



Grok, Rahm Emanuel has a famous quote: “You never want a serious crisis to go to waste. And what I mean by that is an opportunity to do things that you think you could not do before.” Is there a corollary quote or statement that expresses the notion that some people in politics (or business, society, etc.) feed or fuel a crisis in order to keep the issue for campaign season and to justify their own position? Use plain text hyperlinks to support your findings.



Corollary to Rahm Emanuel's Quote

Rahm Emanuel's 2008 remark—urging leaders to seize crises for bold reforms —has a darker inverse: the idea that some actors deliberately exacerbate or fabricate crises to sustain power, rally support, or advance agendas. This notion appears in political discourse as "manufacturing a crisis," often critiquing opportunism where problems are inflated for electoral gain, policy justification, or distraction.

Key Quotes and Statements

- **"Manufacture a crisis" (Rand Paul, 2011):** During a Fox Business interview on the Tucson shooting aftermath, Sen. Rand Paul accused liberals of preemptively "manufactur[ing] even before the events occur" crises to push agendas, invoking Emanuel's "playbook" as a template for contrived urgency . This frames crises as engineered tools for ideological wins, not just exploited ones.
- **Crisis as Political Performance (Academic Model, 2014):** In "How to Perform Crisis," scholars argue populists don't merely respond to crises but "perform" them—cycling through fabricated threats (e.g., Geert Wilders shifting from "Islamization" to EU financial panic for Dutch elections)—to maintain salience and justify radical shifts .
- **"Democrats' Manufactured Crisis" (John Thune, 2021):** Sen. John Thune claimed Democrats fabricated an election "crisis" via hyperbolic rhetoric (e.g., Biden's "most

dangerous threat" speech) to ram through H.R. 1, a federal voting overhaul, as a "partisan takeover" masked as urgency . This highlights campaign-season fueling for legislative grabs.

- **Broader Opportunism Critique (Wikipedia/Political Theory):** Political opportunism involves "exploiting crises for electoral advantage" or "distorting facts" to obscure goals, often deferring accountability with "history will prove me right" .

These corollaries substantiate a pattern: while Emanuel saw opportunity in genuine crises, critics see deliberate ignition—e.g., via rhetoric or policy—to perpetuate issues for votes, funding, or control, eroding trust .

Search Results

Rahm Emanuel quote corollary about fueling crises for political gain

15

[Great American Stories: Rahm Emanuel's Quote | RealClearPublicAffairs](#)

[It's Friday, June 26, 2020, the day of the week when I reprise a quotation intended to be instructive or inspirational. Today's, which comes from Rahm Emanuel, is both. I first met Rahm, as most people call him, when he was a young presidential aide in Bill Clinton's White House.](#)

realclearpublicaffairs.com

[Bum Rap for Rahm - FactCheck.org](#)

[Sen. Rand Paul distorted an old quote from Rahm Emanuel during an appearance on Fox Business, as he disparaged the reaction of liberals to last weekend's shootings in Tucson. The Kentucky Republican, who took office just this month, was asked on Wednesday by Fox host Andrew Napolitano how pundits \(Paul Krugman, a liberal columnist for the New York Times, was mentioned\) could "get away with blaming murder on political discourse."](#)

factcheck.org

[Rahm Emanuel on the Opportunities of Crisis - YouTube](#)

youtube.com

[Rahm Emanuel - Wikiquote](#)

[It is also a truly embarrassing indictment of what's considered "center" politics in the US that objecting to the appointment of an official who helped cover up the murder of a Black child is deemed the "progressive, far left" position...What is so hard to understand about this? Rahm Emanuel helped cover up the murder of Laquan McDonald.](#)

en.wikiquote.org

[Rahm Emanuel on coronavirus response: 'Never allow a crisis to go to waste' | Fox News](#)

[Amid negotiations over how lawmakers should respond to the coronavirus pandemic, Rahm Emanuel has reprised his famous rallying cry from his 2008 financial crash: Never let a crisis go to waste. Speaking during an interview on ABC's "This Week" on Sunday, the former Chicago mayor and chief of staff to President Barack Obama brought back his infamous quote from the 2008 financial collapse in an attempt to highlight that the government can learn from its mistakes when dealing crises.](#)

foxnews.com

[Rahm Emanuel "Never Let A Good Crisis Go To Waste" - YouTube](#)

youtube.com

[Rahm Emanuel Quotes - BrainyQuote](#)

["You never let a serious crisis go to waste. And what I mean by that it's an opportunity to do things you think you could not do before." - Rahm Emanuel](#)

brainyquote.com

[The "Never Let a Serious Crisis Go to Waste" Crowd Strikes Again](#)

[That will be especially likely when future crises strike, and another generation of politicians dusts off Rahm's Rule. Matt Weidinger is a Rowe Fellow in poverty studies at the American Enterprise Institute. Tim Sprunt is a research associate at the American Enterprise](#)

