

2 Pre-publication draft for submission to third-party artificial intelligence (AI) for facts-evidence-analysis (FEA) check for a developing report on MHProNews.

Sabotage 101. Chowdhury and Gürtler-'Sabotage is Ubiquitous.' Business. Political. Economic. Career. Relationships. Media. War. Organizational. Resource Denial. AmeRegCorp-MHVille Lessons-FEA

“Pay more attention to what people do than what they say.” – [Martin "Marty" Lavin](#), J.D. According to [Springer Nature Link](#), about four centuries before the birth of Christ is an ancient example of the use of what is known today as "sabotage." [Wikipedia](#) defines and describes [sabotage](#) as follows. "**Sabotage** is a deliberate action aimed at weakening a [polity](#), [government](#), effort, or [organization](#) through [subversion](#), obstruction, [demoralization](#), [destabilization](#), [division](#), [disruption](#), or destruction. One who engages in sabotage is a *saboteur*. Saboteurs typically try to conceal their identities because of the consequences of their actions and to avoid invoking legal and organizational requirements for addressing sabotage." Per [Springer](#), "“Sabotage” is a deliberate and costly act of damaging a rival’s likelihood of winning the contest. Sabotage can be observed in, e.g., sports, war, promotion tournaments, and political or marketing campaigns." Research by [Subhasish M. Chowdhury](#) & [Oliver Gürtler](#) made available via Springer asserts that "sabotage is ubiquitous." Chances are good you have witnessed or know of acts of sabotage in relationships, business, career, academics, or virtually any other field of human activity, even if it wasn't necessarily presented as sabotage because as Wikipedia stated: "Saboteurs typically try to conceal their identities because of the consequences of their actions and to avoid invoking legal and organizational" consequences from being deemed a saboteur. The research by Chowdhury and Gürtler on "[Sabotage in Contests](#)" predates the research by [James "Jim" Schmitz Jr.](#) and his colleagues regarding "sabotage monopoly" tactics impacting manufactured housing by several years. In a recent [report](#) about [Principal Research Economist Jim Schmitz for the Minneapolis Federal Reserve](#): "To study monopoly, look to actions, not the textbook definition." Jeff Horowitz wrote about his colleague's research that: "Schmitz argues"... "Rather than focus on concentration and price-cost margins, Schmitz argues for a definition [of sabotage monopoly tactics] based on actions and behaviors."

A pull quote from Part II, further below, which follows more details on Chowdhury's and Gürtler's research on sabotage.

[MHProNews](#) Key Takeaways:

The Ubiquity of Sabotage: A 35,000-Foot View

Research by **Subhasish Chowdhury and Oliver Gürtler** establishes that sabotage is a "ubiquitous" and "deliberate act of damaging a rival's likelihood of winning a contest". This broader context validates the specific findings of **James Schmitz Jr.** and his colleagues.

Sabotage Type	Functional Mechanism	Organizational Context
Effort Manipulation	Increasing a rival's cost of effort to decrease their effectiveness.	Evaluation systems based on relative, rather than absolute, performance.
Resource Denial	Denying a rival access to critical resources to ensure failure.	Aimed most often at the "ablest" contestant to remove them from competition.
Public Policy	Lessening the effectiveness of public policies through interference.	Sabotaging affirmative action or informational revelation in contests.

1. With that backdrop of "effort manipulation," "resource denial" and "public policy," briefly consider the following from [Schmitz's](#) research abstract.

Our forebears --- including Adam Smith, Anne Robert Jacques Turgot, William Stanley Jevons, Frank A. Fetter, Lionel Robbins, Jacob Viner, Henry Simons and Thurman Arnold --- understood there were many types of groups or organizations that develop into monopolies, including trade associations, cartels, unions, cooperatives and professional associations. They also emphasized that it's difficult to know the full extent of monopolization, as many monopolies were informally organized, while others, perhaps the majority, were alliances of monopolies, making both types hard to detect. Our forebears also understood that monopolies took many types of harmful actions, such as destroying substitutes for their products and services, typically those purchased by low income families. They saw monopolies as the major cause of inequality. But after 1950, our profession simply ignored our forebears' great knowledge. At this time, we adopted the definition of monopoly we have used for the last 75 years --- "A monopoly is a firm that is a single seller with no close substitutes." This obviously presents a very narrow view of the organizations that develop into monopolies and the type of harmful actions they take. Under such a view, Harberger (1954) found that the social costs of monopoly were trivial. Our profession's interest in monopoly subsequently waned (see, e.g., Krugman (2015)). But our views about monopoly should not be driven by Harberger (1954), rather we should look to our great forebears. Moreover, a recent literature conducting research in the "spirit" of our forebears (reviewed in Schmitz (2020)) has essentially rediscovered our forebears'

findings but for our current period. Our profession should be studying monopoly much more extensively.

