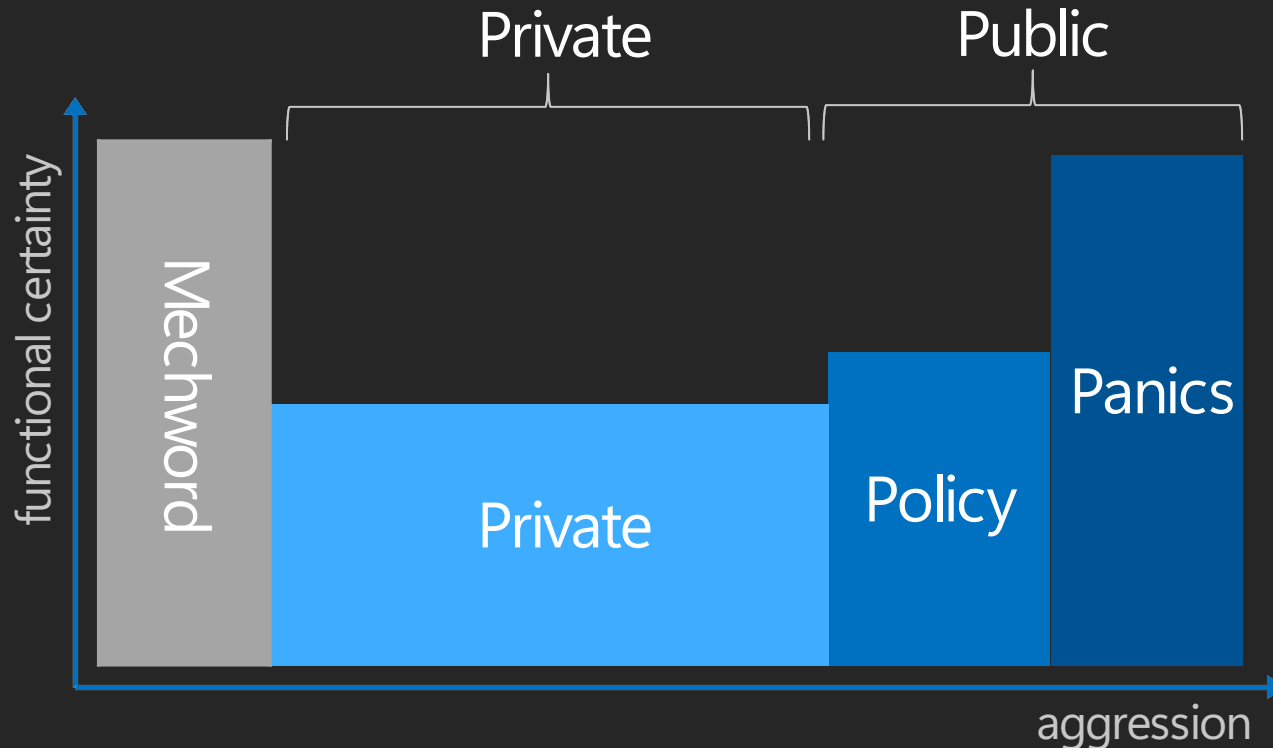
Referee: some tit-for-tat-pushback

Believer: won't you ignore me as a harmless placebo?

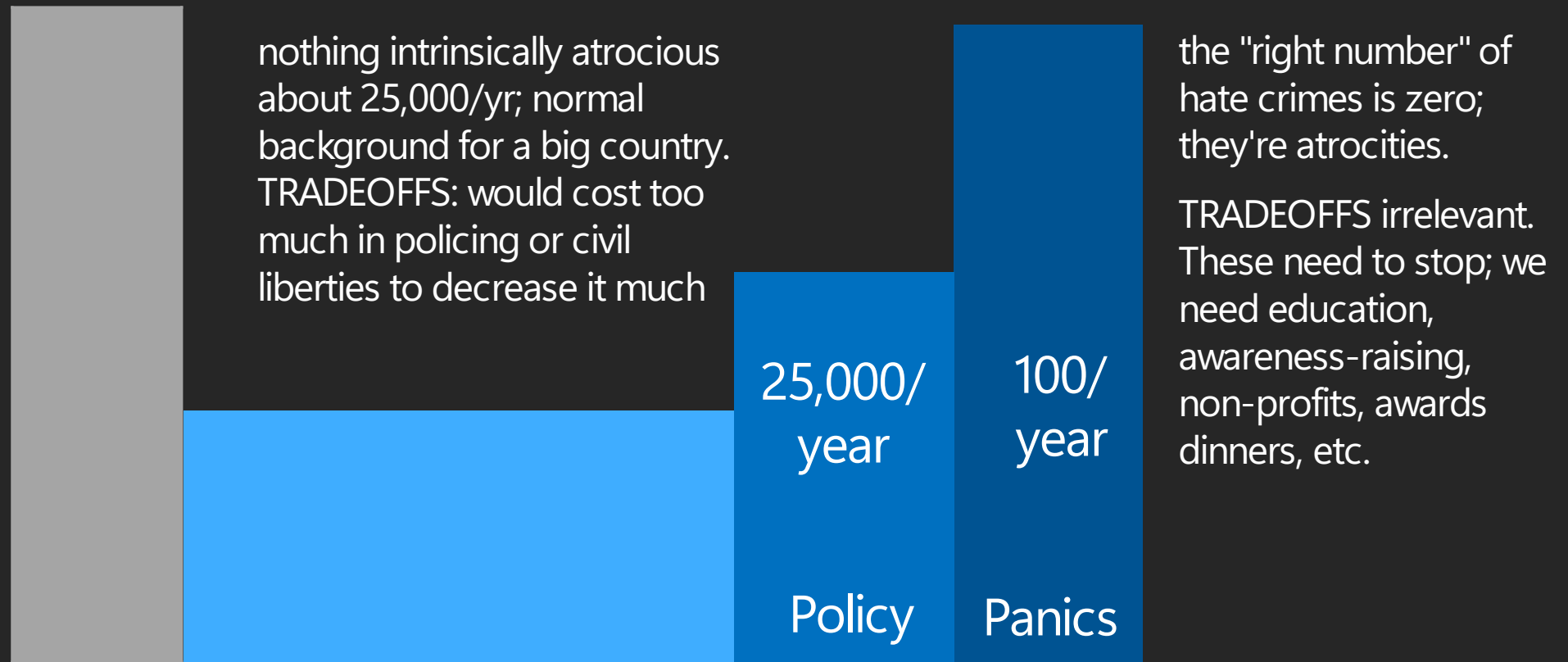


# Public vs Private spheres

- ◇ the Policy and Panics chambers house beliefs we think deserve Referee or Enforcer status for *everyone*
  - ◇ We take many *private* Referee or Enforcer stances: Referee (this cellphone is best), Enforcer (my ex-wife sucks)
  - ◇ but few rise to level that we think *everyone* (incl strangers) should be forced to live under them (eg penal system).



# homicides vs hate crime homicides



see also hate crime hoaxes; no one fakes regular crime



# justice vs social justice



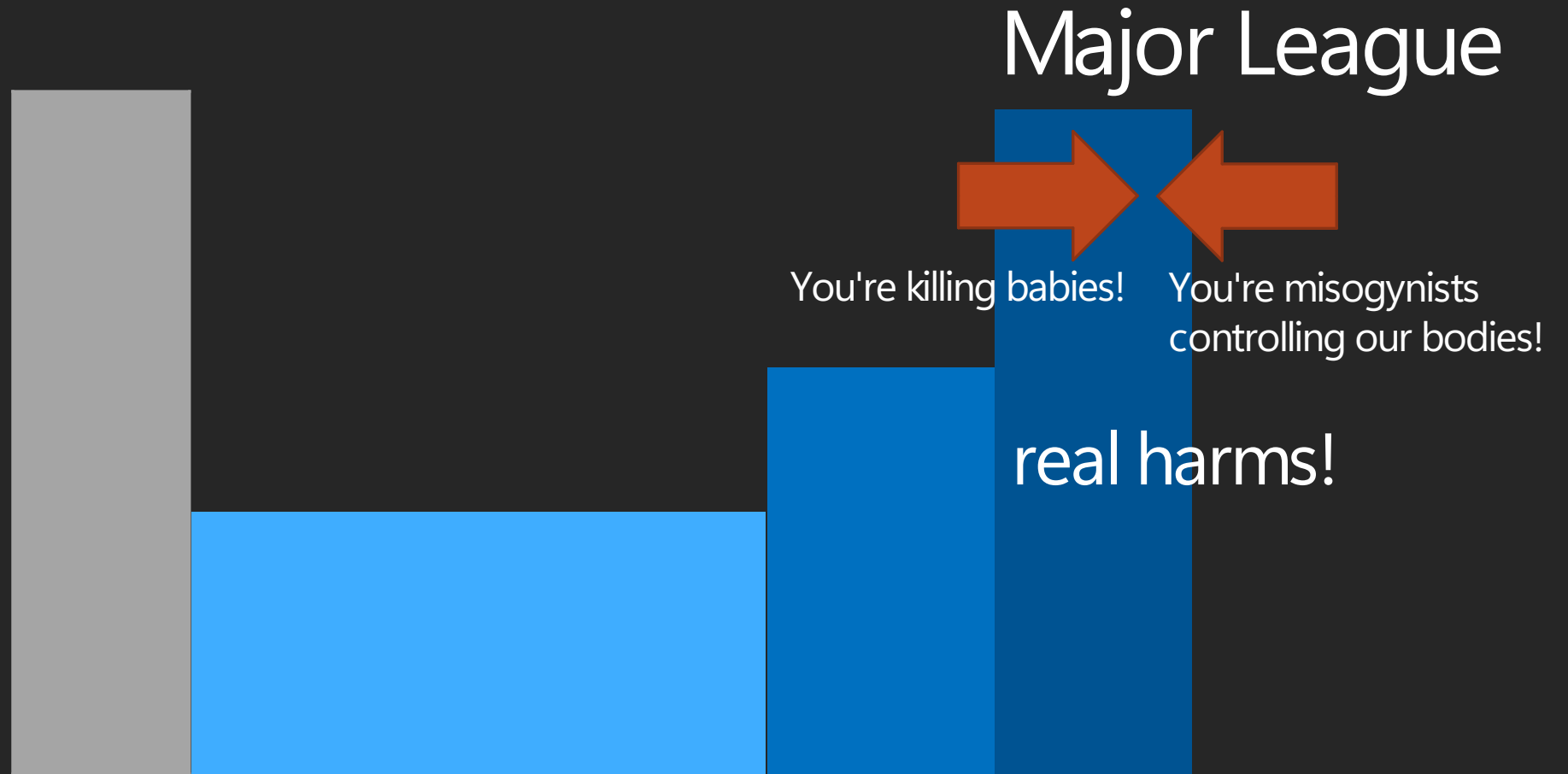
# coexistence is minor league: no "real" harm