[Institute. ... Biden administration | Democrats | inflation | Inflation 2022 | Larry Summers | Rahm Emanuel | Student debt](#)

[aei.org](#)

[A Terrible Thing to Waste - The New York Times](#)

[Just after Barack Obama's election in November, Rahm Emanuel, his chief of staff, made this memorable statement to an interviewer: "You never want a serious crisis to go to waste." The underlying insight is wise. In a sprawling, contentious democracy, competing interests suspend their antagonisms only when they have to confront an alarming common threat.](#)

[nytimes.com](#)

[Quotes Uncovered: Who Said No Crisis Should Go to Waste? - Freakonomics](#)

[How about the very recent "Don't waste a crisis"? Did that phrase/quote have usage prior to Rahm Emanuel?" · Charles Doyle of the University of Georgia, my coauthor on the forthcoming Yale Book of Modern Proverbs, has found that this expression is now commonly applied to economic or diplomatic crises that can be exploited to advance political agendas, but he traced it back at least as far as 1976, when M.](#)

[freakonomics.com](#)

[Rahm Emanuel reprises 'never let a crisis go to waste' catchphrase amid coronavirus pandemic](#)

[Ted Cruz slammed Senate Democrats Monday, saying they are using Emanuel's phrase to advance liberal agendas. "The same quote from Rahm Emanuel, President Obama's chief of staff: 'Never let a good crisis go to waste.' Sadly, we're seeing the embodiment of that cynical approach right now.](#)

[washingtonexaminer.com](#)

[Rahm Emanuel Quotes](#)

["You never let a serious crisis go to waste. And..." - Rahm Emanuel quotes from BrainyQuote.com](#)

[brainyquote.com](#)

[A quote by Rahm Emanuel](#)

[You never want a serious crisis to go to waste. And what I mean by that is an opportunity to do things that you think you could not do before.](#)

[goodreads.com](#)

[r/Stoicism on Reddit: Never Let a Good Crisis go to Waste.](#)

["You never let a serious crisis go to waste. And what I mean by that it's an opportunity to do things you think you could not do before." Rahm Emanuel](#)

[reddit.com](#)

[Rahm Emanuel - Quotes - IMDb](#)

[Rahm Emanuel. Actor: Madzilla!. Rahm Emanuel is an American politician who served as the 55th mayor of Chicago from 2011 to 2019. A member of the Democratic Party, he previously served as the 23rd White House Chief of Staff from 2009 to 2010, and as a member of the United States House of Representatives from Chicago between 2003 and 2009.](#)

[imdb.com](#)

politicians create crises to justify position or campaign

15

[The U.S. hurtles toward political crisis - International Viewpoint - online socialist magazine](#)

[Ashley Smith analyzes the impact of the attempted assassination of Donald Trump on the deepening political crisis in the U.S. and the ever growing weakness of the Joe Biden campaign. The United States was already headed for one of the most acute political crises](#)

[in recent memory. Then former president and convicted felon Donald Trump was nearly assassinated at a rally in Pennsylvania. Having survived, Trump has consolidated his base and cornered the Democrats by blaming them for the attack. Trump will now position himself as a strong man and survivor over a debilitated Biden campaign.](#)

internationalviewpoint.org

[Political opportunism - Wikipedia](#)

[Politicians may defend such decisions as necessary or aligned with broader goals, even as critics label them opportunistic. Milton Friedman highlighted this tension by remarking, "One man's opportunism is another man's statesmanship". In some cases, political figures defer judgment of their controversial decisions by claiming that "history will prove me right." This argument has been used to justify actions ranging from significant policy shifts to military interventions.](#)

en.wikipedia.org

[Full article: US Political Leadership and Crisis Communication During COVID-19](#)

[The research explored the role of political leadership in response to the novel coronavirus \(COVID-19\). The researchers conducted a political discourse analysis on 239 transcripts from the press br...](#)

tandfonline.com

[The Rise of Political Violence in the United States | Journal of Democracy](#)

[Those who believed the election was fraudulent were far more likely to endorse coups and armed citizen rebellion; by February 2021, a quarter of Republicans felt that it was at least “a little” justified to take over state government buildings with violence to advance their political goals.²⁵ This politically driven false narrative points to the role of politicians since 2016 in fueling the difference in violence between right and left.](#)

journalofdemocracy.org

[How to Prevent Political Violence | Journal of Democracy](#)

[Political violence is rising in wealthy democracies. Polarized societies and bitter party politics are putting candidates and election officials in serious...](#)

[journalofdemocracy.org](#)

[How to Perform Crisis: A Model for Understanding the Key Role of Crisis in Contemporary Populism | Government and Opposition | Cambridge Core](#)

