

## **Through the Lens of Capitalism**

Alyssa Blanton

Department of Social Studies, College Park High School

US Government

Teacher - John Kropf

December 17, 2024

## **Abstract**

The United States is an oligarchy, an oligarchy particularly run by the elites. Who controls the political system, economic system, and narrative in the mass media. Through their influence from their ever-expanding corporations and their greed for profits. Which the foundations of America such as the racial hierarchy, the patriarchy, and the hierarchy of wealth uplift both the political and economic status quo. Often through their lens we are told the falsehood that we the United States are a democracy specifically an indirect form a democratic republic and that capitalism and democracy can coexist. However, those two concepts inherently contradict one another. Although we have democratic elements, such as our Constitution, the Bill of Rights and other aspects of democratic culture, it is clear that we have never been a democracy, as we have always been under these sociological structures that are uplifted through the status quo. If we do not acknowledge these structures in place, collectively organize globally, and work to dismantle these powers, we will fail in the process to reorganize ourselves politically and economically to be equitable for all. We are on a rapid decline to the destruction of humanity. As in this world, the people in power often do not care for the people, they care for profits and expanding their empire. This is creating a vicious cycle which is costing us our planet, and our lives. In order to help humanity as a whole we must dismantle the root of our problems for the reconstruction of society. Nothing less than the government and its institutions itself.

### **Through the Lens of Capitalism**

The political system in the United States is often described in textbooks as a democracy, specifically it is a democratic republic which is an indirect form of democracy. Democracy is based on equality. The core values of democracy are respect for human rights, and fundamental freedoms. While capitalism historically is built from inequalities of class, gender, race, and ethnicity. The textbook often refers to the relationship between democracy and capitalism as two systems that positively benefit one another or in other words a “happy marriage”. However, when going with an institutional approach it often looks over or is insufficient when describing the tension in the relationship between democracy and capitalism, and the effects of the foundations of America that stem from capitalism. The effects of the foundations of America can be seen today in our society’s structures. Which are the three hierarchies: the patriarchy, the racial hierarchy, and the hierarchy of wealth due to social stratification. The political system and the economic structure which is said we are under today inherently contradict one another.

The economic system is based on hierarchies of inequality that allow capitalism to exist. Historically capitalism is built from inequality that is deeply interwoven with the three hierarchies: the hierarchy of wealth, the patriarchy, and the racial hierarchy. The economic system is a corporate-dominated system that often favors profits over humanity which contributes to the hierarchy of wealth. The hierarchy of wealth is divided into the upper class, middle class, and the working or lower class. Which often favors the upper class with taxation, and political benefits.

Out of the consequence of corporations and billionaires’ greed the middle class, working class, and marginalized groups suffer as a result. This is because corporate power

increases inequality for more profits. Corporations use their influence to oppose labor laws and policies that benefit the workers. While inflation increases and workers are struggling to keep up due to the fact that only 0.4% of the world's largest corporations are publicly committed to paying workers a living wage. Corporations exploit racial and gender inequalities; an example of how they do this is privatization. Privatization reinforces inequalities by racial, caste, class, and gender lines by commodifying and segregating access to essential services such as health care, and education. Which excludes and punishes those who cannot pay (Amladi, 2024).

Under capitalism monopolies flourish, which allows corporations to have influence over politics and the economy (Amladi, 2024). Which is why corporations are not paying their share of taxes. Some of their tax avoidance strategies include accelerated depreciation, the offshoring of profits, generous deductions for appreciated employee stock options, and tax credits (Furhmann, 2023). To compensate for the loss of tax revenue from corporations and their rich owners, governments have cut public services and increasingly relied on regressive taxes on goods and services, which fall disproportionately on low-income households (Amladi, 2024).

The patriarchy refers to an ideology that reinforces men's systematic dominance over women, justifying male superiority and rejecting equal structures in both private and public matters in life. The effects of this ideology can be seen in the political, economic, and cultural structures we see today. Some effects of the patriarchy that are seen in society are gender inequality, gender roles, gender-based violence, and reproductive rights.

Gender inequality is discrimination based on sex or gender that then causes one sex or gender to be routinely privileged over another. This act of prejudice can be seen in the workplace. Although women make up more than half of the population in the United States,

they are still paid significantly less than men. Currently, women still make around 84 cents for every dollar a man earns for the same job on average in the U.S. (Mitchell, 2024). This pay gap creates less money saved for retirement, lower starting salaries mean lower bases from which to get raises. Now beyond the binary, this pay gap does not just affect cis-gendered men and women it affects people who identify as transgender or nonbinary. They earn 30% to 40% less than the average worker. (Marquit, 2024) Some other examples of gender inequality are women being underrepresented in positions of power in politics, and people being unable to express themselves freely. The underrepresentation of marginalized groups such as people who identify as transgender or nonbinary, and women in general in politics hinder gender equality in political leadership.

Gender roles are stereotypes based on the roles or behaviors considered to be appropriate to a particular gender by prevailing gender norms. Gender roles not only affect just women, but they also affect men, people who identify as transgender or nonbinary, and society in general. These stereotypes start during childhood, girls from when they are born are taught through the lens of patriarchy. To accept their subordinate roles in society, and to tone themselves down to fit the gender roles in society. Women are expected to be nurturing, accommodating, polite, and a caregiver. They are also expected to fit the ever-changing body standards, to be feminine with the way they dress and how they wear makeup. While boys are taught by the patriarchy to feel shame about vulnerability, to be dominant or aggressive, and to be the breadwinner or the protectors. Under the patriarchy, they are expected to be physically strong, to be competitive, and less openly display emotion and affection, especially towards other men. Gender roles contribute to discrimination in society in general. Some examples of that are reinforcing stereotypes that limit people's potential and opportunities based on gender,

influencing career choices which could lead gender pay gaps and gender segregation (Kochhar, 2023) mental health issues when people feel pressured to conform to roles that do not align with their identity, shaping social interactions which can lead to inequality and power imbalances, and gender-based violence.

Gender-based violence is violence directed against a person because of that person's gender or violence that affects persons of that particular gender disproportionately. Domestic violence due to the social structure plagues every aspect of society. However, it is under-reported due to the fear of stigmatization, or fear of retaliation. Stigmatization is the act of casting shame onto others. The stigma of gender-based violence is rooted in ignorance from the belief that the victim somehow provoked the abuser or deserved the abuse, especially if they returned to the abuser afterwards. Or the belief that it is easy to leave an abuser, and the belief that they secretly want to be abused (Stigma and Domestic..., 2023). These stigmas not only prevent survivors from reporting their abuse or being perceived differently from others both professionally and personally (Patrick, 2018) but from healing. These stigmas lead to survivors feeling shame, guilt or even responsibility for their abuse which continues to isolate them. The impact of domestic violence causes 20% of survivors to develop major depressive disorder, generalized anxiety disorder, post-traumatic stress disorder, and substance use disorder (Understanding the Impact..., 2023). Which stigmatization or discrimination can contribute to worsening symptoms and reduced likelihood of seeking treatment (Stigma, Prejudice..., 2024).

Some examples of gender-based violence are physical abuse, rape, stalking, psychological abuse, sex-based harassment, femicide, human trafficking, child or forced marriage, and coerced prostitution. For women domestic abuse is deeply rooted in the inequalities between women and men. Other factors of intersectional discrimination are

ableism, racism, nationalism, and other structures of power (Gender-based..., n.d.). Intimate partner violence tends to be most prevalent in women ages 18 to 34 (Domestic Violence Statistics..., n.d.). Statistics show that one in four women and one in nine men in the U.S. will experience intimate partner violence, which makes it a serious public health issue (Understanding the Impact..., 2023). 14.8% of women in America have suffered injuries due to intimate partner violence, including rape, physical violence or stalking. For men it's 4% that have suffered injuries due to intimate partner violence, including rape, physical violence or stalking (Domestic Violence Statistics..., n.d.). Approximately 45% of Black non-Hispanic women 56% of multiracial non-Hispanic women, and Asian or Pacific Islander non-Hispanic women had lifetime rates of abuse at 18% experienced IPV in their lifetimes compared to 37% of white women. While 40% of Alaska Native non-Hispanic men, 40% of Black non-Hispanic men, and 42% of multiracial non-Hispanic men experienced higher rates of abuse than white non-Hispanic men (30%) (Understanding the Impact..., 2023). Women who identify as either a lesbian or bisexual also experience higher domestic violence rates. Lesbian women at 44% and 61% of bisexual women for experiencing physical violence, rape, and/or stalking by a partner in their lifetime (T, 2023).

Even though the majority of the people in America are pro-choice. On June 24, 2022, the Supreme Court overturned *Roe v. Wade* which had guaranteed the constitutional right of abortion. Now leaving abortion policies and reproductive rights in the hands of the state. The original ruling was on January 22, 1973, where the Supreme Court ruled that unduly restrictive state regulation of abortion is unconstitutional, and recognized it as a fundamental liberty protected by the Fourteenth amendment in the Constitution. Today there are thirteen states that have a total abortion ban, two that restrict abortions at 15-18 weeks, two that restrict abortion

at 12 weeks, and one state that restricts abortion at six weeks (Mccan and Schoenfeld Walker, n.d.). In total, that is twenty-one states that have either banned abortion or restricted it since the overturning of *Roe v. Wade*.

The overturning of *Roe v. Wade* not only just affects the right to an abortion, but it also affects other medical expenses. The criminalization of abortion has changed how they treat women who arrive in the emergency rooms and on labor floors and delivery floors with wanted but complicated pregnancies (Zernike, 2022). The overturning of *Roe v. Wade* also has serious implications on the education of medical and nursing education. It will reshape the knowledge, skills, and quality of care that are provided by future nurses and physicians. Without this knowledge medical school graduates will not have the skills necessary to manage pregnancy complications such as placental abruption, infection, ectopic pregnancy, and eclampsia. This is because the same medical and surgical techniques utilized for abortion also treat obstetric complications. (Berg, & Woods, 2023) Without adequate abortion care education, the long-term quality of reproductive healthcare will rapidly decline, and will have negative effects on women's health.

Systemic racism affects reproductive health, you can see that in maternal mortality statistics. Abortion which is now criminalized is safer than pregnancy and delivery, especially for Black and Indigenous people. Recent estimates suggest that there will be a 21% increase in maternal mortality overall, and by 33% among Black Americans (Brown, Laverde, Barr-Walker, & Steinauer, 2022). The maternal mortality and infant mortality statistics reveal those exclusions in our healthcare system. The statistics show that Black newborn babies die 250% more often than White newborns in the United States, and that Black mothers are at least three

times as likely to die during childbirth complications (Racial discrimination in healthcare, 2021)

Many basic policies that reduce maternal mortality, promote health equity, eradicate structural racism, protect the patient-provider relationship, and improve healthcare for all. Will now be undermined due to the loss of Roe v. Wade (Berg, & Woods, 2023). The effects of that will have an increased number of pregnancies complicated by unsafe abortions. According to the World Health Association, around 45% of abortions are unsafe. Now it is causing the nurses to be educated and trained to deal with the aftermath. The lack of access to safe affordable abortion care is a critical public health issue and human rights issue.

The racial hierarchy in America is a race-based caste system that is built on the foundations of American culture. In the American caste system at the top are European Americans the primary beneficiaries, and those at the bottom, African Americans, against whom the caste system has directed its full powers of dehumanization (Wilkerson, 2023). It can be seen in society in general but also in the education system, the mass media, the legal system, the healthcare system.

Systemic racism can be seen in daily interactions between groups of people. One in five Americans experience at least one microaggression daily (Lòpez-González, 2024).

Microaggressions are brief everyday exchanges which stem from implicit biases such as a remark or a small act that makes someone feel insulted or treated badly based on race, gender, ethnicity, nationality, and sexual orientation (Smith Haghghi, n.d.). The different types of microaggressions are verbal, behavioral, and environmental. Verbal microaggressions are a comment or question that is hurtful or stigmatizing. Behavioral microaggressions involve behaving in a way that is discriminatory or hurtful to marginalized people or groups.