2. But rather than pivot into specific sabotage monopoly tactics as they appear in manufactured housing as detailed by Schmitz or others, which can be studied in a future [facts-evidence-analysis](#) (FEA) on [MHPProNews](#), **this article is focused on a 35,000'-level introduction to the notion of sabotage as a "ubiquitous" tactic**. There are many reasons to do so, including, but not limited to, the notion that Schmitz et al are hardly alone in studying sabotage (in their case as it relates to a monopolization methodology) but is...**"ubiquitous."** A nearly universal facet of behavior broadly found in society.

3. For a non-housing [example](#). "The Simple Sabotage Field Manual is a document written by the Office of Strategic Services [OSS-the CIA precursor] in 1944. The manual was declassified by the Central Intelligence Agency [CIA] in 2008." So, the OSS which morphed into what became the CIA was formally 'teaching' sabotage tactics at least 82 years ago.

4. Ancient concerns about sabotage are found from [Chowdhury and Gürtler](#) via [Springer](#).

The king may be threatened by dangers in the interior or in the remote regions, particularly when he is about to start on an expedition. An internal rebellion is one led by a Crown Prince, the Purohita (the priest), the chief of defence or a minister.... An internal rebellion is more dangerous than one in the outer regions because it is like nurturing a viper in one's bosom.

- Kautilya, *Artha Shastra* [*Economic Science*], c. 4th Century BC, p. 160

5. According to [Chowdhury and Gürtler](#): "We discuss the theories and evidence emphasizing the means of sabotage, why sabotage occurs, and the effects of sabotage on individual contestants and on overall welfare...**Sabotage is ubiquitous in everyday life.**" (Bolded added). **"In each of these cases, individuals [or groups] use strategies intended to damage someone else's success rather than improving their own."**

They also said the following. The quotes are of Chowdhury and Gürtler writings, but the bullets and lettering are added by *MHPProNews*.

- A) "Following a major part of the literature, we term the resources expended to increase one's own probability of winning as "effort", and those expended to reduce rivals' probability of winning as "sabotage"."
- B) "Businesspeople often resort to costly strategies to damage competitors' business. Friedman ([1998](#), p. 577) describes one such business malpractice that occurred in the 1890s."

- C) "In many marketing campaigns, firms stress their rivals' weak points."
- D) "Sabotage is common also in political campaigns in which the opponents are discredited and often denigrated."
- E) "Political imprisonment can be seen as an extreme form of such sabotage in political contests."
- F) "Stealing crucial information from a political or commercial rival is also not uncommon."
- G) "'Scorched earth' is a famous strategy in warfare and corporate takeover battles."

6. Chowdhury and Gürtler distinguish between sabotage and punishment as follows.

"When an agent *punishes* someone else, this typically happens either because the person being punished is not following an objective norm or because the agent is motivated by fairness issues. Unlike sabotage, the punishment oftentimes is not executed in expectation of a material benefit for the punisher."

7. Chowdhury and Gürtler stated this.

"Because sabotage is common, important, and different from other similar acts, research has continuously investigated the means and consequences of sabotage. However, there is no comprehensive survey of existing studies."

