

All For One or One for All?

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Abstract

As classes get more advanced and the maturity levels rise, we as students learn more about our country. We start with a glossed version in elementary school, then get a little more information in middle school, and in high school there is a shift in information that truly feels like a change. This past presidential term has opened the eyes of many. But no one's eyes can be as opened as someone who has done plenty of research. By looking into the world of government from many different aspects, the world as we know has been changed. No matter where you look, there is much to find about the government and all its trials and tribulations. All the ups and downs of government and the things that are hidden behind closed doors. The stuff that brave writers choose to put in alternative media books or articles. The information provided has opened a new door for the mind and helps form one's own opinions. A lot can be learned about the government if one spends the time reading all there is to read. Bars.

All For One or One for All?

“See it’s easy to ignore trouble when you’re living in a bubble.”

- Ain’t It Fun (Paramore)

The United States government has four different ways of classification. Democracy: a government that is for the people, pluralism; states there are many influences of control, hyperpluralism; which is similar to pluralism but there are too many influences competing, and elite class theory; the idea that the power is in the hands of the upper wealthy class. A person could back up any of the four theories, with a little research and a knack for debate, but the one that is most true is the Elite Class Theory. This country is led by the rich and because of this the middle class is slowly deteriorating. This is obvious every day, college becoming more expensive, less job opportunities for the lower class, and the most homelessness our country has seen, to name a few. This struggle between power and glory leads to the idea that we do not live in a democratic society, but rather in an oligarchy led by America’s most rich and powerful leaders. It is a fact that everyone in power uses money to get what they want and because of the internet we are able to know exactly how much money both Biden and Trump get during their election campaign. We are able to see just how much control money has over this country. But you cannot find all this information by simply reading the information provided by your school or “trusted” friends and family, you must go beyond. The answer to the awaited question is simple with a little bit of research to back it up. We are living in an oligarchical capitalistic society driven by rich people who need to get as much money as they can. By using information from all the parties; democratic, republican, and third party. You can look deeper into our government and how truly corrupt they actually are. No more hiding under the title “democracy”, it is time to come out of the shadows and call us what we truly are, oligarchy.

Luckily for capitalism, they do not have to hide under any mask, it can be itself, but that does not mean it is good for our country. Maybe in 2024 it is time to find a new economic status quo...

The United States Isn't for The People

For years the United States has dominated the world in wealth. Because the United States is the richest country in the world that would mean everything should be sunshine and rainbows, right? Wrong, the U.S. is the richest country on Earth because of how corporate it truly is. According to the Department of Housing and Urban Development, 650,000 people are homeless. You would also think that no one in the US would be unemployed with all the businesses out there, but this is also false. According to the BLS, the number of unemployed is around 6.5 million people. This is caused by businesses moving overseas to further their capital gain. Large corporations are moving to third world countries because the laborers will work for significantly less money than Americans. While the federal minimum wage in the U.S is around seven dollars an hour, people in sweatshops are working for around 20 cents an hour! That is not nearly enough to keep them alive, but that is not a problem because the corporation is making millions in savings.

A lot of people can agree, we are told that it's a democracy. But let's be honest, have the people who claimed we are a democracy been outside for longer than 30 minutes? Most of the bills passed by Congress actually do not benefit the people. To clarify, when it says, "the people" it is talking about the 99%, sorry Jeff Bezos, but this paper isn't for you!

The amount of unemployment and homelessness in this country is the farthest from democratic. Last, but certainly not least, the amount of racism in this country is absurd. What in

God's green earth is democratic about building a wall to prevent immigration from Mexico! Or the number of Black men and women killed by so called protectors. The question of what kind of government we have cannot be answered without going beyond our textbook. When trying to figure out what kind of government we truly have, it can be easiest to look at the teachings of Boyer. "The protests recognized that we are not moving toward global democracy but rather toward global oligarchy—control by the rich and the powerful—and the United States has been the leader in this globalization movement" (Boyer, 2006). Because of capitalism our social economy is drifting towards an oligarchy, but more specifically a plutocracy.