Environmental microaggressions are when subtle discrimination occurs within society.

Microaggressions are sometimes harder to identify, and the person who is the perpetrator may not even realize that their behavior is harmful. (Smith Haghghi, n.d.) What some people do to try and “combat” racism is color-blindness. Colorblindness is another example of microaggression, in which people often say that they do not see race or color. It is counterproductive because this denies the realities and experiences that people of color face (Colorblind: ReThinking Race, 2012).

Microaggressions play a key role in maintaining systems of racial oppression, because they influence how people see racial groups and the value that society gives them. It does that by reinforcing negative stereotypes, and communicating that people of color are inherently inferior. (Current Understandings..., 2021). The impact of microaggressions can lead to worse physical, mental health, and lower quality of life. Discrimination is associated with increased mental illness, violence, poverty, and inequities in access to healthcare. Data from a 2015 investigation into the relationship between microaggressions and suicidal ideation from the 405 students from racial and ethnic minorities at a midwestern university. It showed that the more often they experienced microaggressions the higher the rates of suicidal ideation. While another study showed data collected from 506 adults from various racial groups that microaggressions were a significant predictor of negative mental health amongst the participants, specifically a negative view-point of the world, depressive symptoms, anxiety, and lack of behavioral control (James-Bayly, 2022).

Macroaggressions are large-scale systematic oppression of a target group by society’s in institutions, such as government, education, healthcare systems and culture. Which can

contribute or reinforce the oppression of marginalized groups while elevating dominant social groups (Adamakos, 2021).

Systemic racism in the education system dates back hundreds of years. The centuries of discrimination led to the formation of separate school systems. For example, schools built for Black students commonly receive less funding than schools with primarily White students. In addition, schools for marginalized groups were often faced with lack of supplies, inequitable pay for educators, and overcrowding. These inequalities lead to the negative impact of educational opportunities available to Black students. The Civil Rights movement during the 1960s led to the desegregation of public schools through court-ordered busing that forced schools to diversify. However, even after schools were integrated the lack of funding, resources, and school content continued. Which hindered opportunities for equitable learning experiences. Today some of these issues remain for students in underrepresented communities today such as unequal funding, unfair disciplinary action, lack of a diverse curriculum, and lack of Brown and Black teachers. (Systemic Racism..., 2022).

Unequal funding of the education system is detrimental to school systems because funding is essential in creating a well-rounded and safe educational experience for students. The inequalities in funding for schools throughout the U.S. More than 35% of public school revenue comes from property taxes that favor and stabilize funding in wealthier areas, while other communities must rely on more volatile state revenues. Which is why schools in wealthier areas get better funding than poorer areas. Due to this statistically Black, Indigenous, and other students of color attend schools that are more likely to be underfunded, outdated, and in many cases hazardous to their health (Chatterji, 2020).

Unfair disciplinary actions often affect students from underrepresented communities compared to White peers. Particularly with Black students who are affected at a disproportionate rate in comparison to White peers. Statistics in a study by the American Psychological Association showed that 26% of Black students were suspended over small infractions over a three-year period, while just 2% of White students were suspended for similar offenses (Systemic Racism..., 2022). This can cause harm to the students social, emotional, academic, and in some cases, physical and mental health (Wriston, Duchesneau, 2023). Which could then lead to a negative impact on their success in the future.

A lack of a diverse curriculum is a critical issue in the education system. A diverse curriculum is essential in education because it provides materials that reflect their culture and that of their peers. The lack of a diverse curriculum in schools can lead to lack of understanding because studies have shown that most students lack basic knowledge on topics such as slavery, or the history of indigenous people. It can also lead to feelings of isolation due to the lack of representation, and then implicit biases toward minority groups. Not only then affecting education but intensifying discriminatory behavior and negatively impacting learning (Lam, 2022).

Many attribute the lack of Black and Brown teachers to the Brown v. Board decision. Which was a crucially important and precedent-setting case that significantly affected Black teachers. When the schools were ordered to integrate in 1954, the schools for Black students were shut down. Which then as a result thousands of credentialed Black teachers were fired or pushed to resign. Since that decision the Black teacher and education leadership pipeline never fully rebounded (Systemic Racism..., 2022). Federal data shows that 7% of teachers in the U.S. are Black, approximately 9% are Hispanic and 79% are White (Egalite, 2023).

Representation of underrepresented communities in teachers is important because students will have teachers who look like them. Which will create a positive impact such as better academic performances, better scores in reading and math, fewer absences and higher graduation rates (Systemic Racism..., 2022).

The legal system in America's current major issue is the racial disparity in criminal justice. The racial disparities in the criminal justice system are deeply rooted in the history of oppression and discriminatory decision making that have deliberately targeted black people. Which then helped create an inaccurate picture of crime that links them with criminality (Hinton, Henderson, Reed, 2018.). In the legal system there is clear evidence of racial bias in the courtroom and the criminal justice system. Which leads to unjust convictions, and sentencing.

Although the sixth Amendment promises a public trial by an impartial jury. This promise is false due to discrimination in juror selection. During the selection both the prosecution and defense can strike potential jurors they believe are unfit for a multitude of reasons such as biases. Attorneys on each side are not required to explain why they strike out a juror. Prosecutors often abuse this to strike down Black jurors especially when the defendant is Black (Wiley, 2022).

Even though attorneys from both sides can strike potential jurors they believe they hold biases. Many biases either go undetected or tolerated. Which violates the accused person's constitutional right to an impartial jury. Due to this there have been countless cases where a person of color was convicted of a crime. But then later discovered that one or more jurors that were responsible for determining their innocence were racist (Wiley, 2022)

The mass incarceration and overcriminalization in the legal system contributes to racial inequality because it disproportionately affects people of color particularly Black people. Due to these disparities in sentencing, data shows that one in three Black men can expect to be incarcerated in his lifetime, compared to one in six Latino men and one in seventeen White men. Even though Black women are approximately 13% of the female population 44% of incarcerated women are Black (Hinton, Henderson, Reed, 2018). In the legal system, Black men receive federal prison sentences that are approximately 20% longer than White men convicted of the same crime. 48% of people either serving life or virtually life sentences are Black (Wiley, 2022) Data shows that in every state of the United States incarcerate Black residents in its state prisons at a higher rate than White residents (Wang, 2023).

People of color generally have less access to healthcare than White people. The racial and ethnic health disparities are perpetuated by less insurance coverage and unequal access to quality care (Radley, Shah, Collins, Powe, Zephyrin, 2024). Studies have shown that providers are less likely to deliver effective treatments to people of color in comparison to their White counterparts. Even after controlling characteristics such as access to health insurance and services, class, health behaviors, and comorbidities. This is because of the implicit biases which then cause providers based on views to make unintentional, harmful, judgements about people of color. (Bridges, n.d.) Which is why many healthcare organizations have begun administering IAT (Implicit-Association Test), and when applied to physicians' significant pro-White bias has been found. Other examples of how implicit biases affect health care are: non-White patients being less likely to be prescribed pain medications, Black women being more likely to die after being diagnosed with breast cancer, Black men being less likely to receive chemotherapy and radiation therapy for prostate cancer causing them to be more likely

to have testicle(s) removed, and people of color being more likely to be blamed for being too passive about their healthcare. (Quick Safety..., n.d.)

From the various readings, it is apparent that using a structural approach is the most effective way to answer if the U.S. can be described as a form of democracy. But also to explain the effects of the economic system on politics. We have to consider using a structural approach to question authority and develop our own opinions and to be able to see a broader perspective. What the textbook does not state is the history of capitalism in its entirety and how this structure creates inequality to survive. Capitalism foundations are the three hierarchies in America such as the patriarchy, the racial hierarchy, and the hierarchy of wealth. Under the current structure of America, the effects of these long-lasting hierarchies can be seen in society, economically and politically; through the disparities within groups based on gender, race, and class. Which is why people should look internally at their behaviors, thoughts, and interactions. To work on internally dismantling the structures of which society lives under, but to also work together on actively dismantling the system of inequalities through acknowledging the roles that were given, actively educating not only themselves but the public, listening to other people's experiences without speaking over them and amplifying their voices. To challenge these structures of society to try and achieve a better system to create an equitable environment for everyone. These inequalities under the current structure do not just affect one individual, it affects everyone. Which is why it is important to address, because what we do not admit exists, we cannot solve.

### **The False Narrative**

There are four theories of American government, the first one is the traditional democratic theory, it is the notion that the American government can be described as

democratic either through an indirect form such as democratic republic, or a direct form of democracy. The United States is said to be a democracy specifically an indirect form through a democratic republic. Which would mean the government is governed by the influence of the citizens on political or social issues. The second theory of American government is pluralism, which is the theory that states that there are many centers of influence on government and politics that compete for the control of public opinion. The third theory is hyperpluralism, that is the theory stating that there are multiple interest groups that actively compete against the other that causes the government to not be able to properly function. The last theory of American government is the elite class theory, that states that all societies including ours are divided by socioeconomic classes. Which created the hierarchy of wealth, the beneficiaries the upper class also known as the one percent, and those who suffer by being directly or even indirectly affected by their actions the middle and lower class. This socioeconomic system causes little to no democracy to exist. As through this system, it creates an unbalanced distribution of wealth through inequalities. The status quo politically is an oligarchy, economically it is a capitalistic structure. An oligarchy is a small group of people who have control over a country. Our oligarchy are the elites that have infested all aspects of society with their greed. To maintain the economic status quo of capitalism. Through analyzing the history of how the country was formed there is a clear bias for the elites, who are often white men (Yglesias, 2014). That creates the systems of inequality that society lives under, that capitalism feeds into to be able to survive as the creation of capitalism is interwoven throughout the history of America.

Most textbooks often insist on the institutional approach which proves insufficient in regard to describing the relationship between capitalism and democracy, and the status quo.

While also insufficient when describing crucial aspects of the potential atrocities we as a country have committed, or the tension between the relationship of capitalism and democracy, or the relationship between the political and economic status quo. Which is due to the simplification of those concepts, or even events in history. Through reading the textbooks that the states approve of how to portray the system potentially led us to all have implicit biases towards different topics such as groups of people, cities, states, countries et al. That all can be unlearned but only if we continuously recognize them as what they are. This is because nothing within the media is without a bias or in other words there is no such thing as not having bias. As we all through the media we read or see whether it is an article, an ad, or a book whether that is a textbook or not have internalized what we see and hear from the media.

No matter if it is a Republican or Democrat in office the sole problem is the corruption within government institutions itself. That can be traced back to the founding factors that built the foundation of America. The undemocratic origins of the constitution originated from some of the Framers. Which is because the framers were almost all wealthy; twenty-four were bankers and investors, fourteen were land spectators, eleven involved in trade and manufacturing, fifteen owned plantations with large numbers of slaves, and almost all of them owned large amounts of government bonds (Amy, n.d.). James Madison, one of the framers of the constitution once said “[it ought] to be constituted to protect the minority of the opulent against the majority [...]” (Founders..., n.d.). Which means that America’s constitution was framed to actively protect the elites from the middle class and lower class. To prevent a true democracy.

Capitalism emerged after the decline of feudalism and mercantilism in Europe. Which had significantly expanded large-scale availability of mass-market consumer goods through

industrialization. Capitalism is the current economic structure that the majority of the globe lives under that consists of the pillars of limited government, protecting the rights of private citizens, and maintaining an environment that promotes the free market (Jahan and Mahmud, n.d.). That historically creates inequalities, and that is built off of historical suffering of marginalized groups.

For the reconstruction of society, to build a more equitable economic system we have to acknowledge the role slavery had in the development of capitalism. Using the racial hierarchy as a foundational tool for the economic system to generate more profits. This is because as long as racism plagues society, the benefits will often outweigh the costs to capitalist supporters. Even if it means that it will negatively impact society and stunt social and even political growth.

