

# The Origins of Accident

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Special Topics Computers and Nuclear Energy

Assignment #3

# Impending nuclear war?



# Opening thoughts



- \* The author, Scott Sagan, began his chapter by saying how lucky we are that never in history we had a serious accidental nuclear denotation. But however, history shows that there's a first time for everything.
- \* However, we did had near catastrophic events relating to the failure of nuclear plants. Notable examples: The Chernobyl disaster, the Three Mile Island accident, and recently the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear disaster

# The author's main point

AN OPTIMIST



A PESSIMIST



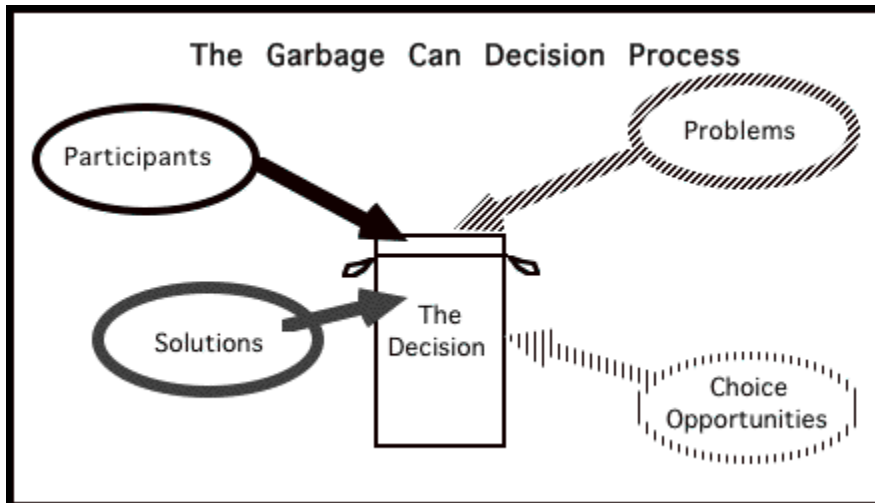
- \* The author use two scholastic theories to explain that could complex organizations, like nuclear power plants, are capable of handling hazardous materials.
- \* The two theories are:
- \* High reliability theory - optimistic view
- \* Normal accidents theory – pessimistic view

# High reliability theory



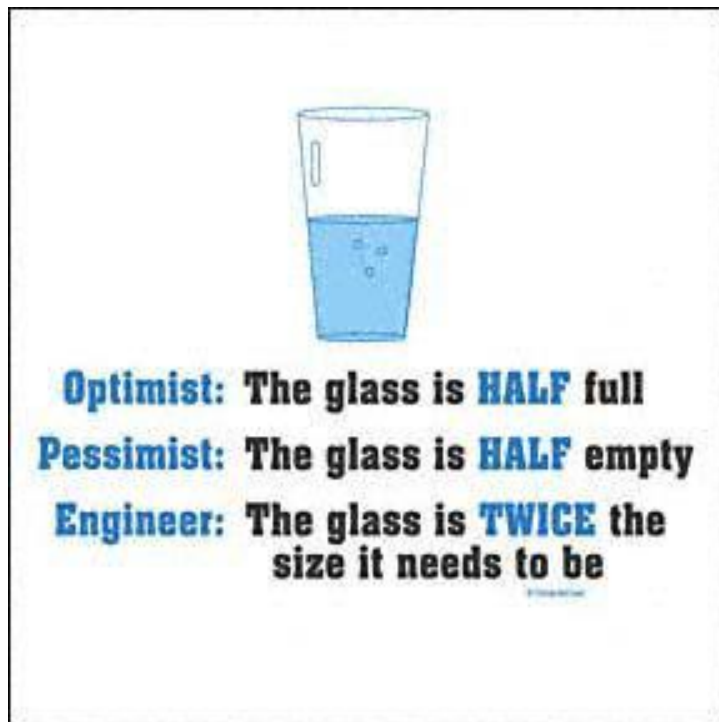
- \* Redundancy
- \* Culture of reliability in the organization - Everyone works as a group, know what to do, and is prepared for any event.

# Normal accident theory



- \* Garbage can model - any organizations could have inconsistent preferences, unclear technologies, and fluid participation

# My own opinion from the chapter



- \* Both theories should be look upon for maintaining a complex organization. While I believe that through hard work and preparation is enough for maintaining hazardous materials, accidents of any kind will happen.