In our current economy, we do not have a free market. That is one of the negative things about capitalism. There is nothing free about bailing out banks with tax money. But the lack of freedom in capitalism contradicts the whole freedom idea of democracy. "The word "freedom" has a positive halo effect in most parts of the world. It is often used to paralyze thought, so that capitalism and corporate power are "free" to carry on. If we distinguish between "capitalism" and "democracy," we engage in radical political philosophy for they are not the same " (Boyer, 2006). Many political powerhouses often try to make the world blind to the truth of capitalism by pairing it with democracy and the "free market", but all this is doing is giving them a platform to continue their buy offs.

When Americans dream of a democracy the dream of a government that is truly equal in all aspects of the word. We want what a democracy is supposed to be. "Democracy is a system of government based on the recognition that people are equal "in dignity and rights" and should therefore have equal political rights. This ideal can be applied to entities of any size" (Amico, 2020). Right now, we are one of the many countries that are a democracy in name only. At first

many people were blind to it, but with the age of technology, more Americans are becoming painfully aware. Some people feel that capitalism and democracy go hand in hand, but in reality, they actually greatly contradict each other.

Capitalism is also a system of government, but an unequal one. It grants political rights based on capital ownership. Its core institution is the firm, which is made up of two classes of investor: capital and labor. In capitalist firms, political rights to govern are held by capital investors only, through the legal vehicle of the corporation. The only citizens that matter in the extractive logic of the capitalist firm is those who own capital — in other words, shareholders. They exercise the power and reap the bulk of the financial returns, while labor investors (i.e., workers) are disenfranchised — and the planet's resources exhausted. (Amico, 2020).

Because capitalists are greedy and the resources are limited, we are running out of places to go and things to profit off of. This author does a great job at describing what is said before. Capitalism and democracy are not totally two peas in a pod. This confusion has created the illusion that democracy and capitalism go hand in hand, when, in fact, they contradict each other. Today's political leaders (democratic or not) are scrambling to hide their powerlessness to reduce inequalities or save the planet in the face of transnational capitalist corporations. One result of this is crumbling democracies. We have a clear choice before us: either expand our democratic commitment to include corporations, through democratizing them internally (by including the representation of labor investors along the current representation of capital investors), or forfeit our democratic rights to those who own capital — a possibility looming on the horizon, particularly in the United States. (Ferrerias, 2020). There are two very different sides fighting each other right now. One is all for corporate greed and the other is about bringing power to the people. The real question is what will the mass choose?

This data ties into the previous paragraph because it is basically talking about the same thing. There is nothing democratic about capitalism. Nor is there anything democratic about capitalists. “Democracy is a system of government in which people make the laws and policies together as equal citizens. But under capitalism, capitalists tend to like to make laws and policies. The new Oxford dictionary defines capitalism as “an economic and political system in which a country’s trade and industry are controlled by private owners for profit.” That’s simply not democracy” (Fung, 2020). The scales of our country are tipping, and our only hope is that they tip to the right side. We need to heed the warnings out Fung and other journalists like them, or we risk what little rights we have.

Something very true in the United States right now is that we are becoming a democracy in name only. “Increasingly, I feel that plutocracies pass themselves off as democracies. In plutocracies, capitalism is consolidating its wealth and power while maintaining a charade of democracy” (Khera, 2020) Most of the wealthy people in America believe that democracy and capitalism go hand in hand because it works out for them, but they are so clearly part of an elite group of people, who probably wake up to birds singing.

This data further proves the idea that democracy is all about the people and capitalism is all about every man for himself. There is no world where they can go together. “But democracy’s priorities are equality before the law, the right of each citizen to govern the decisions that govern his or her life, the creation of a civilization based on fairness and equity. Capitalism’s priorities are inequality of return, profit for the suppliers of capital, efficiency of production and distribution, the bottom line” (Street, 2000). This is another author that we really need to listen to. The United States is destined to live a terrible life if we try to force two political systems together that don’t belong together.

Many people feel that what little democratic power they have is being slowly topped by the power of money and total wealth. “American candidates without vast financial resources or access to such resources can generally forget about being taken seriously in money- and media-driven campaigns. As most Americans see it, the democratic ideal of “one person, one vote,” is negated by the harsh realities of “dollar democracy” and the “golden rule” (“those who have the gold rule”). The candidate-selection and policymaking processes belong primarily to the top 10 percent of Americans that own 73.2 percent of American wealth” (Street, 2000). This is one of the many reasons why we live in a plutocracy, those who can afford to shove money in people's pockets are the ones who get the government they want. Everyone else has to sit by and watch.