Some may wonder if capitalism could exist without racism. Which ignores the fact that capitalism cannot exist without racism. As capitalism requires inequality, racism enshrines it. Black people were appraised, valued, sold, then resold, used as collateral for loans, bonds and capital investments by institutions. By the year 1860, enslaved people were the single largest asset in the American economy. The purchase and sale of enslaved people created new financial products, insurance policies, tax revenues, and notary fees. An example of this are the origins of quantitative management practices, recordkeeping, and accounting methods to the plantations. Which includes scientific production quotas, market-to-market accounting, credit instruments, and depreciation algorithms (Kennedy, 2023). All of which trace back to the profits of the bodies of enslaved people that helped build America's capitalist economy.

An example of how this has been taught is through textbooks. Textbooks that are being used to shape societies' perception on people of color teaching white supremacy for

generations. This is important to acknowledge because many Americans see racism as a product from Southern slavery. Even though, slavery was in the North as well as the South, and the fact that the American identity was formed by Northerners not Southern slave owners. Slavery in the United States, during the 1920s, 1930s, and 1940s. In the American history textbooks, it was actively being taught that the African American's natural place in society was the institutions of slavery, where they were cared for from cradle to grave. Although there was a legacy of African Americans writing about freedom, it was suppressed by white powers within this system because they did not see it as legitimate. They dismissed their narratives because they were slaves telling their truth, watering it down to propaganda, and untrue due to it not fitting their white-washed narrative. As well as downplaying the history of Africans before slavery. Actively ignoring the work of African American scholars. However, in response to the Civil Rights Movement in the mid-1960s, textbooks started to change their tune. As gradually the reintroduction of the African American element in history books (Mineo, 2020). Which would explain why white supremacy has persisted for centuries, as our textbooks have often oversimplified significant historical events, and disregarded the inequalities that we cause to marginalized groups from our actions as a nation. Even though there are accurate depictions in some history textbooks, it requires the teacher to not be intimidated to teach from these textbooks and not disregard it so that younger generations can learn about how these significant events in history shaped our country of how it is today.

Although patriarchy precedes capitalism it is a foundational tool for the economic system. Patriarchy and capitalism are both systemic social institutions that are dependent on the accumulation of power causing the oppressed to have less power. The patriarchy upholds the values of elevating men socially, culturally and economically. How it intertwines with

capitalism is that it is a foundational tool using the oppression of women to benefit the male workers. Under the patriarchy women are expected to be subservient to men and fulfill their desires. Which under these two systems means that women provide free labor for the men. That extends to not only the workforce but to everyday life such as house care, cooking, childcare. Then later if they decide to have children those children will eventually go into the workforce which contributes to generating profits. Although women are often given the same opportunities as men, not without obstacles on the basis of their gender identity. Whether that is from microaggressions, harassment, or the gender pay gap. It is clear that an oppressed group cannot work within the system that creates oppression. In order to free the oppressed, it is required to completely dismantle these structures that actively work against them (Allan, 2021).

To maintain the economic status quo, capitalism cannot exist without the inequalities it creates to survive due to it being built upon hierarchies of inequalities. Which is why due to these hierarchies of inequalities it created the hierarchy of wealth. The hierarchy of wealth like any hierarchy has infected all aspects of society. The beneficiaries being the upper class, and those who suffer the affects the middle and lower class. Who are often majority people of color or people from rural areas (Ethnic and..., n.d.). Who are disproportionately affected the most through the elites' obsession with generating more profits.

The majority of the upper class, also known as the one percent, often do not care about what is for the betterment of humanity. What they care about is generating more profits. While paying little to none in taxes, through tax avoidance strategies (Kiel, 2022). They often get political benefits not just with taxation but with influencing labor laws, policies that could benefit workers. While corporations are bringing in more profits the 800 million workers

around the globe are struggling to keep up with the rates of inflation. Which has resulted in the loss of \$1.5 trillion for those workers in the last couple of years. Who are often not even being paid a livable income. Due to this inequitable economic system, the less out of the pocket of corporations or billionaires, the more that it disproportionately affects Indigenous, Black, other people of color, and low-income households (Amladi, 2024).

The effect corporations have on the environment is often a negative one. This is because many of the world's billionaires generate profits through owning, shaping, and controlling the processes that generate carbon pollution. Through corporations blocking the process to transition to renewable energy sources that would benefit not just the environment but low-income households. They actively financially benefit from this (Amladi, 2024). Even though, since at least 1954, the fossil fuel industry has known about its potential impact of its products to disrupt Earth's climate on a scale significant to human civilization (Milman, 2024). In 2024, the Global Carbon Budget projects fossil carbon dioxide emissions of 37.4 billion tonnes. Which is a 0.8% increase from 2023. While with projected emissions from land-use change such as deforestation at a total of 41.6 billion tonnes in 2024. In comparison, that has increased from 40.6 billion tonnes just from the previous year (Fossil fuel..., 2024).

This is important to note because the release of large amounts of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere, specifically carbon dioxide, traps heat and contributes to climate change and global warming. The three nonrenewable fossil fuels that are currently damaging the planet are coal, oil, and natural gas. All of which contribute to the devastation of ecosystems that affects the stability of the planet. Coal currently is the single largest source of global temperature rise. It is said that coal is responsible for over 0.3C of the 1C increase in global temperature. While oil is approximately a third of the world's total carbon emissions. In comparison, natural gas is

often painted in the media as a “cleaner” energy source than coal and oil. However, it makes up approximately a fifth of our world’s total carbon emissions (Fossil fuels and..., 2022).

It is clear that corporations are a major drag on society as a whole. President Franklin D. Roosevelt once warned “[t]he liberty of a democracy is not safe if the people tolerate the growth of private power to a point where it has become stronger than the democratic state itself [...]” (Message..., n.d.). But obviously this warning has been ignored as under law corporations have more protection than actual people under law and are recognized as people under the law. Over the years the court has expanded corporate “rights” also known as corporate personhood. That allows corporations of which the elites control to override the voices of the people and influence the political and economic system (Corporate..., n.d.). Corporate personhood is a concept that has been expanded over time due to corporations having separate identities from its organizers and investors. Through allowing corporations to conduct business activities as a “legal person”. It is said that it allows for economic growth and encourages investment. However, with allowing the expansion of corporate “rights” it actively damages society as a whole (Corporate Personhood, 2023).

Which is why it is important to actively try to dismantle this capitalistic society we live in. A communist economy would be a better fit overall for society. Communism is often misunderstood in the mass media, especially since the Red Scare. However, communism is a philosophy based on equitable distribution of wealth among a nation’s citizens and common ownership of all property (Daughtery, 2024). With its ultimate goal of creating a classless society. In a classless society, democratic frameworks play a vital role in the reconstruction of society. Which would mean due to the democratic framework all citizens of the nation would have a say in the decision making as it should be inclusive. With the elimination of class, it

will allow ideally for no group having an unfair advantage over the other, often placing emphasis on providing equal education opportunities, and accessible healthcare for all. Although often criticized for its practicality, it is still something to actively work towards for the betterment of society (The vision..., n.d.).

The military should be used to fight for peace and freedom to help spread democracy. Instead, the United States uses its military force to make other countries fit our agenda of what they should be. So that the United States can stay the powerhouse that it cultivated itself to be over the years since the end of the Cold War. The majority of our military budget and tax dollars go to unjust wars and genocides in favor of profits. In the 2024 defense budget the Air Force gets most of the direct funding at \$216.1 billion, followed by the Navy at \$202.6 billion, then the Army at \$165.6 billion, the Marine Corps at \$53.2 billion, and the Space Force at \$30.1 billion. With the remaining DoD funds going to the National Guard (\$32.9 billion), along with the Special Operations Command, the Missile Defense Agency, and the Defense Health Program. While approximately 13% of the federal budget went to Defense or in other words \$820 billion was spent on funding the military (How..., 2024).

Some examples of these atrocities funded or directly committed by the United States are the genocide in Palestine, and Sudan that the United States is deeply involved with in order to generate more profits. Or how censorship in the media played a major role in the United States invasions. Some examples of this are the invasions of Iraq, and Vietnam.

The ten stages of genocide, coined by Gregory Stanton in 1987. The first stage in genocide is classification, also called “us vs. them”. All cultures have categorization by either ethnicity, race, religion, or nationality. Still a society that is too divided based off this categorization are at risk of being subjected to a genocide. The second stage in a genocide is

symbolization. Symbolization is when we give names or symbols to the classifications of ethnicity, race, religion, or nationality. Such as when we distinguish people by colors, dress, name people with names like “Jews”, applying these to members of groups. However, it is important to note that classification and symbolization does not always lead to genocide they are considered universally human. But it is when these factors of classification and symbolization lead to dehumanization by combining it with hatred. It leads to symbols forced onto unwilling members of minority groups such as the blue scarf for the people from the Eastern Zone in Khmer Rouge Cambodia, the yellow star for Jewish people during Nazi Germany (Stanton, n.d).

The third stage of genocide is discrimination (Stanton, n.d), discrimination is the act of treating a person or particular group differently, in a worse way in comparison to how you treat others from their ethnicity, race, sexual orientation, gender et al. (Discriminate, n.d.). Which discrimination often stems from biases or ignorance that reflects larger social biases and norms (Understanding..., n.d.). In this stage, a dominant group uses law, custom, and political power to deny the rights of other groups. Sometimes leading the group subjected to the dominant social group’s discrimination may not even be given full civil rights or citizenship. The fourth stage, dehumanization, is when one group treats another group as second-class citizens. These members of society may be compared to animals, parasites, insects, or diseases. This is because when a group of people are thought of as “less than human” it is easier for the group in control to kill them. Often using propaganda online in the mass media and even print to vilify the victims. The fifth stage is organization, this is because a genocide is always organized usually by the state. Either sometimes informally or by terrorist groups. Special army units or militias are trained, armed, and plans are made for the genocidal killings (Stanton, n.d.).

The sixth stage is polarization (Stanton, n.d.), polarization is the act of dividing something, especially people or different opinions into completely two opposing groups (Polarization, n.d.). During this stage, extremists often drive the groups apart, hate groups broadcast propaganda that reinforces prejudice and hatred. Then it could possibly lead to laws that forbid intermarriage or even social interaction between groups. The extremists' terrorism often targets moderates to keep them silent through intimidation. This is because moderate leaders are often seen as a threat to the stages of genocide. Which is why moderate leaders are often assassinated first. The seventh stage of genocide is preparation. During the stage of preparation, national or perpetrator group leaders plan the "Final Solution" to the targeted group. Some examples of targeted groups are the Jewish, Armenians, Tutsi (Stanton, n.d.), Romas, and Sinti (What is..., 2019). In this stage they often use euphemisms to hide their intentions, such as referring to their goals as "counterterrorism", "ethnic cleansing", or "purification". They indoctrinate the populace with fear mongering towards the victims, building armies, buy more weapons, train their militias or army (Stanton, n.d.).

The eighth stage of genocide is persecution. Which is when the victims are identified, separated out by their ethnicity, or religion, and death lists are drawn up. With a state sponsored genocide, the victims may be forced to wear identifying symbols, their property is often confiscated, sometimes even segregated into ghettos, deported into concentration camps, or confined to a famine-struck region causing starvation, and genocidal massacres begin. The ninth stage of genocide is extermination. During the stage of extermination, it quickly becomes mass killings legally called "genocide". This stage of a genocide is called "extermination" because through dehumanizing the victims the killers do not believe the victims to be human. When the extermination of a targeted group is sponsored by the state, their armed forces often

work with private armies to do the killings. In retaliation, it could lead to revenge killings by groups against each other. Which then creates a cycle of a mutual genocide where the victims organize and commit a second genocide against the perpetrators (Stanton, n.d.).

The final stage in a genocide is denial that always follows a genocide. It is one of the indicators of furthering genocidal massacres. During this stage the perpetrators dig up mass graves, burn the bodies, try to cover up the evidence, and intimidate witnesses. Denying any crimes, often blaming it onto the victims. The perpetrators often block investigations and continue to govern until driven out by force (Stanton, n.d.).