8. This [MHProNews MHVille facts-evidence-analysis](#) (FEA) is underway.

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Facts • Evidence • Analysis (FEA)

THE MHPRONEWS ADVANTAGE

— *Uncovering What Others Miss* —

MULTI-SOURCE VERIFICATION



Documents • Experts • A.I. Cross-Checked

HISTORICAL CONTEXT



80+ Years of "Sabotage Monopoly" Tactics

DOCUMENT-DRIVEN REPORTING



Primary Sources, Not Spin

PATTERNS EXPOSED



Consolidation & Constraint

CLEAR LEGAL BOUNDARY



Evidence vs. Legal Proof

WHY FEW DO IT



Deep Dives, Not Press Releases

Trusted by C-Suite • Policymakers • Researchers



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Copilot produced the infographic above after its involvement in the deep dive article linked here: <https://www.manufacturedhomepronews.com/unfathomable-incomprehensibly-weakened-mharr-rips-manufactured-housing-institute-manufacturedhousing-org-or-mhi-in-press-release-and-letters-to-doe-hud-white-house-mhi-mask-off-fea/>. MHPProNews notes that while it is true that MHPProNews is known to be followed by C-suite leaders in manufactured housing, that should not be misunderstood to mean that corporate officials always like what they read. As the infographic suggests, MHPProNews follows the facts and evidence and for years has used third-party artificial intelligence (AI) as a facts-evidence-analysis (FEA) checking tool. No one else in MHPProNews does what MHLivingNews and MHPProNews do in highly transparent and evidence-based 'connect the dots' reporting.

[/caption]

Part I. A '35,000' Level Overview of Sabotage Tactics' from Linked Sources as Shown.

AI Overview

Research into sabotage tactics spans across various sectors, identifying deliberate actions designed to undermine rivals, reduce productivity, or manipulate outcomes. Modern sabotage often blends physical, psychological, and digital methods, with AI-driven disinformation playing an increasing role in 2026. [1, 2, 3, 4, 5]

Business and Organizational Sabotage

Modern business sabotage frequently involves digital disruption and reputation destruction, often documented as "simple sabotage" to disrupt operations. [1]

- - **Digital Manipulation:** Using AI-generated content to create fake reviews, smear campaigns, and buried search listings.
 - **Supply Chain Disruption:** Negotiating exclusive supplier deals, offering higher prices to redirect resources, and spreading doubts about competitor reliability.
 - **Internal Sabotage (Office):** Classic, yet effective methods include adhering strictly to "channels" to prevent quick decisions, haggling over precise wordings in meetings, and increasing bureaucratic, large committees.

- **Leadership Sabotage:** Employee defiance, bullying, and reputation assassination to limit productivity. [1, 2, 3, 4, 5]

Media and Information Manipulation

Media is both a target and a tool for sabotage, particularly through AI-enabled disinformation and psychological manipulation. [1]

- - **AI Disinformation:** The use of deepfakes and AI-generated voices/videos (e.g., falsely depicting political figures) to erode trust and manipulate public perception.
 - **Media Capture:** Using lawsuits, specifically SLAPP (Strategic Lawsuits Against Public Participation) suits, to stifle investigative journalism.
 - **Hostile Influence:** Coordinated efforts to attack the credibility of news organizations via harassment and artificial amplification of narratives.
 - **Secondary Spreaders:** Utilizing social media influencers to unknowingly spread distorted information, adding credibility to false narratives. [1, 2, 3, 4, 5]

Political and Governmental Sabotage

Political sabotage involves weakening democratic institutions, electoral interference, and reducing public trust. [1, 2]

- - **Cyber-based Hostile Influence:** Foreign entities using cyber-enabled deception to interfere with elections, such as creating fake protest groups (e.g., in the 2016 US election).
 - **Soft Diplomacy & Sportswashing:** Using sports to improve a negative reputation, or "sportswashing," which acts as a political sabotage tool to distract from human rights violations.
 - **Media Manipulation:** Restricting access to media, filing libel suits, and providing inaccurate information to voters. [1, 2, 3, 4, 5]

Warfare and Cyber Sabotage

In 2026, sabotage as a "new normal" involves constant, low-intensity disruption intended to keep adversaries off-balance, as discussed in. [1, 2]

- - **Cyber Attacks on Infrastructure:** Targeting critical infrastructure such as power grids, financial systems, and communication networks to cripple essential services.
 - **Digital Warfare:** Using AI for disinformation and "hack-and-leak" campaigns, such as the 2016 US election interference and attacks on Ukrainian power grids.
 - **Physical and Digital Hybrid:** Historical and current tactics involve using logic bombs to sabotage industrial systems, such as the 1982 Soviet pipeline incident and modern attacks on nuclear facilities. [1, 2, 3, 4]