Most of America is run by multi-billion-dollar companies that only care about rules that allow them the most freedom. Their only thoughts are about how to make the biggest profit. “the fact must be faced that America has become a plutocracy, rather than a democracy. Money rules government. Moreover, the transformation probably is irreversible.” Activists and intellectuals trying to spark resistance to these facts of American political life struggle to get their message through a system in which less than 10 giant corporations’ dcontrol more than 50 percent of the country’s electronic and print media. (Street, 2000). This is largely how the United States is run in this decade. Power falls in the hands of the rich and powerful, while the rest of America stands helplessly watching.

There are some people who believe that the free markets will cause an increase in the middle class. “A lot of scholars and others (me, for example) have believed that free markets produce a middle class which then demands more freedom and democracy. Evidence for this virtuous circle exists in the cases of South Korea, Taiwan, Brazil and so forth. The idea is that irredentist authoritarian states will eventually fall before a triumphant globalization” (Bailey,

2007). What this author fails to notice is that what happens is that the top one percent of the world end up with most of the money and the middle class becomes more of a lower class. The top corporations end up with most if not all of the money from the so-called free market.

Democracy is not growing as quickly as capitalism has. Capitalism has a bigger fan base. “The success of democracy in the last quarter of the twentieth century was impressive. However, democracy’s success pales in comparison to the spread of capitalism throughout the world” (Merkel, 2014). It is further proof that capitalism has more appeal to those running this country than democracy and it shows in their actions. A lot of nations claim they are democracies, but if you look a little closer you can see that is not true. “Many economically successful nations — from Russia to Mexico — are democracies in name only. They are encumbered by the same problems that have hobbled American democracy in recent years, allowing corporations and elites buoyed by runaway economic success to undermine the government’s capacity to respond to citizens’ concerns” (Reich, 2009). This information should remind the reader to understand that capitalism and democracy do not go hand in hand.

Democracy is all about the people, but lately the citizens of democratic nations have never felt so powerless. “Democracy is designed to allow citizens to address these very issues in constructive ways. And yet a sense of political powerlessness is on the rise among citizens in Europe, Japan, and the United States, even as consumers and investors feel more empowered” (Reich, 2009). Because of corporate greed, many people are feeling powerless in a political system where the power should belong to them.

One of the biggest parts of capitalism is the healthcare system. Big healthcare corporations are having congress veto bills that are for free healthcare because it is their money source. This is one of the many reasons why so many people in America cannot afford

healthcare. “Profit-making hospital chains, health insurance companies, and pharmaceutical companies generate enough revenue to allow for stock buybacks and dividend payments. Over nine recent years, 14 pharmaceutical companies spent \$747 billion for that purpose. Payments to private insurance companies and private hospital networks are large enough to cover high administrative costs and profit-taking” (Whitney, 2023). It seems apparent that healthcare corporations are making healthcare too expensive for average Americans, but because of this they have so much profit which makes them want to keep healthcare unattainable.

There are many countries that have capitalism and democracy that do go hand in hand because they know how to contain capitalism and prevent it from getting out of hand. Most countries give out healthcare to those who need it, not those who can pay for it. “Capitalism operates under restraints in those countries. Their labor unions are stronger than those in the United States. Social democratic political parties and labor parties have been active. In such circumstances, even under capitalism, healthcare gets protection as a public good and is not automatically given over to money-making” (Whitney, 2023). The author is really trying to get the reader to understand that we can have capitalism without corporations having total control.

When people think of the perfect society they think of a democracy. When you think of the perfect economic society they think of capitalism (I guess). But do capitalism and democracy really want each other? That is truly a very hard question to answer, and I believe you need to go outside the government textbook to answer it. Based on all of the material looked at, you cannot call the United States of America a democracy. Don’t get me wrong, we should be a democracy, and many people feel the same way. But America as of 2024 is NOT a democracy. You would think that 248 years after this “great” country was founded we would know how to properly live in a democratic society, but no. Our country is run by the rich and the greedy. But with enough

people to band together we could get this country out of the hands of the rich. I think we need to pass laws that make it illegal for rich people to fund congress.