The genocide in Palestine, started on a year ago October 7, 2023, when Israel started bombing Gaza. In which we supply Israel military aid with its efforts to conduct a genocide. It is important to note that Israel has been a partner to the U.S. security and intelligence efforts for decades. This is because the United States benefits from having an alliance with Israel, since the 1960s this relationship has been mutually beneficial from an economic, strategic and military aspect. Israel has been one of the largest cumulative recipients of the U.S. foreign aid since the founding of the country in 1948. Since the start of this ongoing genocide, the United States enacted legislation providing at least \$12.5 billion in direct military aid. Which includes the bill of \$3.8 billion from March 2024, and \$8.7 billion from the supplemental appropriation act in April. During this period Israel had received a total of \$17.9 billion in military aid from the United States (Masters and Merrow, 2024).

Israel has since then entirely blocked humanitarian aid from entering northern Gaza (Nashed, 2024). Which resulted in the strong likelihood of famine in imminent areas of northern Gaza. It could be assumed that due to starvation, malnutrition, and excess mortality due to malnutrition and disease are rapidly spreading (“Strong likelihood... 2024). Without any

food aid, community kitchens are closed that help the Palestinians survive. Some of them, due to this have not eaten in days, weeks, some even months. Often causing fights over a loaf of bread, as recently reported three women were killed during a stampede from suffocation. On top of that, the majority of Palestinians live below the poverty line with no work, no money, and no medicine (Humaid, 2024).

In the mainstream media, this is often painted as a war between Israel and Hamas. Or an act of self-defense from Israel. However, what Israel is doing is not out of self-defense what the country is doing is committing a genocide against Palestinians. In the mass media, it is often disregarded that since the start of this ongoing genocide Palestine has limited access to healthcare, and barely any necessities to survive. Due to limited access to healthcare Palestinians are facing increased levels of trauma, injury, and mental health disorders. While simultaneously, increased levels of infectious diseases due to overcrowded living conditions and the limited access to clean water (Palestine..., 2024). While journalists or media workers trying to tell the world what is going on in Gaza or in Palestine get targeted by Israeli forces and killed. With an estimated number of 137 journalists and media workers. Consisting of 129 Palestinian, two Israeli, and six Lebanese. With 49 journalists reported injured, two journalists reported missing, 74 journalists were reported arrested. Alongside multiple assaults, threats, censorship, cyberattacks, and killings of family members (Journalist..., 2024).

Recently, the International Criminal Court has issued arrest warrants for the Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, former Defense Minister Yoav Gallant, and a senior Hamas official Mohammed Diab Ibrahim Al-Masri also known as Mohammed Deif accusing all three of war crimes. Although it is said Mohammed Deif was killed during an airstrike in July by Israel. However, Hamas has not confirmed his death. This makes this the first time an

Israeli Prime Minister has been called to an international court for actions against the Palestinians in its 76-year conflict. Although these warrants do not guarantee arrests, it could impact their ability to travel to International Criminal Court member states (Al-Lawati, Ebrahlm, Karni, and Lister, 2024) The United States does not just owe Palestine foreign aid, or an official apology. What we owe is reparations because without the United States actively funding the genocide. Either directly or indirectly through corporations, some examples are Google and Amazon (Kwet, 2024). Israel would not be able to commit such acts of atrocities against Palestinians seemingly without consequences.

The genocide in Sudan, often said in the media to be a civil war happening with a potential for genocide. Having started a year ago, the RSF and associated militias in Sudan have specifically targeted non-Arab communities (Sudan..., 2024). During this ongoing genocide disproportionate impacts of the escalating rates of gender-based violence for Sudanese women and girls. Which include the 5.8 million who are internally displaced. Although men and boys are also victims of gender-based violence, the majority of the cases involve Sudanese women and girls (Sudan humanitarian..., 2024). Due to these cases of sexual violence several women have taken their lives in Sudan's central Gezira state after being raped by paramilitary fighters. Some of the women reported to have been raped by the RSF had their husband or father and brother forced to watch this violent act. Soon after that their male family members had been killed (Walfula, 2024).

Simultaneously, gender-based violence rates increase. Sudan also faces one of the worst levels of acute food insecurity recorded in the country (Sudan humanitarian..., 2024). In July 2024, a judgment by the Famine Review Committee confirmed the plausible presence of famine conditions in the Zamzam internally displaced person's camp. While data collected by

Médecins San Frontières suggest that famine thresholds for acute malnutrition among young children may have been surpassed at least since January. This is important to note because more than half of the Sudanese population are facing acute food insecurity at IPC Phase 3 levels or greater (Swanson, Kirschenbaum, Welsh, 2024).

The reason why the United States does absolutely nothing about the current situation in Sudan is because of the oil Sudan produces. It is a critically important part of Sudan's economy, accounting for half of Khartoum's revenue and approximately 98% of the southern government's revenue (Background..., 2011). As of September 24, 2023 the government finalized a \$3 billion deal with an American Oil company, Caltech Investment, to invest in the oil sector in South Sudan (South Sudan..., n.d.) Due to this we the people of the United States owe to Sudan is reparations, and an official apology. An official apology not just to the country of Sudan, but the citizens of Sudan. For the lives lost of innocent people in Sudan, the civilians of Sudan who have faced abuse and are actively facing abuse due to this ongoing genocide that we as a nation do not acknowledge for our own benefit with generating profits.

The invasion of Iraq, in March in 2003 was stated to have happened to disarm Iraq of weapons of mass destruction, to end Saddam Hussein's support for terrorism, and to liberate the Iraqi citizens. Which is based on that false notion that Iraq had weapons of mass destruction making the invasion of Iraq a war crime. The censorship in media during the invasion of Iraq, similar to any censorship during an invasion, war, or genocide was to control the narrative to gain the public's support. The narrative the government of the United States was trying to control was to spread the false notion of Iraq having weapons of mass destruction, and the necessity to end Saddam Hussein's reign (Mitchell, 2023). That we, the

United States, were helping spread democracy across the globe. To cover up the war crimes that nation was actively committing, to not elicit a public outbreak of backlash.

**Figure 1**

*Ali Shallah al-Qaysi, being forced to stand on a box threatened with electrocution with wires attached by US military personnel (Ali Shallah..., 2017)*



**Figure 2**

*U.S. soldiers stand behind a pyramid of naked Iraqi prisoners posing for a photo (Prisoner..., 2004)*



**Figure 3**

*U.S. soldier Lynndie England, holding a leash connected to a naked imprisoned Iraqi at the Abu Ghraib prison (Suroor, 2012)*



Even though the treatment of the Iraqi citizens by the U.S. military was inhumane, cruel, and unjustified. It is not talked about often enough in the media. During this invasion approximately 1.2 million innocent Iraqi citizens were tortured by U.S. military personnel. Photos of imprisoned Iraqis at the Abu Ghraib prison suffering abuse by U.S. military personnel started to surface in 2004. Abu Ghraib was a maximum-security prison in Abu Ghraib, Iraq. That was established in the 1950s, previously used by Saddam Hussein to hold political prisoners during his presidency. After the invasion the U.S. military claimed to have used it to “interrogate suspects”. However, it is well known now that the U.S. military prison guards that were stationed in Iraq were actively torturing Iraqi citizens. In total there were 1.2 million innocent Iraqi civilians detained and tortured by the U.S. military in the Abu Ghraib prison (Shamin, 2024).

In these photos that had originally surfaced in 2004, depict inhumane acts against innocent people that no one stationed in Iraq during the time that this was going on decided to question. Shown in figure 1, is Ali Shallah al-Qaysi, he was forced to wear a hood and stand on a small box, connected to electrical wires. While being told by the US military prison guards that if he fell off, he would be electrocuted even though these wires were not connected to a power supply. He was also taunted by the guards because of the torture causing him not to be able to use his hand. Due to that they made a cruel nickname for him called “Claw Man”. Other inhumane acts committed by the U.S. military toward the imprisoned Iraqi citizens that is shown in figure 2 were forcing them to take off all their clothes, proceeding to force them into humiliating positions, and pile onto each other. That then sometimes led to the American guards smearing excrement (Shamin, 2024), and sometimes even writing slurs in English onto their bodies (Prisoner..., 2004). U.S. soldiers often put naked Iraqi prisoners of war attaching a dog leash dragging them across the floor. Shown in figure 3 is an identified U.S. soldier Lynndie England who said that she does not feel regret for what she did while in Iraq can be depicted torturing a naked Iraqi prisoner dragging him by a dog leash across the floor (Suroor, 2012). While other abuse of powers that happened in the Abu Ghraib prison such as U.S. soldiers forcing other Iraqi prisoners to simulate sexual acts on each other (Prisoner..., 2004), letting police dogs attack the prisoners, sexual abuse, rape, physical and psychological torture (Shamin, 2024).

Recently, on November 12, 2024, the U.S. justice system is holding a U.S. defense contractor liable for torture 20 years after the war, and 15 years of legal delay. In this U.S. civil case a U.S. jury awarded \$42 million to three Iraqi men that were detained and abused at the Abu Ghraib prison in Iraq. The evidence against them besides the testimonies of Al Shimari,

Al-Ejaili, and Al-Zuba'e were reports from two retired U.S. Army generals. That detailed the abuse and concluded that CACI interrogators were complicit in the abuse. That took place nearing the end of 2003, when CACI employees were working in the prison (Abu..., 2024). However, still today the U.S. government has yet to pay its reparations to the victims of Abu Ghraib.

An apology for the invasion of Iraq is long overdue, it has been twenty years since this crime against humanity was committed. That completely destroyed this country off of a false notion that they held weapons of mass destruction. That the manufacturing companies of weapons used as an advantage for more profits. During the invasion, corporations received contracts worth millions from the U.S. Government for security, logistics, and military. According to an analysis by Financial Times, the U.S. spent at least \$138 billion on contracts, with the top 10 contractors at least \$72 billion between them (Iraq..., 2023). As a result of their greed killing, an academic study suggests an estimated amount of 461,000 people related to the war from 2003 to mid-2011, torturing innocent Iraqi citizens leaving them with irreparable psychological damage (Iraq Study..., 2013). The United States needs to stop ignoring its debt to Iraq and its citizens and give an official apology to the Iraqi citizens, and to Iraq the country itself for invading their country, killing innocents just to obtain profits in favor of paying for it with the lives of American soldiers, Iraqi soldiers, and Iraqi citizens.

**Figure 4**

*A photo of students at Columbia University in protest against the Vietnam War (Lopate, 2017)*



The invasion of Vietnam started on November 1, 1955, and ended on April 30, 1975.

This war started due to the fear of the spread of communism also known as the domino effect (Vietnam, n.d.). Due to this many people of color, and poor white people from rural areas were drafted in the beginning of the war. However, it was only when the government started drafting white middle class people, pulling many from college that elicited a response from the people (The Draft, n.d.). An example of this shown in figure 4, is a notable demonstration that was in direct response to the draft of the white middle class at Columbia University in April of 1968 seven years before the war officially ended (Lopate, 2017).

The turning point with the television of the invasion is most likely the cause of the censorship in the mass media. Particularly regarding our foreign affairs. Through the television of the invasion of Vietnam, seeing the atrocities that were committed for an example, one of the photos taken called the Napalm Girl. The general public started to change its tune against the war in Vietnam often saying that it is unjust. Eliciting more protests against the government's decision to invade Vietnam made more people aware of the atrocities that were happening and what their tax dollars were going towards (Kratz, 2018). Since the televised

events of this invasion, the media surrounding the nation's foreign affairs has clouded true journalism. The new age of mass media with journalism often favors spreading only the narrative that supports the nation, the corporations that fund it, the higher ups that allow for this to happen. This is because of the symbiotic web of lies that connect mainstream journalism to politicians. That serves both their interests but misleads the public (Vanderwicken, 1995).

During the Vietnam war, the nation dropped atomic bombs exposing millions to toxicities like Agent Orange, some of the nation's military raping women and children, destroying villages, killing innocent civilians which also included children to "destroy communism" ("Anything...", 2013 ). Still today there has been no official apology or reparations to those Vietnamese civilians who made it out alive, to their families, or to the country.

