



INVESTIGATING THE POLITICAL FOUNDATIONS IN *THE DECEPTION POINT* – AN IN-DEPTH ANALYSIS

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ABSTRACT

The Deception Point adheres to Brown's self-created formula for a gripping and heart-stopping thriller, tackling a topic that most people have heard about but have never fully comprehended as his theme and satisfying a variety of palates by fusing entertaining and educational elements into an alluring narrative. When the novel was reintroduced to the book market after a two-year hiatus, readers greeted it with thunderous applause because they could better comprehend Brown's profound and relevant concerns about science, politics, and national security in today's society because of the significant events that had taken place over the three-year period (2001–2004), including the 9/11 terrorist attack, the two US-led wars, and IT advancements. This research paper tends to provide an in-depth analysis of the signs, science and strategies employed by Dan Brown in the novel.

Keywords: *The Deception Point*, Foundations, Postmodernism, meteorite, thriller

Dan Brown is a renowned contemporary American author who is hailed for his novels which focus on various conspiracy theories. Brown's *The Da Vinci Code*, which was published in 2003, was a huge hit and rekindled interest in his first three books. A few months later,

The Deception Point emerged from obscurity and was listed among the top ten best-sellers. People were also enchanted by the exciting plot, deep insights, and endearing characters of *The Deception Point*, which had only been released two years prior. Soon after, raving reviews

published worldwide *The Deception Point* made it into America's top 10 annual bestseller list in 2004.

In essence, the book centres on a well-planned scientific hoax, but it also exposes a number of political insider activities during the US presidential election. Oceanography, glaciology, palaeontology, astronomy, geology, astrophysics, meteorology, space science, and military science are just a few of the topics covered in its sweeping, captivating plot, which also involves a number of top-secret American government agencies, including NASA, the National Reconnaissance Office (NRO), and Delta Force. Before beginning to write the book, Brown clearly did a great deal of careful and in-depth research using his standard formula for captivating tales. One of the main reasons the work was swiftly found by the general audience has been attributed to his remarkable command of his subject.

Throughout American literary history, "serious fiction" has frequently borrowed successful and tried-and-true aspects from "genre fiction." One could argue that Brown's book serves as a template for reducing the contrast between so-called "high-brow art" and "low-brow art." The previous "difference between high and so-called mass culture, a distinction on which modernism depended

for its specificity, according to Fredric Jameson, has become hazy. He contends that "the first significant expansion of a recognisable mass culture coincides with the emergence of high modernism itself. The two antithetical traditions of the 'classical' and the 'popular' once again begin to merge' in music and other artistic forms." (Jameson, 63) Brown has worked hard to transcend the arbitrary lines that separate genres, categories, and readers' preferences in his writing. Instead, when crafting his stories, he enjoys experimenting with a blend of conventional, fringe, and novel strategies. Unquestionably, Brown's novel writing has benefited much from this unconventional technique in terms of narrative plan.

The Deception Point adheres to Brown's own formula for a gripping and heart-stopping thriller, tackling a topic that most people have heard about but have never fully comprehended as his theme and satisfying a variety of tastes by fusing entertaining and educational elements into an alluring narrative. When the novel was reintroduced to the book market after a two-year hiatus, readers greeted it with thunderous applause because they could better comprehend Brown's profound and relevant concerns about science, politics, and national security in today's society because of the significant events that had

taken place over the three-year period (2001–2004), including the 9/11 terrorist attack, the two US-led wars, and IT advancements.

The background of the plot revolves around a so-called meteorite that can shake the world. The American presidential campaign, which occurs once every four years, is now underway. Republican Senator Sedgewick Sexton, the opposition candidate, is fiercely criticising incumbent President Zachary Herney's space policy. He has gained the confidence of many potential voters and collected some points as a result. He has been steadily rising in the polls. He "had a superb chance of stealing the White House from the embattled President next autumn" and "was virtually guaranteed his party's nomination for President of the United States." (1) President Herney is now in a very difficult situation as a result. Then terrifying news from the far North Pole subtly causes a sudden change in the course of events. Sedgewick Sexton's daughter is Rachel Sexton, who works at the NRO. The President sends her on an enigmatic mission to the Milne Ice Shelf. Rachel Sexton meets with Michael Tolland, the well-known anchor of the weekly documentary series *Amazing Seas*, inside the NASA habisphere in the Arctic. They develop a strong bond with one

another very quickly. She finds out that an eight-ton meteorite discovered by NASA includes She learns that NASA has found an eight-ton meteorite that contains "[n]ot just a speck of bacteria or microbes, but an advanced life-form! Proof of life elsewhere in the universe!" (101). This is the secret of President Herney! When Rachel learns that President Herney has sent her to see this significant scientific discovery, she is astounded.