Based on the evidence presented, our country is definitely capitalist. But is that such a good thing? It is an open question as to whether capitalism is the best economic system our country has. Every time capitalism is involved something bad happens and every time, we think that something good is going to happen for democracy, someone ruins it. There is so much hope for our country, but it is going to take time. But if every person in this country took the time to research what is going on we would be able to fix it.

Status Quo?! What is This High School Musical!

For hundreds of years, we have heard the same things over and over again. We have a democracy, and capitalism is the best thing for our country. But democracy is supposed to be about the people. This means that we need laws and rules that actually benefit the people. Not just white people or rich people, but all people. Every single person in the great country of the United States of America needs to feel accounted for. This means abolishing the Don't Say Gay Bill, getting Roe v. Wade back, stronger grip on gun control, more aid for immigrants, cheaper college tuition, and so on. Unlike the top one percent, the working class people cannot afford to take their problems to other countries, like flying/driving to a country that allows abortions, affording to live in a country that does not hate them/ afford to live in the country they were born in, not have to worry about being themselves in a country that actually thinks about them, not have to worry about where your college tuition money is going to come from or how long it will take to pay it all back, and not having to be scared when they are themselves around people who carry guns and hate them. This also means that we need to have people in power who think about their country and do everything they can to help it rather than being driven by money. What we

do have, is a government that goes to work every day seeing what rich man or women will give them the most amount of money to pass/veto a bill to prevent a loss in profits. This is a product of capitalism. The first thought in every politician's brain is how to get elected, you need supporters and their money; to get support you have to believe what they believe and do what they want you to do. Everyone goes around trying to get the most amount of money as they can. Money corrupts even the nicest of men. There is a significant difference between the new age of voters and the presidential candidates, this is often shown in the great number of disagreements on how this country should be run. Every four years everyone of age goes to their voting booths and puts in their vote. This is a proud moment for Americans, there are some countries that you have no choice on who is in charge, you have no say or laws that benefit you. Everything is for the benefit of the leaders. The status quo in the United States is oligarchy and capitalism. Whenever something, politically or economically, happens this is what we can expect. No matter what party wins, this is what we are going to be.

Although most of the US wants to believe that with Biden as president, we are going to suddenly gain our middle class back, but that is farther from the truth. The Status quo will not just change. “President Biden is working to build a better America by investing in the middle class and bringing down costs for working families,” (Democratic Party, 2024). Having a top one percent and the 99% gives capitalists a chance to gain more money. So, the status quo would not want you to have a middle class because it takes away from the capitalists.

One way that the status quo always wins is because people are so afraid to vote outside of the red and blue because they fear that the candidate they hate will become president. “One thing that is not on the third-party menu is an opportunity to vote for someone who could actually become president. There isn’t a ghost of a chance Jill Stein, Joe Manchin, Robert F. Kennedy, or

Cornell West will be elected,” (Zimmerman, 2023). This has been the reality for years which is why the green party rarely has any attention during election years. Most America sticks with the status quo which means that they rarely vote for a third-party candidate, almost eliminating their chances of being elected.

Voting is supposed to be one of those great milestones that all young people have. It is our chance to have a say in how this country is run, but rarely does our vote even make a dent in the status quo. “But voting for president is not an exercise in personal expression and it is not like seeking your true love or dream candidate. Voting is what you do to affect the best outcome for your country among the real possibilities,” (Zimmerman, 2023). This is how politicians corrupt the good people of America. We are told that we should think about the country rather than ourselves and that our vote is going to deeply affect our country, but a lot of people know that is not true.

Many young people are being filled with the idea that if they do not vote for the democratic option then Trump is going to win because a third-party candidate cannot win. “If you vote for supposed “progressives” Jill Stein or Cornell West, you’re reducing the votes needed to stop Trump,” (Zimmerman, 2023). This is how our country controls the young and makes sure that nothing changes to the way our country has been running.

One way that both of the parties control us as a society is by telling us that voting for not voting for the party that they want us to vote for, then we are letting the group we hate win. “We are all perfectly clear that Biden and what he stands for are repugnant. There is not a single good reason to vote for him – except that not to do so will help Trump win a second term as President,” (Brown, 2020). We as a society have to convince ourselves that we have to find the better evil of two candidates and often clouds are judgment.