The United States usually does not apologize to the countries that they are actively stealing from, abusing their people, destroying their homes, their families, killing in the name of profits out of greed. Phrasing it in the media as a way to spread democracy and that this was forced upon us. As we as a nation believe that we are above that, even though no one is above the law, and taking accountability for their actions. We actively ignore our debt to the countries that we find to not fit our agenda, proceeding to decimate them, and then throw foreign aid here and there. Only to those we think deserve it. What we need to do as a nation is acknowledge the harm we have done to countless communities and give these countries their reparations as it is long overdue.

The U.S. military is often painted as the force that spreads democracy and freedom around the world. However, that notion is false. It is clear that what we fight for is not freedom, peace, or democracy, we fight for profits out of greed. What our military does is

inhumane acts against humanity, killing people for profits. To keep our status as the number one powerhouse. Which our tax dollars actively fund these unjust invasions and genocides that the United States is drowning in with its involvement. The elites never fight the conflicts that they initiate through their greed, the middle class and lower class always suffer as a result. To push their agenda, they actively censor those in society that actively oppose their narrative. Especially in the media particularly the mass media in other words corporate owned media.

Many people often wonder why the government would lie. There are multiple reasons behind this; governments lie to cover up their mistakes or failures, to protect their own interests, to maintain power and control over the population, to manipulate the public opinion, to hide unethical or illegal activities, to maintain a positive image or reputation. To avoid accountability, to advance their own political agenda, to justify military actions or interventions, to secure resources and funding, to maintain economic stability. To suppress dissent or opposition, to maintain social order, to protect national security, to maintain diplomatic relations with other countries, to protect classified information, to avoid public panic or hysteria, to protect the interests of powerful corporations or special interest groups. To prevent the spread of misinformation or conspiracy theories, to maintain the status quo, to control the narrative and shape public perception, to maintain control over specific sectors or industries. To gain support from the public or international community, to protect the interests of allies or trading partners, to maintain the sense of stability and security, to avoid public backlash, to protect the reputation of key government officials. To avoid legal repercussions or consequences, to secure funding for specific initiatives, and to maintain public trust and confidence with the government.

They do this through the five filters of censorship, such as ownership, advertising, the media elite, flak, and the common enemy. The first filter is ownership, mass media firms are large corporations often a part of conglomerates. With their interests to push for what generates profits. Due to this critical journalism is often disregarded in favor of the needs and interests of the corporation. The second filter advertising, media costs more than what consumers are willing to pay, so advertisers fund the media. To receive an audience, so essentially the media is selling the consumer to the advertiser. The third filter the media elite, through the media elite managing the media. It creates a system that encourages complicity, forcing journalism to not be able to check on power. Through governments, corporations making themselves an essential part of journalism to influence the narrative. The four filter flak, when journalists, whistleblowers, sources stray from the narrative they get 'flak'. As when a story is inconvenient for the powers, what happens next is discrediting sources, diverting the conversation, and trashing stories. The fifth filter is the common enemy, in order to manufacture consent a target is required. Such as communism, terrorists, immigrants are prevalent enemies in the mass media (Chomsky, n.d.).

Which is why it is important to reorganize ourselves not just economically but politically as it is clear that our current political structure is not working for the betterment of humanity. Anarchy is highly misunderstood, especially in the media, often being perceived as a state of disorder due to the absence or unrecognized authority or other controlled systems. Anarchism is a social and political movement that believes in self-organization that rejects top-down hierarchical structures (Pissaro's People, n.d.). Which is why the mass media would not tell the general public due to the fact that it goes against the status quo that uplifts the foundations that built America that created the system of inequalities that society lives under.

That creates the vicious cycle that has the elites being the beneficiaries to the working and middle classes' suffering. Through collectively organizing and dismantling the systems of power that uplift the hierarchies of inequalities such as the hierarchy of wealth, the racial hierarchy, and the patriarchy. It is only then we can achieve a democracy that uplifts an equitable environment for everyone. Which can only be done by changing both the political and economic status quo. No politician is for the people. Which is why it is important we all collectively work together to dismantle these systems of hierarchies that actively work against us. To create a new system that actively works for the people by the people. Without acknowledging what are the foundations of the country we live in. We are denying the realities of the majority of society and actively uplifting the catastrophic cycle of these inequitable structures of society. Which is why it is important to acknowledge not just our personal struggles but the struggles of those around us. That is required in the reconstruction of society. This is because what affects one affects us all collectively due to the ripple effect that feeds into these sociological structures. Which is why anarchism is the only sensible and moral way to achieve democracy.

Under a duopoly political system, it is hard to find a party that aligns with the people that is not an illusion in this corporatocracy. The Republican Party, founded in 1854, a political party that during the 19th century stood against the extension of slavery to the country's new territories, and ultimately for slavery's complete abolition. While in the 20th and 21st century the Republican Party has become associated with conservative social policies, laissez-faire capitalism, and low taxes (Republican..., n.d.). The Republican Party often puts more emphasis on individual freedom, lower taxes for all, enhanced funding for the military, valuing privatized healthcare systems, low degree government interference, strong border control,

deportation of undocumented immigrants (Presidential..., n.d.). In comparison to the Democratic Party, founded in 1828, during the 19th century the party supported or tolerated slavery, and opposed civil rights reforms after the American Civil War to keep the support of Southern voters. By the mid-20th century, it underwent a major ideological realignment then proceeded to reinvent itself. After its reinvention it was associated with representing the working class, supporting organized labor, and the civil rights of minorities (Democratic..., 2024). While the Democratic Party puts more emphasis on community, higher taxes especially for those with higher-income, reduced funding of the military, valuing equal access to some form of healthcare, for residency of certain undocumented immigrants (Presidential..., n.d). However, overtime both parties have become a corporate mouthpiece and indistinguishable.

During elections corporations or political committees often donate large sums of money to either party. With those donations they can influence what either candidate can say. If the candidate decides to go against the agenda. The candidates could lose their donations that go to the funds of their campaigns. As approximately two-thirds of Americans have never donated to campaigns, and approximately 50% of Americans say they cannot afford to donate (Schulz, 2024). In comparison, approximately \$8.6 billion for the 2024 House, Senate, presidential elections collected between January 2023 and April 2024. Over 65% of the \$8.6 billion, which is approximately \$5.6 billion came from political committees (PACs) (Tracking..., 2024). Meaning the majority of their funds for their campaigns come from political committees.

Even though there are third parties, the most commonly known being the Green Party, founded in 1984 (Feinstein, 2024). While the Green Party of the United States was later officially formed in 2001. The party's four pillars are peace, democracy, social justice, and ecology. This party in particular is dedicated to progressive policies in environmentalism. It

supports social justice movements and legislative programs such as Black Lives Matter, abortion rights, and the Green New Deal universal health care (Matthias, 2024). The reason as to why third parties or unaffiliated candidates often do not get recognition under the current structure of the duopoly political system is because it does not feed into the status quo.

Although, both the Republican Party and the Democratic Party claim to be vastly different and maybe at a time were. They are the same under corporate control that puts money into their mouths to push the agenda of the elites often disregarding the needs of the general public. It is clear that neither party is for the people, what we need to do is abolish the duopoly political system that plagues America. Without doing so we are allowing this imperialist regime to continue as business as usual.

During the 2024 election, like every other election, the media often painted pictures of how vast the differences were between two parties. Originally the election was posed to be a rematch between Joe Biden from the democratic party facing off Donald Trump from the republican party. However, that quickly in July turned into the now former Vice President Kamala D. Harris, a former prosecutor, the former state senator of California (an unpopular one) from 2017 to 2021. Who after Biden dropped out. Thrown to pick up the pieces from what Biden left by the corporations behind the democratic party. Who had promised no change except for the fact that she is not the former president Joe Biden or the other at the time former president Donald Trump (Gangitano, 2024). Often using vague statements on important social issues, and back-tracking to appease the possible right-leaning voters. Alongside her running mate Tim Walz, a state governor of Minnesota, a former teacher, and a veteran. Who acts like a hand-puppet that the elites from the democratic party pull out to throw money into its mouth to push their agenda like every other politician. During their four-month campaign they were

unsuccessful to pull more votes than the opposing party as about 89 million Americans or about 36% of the population did not turn up to vote (Kronenberg, 2024).

The then former president Donald J. Trump, a billionaire, an enabler of white extremism (Narea, 2024), a convicted felon liable for sexual assault (Neumeister, Peltz, and Sisak, 2023), with 34 indictment charges under his belt (Simmerman, Frank, and Crowley, 2024). Who has run for president for the third time and now won the 2024 election promising to fight the enemy within (Cooper, 2024), cut tax rates for the rich (Trump's..., 2024), deport the majority of immigrants living in America et al. (Woodruff-Swan and Ward). Alongside his running mate J.D. Vance, a senator for Ohio, a once alleged Trump-critic turned bootlicker, now the Vice President of the United States. Who has shown support for some of the following banning access to gender-affirming care for minors, supporting a bill that would bar the State Department from allowing the gender marker "X" on passports, against the Respect for Marriage Act et al. (Hubbard, 2024).

In recent years, many people throw around the words "fascist" or "fascism" especially in regard to the 2024 election. One moment in particular over the course of the election campaigns. Harris during an interview called the then former President Trump the republican nominee a fascist proceeding to compare him to Hitler (Bowman, 2024). Fascists, however, disagree with how people paint President Trump as a fascist. After all they would know best about what is a fascist and what is not. Although, no one most likely would outright say that they are fascists. Which brings up the question of what a fascist is or what is fascism (Feldman, 2024). Even so, Trump's rhetoric aligns with what fascists say. Such as his rhetoric of using words like the enemy within (us vs. them rhetoric), scapegoating rhetoric targeting ethnic and racial minorities.

It is important to note the difference between proto fascism and fascism. For fascism, there is no universal definition. Many scholars and political scientists disagree in this ongoing debate. Some differences of which they disagree on are the importance they assign to one or more aspects of fascist ideology or practice. Roman Catholic and Protestant scholars have emphasized its secular origins. In comparison to secular liberals putting emphasis on its religious roots. While social conservatives have put emphasis on its socialist and populist aspects, and social radicals have emphasized on its defense of capitalism and elitism aspects (Soucy, n.d.). However, many experts agree that fascism is a mass political movement that puts emphasis on extreme nationalism, militarism, and the supremacy of a nation over the individual (What..., 2024).

In comparison, proto fascism, is a political movement that precedes and typically contributes to the emergence of fascism. This term is also used in a more general sense to any political movement activities that increase the likelihood of fascism. Similarly, protofascist movements display fascist characteristics by definition. Such as the use of scapegoating of ethnic or religious minorities, and the glorification of violence and the promotion of Führerprinzip (Duignan, 2023). Führerprinzip, also known as leadership principle, according to this principal authority in government, the party, the economy, family et al. should be obeyed unquestionably (Foundations of..., n.d.).

Which is why it is important to be able to recognize these fourteen characteristics of a fascist government. The following are the fourteen characteristics; powerful and continuing nationalism, disdain for the recognition of human rights, identification of enemies or scapegoats as a unifying cause, supremacy of the military, rampant sexism, controlled mass media, obsession with national security, religion and government are intertwined, corporate

power protected, labor power is suppressed, disdain for intellectuals and the arts, obsession with crime and punishment, rampant cronyism and corruption, and fraudulent elections. If you recognize five more or more characteristics then you live under a fascist regime (Britt, 2003).

The first characteristic, powerful and continuing nationalism signs of this are constant use of patriotic mottos, slogans, symbols, songs et al. Flags are typically everywhere; examples of this are flag symbols on clothing or in public displays. The second characteristic disdain for recognition of human rights, in fascist regimes people are convinced that human rights can be ignored in certain cases because of a “need”. In direct response to that people often look the other way or at times approve of torture, assassinations, long incarcerations of prisoners et al. The third characteristic identification of enemies or scapegoats as a unifying cause, people are unified over the need to eliminate a perceived common threat whether that is racial, ethnic, or religious minorities; socialists; communists; liberals, terrorists et al. The fourth characteristic supremacy of the military is when soldiers and military are glorified in the media. While widespread domestic problems are happening, the military are disproportionately given large amounts of government funding and the domestic agenda is often neglected. The fifth characteristic is rampant sexism, often in a fascist regime it is male-dominated, and gender roles have increased. Simultaneously the right to the abortion is questioned, high rates of homophobia, anti-gay legislation and national policy (Britt, 2003).

