Iraq and the Danger of the Psychological Entrapment

Shankar Vedantam

A photograph accompanying a New York Times article detailed a common phenomenon in human behavior known as entrapment. As you were identifying it, was there a moment when your own experience or that of someone you care about came to mind?

What is the psychological phenomenon of being entrapped?

It is a feeling of being unable to escape a situation, even though you might want to.

What are the consequences of being entrapped?

People who are entrapped may feel hopeless and helpless, and may have difficulty making decisions.

How can you tell if you are being entrapped?

You might feel a sense of obligation to continue the behavior, even though it is not in your best interest.

The week

Study Session

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The White House

The White House is scheduled to announce its support for the legislation to honor veterans who have died in service to their country.

The final vote

The legislation is expected to pass both the Senate and the House, and is likely to be signed into law by the president.

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