Even though people think that their vote is the deciding factor, people do not understand that money is what gets a president; “Far more decisive, however, is the second election, which is going on right now, in which a relative handful of billionaires and corporate oligarchs decides which of the candidates of the two established capitalist parties, Democratic President Joe Biden and Republican ex-President Donald Trump, will better serve their class interests.” (Martin, 2024). As much as we like to say that we are a democracy and that our vote is what decides the president, what really rules the country is the money and where their vote goes.

Most Democrats want to believe that Joe Biden has their best interest at heart, but if that were true maybe he would be called ‘Average Joe’. “Unfortunately for his electoral prospects, however, Biden’s attempts to present himself as a “man of the people” have become increasingly strained. “Middle-class Joe” has been displaced by “Genocide Joe” in public consciousness, as he has become indelibly associated with the war crimes being committed by Israel in Gaza, armed and financed by the Biden Administration” (Martin, 2024). Although we cannot blame Biden for what is going on in Gaza and Ukraine, we can blame him for his lack of action to prevent anything else from happening. Biden has always preached himself as an average person who wants what is best for everyone, but he is not any better than the rest of them. “One of the two major-party candidates for the presidency of the United States has allowed an decades-long ethnic cleansing to morph into a genocide, a horror that could be stopped with one phone call; has escalated the drilling of oil and gas despite the existential threat of global warming; forced railroad workers to swallow a bad contract by breaking their strike; and spent his Senate career as an errand boy for banks. And that’s the lesser evil!” (Dolack, 2024). Sometimes our country is given two terrible options, and we are forced to pick the one that makes us the least sick to the stomach.

Some of Trump's most loyal followers are able to forgive everything wrong Trump has done and will even go as far as claiming that he will never be found guilty. "The ongoing Stormy Daniels case, and the guilty finding in the E. Jean Carroll defamation case, reek of politics. Neither case would have seen daylight outside of the Democratic hive of New York, and neither could have held up outside a partisan justice system that permits..." (Buren, 2023). Not only do Trump supporters claim that he can do no wrong, but they also place their blame on the Democratic party and all they bring to light that the Republicans spend so long concealing.

Donald Trump and his supporters think he can just push aside all the bad things he has done and is the perfect candidate for president and the government actually ignores it too and is letting him run. "He could easily head into the Republican convention to accept the nomination with multiple convictions and/or indictments on his shoulders," (Buren, 2023). The fact that our political system is so corrupt that a man who has been convicted multiple times can still run for president is wild.

Trump swore under oath that he would not take any documents, but then took some anyways. "Justice asserted Trump lied to his own team about having no more classified documents, and that this constituted a crime of fraud and maybe obstruction...But Trump's supporters are unlikely to read deeply into the case law; all they'll see is what looks like strong-arm tactics by the Department of Justice," (Buren, 2023). Trump supporters do not do enough research into all his wrong doings, instead they will blame whoever is to blame.

Everyone loves a villain origin story and an underdog story, but Trump is one of the examples that makes the country recoil. "They fear a repeat of 2016 is in the making — when mainstream Republicans scoffed at the idea that Donald Trump could ever win the nomination, until he became unstoppable — only this time from the left," (Korecki, 2020). If you differ from

the status quo there is only one man to fear and his name is Donald Trump. Trump truly became a force to be reckoned with, but for some this is not a good thing. Coming from a family of fortune, Trump never had to work for anything. “The Republican money people were laughing at Trump when he came down the escalator and they kept laughing at him for way too long, until ‘holy crap’ he’s winning primaries,” Matt Bennett, co-founder of Third Way told POLITICO,” (Korecki, 2020). No one ever thought that Trump could win anything because of his past, let alone a presidential election.

To many Sanders would have been a great candidate but he was lacking the thing they crave the very most. “Many Democrats say they respect the support behind Sanders but fear a self-described Democratic socialist would cede must-win battlegrounds to Trump.” What they really fear is losing all the money they get from capitalism. A lot of power falls into the hands of the people in the swing states, in the end it is them who determine the next president. “Swing states have a higher concentration of swing voters. We need a nominee who draws them to the Democratic column,” (Korecki, 2020). The Democratic party needs as many swing states on their side as they can get.