The sixth characteristic is controlled mass media, under a fascist regime the mass media is sometimes controlled by the government, or in other cases it is indirectly controlled through either sympathetic media workers or executives or government regulation. The seventh characteristic is obsession with national security, often fear is used as a motivational tool to manipulate public opinion by the government. The eighth characteristic is religion and

government being intertwined. To manipulate the public opinion fascist governments often use the most common religion in the nation as a tool. The ninth characteristic is when corporate power is protected, and those in power from the industrial and business aristocracy are the ones who put the government leaders in power. Which creates a symbiotic relationship between the business/government and the elite. The tenth characteristic is when labor power is suppressed, this is because the only threat to a fascist regime is the organizing power of labor. Which causes labor unions to be eliminated or suppressed (Britt, 2003).

The eleventh characteristic is disdain for intellectuals and the arts, under a fascist regime with this characteristic. The fascist nation often promotes hostility to higher education, and the arrests of professors or censorship. While free expression from the arts is attacked, often with the refusal of government funding for the arts. The twelfth characteristic is the obsession with crime and punishment. Under a fascist regime, often the police are given almost limitless power to enforce laws. The thirteenth characteristic is rampant cronyism and corruption, within the government almost always are governed by groups of associates or friends who appoint each other for the roles in government positions. While also allowing them to use their power to protect their friends from accountability. Finally, the fourteenth characteristic fraudulent elections. In fascist nations elections are manipulated either by smear campaigns, assassinations of other candidates, the usage of legislation control to manipulate the voting numbers, manipulation in the mass media et al. (Britt, 2003).

Since the reelection of President Trump, many have been wondering about the potential impact of his new term. Or in other words how it will affect society as a whole. However, based on a heavily Republican dominated Senate, both him and his running mate J.D. Vance's stances on topics like immigration, LGBTQ+ rights, and tax cuts. It could have a potential

negative impact on society during his presidency, as there is always a group or multiple groups impacted in elections, especially presidential elections. With Trump's promise to fight the enemy within, it is important to understand what he means by that term. The enemy within according to Trump from a previous rally are people he deems as crazy lunatics. In other words, the fascists, the Marxists, the communists, the people that we have running this country. Instead of backtracking with this statement he doubled down suggesting that he may use the military to go after who he deems as the enemy within (Cooper, 2024).

Many who voted for Trump and Vance said that they voted for the betterment of the economy. Although it is still early to tell what could happen, from what has been said it would not benefit the economy. One of the things Trump plans to do is cut the marginal tax rates for the rich and corporations. Which would increase the tax rates for everyone else (Trump's..., 2024). Similarly, to his so-called "Trump tax cuts" from his first presidency in 2017 that will expire at the end of 2025. According to new estimates, permanently extending his tax cuts would cost \$4 trillion over the next ten years, and \$400 billion per year. By 2054 it would increase the debt-to-gross domestic product by 36 percentage points (Kogan, and Vela, 2024). Along with one of the first things he plans to do first day in office is the mass deportation of immigrants in America. Trump campaigned stating that he will launch the largest deportation program of criminals in American history, and using the Alien Enemies Act of 1798 (Inskeep, and Thomas, 2024). Trump also stated that he may use military forces during this mass deportation. With this he would be destroying many communities, breaking up families, uprooting the lives of millions (Hesson, 2024). It is impossible to know exactly how many undocumented immigrants will be affected by this. However, approximately fourteen million undocumented immigrants as of 2024 are living in the United States (Ramirez-Uribe, 2024).

Which would also have a negative effect on the economy. According to estimates as many as 8.3 million undocumented immigrants work in the U.S. economy making up 5.2% of the workforce. Long-term effects could be seen with potential labor shortages. As studies show that immigrant workers have helped grow the post-pandemic economy, stimulate job growth while keeping inflation down. In comparison to lower levels of immigration slowdown the economy and increases the rise of inflation. Alongside the fact that their payments into federal, state, and local tax systems and into Social Security and Medicare actively benefit U.S. citizens. Which is often overlooked (Appleby, 2024).

During the 2024 election the discussion of LGBTQ+ Rights was highly controversial. Particularly around the conversation of gender affirming care for minors, to the Respect to Marriage Act, and transgender people in general. Trump often throughout his campaign would lean into transphobic rhetoric proceeding to spend millions on advertisements focusing on this topic in battleground states. Along with his running mate J.D. Vance, who sponsored legislation in 2023 that would ban access to gender affirming care for minors (Hubbard, 2024). Even though the process of getting gender affirming care especially for minors is a very extensive process which cannot be done without a guardian's consent. Without gender affirming care being more accessible it can increase the feelings of gender dysphoria. Gender dysphoria is the painful disconnect between an individual's physical traits and their gender identity. Which for many transgender or nonbinary individuals whether they are children or not can be lifesaving for those experiencing gender dysphoria (Weiner, 2024). Another hot topic was the marker "X" on passports or other forms of identification and the Respect to Marriage Act. The marker "X" on forms of identification is officially defined as unspecified or another gender identity to protect personal privacy. Which is an affirming option for many people who

identify as nonbinary, intersex, trans, and gender non-conforming people (Youngblood-Gregory, 2024). The Respect to Marriage Act, not only federally protects same-sex marriages but interracial marriages. Which for obvious reasons Vance's statement that he would be voting no against the act back in 2022. Although it is still early to tell it seems that most likely for the next four years of them in office. Trump and Vance could take America decades back in society's progress in terms of equality (Hubbard, 2024).

All of which, if looking at America in a historical lens, is just continuing the catastrophic cycle of business as usual. Due to the sociological structures of which we live under that built the foundations for the status quo both politically and economically, as well as our country. It is required to successfully dismantle these corrupt systems in place in order to have a true democratic society. Which is why it is important to organize, as we as a country, especially in this generation, are heavily divided. That then could have the potential to create a ripple effect across the globe. As change is inevitable, the only lasting truth is change, and the fact that no one is free until we are all free from this vicious cycle.

From various readings, it shows that America has never been a democracy but an oligarchy as we always have and are currently being led by the elites who only care about making profits overvaluing humanity. What we are is an oligarchy that through the government, government institutions, corporate-dominated economic system, corporate-infested media creates the illusion of a democratic system. To mislead the public on what the sole issue is, which is the systems of power that create the hierarchies of inequalities that actively plague society. What we want is a true democratic society which is unachievable with the systems of power in place. However, it is achievable through anarchy. Anarchy is heavily misunderstood, especially in the mainstream media. What anarchy promotes is self-

organization that actively rejects top-down hierarchical structures. The government is the sole issue that every inequality traces back to, not the solution it paints itself to be. Which is why we need to collectively organize against the current system structures that actively plague society not just in America but globally. We must work urgently to change instead of being complicit in society. As we are running out of time, our current system we live under is actively destroying our planet. Through building connections with each other, organizing protests, continuously challenging authority, and listening to others on what is going on in the world. Which is required for the reconstruction of the foundations of society to create a more equitable society for everyone. So that internationally humanity can make progress and not continue to be in this catastrophic cycle of business as usual that happens by uplifting the status quo of a political oligarchy and an economic capitalistic structure through the systems of power in place. The only way to fight for the truth is to make waves, it is important to note that no demand for change will ever not be met with resistance. Instead of being comfortable being complicit in a society that misleads you by feeding you misinformation to promote the elite's agenda that actively works against you. By resisting these powers in place that allow the clear prevention of a true democracy to happen. We can create a new foundation that works for the people. Through this we can achieve democracy. This is because of a simple concept of all that touches you will then change, and all that you change changes you. Which is why change is inevitable, and why it is important to organize in times like these.

### **Conclusion**

From the papers above, it is clear that without organizing we are failing to evolve collectively as a society. As we are disunited, more polarized than ever before. If we fail to acknowledge the root of the problem that continuously affects our day-to-day lives. Which is

the corruption of government and government institutions that are built off of inequality so that they stay in power. As they benefit from maintaining the status quo of being politically an oligarchy that is run by the elites, and economically a capitalistic structure. If we do not resist these sociological structures. We are always going to be caught up in this vicious cycle that stems from this through the hierarchies of inequalities such as the patriarchy, the racial hierarchy, and the hierarchy of wealth, that built the foundations of America. All of which actively prevents true democracy. What we, the people globally, need to do is organize and actively resist these corrupt structures of which we all are subjected to live under. To create a new way to organize politically through anarchy, and through a communist economy. That is created by the people for the people. Which can only be done if we work to not only dismantle these systems externally but internally as we involuntarily being taught through these structures internalize what we have been fed through their lens for centuries. To progress socially across the globe we must actively educate ourselves, listen to others' experiences, share our own, research what we are told in the mass media, and organize. Failing to do any of this we cannot begin the process of the reconstruction of society which is long overdue.

## References

- Adamakos, F. (2021, August 1). What are gender micro- and macroaggressions in medicine and what are the solutions?. *AEM education and training*.  
<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC8393186/>
- Al Jazeera. (2011, July 2). Background: Sudan's oil industry. *Al Jazeera*.  
<https://www.aljazeera.com/amp/economy/2011/7/2/background-sudans-oil-industry>
- Al Jazeera. (2024, November 12). Abu Ghraib torture survivors win US civil case, \$42m damages. *Al Jazeera*. <https://www.aljazeera.com/amp/news/2024/11/12/abu-ghraib-torture-survivors-win-us-civil-case-42-million-dollars-damages>
- Al-Lawati, A., Ebrahim, N., Karni, D., & Lister, T. (2024, November 21). International Criminal Court issues arrest warrant for Israeli Prime Minister. *CNN*.  
<https://www.cnn.com/2024/11/21/middleeast/international-criminal-court-issues-arrest-warrant-for-israeli-prime-minister-intl/index.html>
- Allan, E. (2021, March 20). Capitalism and patriarchy are inseparable. *The Gazelle*.  
<https://www.thegazelle.org/issue/199/opinion/capitalism-patriarchy-inseperable>
- American Psychiatric Association . (2024). Stigma, prejudice and discrimination against people with mental illness. *American Psychiatric Association*.  
<https://www.psychiatry.org/patients-families/stigma-and-discrimination>
- Amladi, D. (2024, January 14). How are billionaire and corporate power intensifying global inequality? *Oxfam*. <https://www.oxfamamerica.org/explore/stories/how-are-billionaire-and-corporate-power-intensifying-global-inequality/>

Amy, D. (n.d.). The Constitution: Its undemocratic origins. *Second Rate Democracy*.

<https://secondratedemocracy.com/its-undemocratic-origins/>

“Anything That Moves”: Civilians and The Vietnam War. (2013, January 28). *NPR*.

<https://www.npr.org/2013/01/28/169076259/anything-that-moves-civilians-and-the-vietnam-war>

Appleby, K. (2024, September 2). The importance of immigrant labor to the US economy. *The*

*Center for Migration Studies of New York*. <https://cmsny.org/importance-of-immigrant-labor-to-us-economy/>

BBC. (2024, October 31). Sudan Civil War: Women raped by RSF fighters in Gezira State die by suicide, activists say. *BBC News*.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c8xpqvz0e88o.amp>

Berg, J., & Woods, N. F. (2023, January 6). Overturning Roe v. Wade: Consequences for midlife women’s health and well-being. *Women’s midlife health*.

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC9824972/#:~:text=The%20consequences%20discussed%20include%20unintended,women%20in%20their%20caregiving%20roles.>

Bowman, E. (2024, October 29). Harris called Trump a “fascist.” Experts debate what fascism is — and isn’t. *NPR*. <https://www.npr.org/2024/10/29/nx-s1-5164488/harris-trump-fascist-explained>

Bridges, K. M. (n.d.). Implicit bias and racial disparities in health care. *American Bar*.