# why Christians had hard time against gay marriage



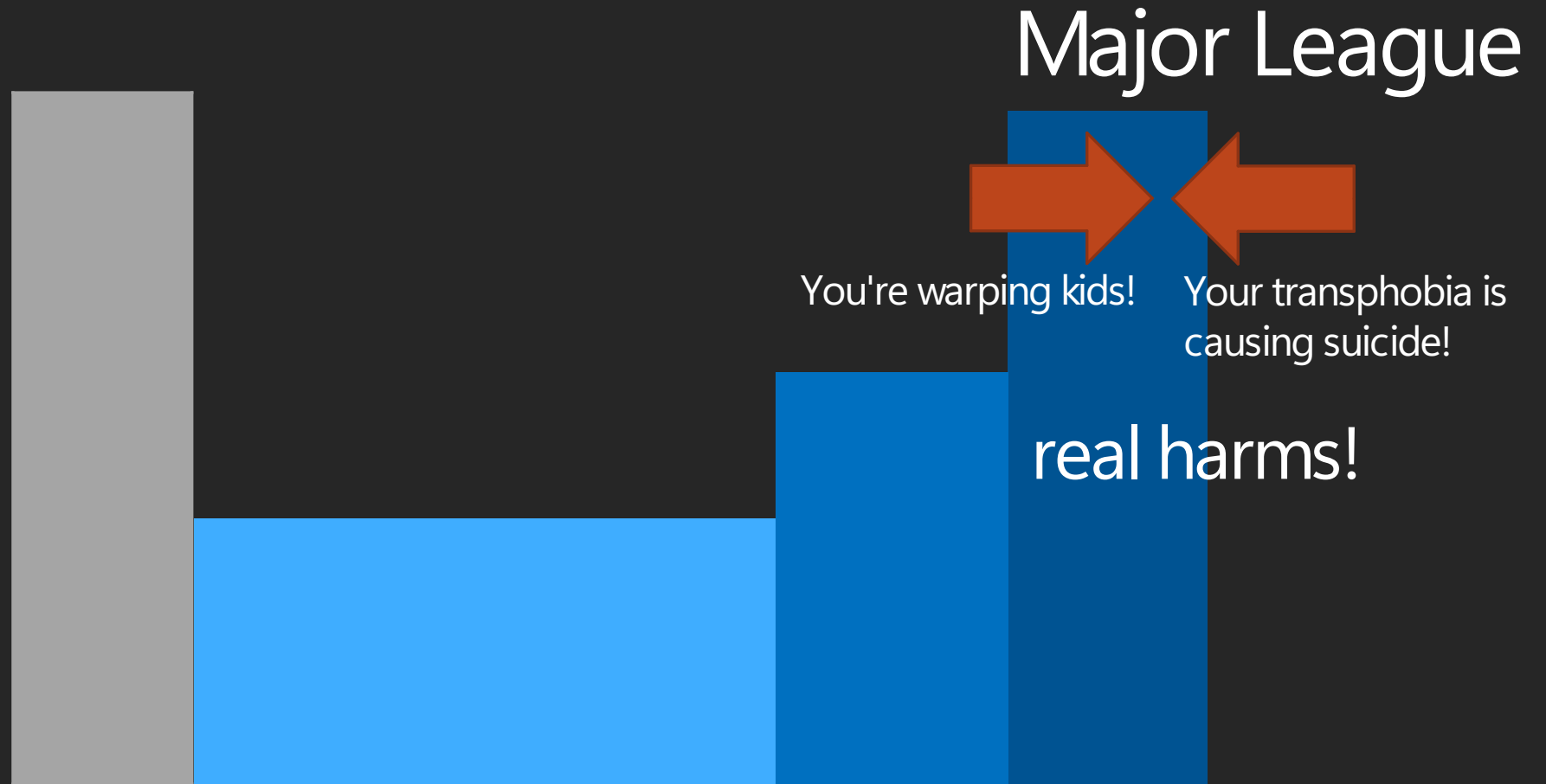
# why pro-life has held its own against pro-choice



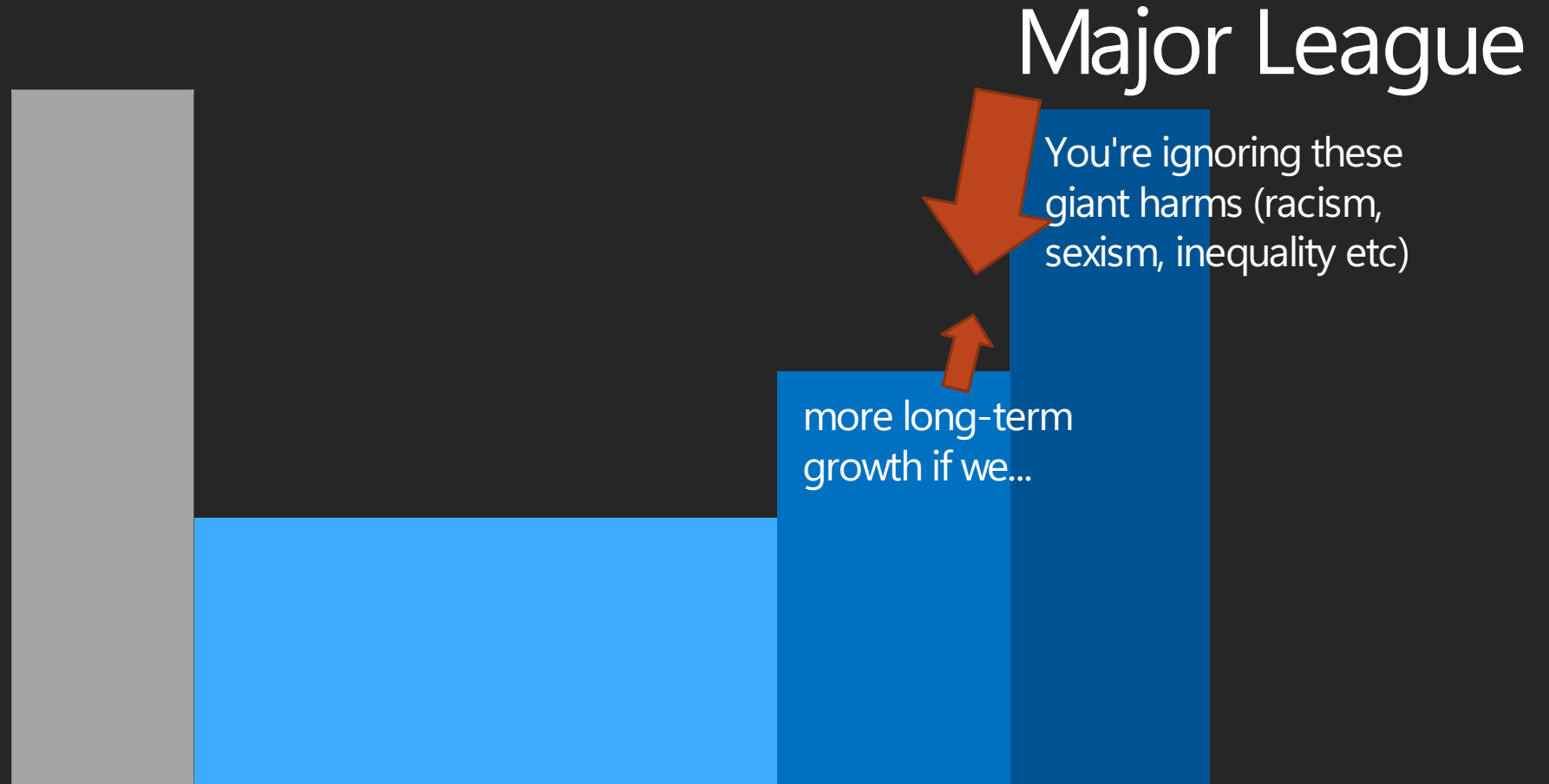
# why Christians are so tongue-tied by charges of racism



# why trans foes have some traction against "groomers"

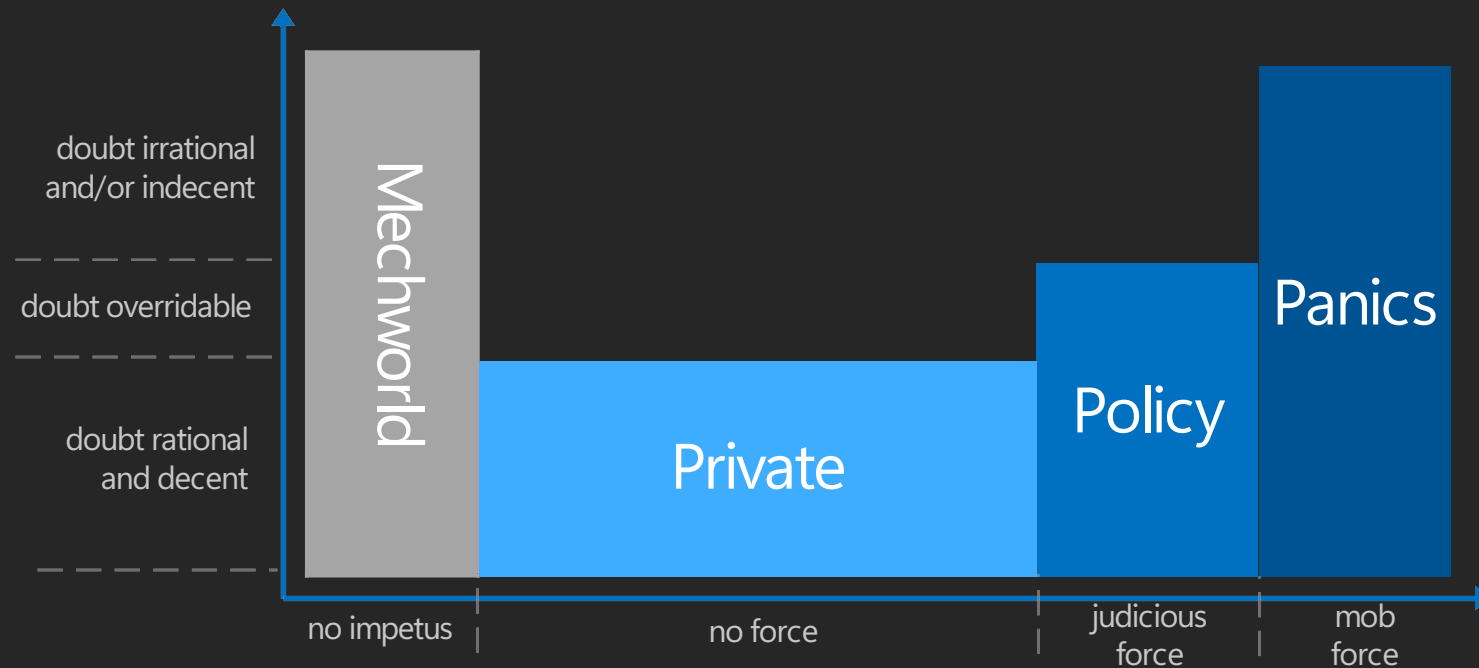


# why libertarians usually trapped down in Policy



# except for a kooky fringe, we agree on this architecture

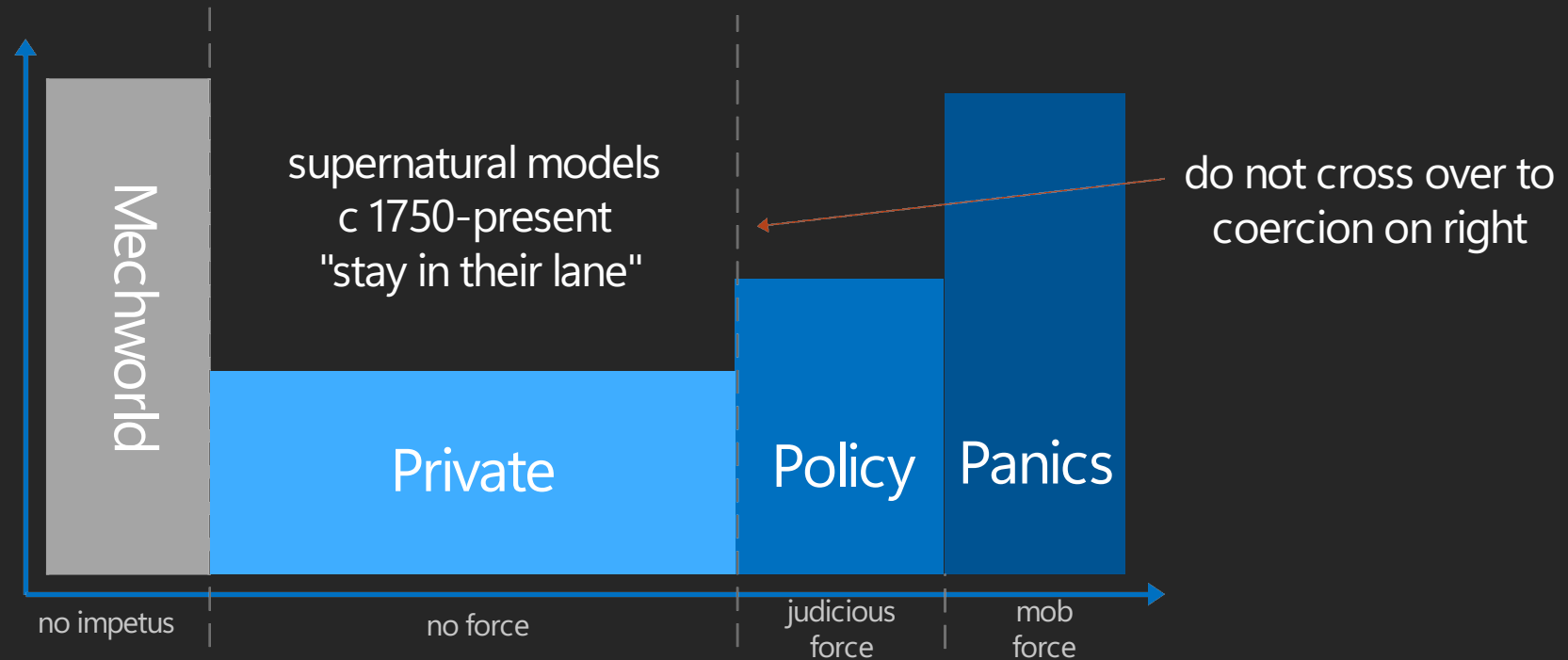
- ◇ Reconstructionists reject it: willing to stone adulterers for violating **supernatural** fiat
  - ◇ clearly outside the chamber consensus
- ◇ But most of us agree on the chambers and just slot different beliefs into them
  - ◇ leftists: various Private + racism/sexism/climate/etc in Panics
  - ◇ evangelicals: Christian Private + Religious Liberty Policy + Pro-life Panic (real **PPPH** killing of babies)
    - ◇ will picket abortion clinic (Panic) but not atheist group (Private)