Sports Sabotage

Sabotage in sports goes beyond physical injury to include psychological and administrative tactics, notes. [1, 2, 3]

- - **Reputation Damage:** Spreading rumors or hacking accounts to ruin an athlete's mental state.
 - **Administrative Sabotage:** Altering competition rules, limiting resources for specific athletes, or in extreme, historical cases, physical assault (e.g., the Tonya Harding case).
 - **Defensive Mediatization:** Sports organizations limiting journalists' access or creating in-house media to control the narrative, reports. [1, 2, 3, 4, 5]

Relationship Sabotage

Psychological sabotage in personal relationships often involves self-sabotage or behavior intended to ruin the partnership.

- - **Avoidance & Deflection:** Actively avoiding intimacy or meaningful conversations to undermine connection.
 - **Passive-Aggressive Behavior:** Utilizing neglect, blame shifting, or subtle criticism to break down a partner's confidence.
 - **False Narratives:** Creating false stories about the partner to friends or family to alienate them from support systems. [1]

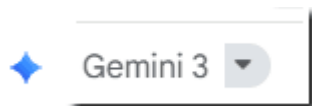
Key Drivers and Trends (2026)

- **Low Cost/High Reward:** Sabotage is often cheap and difficult to attribute to a specific actor, making it attractive.
- **AI Escalation:** The use of generative AI tools for disinformation has made it easier to create convincing, personalized, and large-scale false content.
- **Erosion of Trust:** A primary goal of modern sabotage is to destroy faith in expertise, news, and democratic institutions. [[1](#), [2](#), [3](#), [4](#), [5](#)]

Part II. Additional [MHProNews](#) MHVille [Facts-Evidence-Analysis](#) plus insights from Sources as Shown

In no particular order of importance.

1. In response to the pre-publication draft linked [here](#), the input-inquiry (Q&A) thread with [Google's artificial intelligence](#) (AI) powered Gemini by [MHProNews](#) transparently provided at this link [here](#) and confirmed via screenshots for accuracy [here](#). Note that additional linked sources are found at this link [here](#) which were provided by Gemini.



This analysis unpacking the "Sabotage 101" report applies the **Facts-Evidence-Analysis (FEA)** methodology to bridge the 35,000-foot view of universal sabotage with the specific "man-made" housing crisis.

The Ubiquity of Sabotage: A 35,000-Foot View

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Unpacking the "United States of AmeRegCorp"

The report frames **AmeRegCorp** as the modern execution of these ancient tactics within a "**corporate-regulatory-political complex**".

- **The Neologism: AmeRegCorp** refers to the symbiotic consolidation of American regulatory agencies and dominant corporate entities.
- **The Dirty Secret:** This structure favors established institutional players while suppressing independent competition through "man-made" legislative and financial bottlenecks.
- **Sabotage as a Tool:** In this environment, sabotage is not just a competitive act but a structural one—regulatory capture is used to create "policy bottlenecks" that prevent affordable housing from scaling.

Connecting to Schmitz: Sabotage in MHVille

James Schmitz Jr.'s research fits as a precise subset of the Chowdhury/Gürtler model:

1. **Monopolistic Sabotage:** Schmitz argues that traditional on-site construction monopolies have invested heavily in sabotaging factory-built "small-modular" homes to protect their market share.
2. **Regulatory Sabotage:** He specifically points to **HUD** and the **NAHB** as monopolies that block attempts to adopt factory methods, creating a "double inefficiency" where the most cost-effective solution is rendered illegal or inaccessible.
3. **Historical Proof:** From 1960 to 1972, factory-built housing shipments rose from **10% to 60%** of total production. The subsequent stagnation is evidence of successful, long-term sabotage.

Clarifications and Corrections

- **Correction on "Monopoly":** Schmitz argues that modern economics defines monopoly incorrectly by focusing on price. He asserts we must look at **actions and behaviors** (sabotage) to identify true monopolies like "monopoly industries" that maneuver to prevent innovation.
- **Intent vs. Accident:** Per the FEA methodology, the "man-made" crisis is not a failure of system performance, but a success of the "AmeRegCorp" objective: consolidation and the protection of high-cost equity.

Would you like to drill down into the specific "Evaluation Systems" that might be encouraging this behavior within current trade associations?

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2.

3.

4.