

what your existing brain circuitry allows you to understand. The fundamental frames through which you understand the world are physical. Your moral identity is as much a physical part of you as your lungs or your nose. You can only make sense of what your brain allows. If the facts don't fit what your brain physically allows, the brain circuitry stays and facts are either ignored, dismissed, ridiculed, or seen as a form of immorality to be fought against. It is a fact that the private depends on the public—perhaps the most central fact of American democracy—and yet strict conservatives either can't see it or see it as a form of immorality so fundamental that it must be defeated at all costs.

This is a major part of what is driving the divisiveness of our country and the conservative move to make our government dysfunctional. It is behind the conservative moves to privatize as much of government as possible: to privatize education, public health, public safety, water resources, regulation of business practices, much of national defense, and on and on.

Can brains change? Can the brains of enough Americans change so that this basic fact of our democracy can be comprehended and appreciated?

In many cases, no. But in the overwhelming majority of cases, yes.

What makes it possible is biconceptualism.

## **The Brain and Constant Public Discourse**

Biconceptualism is a fact about the brain. A great many people have in their brains versions of both progressive and conservative moral values in all sorts of combinations. And they apply these different moral values to different issues.

Remember that there is no ideology of the moderate—no set of views held by all moderates. A moderate progressive has mostly progressive views, but also some conservative ones. A moderate conservative has mostly conservative views, but also some progressive ones. But there is no single set of policies that defines a “middle.”

Progressive and conservative worldviews contradict each other. Both are characterized in the brain via neural circuitry. How can you have