# thinkers with supernatural models have "stayed in their lane": haven't used coercion to impose supernatural on others

- ◇ Not every post-Newton intellectual has accepted mechworld materialism
  - ◇ eg Comte 1853 (Altruism), Frothingham 1873 (The Religion of Humanity)
- ◇ But my impression is almost none argued their non-materialist beliefs should be **forcibly imposed** on others
  - ◇ Any such coercion would have to be justified by **PPPH** and **Harm Hacks**, the *real* load-bearing columns of modernity.
- ◇ Thus they too have respected this durable Modernity architecture



# historical synopsis (filled out later in presentation)

- ◇ precise *equations* for how matter behaves turbocharge materialism into something new under the sun
  - ◇ Kepler 1609, Galileo 1638, Newton 1687. Relative to classical materialism, new model is ultra-persuasive & ultra-reductive
- ◇ resulting "mechworld" model of reality creates permanent tension: can't be denied but can't fully be internalized
  - ◇ "moral model" beliefs that can't find **hacks** to shade them from mechworld begin to wither (like burning witches)
- ◇ Hobbes (1651) & Locke (1690) create new moral architectures shaded by hacks
  - ◇ they "rescue" Christianity by placing it in a hack-shaded utilitarian chamber (but at a cost)
- ◇ Locke 1.0 system wins, but soon collapses (c 1830) into the Jurassic Locke 2.0 system we're under today
  - ◇ Jurassic Locke: a permanent system of moral panics, never intended by Locke, became our new "major league morality"
  - ◇ Christianity is now privatized and minor league

# support for this **hacks** model

## ◇ 1 **smoking gun timing**

- ◇ Enlightenment kicks off and builds as equations arrive: 1609, 1638, 1687...
- ◇ precursor Machiavelli was *classical* materialist (translated Lucretius, was accused of being an Epicurean)

## ◇ 2 **hacks themselves are intuitive**

- ◇ can explain how they buffer doubts, that were plausibly created by mechworld model

## ◇ 3 **historical tracing**

- ◇ can sketch how hacks were used by Hobbes 1651, Locke 1.0 1690, and Jurassic Locke 2.0 c 1830, to shield those systems

## ◇ 4 **agreement with reality today**

- ◇ we appear to actually inhabit the 4-chamber structure built by the hacks

## ◇ 5 **hack diagrams capture key dynamics**

- ◇ such visualizations seem to naturally fall out from the model, which may suggest it's onto something?

# hacks model explains wide range of phenomena

## ◇ including:

- ◇ rise of "altruism" ca 1835
- ◇ transition to "arc of moral universe bending toward justice" eschatology c 1850
- ◇ current centrality of Hitler & slavery
- ◇ primacy of abortion issue for conservatives (confirming they are also trapped in Jurassic Locke)
- ◇ incoherence & intractability of trans vs TERF debate
- ◇ peculiarly one-note, angry tone of modern prophets ("rage saints" like Greta Thurnberg)
- ◇ endlessness of new atrocities to fight: "LGBTQIAA..."
- ◇ uncanny modernity of Unitarian activism c 1840
  - ◇ showing this same Jurassic chamber has existed for last 180 years
- ◇ the schizophrenically split modern individual: an amalgam of cool utilitarian hedonism, and hot political panics
  - ◇ lack of overall coherence is not surprising *because* it's product of disparate hacks;
  - ◇ *Brave New World* and *1984* each satirized one chamber of our ramshackle modern amalgam

# why a **hacks** model?

## ◇ provides a fine-grained, causal mechanism for modernity

- ◇ explains modernity's timing, and can put more meat on the bones of its historical transitions:

- ◇ eg: "this reduced certainty of non-scientific positive theory (like Aristotle's ethics) to **Believer** stance (i.e. doubting it is rational & decent), while grand secular harms (like slavery) shaded by Panic Hack could attain **Enforcer** stance (i.e. doubting it is indecent)"

- ◇ finer-grained account than broad statements about how "wokeness is a new religion"

- ◇ hacks explain *why* this new religion arose, and *how* it became deformed & truncated (lobotomized), in specific ways

## ◇ a non-philosophical model, to capture something that's not philosophical

- ◇ philosophical critics of modernity (eg Del Noce, MacIntyre) tend to identify and refute modernity's *logical premises*

- ◇ but these arrows don't hit home because modernity was not driven by coherent philosophical argument

- ◇ hacks are just unexamined gut intuitions that let us *not* think about mechworld, so why should they be coherent?

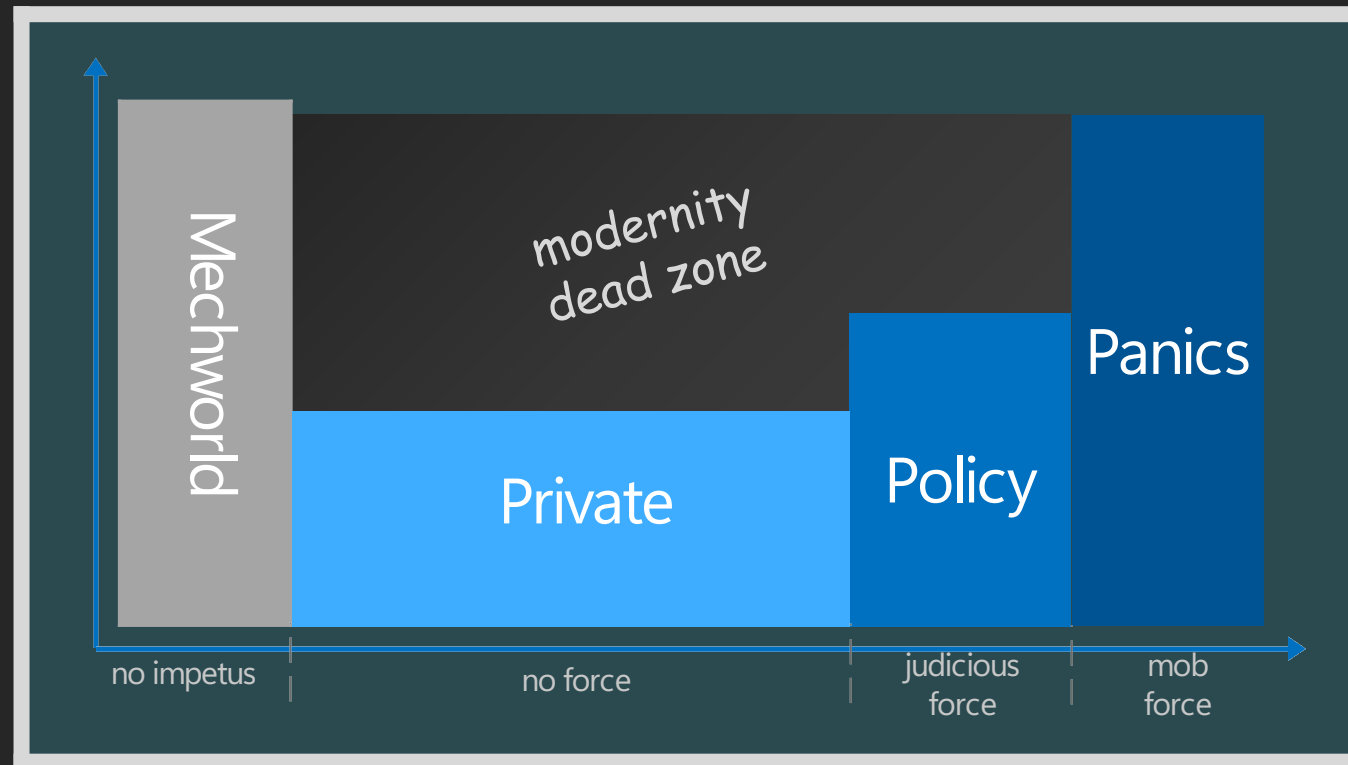
- ◇ listing the specific hacks and diagramming their operation may be something fresh, that hasn't been tried before

## ◇ perhaps in sweet spot of complex, but not too complex

- ◇ single-variable theories of modernity (like "it's all about untrammelled assertion of individual autonomy") cover some aspects (like LGBT) but not others (like climate policing)

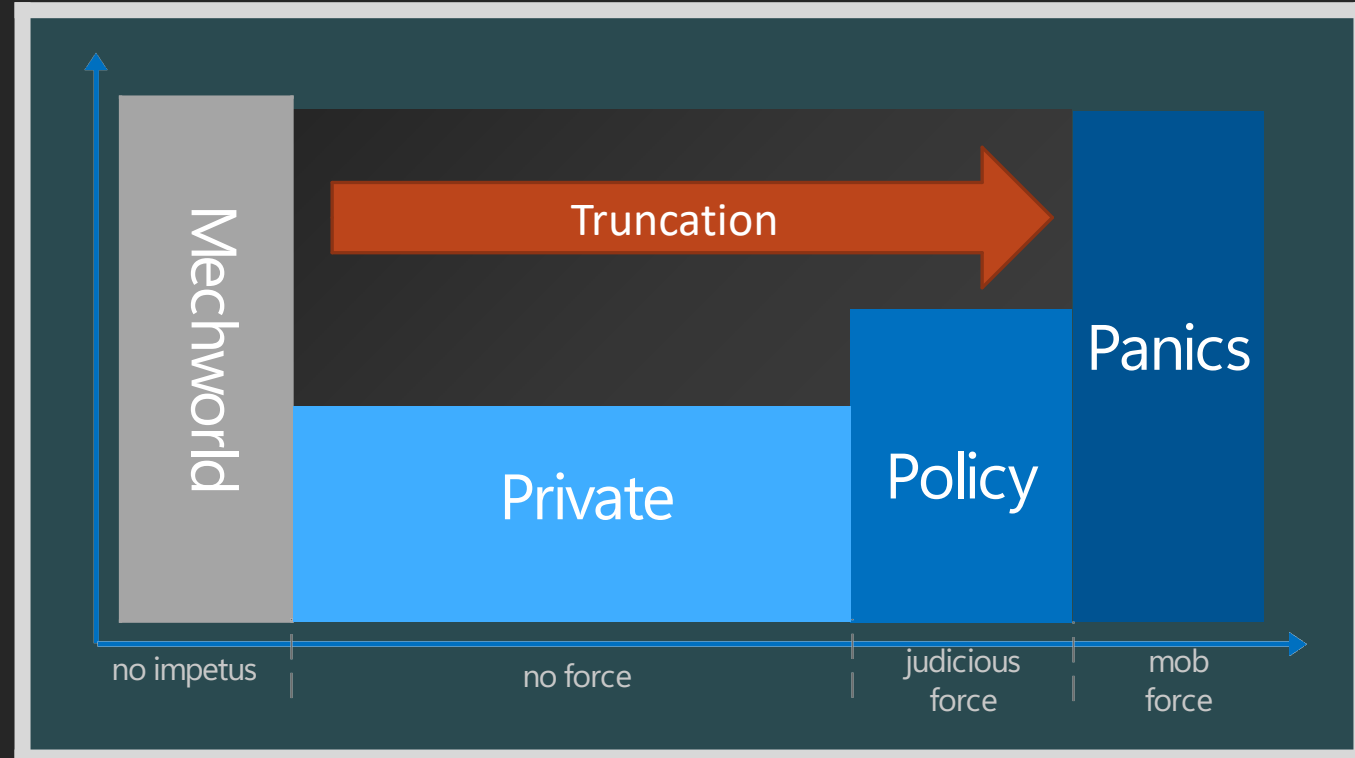
- ◇ 4-chamber model may be descriptively rich enough to capture modernity's major elements

# Reading the X-Ray



# Deformation 1: Truncation

width-wise loss of *types* of content, that are now excluded from the smaller box of our new major league morality



# supernatural umbrella



supernatural fiat

tax collector's name  
was Matthew

forgiveness  
love your enemies  
serenity/prayer  
awe at God's design

GOOEY CENTER

eye for eye  
kosher diet  
sabbath rules  
marital rules

excommunication  
Inquisitions  
pogroms  
Crusades  
witch hunts

HARD RIND

ENFORCER  
how dare you  
deny?

no impetus

no force

judicious  
force

mob  
force



# Panic Hack umbrella



irrelevant to Panic

supernatural  
privatizes

relevant to Panic

improve

confront

diversity training  
awards dinners  
pronouns  
bumper stickers  
Black History Month  
scholarships

shaming  
boycotts  
punitive laws  
censorship  
protests  
riots

ENFORCER  
how dare you  
deny?

