

The Cost of Inaction

Political Science

Why inaction is a decision with its own costs.

Why inaction is favoured.

Biases toward inaction

Costs of action are visible and attributed

Costs of inaction are diffuse and delayed

Errors of commission are punished more

Beneficiaries of the status quo are organised

Uncertainty is used as a reason to wait

Counterweights

Explicitly cost the do-nothing option

Set review dates for deferred decisions

Publish the expected cost of delay

Educational reference. Appraisal frameworks require the do-nothing baseline precisely so that inaction is costed, not assumed free.