[https://www.americanbar.org/groups/crsj/publications/human\\_rights\\_magazine\\_home/the-state-of-healthcare-in-the-united-states/racial-disparities-in-health-care/](https://www.americanbar.org/groups/crsj/publications/human_rights_magazine_home/the-state-of-healthcare-in-the-united-states/racial-disparities-in-health-care/)

- Britannica, inc. (2024, November 28). Democratic Party. *Encyclopedia Britannica*.  
<https://www.britannica.com/topic/Democratic-Party>
- Britt, L. (2003). The 14 characteristics of fascism. <https://osbcontent.s3-eu-west-1.amazonaws.com/PC-00466.pdf>
- Brown, K., Laverde, R., Barr-Walker, J., & Steinauer, J. (2022, September 7). Understanding the role of race in abortion stigma in the United States: A systematic scoping review. *Sexual and reproductive health matters*.  
<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC9704102/>
- CBS Interactive. (2004, May 21). Prisoner photos. *CBS News*.  
<https://www.cbsnews.com/pictures/prisoner-photos/>
- Chatterji, R. (2020, July 8). Fighting systemic racism in K-12 education: Helping allies move from the keyboard to the school board. *Center for American Progress*.  
<https://www.americanprogress.org/article/fighting-systemic-racism-k-12-education-helping-allies-move-keyboard-school-board/>
- Chomsky, N. (n.d.). Noam Chomsky: The five filters of the mass media. *Public Reading Rooms*. <https://prruk.org/noam-chomsky-the-five-filters-of-the-mass-media-machine/>
- Client Earth. (2022, February 18). Fossil fuels and climate change: The facts. *Client Earth*.  
<https://www.clientearth.org/latest/news/fossil-fuels-and-climate-change-the-facts/>
- Committee to Protect Journalists. (2024, November 26). Journalist casualties in the Israel-Gaza war *Committee to Protect Journalists* <https://cpj.org/2024/11/journalist-casualties-in-the-israel-gaza-conflict/amp/>

Cooper, J. J. (2024, October 26). Who does Trump see as “enemies from within”? *AP News*.

<https://apnews.com/article/donald-trump-enemies-from-within-5c4a34776469a55e71d3ba4d4e68cf62>

Corporate Personhood: What it means and how it has evolved. (2023, January 6). *Purdue*

*Global Law School*. <https://www.purduegloballawschool.edu/blog/news/corporate-personhood>

Corporate “Rights” (n.d.). *Community Environmental Legal Defense Fund*.

<https://celdf.org/corporate-rights/>

Council on Foreign Relations. (2023, April 14). What is fascism? *CFR Education from the*

*Council on Foreign Relations*. <https://education.cfr.org/learn/reading/what-fascism>

Daugherty, G. (2024, October 9). What is the difference between communism and socialism?

*Investopedia*. <https://www.investopedia.com/ask/answers/100214/what-difference-between-communism-and-socialism.asp>

Discriminate. (n.d.). *Cambridge Dictionary*.

<https://dictionary.cambridge.org/us/dictionary/english/discriminate>

Duignan, B. (2023, May 2). Proto fascism. *Encyclopædia Britannica*.

<https://www.britannica.com/topic/protofascism>

Egalite, A. J. (2023, September 28). What we know about teacher race and student outcomes.

*Education Next*. [https://www.educationnext.org/what-we-know-about-teacher-race-and-student-](https://www.educationnext.org/what-we-know-about-teacher-race-and-student-outcomes/#:~:text=Some%2079%20of%20all%20K,or%20all%20same%2Drace%20teachers.)

[outcomes/#:~:text=Some%2079%20of%20all%20K,or%20all%20same%2Drace%20teachers.](https://www.educationnext.org/what-we-know-about-teacher-race-and-student-outcomes/#:~:text=Some%2079%20of%20all%20K,or%20all%20same%2Drace%20teachers.)

- Ethnic and racial minorities & socioeconomic status. (2017). *American Psychological Association*. <https://www.apa.org/pi/ses/resources/publications/minorities>
- Feinstein, M. (n.d.). Historic Overview. *Green Party US*. [https://www.gp.org/history\\_overview](https://www.gp.org/history_overview)
- Feldman, M. (2024, November 5). Scholars, fascists agree: Trump's not a fascist, but an opportunity. *Fair Observer*. <https://www.fairobserver.com/politics/scholars-fascists-agree-trumps-not-a-fascist-but-an-opportunity/#>
- Founders Online: Term of the Senate, [26 June] 1787. (n.d.). *Archives*. <https://founders.archives.gov/documents/Madison/01-10-02-0044>
- Furhmann, R. (2023, February 7). How large corporations avoid paying taxes. *Investopedia*. <https://www.investopedia.com/financial-edge/0512/how-large-corporations-get-around-paying-less-in-taxes.aspx>
- Gangitano, A. (2024, October 9). Harris to Colbert: "I'm obviously not Joe Biden ... I'm not Donald Trump." *The Hill*. <https://thehill.com/homenews/campaign/4923495-kamala-harris-stephen-colbert-donald-trump-joe-biden-2024-campaign/>
- Geneva International Centre for Justice. (2017, February 21). Ali Shallah al-Qaysi. *Geneva International Centre for Justice*. <https://www.gicj.org/lest-we-forget/890-ali-shallal-al-qaysi>
- Global Protection Cluster. (n.d.). Gender-based violence. *Global Protection Cluster*. [https://globalprotectioncluster.org/Gender\\_Based\\_Violence#:~:text=Women%20and%20girls%20experience%20multiple,and%20other%20structures%20of%20power.](https://globalprotectioncluster.org/Gender_Based_Violence#:~:text=Women%20and%20girls%20experience%20multiple,and%20other%20structures%20of%20power.)
- Hesson, T. (2024, December 12). Trump says he will use military for deportations to fullest extent of law. *Reuters*. <https://www.reuters.com/world/us/trump-says-he-will-use-military-deportations-fullest-extent-law-2024-12-12/>

- Hinton, E. K., Henderson, L., & Reed, C. (2018, May). An unjust burden. *Vera Institute of Justice*. <https://www.vera.org/publications/for-the-record-unjust-burden>
- How much does the US spend on the military? (2024, April 11). *USAFacts*. <https://usafacts.org/articles/how-much-does-the-us-spend-on-the-military/>
- Hubbard, K. (2024, November 7). Compare Trump and Harris' views on LGBTQ rights and marriage equality. *CBS News*. <https://www.cbsnews.com/amp/news/trump-harris-lgbtq-rights-2024/>
- Humaid, M. (2024, December 11). "Entire days without food": Fighting hunger in Gaza. *Al Jazeera*. <https://www.aljazeera.com/features/longform/2024/12/11/entire-days-without-food-fighting-hunger-in-gaza>
- Human Rights Watch. (2024, May 9). Sudan: Ethnic cleansing in West Darfur. *Human Rights Watch*. <https://www.hrw.org/news/2024/05/09/sudan-ethnic-cleansing-west-darfur>
- Inskeep, S., & Thomas, C. (2024, November 14). Trump promised the "largest deportation" in U.S. history. here's how he might start. *NPR*. <https://www.npr.org/2024/11/12/nx-s1-5181962/trump-promises-a-mass-deportation-on-day-1-what-might-that-look-like>
- Iraq study estimates war-related deaths at 461,000. (2013, October 16). *BBC News*. <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-24547256>
- Iraq: 20 years on from US-led invasion, the companies that profited; incl. co. responses. (2023, March 21). *Business & Human Rights Resource Centre*. <https://www.business-humanrights.org/en/latest-news/iraq-20-years-on-from-us-invasion-the-companies-that-profited-incl-co-responses/>
- Jahan, S., & Mahmud, A. S. (n.d.). What is capitalism? *International Monetary Fund*. <https://www.imf.org/en/Publications/fandd/issues/Series/Back-to-Basics/Capitalism>

James-Bayly, S. (2022, May 2). Microaggressions: The impact on physical and mental health.

*Medical News Today*. <https://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/microaggressions-how-and-why-do-they-impact-health>

Journalist casualties in the Israel-Gaza war. *Committee to Protect Journalists*. (2024,

November 26). <https://cpj.org/2024/11/journalist-casualties-in-the-israel-gaza-conflict/amp/>

Kennedy, E. (2023, February 1). To build an equitable economy, we must understand

capitalism's racist heritage. *ProMarket*. <http://www.promarket.org/2023/02/01/to-build-an-equitable-economy-we-must-understand-capitalisms-racist-heritage/>

Kiel, P. (2022, June 24). Ten ways billionaires avoid taxes on an epic scale. *ProPublica*.

<https://www.propublica.org/article/billionaires-tax-avoidance-techniques-irs-files>

Kochhar, R. (2023, March 1). The enduring grip of the gender pay gap. *Pew Research Center*.

<https://www.pewresearch.org/social-trends/2023/03/01/the-enduring-grip-of-the-gender-pay-gap/>

Kogan, B., & Vela, J. (2024, May 8). Permanently extending the Trump tax cuts would cost \$4 trillion over the next decade. *Center for American Progress*.

<https://www.americanprogress.org/article/permanently-extending-the-trump-tax-cuts-would-cost-4-trillion-over-the-next-decade/>

Kratz, J. (2018, January 25). Vietnam: The first television war. *Pieces of History; National*

*Archives*. <https://prologue.blogs.archives.gov/2018/01/25/vietnam-the-first-television-war/>

- Kronenberg, A. (2024, November 15). How many people didn't vote in the 2024 election? *U.S. News & World Report*. <https://www.usnews.com/news/national-news/articles/2024-11-15/how-many-people-didnt-vote-in-the-2024-election>
- Kwet, M. (2024, May 12). How us big tech supports Israel's AI-powered genocide and apartheid. *Al Jazeera*. <https://www.aljazeera.com/amp/opinions/2024/5/12/how-us-big-tech-supports-israels-ai-powered-genocide-and-apartheid>
- Lam, I. (2022, February 22). Studies show minority students inadequately represented in school curriculum. *Eagle Eye News*. <https://eagleeye.news/24588/feature/studies-show-minority-students-inadequately-represented-in-school-curriculum/#:~:text=Educational%20research%20also%20shows%20that,or%20become%20disruptive%20in%20class.>
- Lopate, P. (2017). Confessions of a reluctant revolutionary. *Columbia Magazine*. <https://magazine.columbia.edu/article/confessions-reluctant-revolutionary>
- López-González, L. (2024, May 2). Say what? Microaggressions, your health and what to do about them. *University of San Francisco*. <https://www.ucsf.edu/news/2024/05/427501/say-what-microaggressions-your-health-and-what-do-about-them>
- Marquit, M. (2024, August 15). Why we still have a gender pay gap in 2024. *Encyclopædia Britannica*. <https://www.britannica.com/money/gender-wage-gap-explained>
- Masters, J., & Merrow, W. (2024, May 31). U.S. aid to Israel in four charts. *Council on Foreign Relations*. <https://www.cfr.org/article/us-aid-israel-four-charts>
- Matthias, M. (2024, November 29). Green Party of the United States. *Encyclopedia Britannica*. <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Green-Party-of-the-United-States>