HARD RIND

tax collector's  
name was  
Matthew

forgiveness  
love your enemies  
serenity/prayer  
awe at God's design

GOOEY CENTER

kosher diet  
sabbath rules  
marital rules

Private

BELIEVER  
doubt is rational  
and decent

Panics

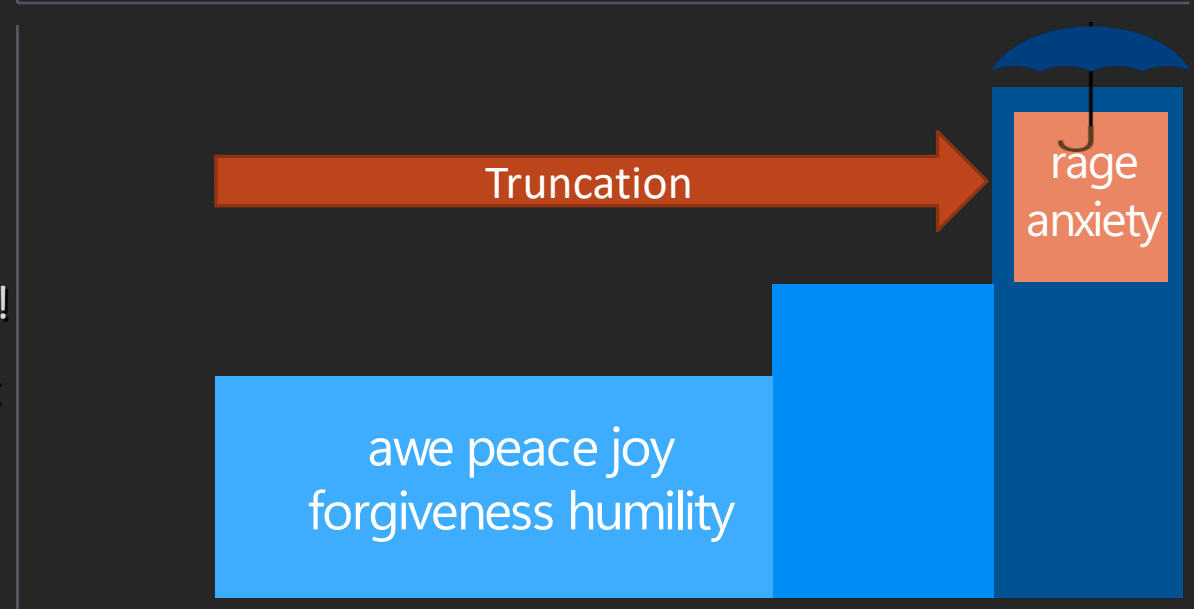
no impetus

no force

mob force

# truncated emotional range

- ◇ supernatural framework enables goo (peace, joy etc):
  - ◇ God avenges (we don't have to)
  - ◇ God cares for victims here & hereafter (things still OK)
  - ◇ love your enemies (only makes sense given above)
  - ◇ forgive us as we forgive others (only sensible w/ God there)
- ◇ if what's "real" is just the tremendous secular harm,
  - ◇ we must focus on that and fix it ASAP.
  - ◇ premature forgiveness just lets the harmers off the hook
  - ◇ loving enemies is misguided: love the victims by stopping it!
  - ◇ emotions like awe, joy, peace, humility are just not relevant



# truncated emotional range: inventory

- ◇ **Panics** force us onto: (1) the tremendous harm to victims; (2) the exasperating persistence of the harmers
  - ◇ they confine our mental states to these topics
- ◇ Like much of modernity, this has the character of a lobotomy (reduction only, with no new capacity added)

## ◇ TRUNCATED **GOOEY CENTER** EMOTIONS

- ◇ **gratitude**: for what, while harm still raging?
- ◇ **peace**: God not fixing it, so we need to!
- ◇ **joy**: why, while Panic rages?
- ◇ **forgiveness**: *after* they stop harming!
- ◇ **awe**: at God's design, beauty, vastness of universe
- ◇ **security**: feeling loved & safe as child of God
- ◇ **humility**: true acceptance of our flaws & weakness
  - ◇ not weaponized confession of "our" sins as straights/whites/males

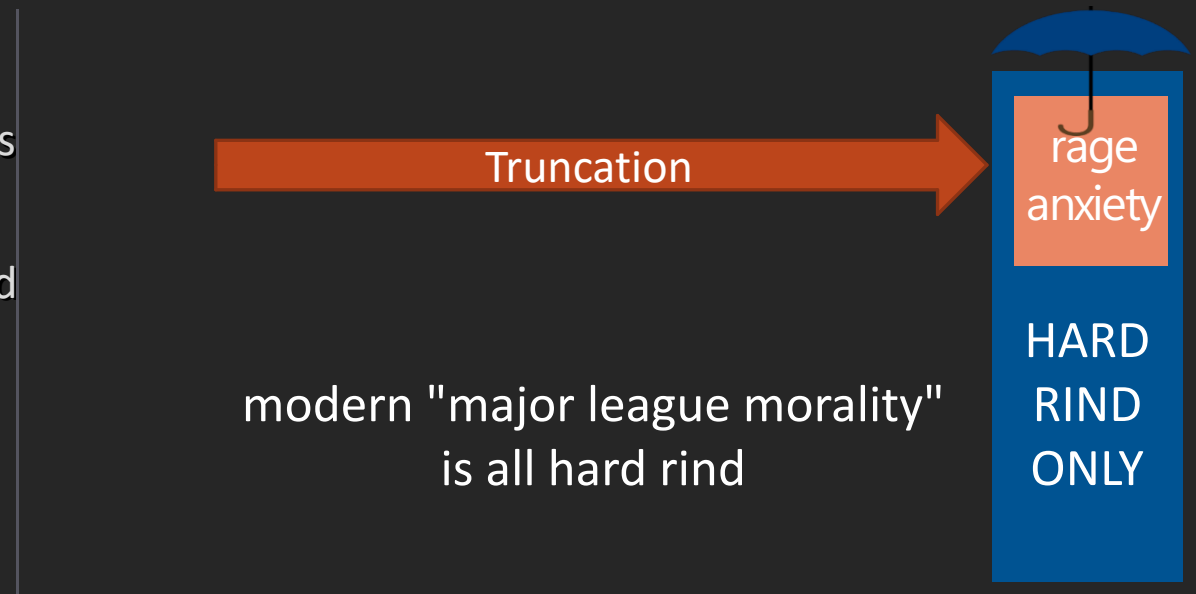
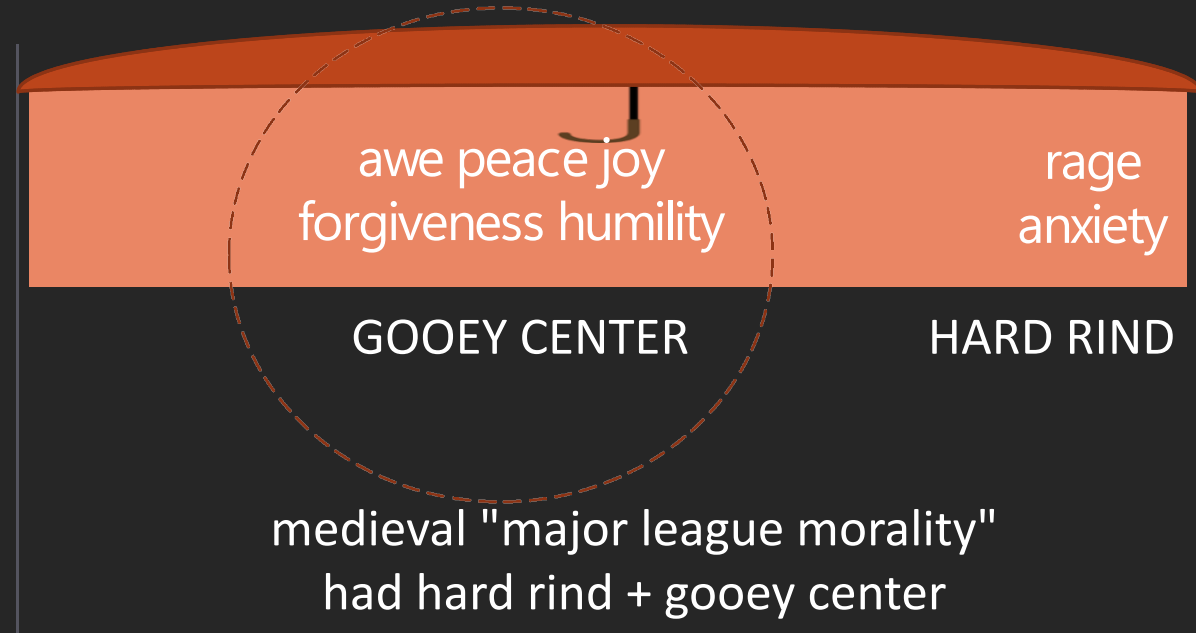
## ◇ SURVIVING EMOTIONS UNDER **PANIC HACK**

- ◇ **indignation/outrage/exasperation**: most basic emotion here
- ◇ **contempt/disgust**: for the harmers
- ◇ **anxiety**: at what harmers are trying to pull off next election
- ◇ **exultation**: after election victory
- ◇ **pity/compassion**: for the victims
- ◇ **derisive laughter**: when video "destroys" the harmers
- ◇ **us/them bonding**: with others of our side against harmers
- ◇ **wide-eyed appreciation**, as of a child: as victims speak
- ◇ **pride**: men fighting patriarchy, while other men do not

# irony when moderns decry the old religion's hard rind

- ◇ moderns often decry medieval Orthodoxy's hard rind:
  - ◇ Crusades, pogroms, heretic burnings, witch hunts
- ◇ the irony is: at least Orthodoxy *also had* a Gooney Center!
- ◇ our modern Major League Morality is ALL HARD RIND

- ◇ the Gooney Center's love, forgiveness, peace...
  - ◇ These make no sense in secular terms as long as the Harm is still raging
  - ◇ "Stop harming blacks, women, LGBTQs, and the climate, and THEN we can think about love and forgiveness!"