As the massive meteorite is extracted from the ice, a large group of leading scientists watch with excitement. Tolland is the only one who approaches the ice pit where the meteorite was discovered by himself. Unknowingly, he notices a greenish shimmering on the gleaming water's surface, which is caused by bioluminescent dinoflagellates! A species of seawater is the dinoflagellate. Tolland finds it incomprehensible that the dinoflagellates could swim into a 90-meter-thick solid iceberg.

Is there a chance that the ice is breaking? With detecting tools in hand, Tolland, Rachel Sexton, Corky Marlinson, and North Pole specialist Norah Mangor depart the habisphere in pursuit of the solution. The outcome of their investigation is completely unbelievable. "A dark column of sea ice extended downward to the open ocean below" (210),

directly beneath the ice shelf. "That rock [meteorite] was purposefully inserted from beneath the ice by someone who drilled up under the shelf" (211). Who was it? What were they doing? They make the decision to return to the habisphere right away and reveal the secret they have discovered. However, armed men strike them at that very moment.

After being struck in the head, Mangor is rendered unconscious; the other three are also in risk of dying. At this pivotal point, Tolland pops a meteorological balloon, which helps him escape danger by getting lifted into the air by the powerful wind. Who is concealing the meteorite's scheme? Who is attempting to murder them? Rachel Sexton doesn't have time to think about all the questions she has when she wakes up. She wishes to contact the President and inform him of all they have found before he makes his TV speech. But how could a typical low-level federal employee like her be aware of the "war" going on behind the meteorite? Scientists discovered a meteorite that contained a fossil of an ancient extraterrestrial life form! Just as people are getting excited about it, this major "scientific discovery" is exposed as a fraud by Tolland and Sexton. What the scientists have found is not a gigantic meteorite. Instead, it is a deep-sea rock that has been

elaborately modified by the NRO; what is inside the "meteorite" is merely an obscure deep-sea bug, and not the "fossil" of "extraterrestrial life." The so-called "discovery" is nothing but a deliberate hoax made for political purposes. The scheme is exposed, but a lot of questions regarding space and biological science linger.

Politicians are constantly eager to project a kind, approachable, and human image. Early in the campaign, Senator Sexton gains the confidence of Americans nationwide thanks to his extraordinary gift for political scheming. He is a superb actor in public. He adamantly pledges to advance family values, elevate women's standing, and aggressively advance education. In actuality, though, he is unable to even gain his own daughter's backing. The American political scene is rife with lies. Individuals are used to that. Who is able to recognise when a politician is exaggerating their claims?

The White House divulges details regarding Senator Sexton's intimate relationship with his personal assistant, Ashe, in the book. With a dejected expression in his eyes, Senator Sexton immediately calls a nationwide press conference, asserts his innocence, and expresses his outrage. Even Ashe, who is standing at his side, begins to question

whether she had intercourse with him at all because of how captivating his performance is. To put it simply, he has perfected his art of deceit.

Lies and scandals are interwoven nightmares in the American political landscape. When a controversy occurs, people weigh the potential benefits and drawbacks, but they usually decide to lie to hide everything. They overlook the fact that lying frequently gets far worse than the incident itself. Former President Clinton suffered significant political and financial setbacks as a result of the sex scandal involving Lewinsky, which was highly publicised at the time. His constant deception about his private life, more than his compromising actions, was what the Americans considered unacceptable. Following the scandal, President Clinton denied any wrongdoing during public interrogation and congressional testimony. "I'm going to say this again: I did not have sexual relations with that woman," he said in defence of himself. He had to address the entire country on television, apologise sincerely, and acknowledge that he did have a "inappropriate" contact with Lewinsky after the independent prosecutor showed Lewinsky's evidence and the notorious dress. Many people were offended by President Clinton's lies, which also provided the opposition party with a

favourable opportunity to gain substantial electoral support. They insisted that he step down.

For many individuals, the notorious Watergate crisis from the 1970s is still very much alive. Five members of Nixon's campaign broke into the DNC headquarters at the Watergate Hotel in 1972 in order to install a wiretapping device. The security personnel immediately apprehended them. When the facts emerged, Nixon was exposed for lying to everyone inside and outside the White House from the start, despite his strong denials of any personal involvement in the incident. He ultimately became the only president in American history to resign because of a scandal after being abandoned by his followers and despised by his colleagues.

Senator Sexton's lies are equally egregious in the book. He receives illicit political donations from commercial aerospace firms while levelling many charges against government organisations for their carelessness. He says, "I am a man who believes in the truth," during his national press conference. Regardless of how terrible it is (541). He provides a different version of events in front of the public while attempting to sell out NASA for his opportunity to seize the White House. In the American political system,

seasoned politicians are used to lying. It appears that developing the ability to lie has become a need for everyone hoping to rise to high positions of authority. Do you recall the events of "Running for Governor," a short story by Mark Twain? Both sides make up information and falsely accuse a candidate who is innocent of a number of offences. The reader will gasp in shock at how obviously they are lying.