People could not believe that anyone would react in the way Trump and his followers did when the election did not go his way. “Though the attack was in many ways predictable – extremists were increasingly active and emboldened across the United States in the years before the insurrection – the overt display of political violence and venom was nonetheless shocking,” (Cherry, n.d.). Trump has proved time and time again that he is not in the right mental state to have the whole country in his hands. People are now scared about what is going to happen after Trump reacted in such a positive way to what happened that day. “From former President Donald Trump’s call to “fight like hell” on January 6, to politicians publicly fantasizing about harming

their ideological opponents, calls for political violence have grown exponentially since January 6,” (Cherry, n.d.). Violence in the government setting has increased greatly since the little incident on the 6th.

Trump has always noted that he does not want to help anyone who cannot afford to take care of themselves. “Trump wants to “get rid” of the Education Department and “let local areas and, frankly, states handle education,” (Allen et al, 2024). This could lead to the abolishment of public education as we know it. This would make it harder for those who already cannot afford education, to not be educated at all. Everyone wants to go to college, but not everyone can afford it and these days almost no one can afford it. “Biden wants to forgive some student loans and make community college tuition-free. He has said that “while a college degree still is a ticket to the middle class, that ticket is becoming much too expensive,” (Allen et al, 2024). A ticket to the middle class is expensive because there are fewer spots remaining.

Trump does not understand what it is like to not have the money, Biden does not either, but he is trying to make it up to those who cannot afford to pay their loans back. “Trump has pushed for cuts to programs that assist with student loan forgiveness but did suspend interest on student loan payments during the coronavirus pandemic. Biden wants to forgive some student loans and make community college tuition-free,” (Allen et al, 2024). Biden would want to take some tax money and use it to help pay back some of the student debt in this country.

If Trump wins this next election, women are going to suffer harshly. Women are going to have what little rights they have taken away from them. “Overall, the loss of *Roe v. Wade* is predicted to limit poor women and women of color’s access to the full array of reproductive health care, including abortion services. Their restricted access is likely to be a function of no insurance or health insurance that does not cover reproductive health and abortion care, and the

high cost of seeking abortion care out of state.” (Berg and Woods, 2023)

Some people cannot afford to get pregnant and what will happen if they do and cannot do anything about it? Or what about if a woman is sexually assaulted, what happens to that child she so clearly does not want? Men do not have to think about these things; therefore, they do not do anything to prevent them. Our country tries to create equality by providing aid for those who need it most, but recently that aid has been slipping out of their hands. “Trump eliminated federal payments that help reduce deductibles and out-of-pocket charges for low-income participants, prompting insurers to raise premiums to cover the loss of these cost-sharing subsidies that they still had to offer. The move ended up increasing federal premium subsidies, leaving taxpayers on the hook while lowering the monthly cost for many enrollees.” (Luhby, 2024)

People are going to suffer greatly if the ACA is taken away from those who need it. We have been running the same for so long that nothing truly changes when things do go our way. “Even if President Biden could somehow be magically replaced by a true progressive dedicated to putting an end to corporate control of U.S. society and all the many social, political and environmental ills that flow from that, not much would change,” (Dolack, 2024). Most of the country knows that for the most part nothing is going to change whether Biden is elected over Trump or vice versa.

This country is falling out of the hands of the people and into the hands of the rich and powerful. “Beyond the obvious observation (again, quite true) that money talks and those with a lot of money get to do the talking, why is the Biden campaign — and Democratic Party-political office candidates in general — unable to conceive of any campaign strategy other than chasing dissident Republicans and those centrists not already committed to the party?” (Dolack, 2024) People are stepping away from campaign strategies and turning to the politicians who wave the

most money under their noses.

Every election could be considered the most important election if you asked a different group of people every time. “But it also contributes to the feeling that American lives are now eternally beholden to tribal politics. There is no respite. We're forever bombarded with horse-race pronouncements and new poll results. We're forever being asked to pick a team. We're forever being told that we're in the middle of THE MOST IMPORTANT ELECTION OF OUR LIFETIMES” (Brown, 2022). Even though elections do not affect how lives move on a day-to-day basis, there are some people who are worried about what is to come. The government claims that the United States of America is a democracy, but lately the things going on has been for the good of the election rather than those who the rules will end up affecting. “Meanwhile, media, activists, and elected officials seem to shove everything into the framework of "how will this affect the upcoming election?" instead of "will this be good for the American people?" (Brown, 2022). This is often why people refer to our government as an oligarchy rather than a democracy.