# truncated holiness: full-spectrum saints -> rage saints

sub specie aeternitatis



love enemies  
perform miracles  
personal ascetism

rebuke sin

full-spectrum saints

sub specie atrocitas



rebuke sin

rage  
saints

love enemies  
perform miracles  
personal ascetism



## Fruits of the Spirit

love, joy, peace, patience,  
forbearance, kindness,  
goodness, self-control



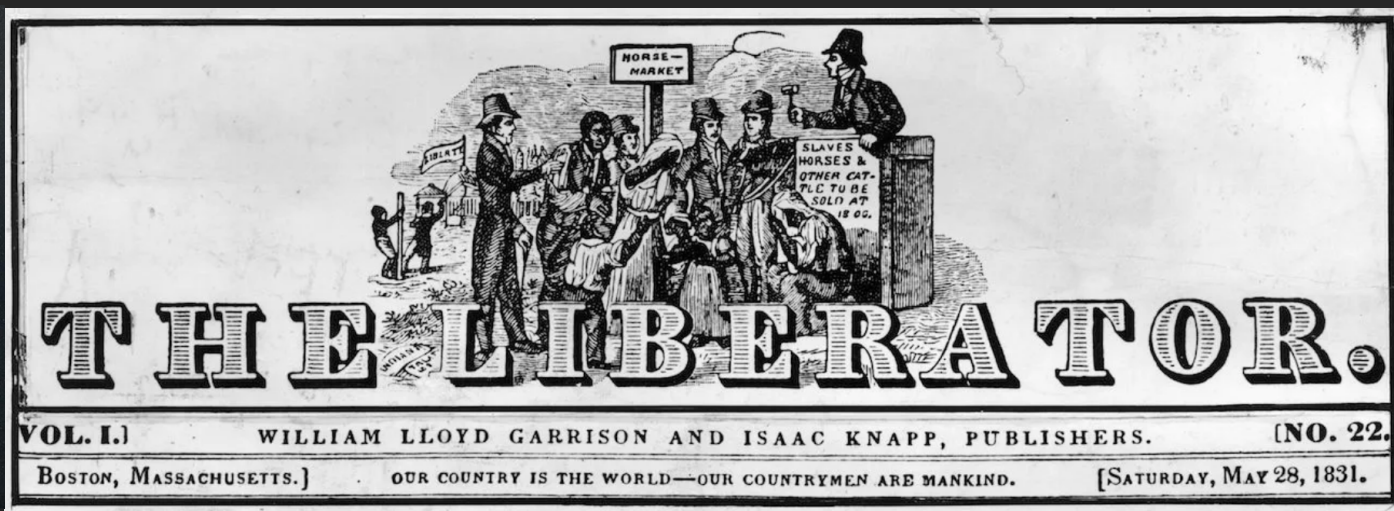
## Fruits of Commitment

wrath, indignation,  
impatience, sarcasm,  
persistence

# rage saint: abolitionist William Lloyd Garrison (1831)

"That slavery was wrong, everyone knew in his heart. The point seen by Garrison was the practical point that the slavery issue was **the only thing worth thinking about**, and that **all else must be postponed** till slavery was abolished.

**His power of arousing uncontrollable disgust was a gift, like magic; and he seems to sail upon it as a demon upon the wind."**



# rage saint: Larry Kramer

VOGUE

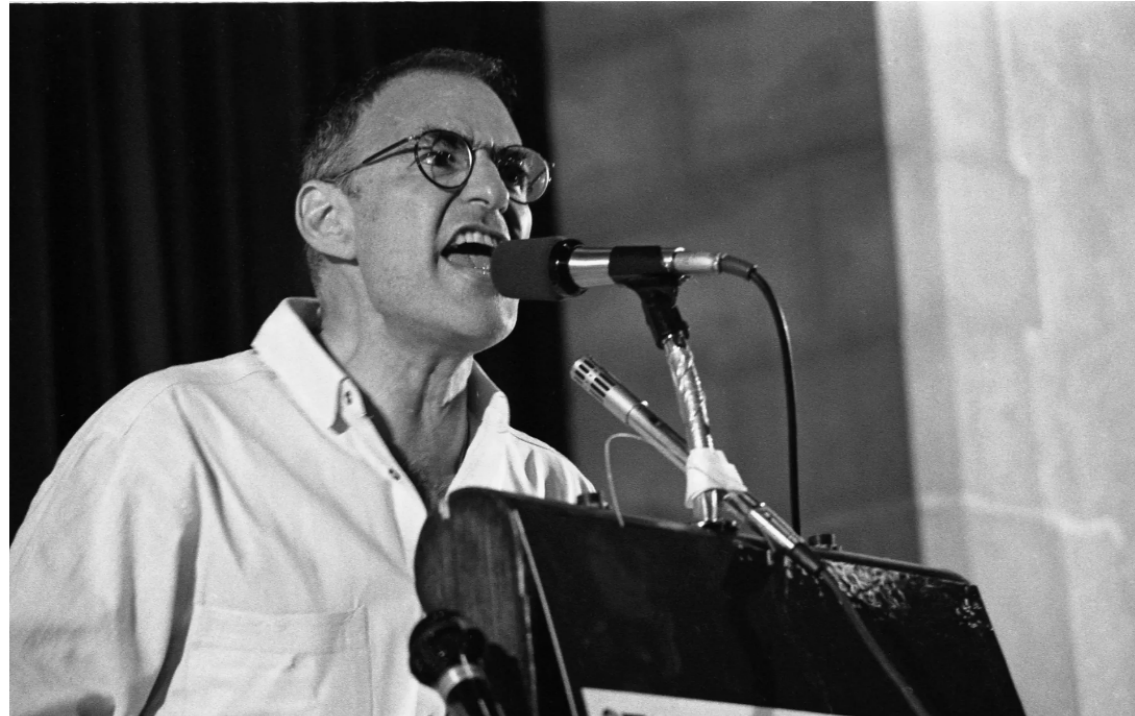
VOGUE WORLD: NEW YORK shop the looks from the runway SHOP NOW

CULTURE

## Larry Kramer Taught Me to Be Angry. I Still Am

BY EMMA SPECTER

May 27, 2020



# rage saint: Brittney Cooper

## *ELOQUENT* Rage

**A Black Feminist  
Discovers Her Superpower**

**BRITTNEY COOPER**

“Cooper writes with fierce intelligence and fire . . .  
Provocative and engaging.” —ROXANE GAY

**PICADOR**



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# rage saint: Soraya Chemaly

Women

## 'Of course Serena Williams was angry': writer Soraya Chemaly on why women should unleash their rage

In Chemaly's book *Rage Becomes Her*, she writes that women are taught from birth to suppress their anger. It's time now, she says, to let it all out



📷 Soraya Chemaly ... 'It is vital that we don't have one-size-fits-all feminism.' Photograph: Jill Mead/The Guardian



# rage saint: Greta Thunberg

## Greta Thunberg's Righteous Anger

Watch the young climate activist's fiery speech at the United Nations



The video player shows Greta Thunberg speaking at a podium. She is wearing a bright pink, vertically-pleated button-down shirt and has her hair in a long braid. The background is a solid blue color. The video player interface includes a title bar with the United Nations logo, the title 'Greta Thunberg (Young Climate Activist) at the Climate Action Summit 2019 - Official Video', and a 'Copy link' button. At the bottom, there is a 'MORE VIDEOS' button, a progress bar showing 0:19 / 4:08, and standard YouTube controls for play, volume, closed captions, settings, and full screen.

Greta Thunberg (Young Climate Activist) at the Climate Action Summit 2019 - Official Video

Copy link

MORE VIDEOS

0:19 / 4:08

YouTube

# truncated divinity: God is dead, Satan is incognito

- ◇ **Panic Hack** elevates only grand *Harms* to **Enforcer**
  - ◇ Hitler & Slavery have highest moral *gravitas*, imposable on others
  - ◇ indecent to doubt ("N word" may not be said, Holocaust denial abhorrent)
- ◇ No positive transcendent opposite now
  - ◇ God is a private personal notion, not imposable on others
  - ◇ it's rational & decent to doubt God ("Yahweh" can be safely spelled)



# truncated Revival: God is real -> Satan is real

God is here, now



Hitler/Slavery is here, now



# BLM 2020 was a great *Revival* event, for our truncated Jurassic morality (Satan-only)

- ◇ solemn *confessions* as personal turning points:
  - ◇ of white fragility, white privilege, institutional racism (Princeton confessed, then had to backtrack when DOE investigated)
- ◇ *righteous* rage: righteous enough to burn & occupy cities for weeks
  - ◇ and disregard covid contagion; "He is trampling out the vintage where the grapes of wrath are stored..."
- ◇ righteous actions:
  - ◇ iconoclasm: tear down Confederate statues, portraits; change street/building/ship/base names
  - ◇ prominent new "Black Voices" sections on landing pages of YouTube, Netflix, Amazon, Apple
  - ◇ BLM profile photos; 1619 Project at NYT; semantic churn: capitalize Black not white in articles
  - ◇ urgent "specific, accountable" initiatives to increase black representation in TV, Oscars, academia, corporate boards...
- ◇ They say "war is the health of the state"
  - ◇ Incidents like George Floyd are the health of Jurassic morality (esp as they can be analogized to Hitler & Slavery)
- ◇ Unlike **supernatural** Revival (*God is real!*), truncated Panic Revivals are dark & angry (*Satan is real!*)

# dark Revival: improv comedy group

## ◇ General Confession from the 1790 Book of Common Prayer:

We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts. We have offended against thy holy laws. We have left undone the things which we ought to have done; And we have done those things which we ought not to have done: And there is no health in us. Spare thou those, O God, who confess their faults.

## ◇ My favorite improv group in LA sent this "Open Letter To Our Community" on 6/20/2020:

Improv Theatre recognizes that bold action is required to address the longstanding racial inequities in the arts community, in the United States, and in our own theatre. We have mirrored and maintained organizational structures that have perpetuated systemic racism and oppression in this country. The genres we have taught and performed reflect far too narrow a view of the human experience and exclude many perspectives. In the past, when brought to our attention, we failed to listen and act with urgency. We did not prioritize diversity and we were complacent in the status quo. We did not consider how our actions, and inactions, may have impacted our audience and community. We deeply regret it and are committed to change...

# Hitler & Slavery are so central to our culture, b/c they anchor its truncated moral base (Satan is real)

- ◇ They're like the Parting of Red Sea, for Jurassic morality:
  - ◇ Miracle showed Yahweh is **real & powerful**; Hitler & Slavery show their animating contamination is **real & powerful**
- ◇ As the last two great Revival events of our Jurassic morality,
  - ◇ Hitler & Slavery are utterly central to our culture, and are preserved & retold accordingly
- ◇ A bizarrely outsized % of our moral reasoning today is driven by analogies to Hitler & slavery
  - ◇ eg the improbable centerpiece of gay marriage debate was black civil rights ("this is *just like ...*")
- ◇ Enormous cultural resources spent maintaining Hitler & Slavery at max voltage (now 77 and 157 years on)
  - ◇ endless movies with repulsive sadistic villains: slave-owners/racists/Nazis/neo-Nazis ...
  - ◇ fierce policing of facts that appear to "soften" US guilt
    - ◇ black ownership of American slaves; black tribal guilt; Muslim on white slavery; US slavery more humane than South American
  - ◇ these Atrocities must tower above with unparalleled awfulness: the **Unholy of Unholies**
- ◇ hate crime hoaxes boost their voltage with sledgehammer obviousness: nooses, swastikas