- McCann, A., & Schoenfeld Walker, A. (n.d.). Tracking abortion bans across the country. *The New York Times*. <http://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2024/us/abortion-laws-roe-v-wade.html>
- McLean Hospital. (2023, April 17). Understanding the impact of domestic violence. *McLean Hospital*. <https://www.mcleanhospital.org/essential/domestic-violence>
- Message to Congress on curbing monopolies. (n.d.). *The American Presidency Project*. <https://www.presidency.ucsb.edu/documents/message-congress-curbing-monopolies>
- Middle East Eye. (2024, November 12). US contractor held liable for torture, with jury awarding \$42m to Abu Ghraib survivors. *Middle East Eye*. <https://www.middleeasteye.net/news/jury-awards-42mn-abu-ghraib-survivors-us-contractor-held-liable-torture>
- Milman, O. (2024, January 30). ‘Smoking gun proof’: Fossil fuel industry knew of climate danger as early as 1954, documents show. *The Guardian*. <https://amp.theguardian.com/us-news/2024/jan/30/fossil-fuel-industry-air-pollution-fund-research-caltech-climate-change-denial>
- Mineo, L. (2020, September 4). Harvard historian examines how textbooks taught white supremacy. *Harvard Gazette*. <https://news.harvard.edu/gazette/story/2020/09/harvard-historian-examines-how-textbooks-taught-white-supremacy/>
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation. (2023, September 25). South Sudan concludes multi-billion oil sector investment deal with US firm. *Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation*. <https://mofaic.gov.ss/south-sudan-concludes-multi-billion-oil-sector-investment-deal-with-us-firm/>

- Mitchell, J. (2023, February 3). 20 years ago, the U.S. warned of Iraq's alleged "weapons of mass destruction." *NPR*. <https://www.npr.org/2023/02/03/1151160567/colin-powell-iraq-un-weapons-mass-destruction>
- Mitchell, M. (2024, April 4). Why the gender pay gap persists in American businesses. *Darden Report Online*. <https://news.darden.virginia.edu/2024/04/04/why-the-gender-pay-gap-persists-in-american-businesses/>
- Narea, N. (2022, November 29). Donald Trump's long history of enabling white supremacy, explained. *Vox*. <https://www.vox.com/policy-and-politics/23484314/trump-fuentes-yedinner-white-nationalism-supremacy>
- Nashed, M. (2024, November 13). Is Israel committing "ethnic cleansing" in Gaza? *Al Jazeera*. <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2024/11/13/is-israel-committing-ethnic-cleansing-in-gaza>
- Neumeister, L., Sisak, M. R., & Peltz, J. (2023, May 9). Jury finds Trump liable for sexual abuse, awards accuser \$5M. *AP News*. <https://apnews.com/article/trump-rape-carroll-trial-fe68259a4b98bb3947d42af9ec83d7db>
- Open Society Foundations. (2019, May). What is the Roma genocide. *Open Society Foundations*. <https://www.opensocietyfoundations.org/explainers/what-roma-genocide>
- Overbeeke, T. (n.d.). Microaggressions: Definition, types, and examples. *Medical News Today*. <https://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/microaggressions#types>
- Pissaro's people. (n.d.). Clark Art. <https://www.clarkart.edu/microsites/pissarro-s-people/anarchy>
- Pizzigati, S. (2024, June 4). Can democracy and billionaires coexist? *Counter Punch*. <http://www.counterpunch.org/2024/06/04/can-democracy-and-billionaires-coexist/>

Polarization. (n.d.). *Cambridge Dictionary*.

<https://dictionary.cambridge.org/us/dictionary/english/polarization>

Presidential Elections and the American Political System. (n.d.). *U.S. Embassy & Consulate in the Kingdom of Denmark*. <https://dk.usembassy.gov/usa-i-skolen/presidential-elections-and-the-american-political-system/>

Psychological science. (2021, September 13). Current understandings of microaggressions: Impacts on individuals and Society. *Association for Psychological Science*.

<https://www.psychologicalscience.org/news/releases/2021-sept-microaggressions.html>

Radley, D. C., Shah, A., Collins, S. R., Powe, N. R., & Zephyrin, L. C. (2024, April 18).

Advancing Racial Equity in U.S. health care. *Commonwealth Fund*.

[https://www.commonwealthfund.org/publications/fund-reports/2024/apr/advancing-racial-equity-us-health-](https://www.commonwealthfund.org/publications/fund-reports/2024/apr/advancing-racial-equity-us-health-care#:~:text=Racial%20and%20ethnic%20health%20disparities%20are%20perpetuated%20by%20less%20insurance,groups%20are%20apparent%20across%20states.)

[care#:~:text=Racial%20and%20ethnic%20health%20disparities%20are%20perpetuated%20by%20less%20insurance,groups%20are%20apparent%20across%20states.](https://www.commonwealthfund.org/publications/fund-reports/2024/apr/advancing-racial-equity-us-health-care#:~:text=Racial%20and%20ethnic%20health%20disparities%20are%20perpetuated%20by%20less%20insurance,groups%20are%20apparent%20across%20states.)

Ramirez-Uribe, M. (2024, June 12). There aren't 20 to 30 million immigrants in the U.S. illegally, as Marco Rubio claimed. *Austin American-Statesman*.

<https://www.statesman.com/story/news/politics/politifact/2024/06/12/politifact-how-many-undocumented-immigrants-live-in-the-u-s/74047477007/>

Republican Party. (n.d.). In *Encyclopaedia Britannica*.

<https://www.britannica.com/topic/Republican-Party>

Robert Smith. (2023, August 22). Understanding systemic racism in Education. *Robert F.*

*Smith*. <https://robertsmith.com/blog/systemic-racism-in-education/>

- Schulz, M. (2024, May 28). Fewer Americans to make political donations in 2024 presidential election season than in 2020s. *Lending Tree*. <https://www.lendingtree.com/credit-cards/study/political-donations-presidential/>
- Science Daily. (2024, November 12). Fossil fuel CO2 emissions increase again in 2024. *Science Daily*. <https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2024/11/241112191227.htm>
- Shamim, S. (2024, November 14). What happened in Abu Ghraib and why did a US Court award damages? *Al Jazeera*. <https://www.aljazeera.com/amp/news/2024/11/14/what-happened-in-abu-ghraib-and-why-did-a-us-court-award-damages>
- Simmerman, A., Frank, B. J., & Crowley, K. (2024, November 8). Was Trump convicted of anything? What the president-elect's convicted felon status means. *Austin American-Statesman*. <https://www.statesman.com/story/news/politics/elections/2024/11/08/is-trump-a-convicted-felon-president-vote-when-trial-guilty-court-date-sentencing-us/76108799007/>
- Smith Haghghi, A. (2022, March 10). Microaggressions: Definition, types, and examples. *Medical News Today*. <https://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/microaggressions>
- Soucy, R. (2024, October 21). Fascism. *Encyclopedia Britannica*. <https://www.britannica.com/topic/fascism>
- St. Catherine University. (2021, June 15). Racial discrimination in healthcare: How structural racism affects healthcare. *St. Catherine University*. <https://www.stkate.edu/academics/healthcare-degrees/racism-in-healthcare>
- Stanton, G. H. (n.d.). Genocide watch- ten stages of genocide. *Genocide Watch*. <https://www.genocidewatch.com/tenstages>

“Strong likelihood” of imminent famine in north Gaza: Food security experts. (2024, November 9). *Al Jazeera*. <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2024/11/9/strong-likelihood-of-imminent-famine-in-north-gaza-food-security-experts>

dSudan humanitarian crisis has catastrophic impact for women and girls, with two-fold increase of gender-based violence. (2024, September 27). *UN Women*. <https://www.unwomen.org/en/news-stories/press-release/2024/09/sudan-humanitarian-crisis-has-catastrophic-impact-for-women-and-girls-with-two-fold-increase-of-gender-based-violence>

Suroor, H. (2012, March 23). Apologise for what?, asks soldier who abused Iraqi prisoners. *The Hindu*. <https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/apologise-for-what-asks-soldier-who-abused-iraqi-prisoners/article3207209.ece>

Swanson, Z., Kirschenbaum, A., & Welsh, C. (2024, September 11). Conflict, hunger, and famine in Sudan. *CSIS*. <https://www.csis.org/analysis/conflict-hunger-and-famine-sudan>

T, B. (2023, October 25). How women of color are impacted by domestic violence. *Verywell Mind*. <https://www.verywellmind.com/domestic-violence-varies-by-ethnicity-62648>

The Draft. (n.d.). *Dartmouth Libraries*. [https://course-exhibits.library.dartmouth.edu/s/HIST10\\_23S/page/draft](https://course-exhibits.library.dartmouth.edu/s/HIST10_23S/page/draft)

The Joint Commission. (n.d.). Quick safety 23: Implicit bias in health care. *The Joint Commission*. <https://www.jointcommission.org/resources/news-and-multimedia/newsletters/newsletters/quick-safety/quick-safety-issue-23-implicit-bias-in-health-care/implicit-bias-in-health-care/>

The United Nations Relief and Works Agency. (2024, May 28). Palestine refugees face unprecedented health challenges ... *UNRA*. <https://www.unrwa.org/newsroom/news-releases/palestine-refugees-face-unprecedented-health-challenges-amid-gaza-war>

The Vision of a Classless Society. (n.d.). *Faster Capital*. <https://fastercapital.com/topics/the-vision-of-a-classless-society.html>

Trump's tax plans would benefit the rich, Harris' plan would benefit everyone else. (2024, October 23). *AFSCME*. <https://www.afscme.org/blog/trumps-tax-plans-would-benefit-the-rich-harris-plan-would-benefit-everyone-else>

Understanding Discrimination and Bias (n.d.). *The Jed Foundation*. <https://jedfoundation.org/resource/understanding-discrimination-and-bias/>

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. (n.d.). Foundations of the Nazi State. *United States holocaust memorial museum*. <https://encyclopedia.ushmm.org/content/en/article/foundations-of-the-nazi-state#:~:text=Indeed%2C%20with%20the%20establishment%20of,was%20to%20be%20obeyed%20unquestioningly.>

USAFacts. (2024, August 2). Tracking 2024 election contributions and spending. *USAFacts*. <https://usafacts.org/articles/tracking-2024-election-contributions-and-spending/>

Vanderwicken, P. (1995, May). Why the news is not the truth. *Harvard Business Review*. <https://hbr.org/1995/05/why-the-news-is-not-the-truth>

Vietnam . (n.d.). *JFK Library*. <https://www.jfklibrary.org/learn/about-jfk/jfk-in-history/vietnam>

Wafula, I. (2024, October 31). Sudan civil war: Women raped by RSF fighters in Gezira state die by suicide, activists say. *BBC*. <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c8xpqvz0e88o>

- Wang, L. (2023, September 27). Updated data and charts: Incarceration stats by race, ethnicity, and gender for all 50 states and D.C. *Prison Policy Initiative*.  
[https://www.prisonpolicy.org/blog/2023/09/27/updated\\_race\\_data/](https://www.prisonpolicy.org/blog/2023/09/27/updated_race_data/)
- Weiner, S. (2024, February 20). States are banning gender-affirming care for minors. What does that mean for patients and providers? *Association of American Medical Colleges*.  
<https://www.aamc.org/news/states-are-banning-gender-affirming-care-minors-what-does-mean-patients-and-providers>
- Wiley, E. (2022, January 20). How racism in the courtroom produces wrongful convictions and mass incarceration. *Legal Defense Fund*. <https://www.naacpldf.org/racism-wrongful-convictions-mass-incarceration/>
- Wilkerson, I. (2023). *Caste: The origins of our discontents*. *Penguin Books*.
- Woodruff-Swan, B., & Ward, M. (2024, November 18). Trump's first 100 days immigration agenda *Politico*. <https://www.politico.com/news/2024/11/18/immigration-100-days-trump-executive-action-00189286>
- World Health Organization. (2024, May 17). Abortion. *World Health Organization*.  
<https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/abortion>
- Wriston, B., & Duchesneau, N. (2023, April 6). How school discipline impacts students' social, emotional and academic development (SEAD). *EdTrust*.  
<https://edtrust.org/rti/how-school-discipline-impacts-students-social-emotional-and-academic-development-sead/>
- WYCC PBS Chicago. (2012, August 21). *Colorblind: ReThinking Race*. YouTube.  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uQkJnLSPf5k>

Yglesias, M. (2014, April 29). The top 1 percent is very white. *Vox*.

<https://www.vox.com/2014/4/29/5665272/the-top-one-percent-is-98-percent-male>

Youngblood-Gregory, S. (2024, November 21). How to get an X gender marker on your passport and other important government documents. *Them*.

<https://www.them.us/story/how-to-get-x-gender-marker-on-your-passport-birth-certificate-id>