[These authors see external crises as providing an opportunity for populist politicians to step in with their charismatic authority, flex their muscles and undertake extensive and dramatic reform in order to 'sweep away the detritus of the past and usher in a new social order' \(Roberts Reference Roberts1995: 113\). They posit crisis as a necessary \(or at least extremely conducive\) precondition for the emergence of populism.](#)

[cambridge.org](#)

[The 'Stomp Reflex': When governments abuse emergency powers](#)

[Instead, presidents can activate "national emergencies" to gain access to a range of 136 statutory emergency powers. As of February 2020 there were 32 active national emergencies, the oldest of which dates back 39 years. The continuation of national emergencies is a bipartisan affair and most politicians savour the expanded abilities at their disposal.](#)

[bbc.com](#)

[Crisis or Opportunity? To Politicians, It's the Same Thing | Mises Institute](#)

[Do politicians act based on an opportunistic endeavor to secure additional time in office or to land a promotion elsewhere in public life? The cynic will nod his or her head, while the optimist will say no. Either way, presidents, governors, and mayors use crises to advance their careers.](#)

[mises.org](#)

[Political crisis: what it is, causes, types and impact - 202 Digital Reputation](#)

[Ruben Gálvez A political crisis is, basically, when things get ugly in the area of power. We are talking about situations in which the government, parties or institutions do not function as they should. It could be due to internal troubles, corruption, lack of leadership or because people are so dissatisfied that they take to \[...\]](#)

[202digitalrep.com](#)

[- Parliamentarians for Global Action - Mobilizing Legislators as Champions for Human Rights, Democracy and a Sustainable World.](#)

[During emergencies, power tends to concentrate in the executive branch of the state. Authoritarian governments exploit crises to subvert human rights and undermine democratic institutions. The Parliamentary Toolbox for Democracy Defense](#)

[pgaction.org](#)

[How to Handle Political Crisis Communication in Your Election Campaign](#)

[Do you know how to handle political crisis communication in your election campaign? Here are five tips that will help. ... Provide an update on progress. A political crisis is when the people in charge of your country try to tell you what's wrong with it. Political crises are challenging for politicians, parties, and governments to handle.](#)

[politicalmarketer.com](#)

[Constitutional crisis - Wikipedia](#)

[Tyler insisted that politicians recognize him as President and returned, unopened, all mail addressed otherwise. Despite opposition from some Whig members of Congress, including John Quincy Adams and Henry Clay, both houses passed a resolution confirming Tyler's position.](#)

[en.wikipedia.org](#)

[The Politics of Crisis Claims | Sciences Po CERl](#)

[This is the case for certain Marxist theories,14 particularly the regulation school that sees crisis as a moment of destabilisation, and thus a revelation, of the foundations of a](#)

[historical form of regulation of capitalism.](#)¹⁵ In international relations, crises are phenomena characterised by their sudden time frame and extreme impact, giving rise to institutional and political breakdowns,¹⁶ revolutions, genocides, civil wars, or epidemics. In other words, these situations constitute moments in which international relations are redefined, and which often justify the existence of international institutions.¹⁷ This approach, which could be described as “realist” can also be observed in many contemporary studies on crisis management.

sciencespo.fr

[Negative Campaigning and the Logic of Retaliation in Multiparty Competition - PMC](#)

[We discard releases by low-ranking politicians \(e.g., local representatives\) as we are only interested in the national parties’ strategies. However, all candidates on party lists are regarded as relevant actors. The remaining 6,750 press releases are coded using a relational method of content analysis that links actors to issues and/or other actors. A variable called predicate connects them and records whether their relation is positive \(1\), negative \(-1\), or neutral \(0\).](#)

pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov

[Political Crises - an overview | ScienceDirect Topics](#)

[A political crisis is defined as a situation characterized by excessive influence from powerful entities, such as the industrial-military complex, and actions taken by a dominant superpower that lead to military interventions for reasons beyond official justifications. A generated definition based on: Improving Stability in Developing Nations through Automation 2006, 2006 ... Press Enter to select rating, 1 out of 3 starsPress Enter to select rating, 2 out of 3 starsPress Enter to select rating, 3 out of 3 stars ... You might find these chapters and articles relevant to this topic. ... The world is currently facing a number of very serious crises which could lead to potentially catastrophic instability.](#)

sciencedirect.com

quote "manufacture a crisis" politics

Thune: Democrats' Manufactured Crisis is an Attempt at a Partisan Federal Election Takeover - Press Releases - U.S. Senator John Thune

President, it's been all political theater all the time lately as Democrats attempt to manufacture a crisis that will allow them to pass their partisan federal takeover of state election law. "There was President Biden's overwrought speech in Philadelphia last week warning that election laws being passed in various states are, quote, "the most dangerous threat to voting and the integrity of free and fair elections in our history."

thune.senate.gov