# Jurassic/**Hacks** model explains their centrality

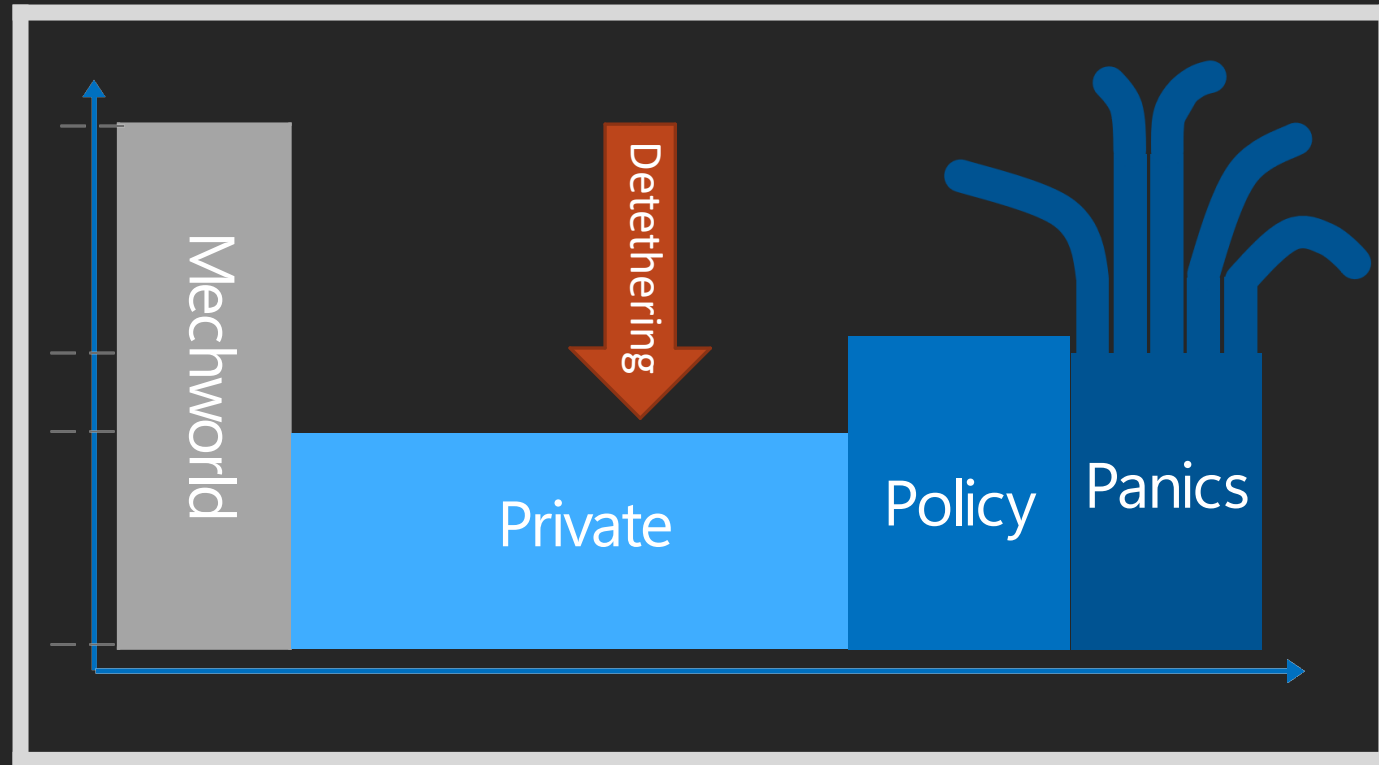
- ◇ *Positive* public holiness (God) was possible under pre-modern **supernatural** umbrella
  - ◇ awe, terribleness, "how dare you blaspheme?", public days of thanksgiving, etc
- ◇ Kepler's Star eroded that, so major league morality has retreated to secular Panic box
  - ◇ major league = ability to say "doubt is indecent"
  - ◇ only Jurassic **Panic Hack** achieves that **Enforcer** certainty now; can still fully deflect mechsplanations in atomic universe
- ◇ *Negative* public holiness (**Panics**) is our post-Kepler remnant of pre-modern religious *gravitas*
  - ◇ hushed solemnity, elevated confession, "how dare you \_\_\_?", righteous rage ("trampling out...grapes of wrath")





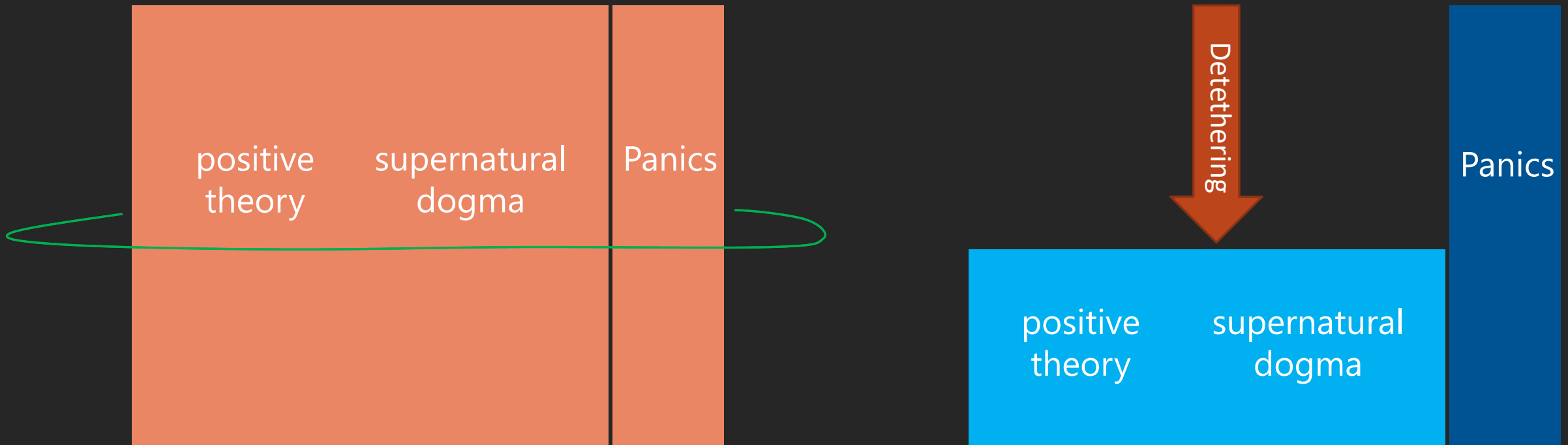
# Deformation 2: Detethering

vertical loss of certainty in beliefs that had previously balanced and moderated Panics, by tethering them to larger realities



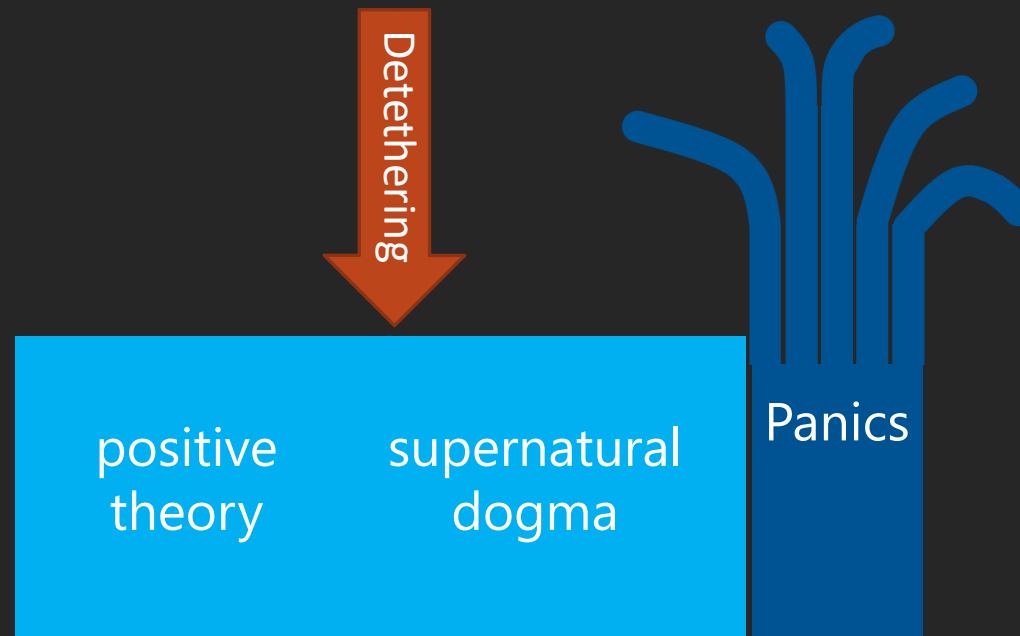
# detethering occurs when beliefs that formerly tempered Panics get zapped by Kepler's Star

- ◇ supernatural tethering:
  - ◇ love your enemies, forgiveness, we're all sinners, eye for eye, fully elaborated account of human nature
- ◇ positive theory tethering:
  - ◇ comprehensive philosophical accounts of ethics, teleology, gender... (beyond mere **harm** triggering)

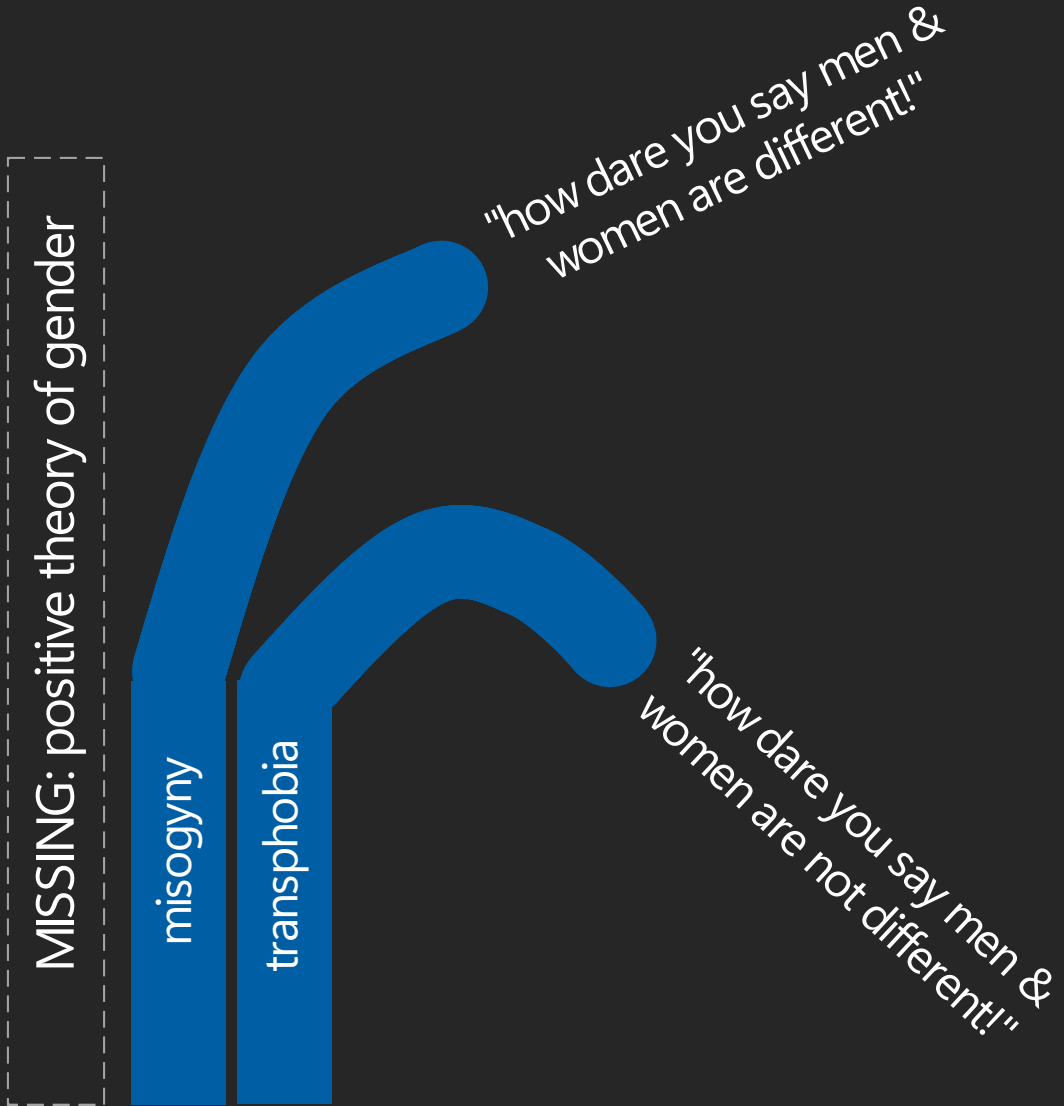


# without tethering, the multiple panics that comprise our major league morality can flail wildly

- ◇ since our **Enforcer** level absolutes are now narrow & **negative** (Hitler is evil),
  - ◇ we must navigate by **double negative**: "Don't be evil", as Google said
- ◇ since there are various ways to not be Hitler,
  - ◇ conflicts arise that cannot be adjudicated on principle