"Truth is so precious in wartime that she should always be attended by a bodyguard of lies," (Churchill, 27). Winston Churchill famously remarked. People initially find it challenging to evaluate the choices made by those in positions of authority. At the beginning of the book, President Herney decides not to respond to Senator Sexton's charges. Senator Sexton is unaware of Herney's true motivation. Is Herney simply waiting for a better moment to unleash his reply, or is it because he finds himself without any argument? There are instances when we are unable to discern with certainty whether a politician is telling the truth or lying. Frequently, the initial promise and aim are later revealed to be falsehoods. Frequently, the initial promise and aim are later revealed to be falsehoods. Maybe this is because politicians don't deliberately mislead, or they simply can't foresee the

future. President Herney is also a victim of deception in the novel since he makes the announcement regarding the meteorite without fully understanding the situation. He is the one who begins the falsehood, but he does not purposefully spread it. That is demonstrated by his bravery in "striding towards the stage" and "admitting the biggest mistake of his life." He had "never looked more presidential," in Ashe's opinion. (472)

In a television debate, Senator Sexton suggests allowing commercial organisations to take NASA's place in space exploration. This is strongly opposed by President Herney. The President has such a strong opinion. Why is he so adamantly supporting NASA?

Despite having an enormous yearly budget of up to \$10 billion, NASA's economic impact is hardly quantifiable. The international space station, which has cost over \$100 billion over the years, has been referred to by critics as "a station to nowhere" due to the lack of a clear scientific goal. President George H. W. Bush's scientific adviser was once questioned regarding the advantages of carrying out research in a microgravity or zero-gravity setting. "Microgravity is of microimportance," (Park, 4) was his response. One why did the White House decide to enter the space race despite the

enormous financial and political risks? In any case, what is the allure of space? Let's now examine the hidden factor that underlies everything. "Whoever controls space may well control the earth," (Katu, 18) said President Kennedy once. Space policy is particularly important from a political standpoint to the US government. The first satellite in history was launched by the former Soviet Union in 1957. It sparked a protracted space battle because it truly touched a chord. In an attempt to gain the upper hand in the global political arena, capitalism and communism turned into a rivalry during this political confrontation, and both sides heavily invested in significant space research initiatives. NASA was founded in the context of these historical events. Politics dominated people's lives in those days, and nobody appeared to care all that much about the enormous expense such an undertaking would need. A space shuttle would cost between \$500 and \$700 million to launch. Transporting one kilogramme of cargo to near-Earth orbit typically costs more than \$20,000. Transporting the same to the moon would cost nine times as much. The American landing on the moon marked the pinnacle of the space race. Since then, it has steadily disappeared from the public consciousness.

The enormous potential social and economic advantages have also fuelled the

US government's interest in space. Despite costing the US \$24 billion, the Apollo Program (1963–1972) produced a civic market valued at several hundred billions of dollars. One by one, numerous space technologies created during this time period made their way into the lives of regular people. Numerous opportunities for industrial and agricultural technology are created by the special conditions found in space, such as zero gravity, a vacuum, infinite heat-absorbing capacity, and germ-free conditions. For unique products, space will become the perfect production base. In addition, there are abundant natural resources and limitless solar energy. Ammonia-3 is a cheap, safe, transparent, and extremely effective nuclear fusion material for producing electricity. One hundred tonnes of ammonia-3 might provide a year's worth of energy for the entire world. It is unquestionably a viable alternative resource that could aid in the future resolution of the energy dilemma. The moon's shallow crust is thought to contain a store of this kind of material that could amount to several million tonnes. As a result, moon cultivation has grown to be a significant undertaking for many nations' space programs.

There has been no mothballing of space technology. It offers us a wide range of services, including long-distance communication, weather predictions,

remote sensing exploration, and global positioning systems, and is intimately tied to daily life. The global space economy reached \$288.77 billion in 2012, according to data from the US Space Foundation, and this amount is increasing quickly each year. Additionally, the US administration thinks that space provides a special military edge. The military can support military activities on the ground and watch and track events on the Earth's surface from great altitudes. For example, American military installations in space were essential to combat operations during the Gulf War in the 1990s and the Iraq War. Ultimately, space is a new frontier that is critical to the national security and economics of the United States. It is easy to see why President Herney wants to preserve NASA at all costs, given that it serves as the spearhead for America's space expedition.

A scientific fraud and a political rivalry are the two main threads that bind the novel *The Deception Point* together. It reveals the inner workings of America's political struggle. Scandals involving illicit contributions, prostitution, and political fraud frequently linger like a lingering fog in a political setting where votes are everything, but they always end up becoming a renowned send-off for disgraced politicians.

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