# detethering: trans vs TERFs



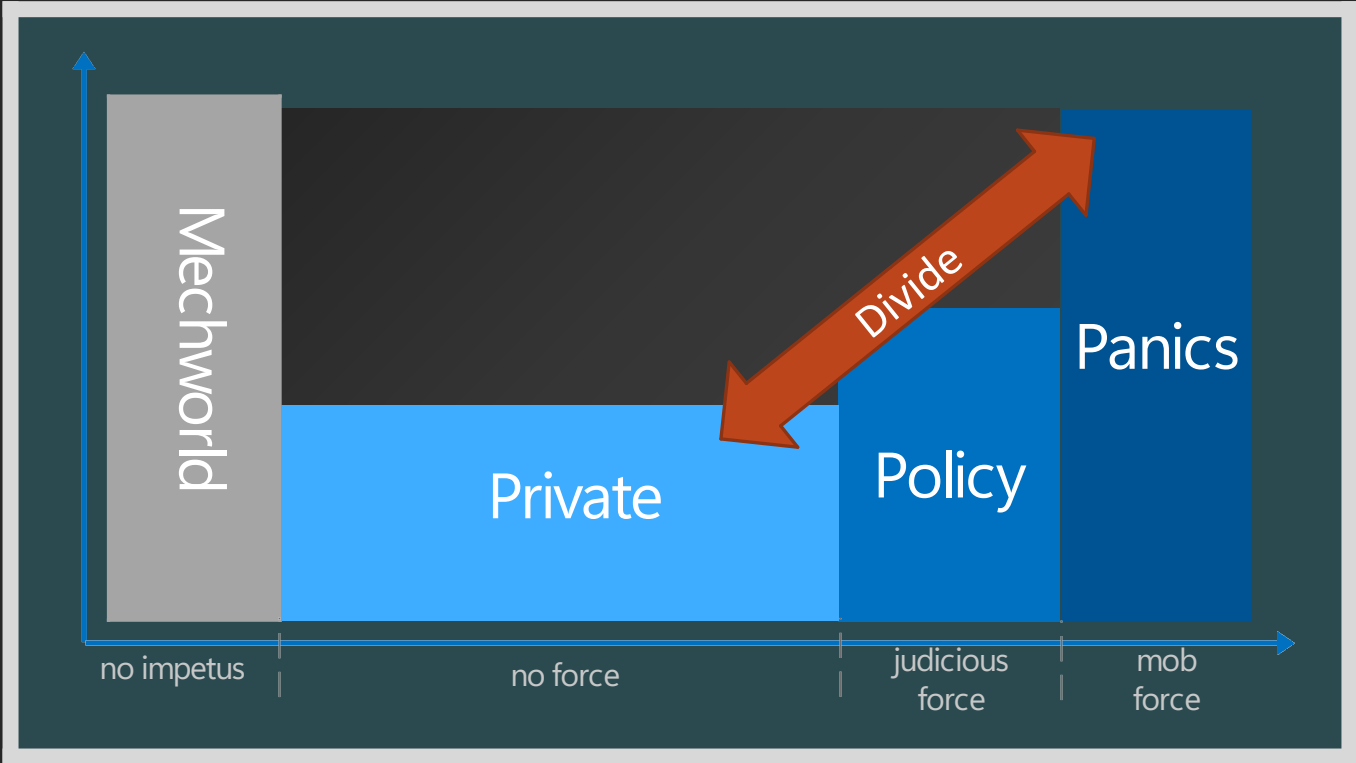
- ◇ transphobia Panic's double negative (**Enforcer**):
  - ◇ excluding trans women from women's gatherings is like Hitler
- ◇ misogyny/feminism Panic's double negative (**Enforcer**):
  - ◇ faux women invading women's safe spaces is like Hitler
- ◇ missing: a positive theory of gender that would:
  - ◇ consider the "blank slate" model of feminism
    - ◇ men & women would be cognitively identical if raised identically
    - ◇ (equally adept at science/math, equally tough & aggressive)
  - ◇ consider the "innate" model of transgenderism
    - ◇ I am a woman trapped in man's body b/c I feel soft, nurturing...
    - ◇ (but why is that female?)
  - ◇ and work out a single authoritative theory (like the Trinity)
- ◇ Any such theory could only achieve lowly **Believer** certainty
  - ◇ since it would have to rely (from mechworld perspective) on non-scientific theorizing (handwaving), that lacks unambiguous **Harm Hack** support

# detethering: Credo -> Abhorreo

- ◇ can't write a positive statement of polymaltruist beliefs
  - ◇ would be a list of vapid generalities (diversity, justice, freedom) that are effectively just code for "not Hitler"
  - ◇ as soon as you attempt to articulate them more concretely (in ways that could adjudicate disputes),
    - ◇ they lose their **Enforcer** certainty.
    - ◇ eg how do we reconcile the non-discrimination rights of a gay person and the religious freedom rights of a cake baker?
- ◇ instead of "I believe", "I abhor"

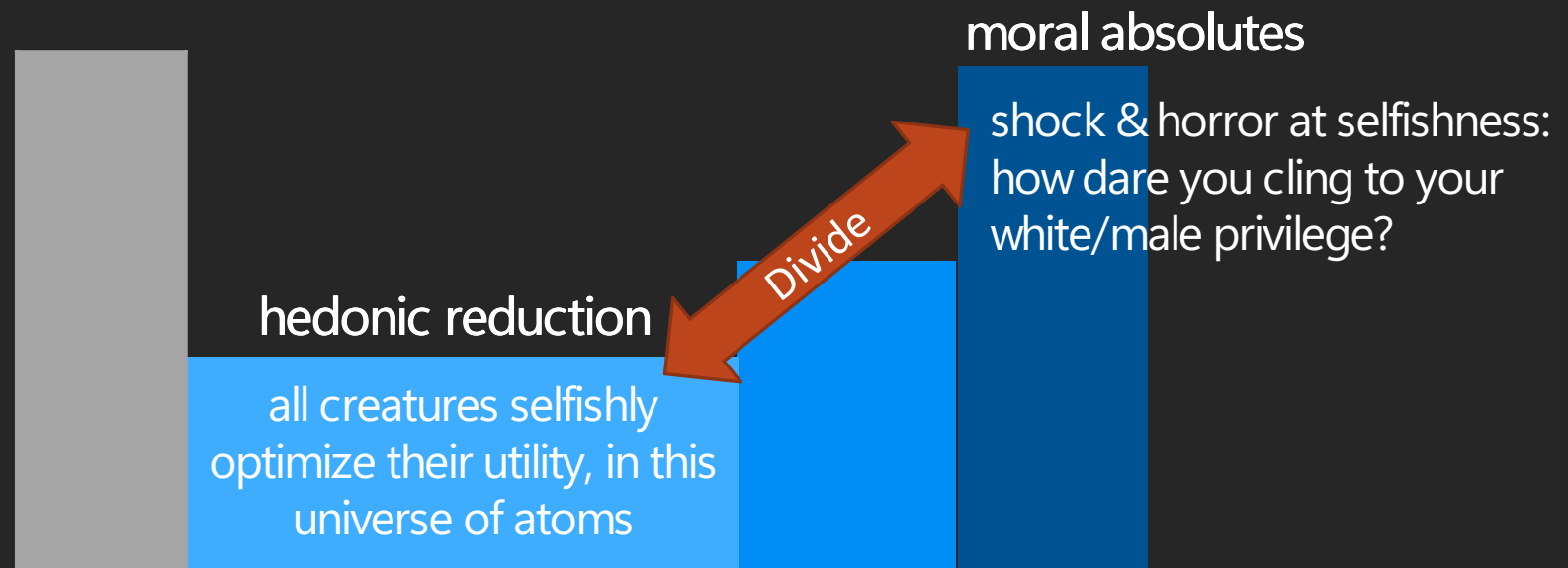
# Deformation 3: Divide

our moral system is now a schizophrenic amalgam of two chambers running on opposite moral logic

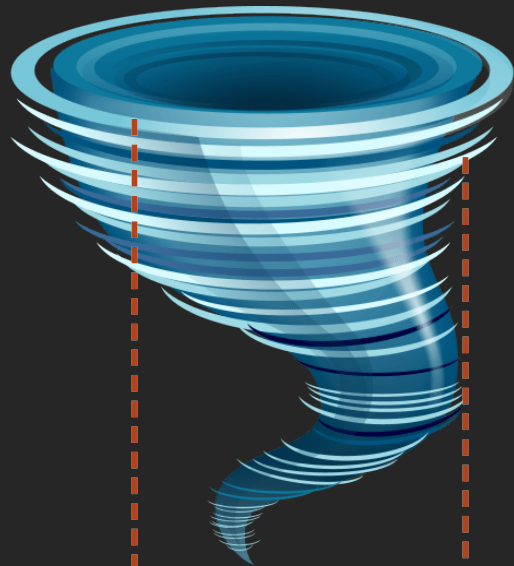


# Divide: the Pripanic Split (**Pri**-vate + **Panic**)

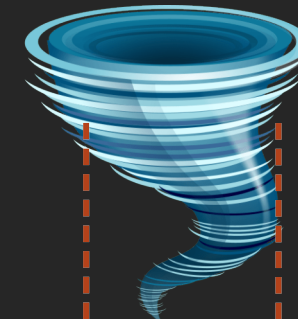
- ◇ our makeshift **Hacks** have left us with this schizophrenically split moral system:
  - ◇ small footprint, high priority moral absolutes (Panics), that insist upon decency & unselfishness
  - ◇ a wide footprint, default hedonic Background (Private), where all creatures selfishly maximize their pleasure/utility



# Panics are like intense small-footprint storms, hovering over a vast hedonic sea



- ◇ the limited daily footprint of Panics means the vast majority of our decision-making is Private (on utilitarian logic)
- ◇ but *wherever* Panics impinge, they override utilitarian hedonics



our natural sexual impulses are a beautiful guide for discovering our authentic selves

**#MeToo**

freedom of self-expression

**pronouns**

Private



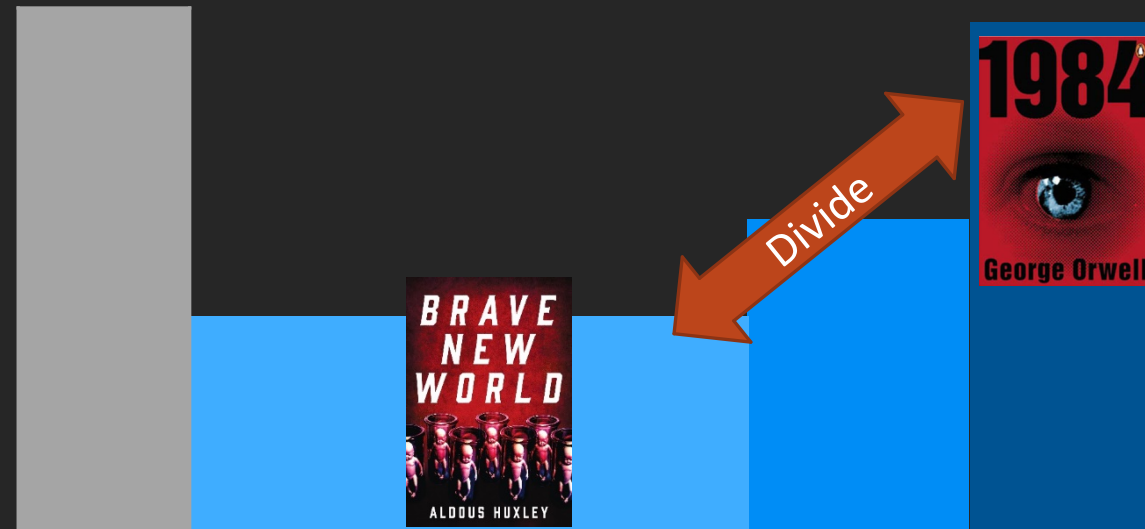
# the divided individual



- ◇ imagine "Prudence J. Parker", a Harvard professor of Sociology
- ◇ in Panics: jumps on every issue that comes along; gives her pronouns
  - ◇ "Ivy thug" style prose: "I'm so fucking tired of white men telling..."
- ◇ in Private: ruthlessly seeks optimal sum of power + pleasure for herself & her family
  - ◇ best neighborhoods; best private schools, legacy admits to Harvard
  - ◇ total career self-discipline to get best grades, highest salary, most prestige; chooses equally successful spouse
  - ◇ total health self-discipline on diet, weight, no smoking
  - ◇ hedonic wine tastings, expensive original art, trips to Galapagos, Bali, Prague...
- ◇ But she doesn't *preach* the bourgeois values that made *her* successful,
  - ◇ because that would be Victim Blaming
- ◇ One of the strangest holy types in history
  - ◇ clerics were usually required to be somewhat ascetic, but she is fully hedonic/utilitarian with no regrets

# the divided society

- ◇ Huxley & Orwell each grasped *part* of what was new & strange about our emerging Pripanic system
  - ◇ *Brave New World* attacks the soulless hedonic logic of **Private**, where maximizing pleasure is an engineering problem
  - ◇ *1984* attacks the endless frenzy of politicized **Panic**, with its two minute hates & mob swarmings
- ◇ The two are complementary and more stable when combined
  - ◇ Private is pacifying & diverting, but pangs of conscience want something higher too (not "bread alone")
  - ◇ Panic fills that gap with grandiose causes of great moral urgency and great convenience (just vote the right way)



# modern Panics' truncated daily footprint

## ◇ supernatural religion could pervade daily life

- ◇ micro sins/virtues infused with macro/cosmic meaning
  - ◇ 7 deadly sins: pride, anger, lust, envy, greed, gluttony, sloth
- ◇ micro fears/problems can be met w/ prayer and peace
- ◇ church services, confession, communion, saints' days, blessings

micro sins/virtues, micro fears/problems  
rules to follow (on Sabbath, diet etc)  
church services, confession, communion, saint days

many opportunities to practice  
supernatural religion in daily life

## ◇ secular Panics have a much smaller daily footprint

- ◇ The very grandiosity that gives them Enforcer stance, makes them remote from daily life
- ◇ How often do you make hiring decisions between black & white candidates who are about equally qualified?
- ◇ How often can you intervene to stop rape or harassment?

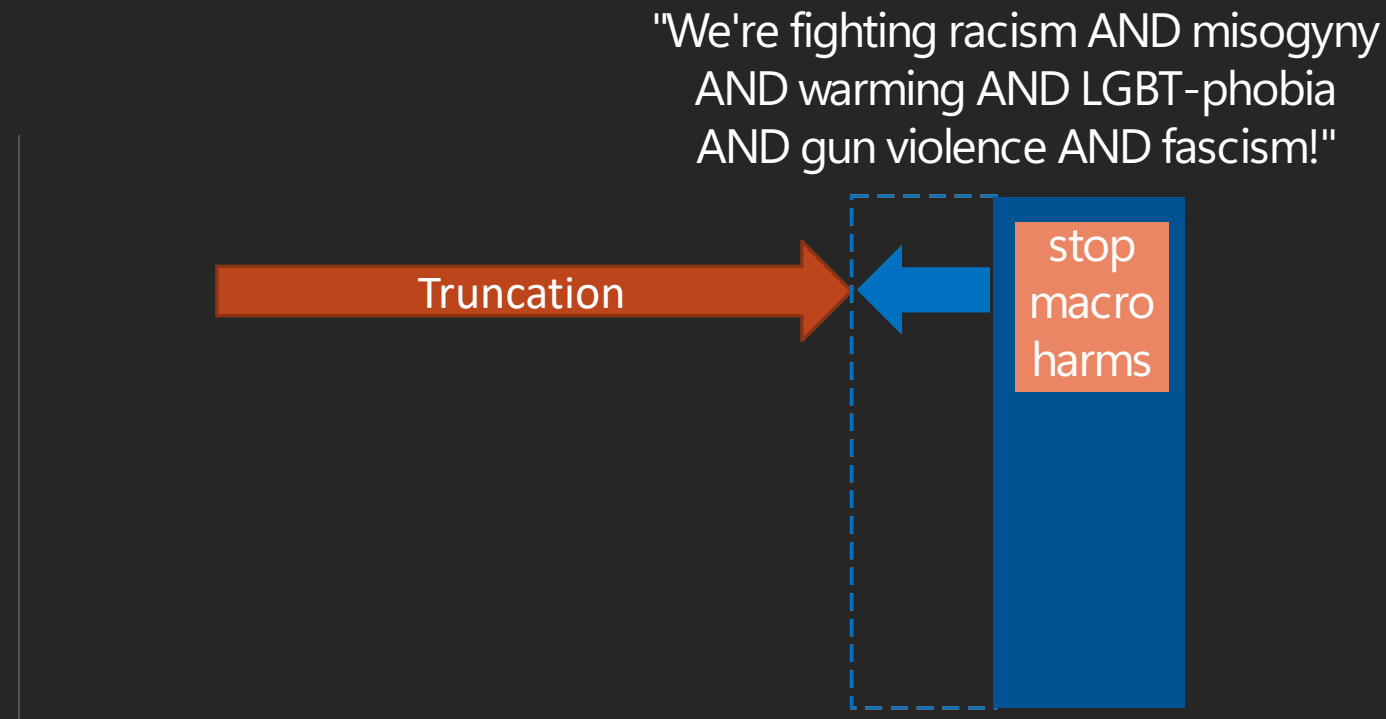
Truncation

stop  
macro  
harms

few opportunities for ordinary  
people to stop macro harms in  
their daily lives

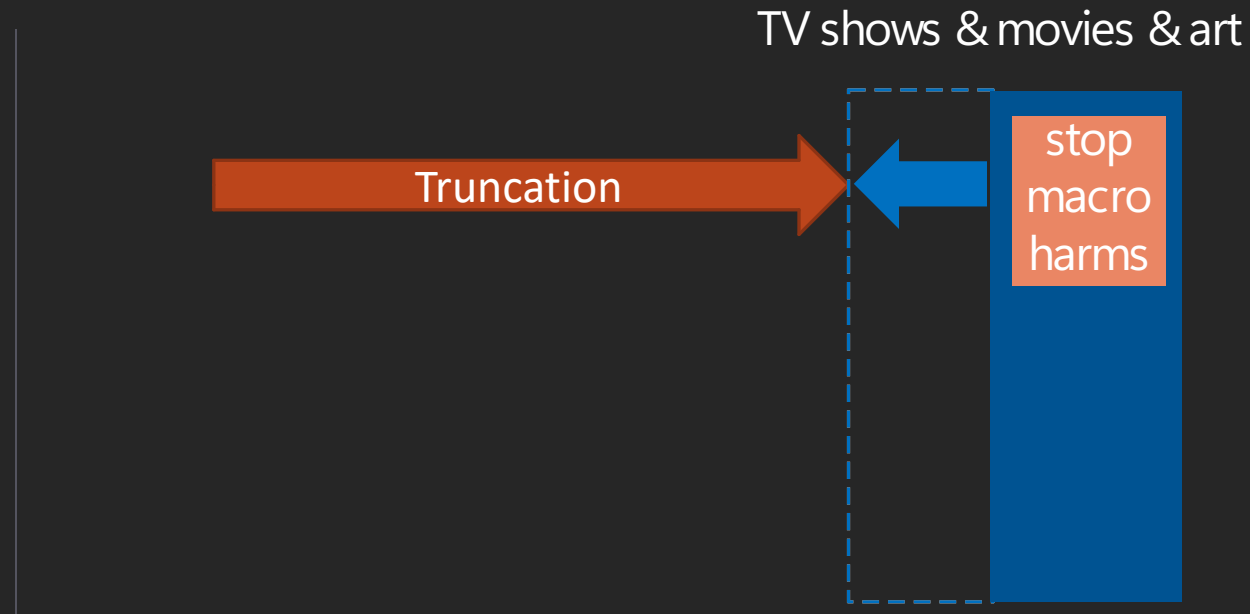
# expanding footprint: a portfolio of *multiple* panics

- ◇ increasing the *number* of panics (eg from 1 to 7) multiplies the total panic surface area
  - ◇ If there's not something inflammatory happening in one this week, there may be action in another; "LGBTQIAA..."
- ◇ this modern *bundling* of secular panics is discernible remarkably early, as Jurassic Locke unfolds
  - ◇ eg some Unitarians c 1840 simultaneously pursued: abolition, temperance, anti-war, debt reform, women's rights...
  - ◇ For most pre-moderns, stopping **one** crime against humanity would be enough for a lifetime! But moderns are stopping 6 or 7





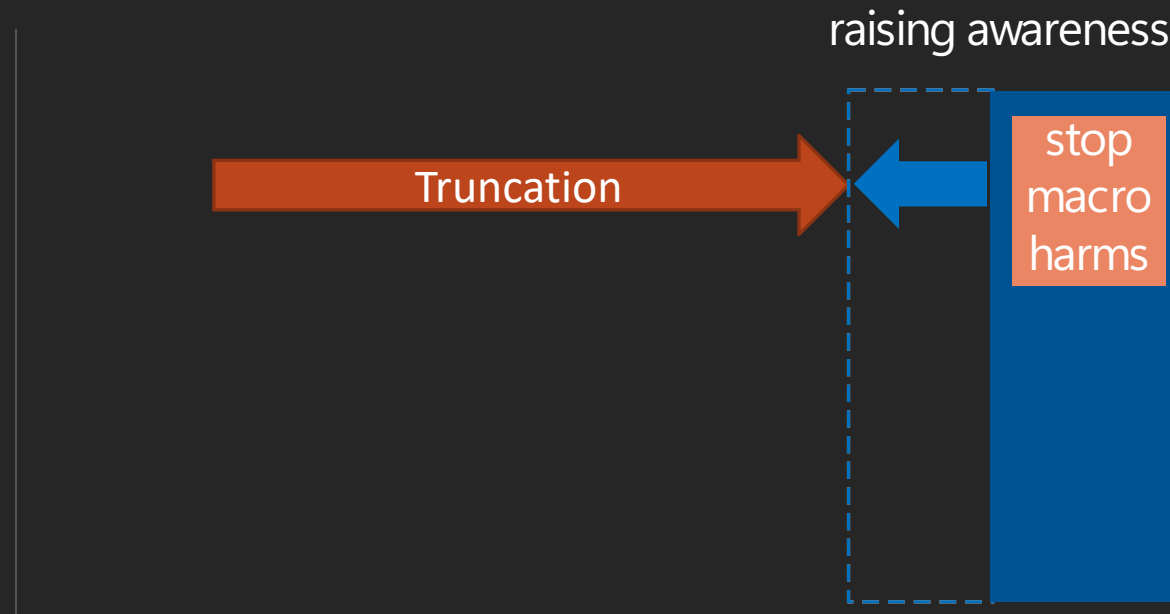
# expanding footprint: politicization of culture

- ◇ Panic themes injected into everything like a fortifying fluoride or Vitamin "P"
  - ◇ TV shows & movies with plots about slavery/racism, women's oppression, trans/gay representation...
    - ◇ endless repulsive white/male/straight villains; endless didactic positive depictions of victims
  - ◇ Contemporary art in galleries/museums is largely about: colonialism, patriarchy, LGBT expression etc
  - ◇ Nature documentaries almost always sound a dour note about warming
- ◇ Even if you're not fighting Panic *yourself* today, you can feel on side of the good guys as you consume this content



# expanding footprint: "awareness raising"

- ◇ Even if you're not doing anything *tangible* to fix a macro harm, you can engage in nebulous "awareness raising"
  - ◇ (You're not stopping a harm *yourself*, but by publicizing the issue you might convince others to wake up and solve the harm that way)
  - ◇ social media profile symbols: BLM, #MeToo etc  
  - ◇ yard signs
  - ◇ bumper stickers
  - ◇ Pride month, Black History month, Hispanic Heritage month etc (a sort of replacement for saints' days?)



# expanding footprint: semantic churn

- ◇ constantly changing the preferred *terms* for things creates tangible (?) new battles to fight
  - ◇ "A rose by any other name....creates a new issue to police"
  - ◇ Negro -> black -> African-American -> Black
  - ◇ cross dresser -> transvestite -> transsexual -> transgender
  - ◇ pronouns