Anyone who is a minority should be worried if Trump wins the election coming up. “Trump praised China for executing drug dealers and pledged to do the same. He called for the U.S. to eliminate electronic voting machines and said America is being "poisoned" by immigrants.” Trump often blames minority groups for all of the problems in the world but does not realize that he is truly the problem. Trump is known for creating violence when something does not go his way, which ignites fear into those who do not agree with him and people of lower ranking. “He has previously warned of problems if things go wrong for him, writing on social media last year, before he faced any of his four criminal indictments, that "false" charges against him would bring "potential death & destruction” (he denies all wrongdoing.). And in March, during a campaign rally, as he talked about the auto industry, Trump said that the country would

face a broader "bloodbath" if he's not elected in November" (Ibssa and Kim, 2024).

This is one of the fears for lower income Americans, what will happen if Trump does not win. While the status quo might not change, how much danger will his opposers be in? People are forced to vote for a candidate that they do not agree with in order to prevent a candidate they hate from winning. "Everything should be done to ensure that a Democrat Party candidate, whomever that might be, should win in 2020. That includes even Joe Biden, they say. Left liberals like themselves should simply 'hold their noses' and vote for Biden, if necessary, if he gets the nomination." (Rasmus, 2020). In times like these, some people are forced to not be themselves because they fear the idea of having a president they hate.

It is foolish for people to think that if there was no Green Party then a majority of the votes would go to the democratic party. "Clearly those who voted Green did so because they couldn't stand Hillary, or knew of her record, or understood that a vote for Hillary would have meant a vote for war as well as more of the same failed economic policies of the Bill Clinton-Obama era that created the real conditions that gave rise to Trump," (Rasmus, 2020). There is a reason that each person votes in the specific party is because they align with their political values, it is not a smart idea to believe that everyone aligns with you. It is clear to some that the Green Party has more democratic values compared to the actual Democratic Party. "Most Greens are Green because they've come to understand what the Democrats in the era of neoliberalism really stand for, both in domestic and foreign policy: escalating income inequality, precarious jobs, stagnant wages, unaffordable healthcare, poverty in retirement, rising rents, continuous wars, incessant tax cuts for the rich and their corporations, indenture to student debt, etc. That's the legacy of both Republican and Democrat regimes since the 1970s—i.e. the past 50 years now," (Rasmus, 2020). Maybe it is time to look at each party's label and change some things

around. It might finally be time for a new party to see the light of the presidential house.

A status quo is called a status quo for a reason, it is what you can expect. No matter who is in office or what plans they claim they have for our country, or how “great” they claim to make it, our country will always run the same. There are sometimes changes that can negatively impact the country. Like status previously, the overturning of Roe. v. Wade, the Don’t Say Gay, loose gun control, and many more. If Trump ends up winning this next election, we can expect nothing different than what is going on right now. Trump might go at things differently, with a more pocket filled approach than someone who truly cares about the people. Now, do not get me wrong, Biden is also focused on how much money he can make. It is understood, this is their job, but at what point is too far. At what point have they crossed the line from needing to survive into greedy and just wanting as much as they can have. While it was Trump who overturned Roe v. Wade, Biden talks about restoring it. One, many also fear what would happen if Biden won another term and Trump was not going to become president, even though he has been claiming he will certainly win this election. A lot of people fear we are going to get another repeat of January 6th. Trump has mentioned before that if he does not win this election, you can expect much worse to occur. If Biden becomes the president again, we can expect him to behave the exact same way he is behaving right now. One wonders, will either of them help what is going on in Gaza and Ukraine? Will either of them come to their senses and stop drilling for oil, instead going to solar power? Probably not, because oil makes a lot of money, more money than solar. No matter what happens, no one is going to be able to change the status quo.

Conclusion

No matter what party you side with, one thing can always be the same; we want a democracy. No more one-sided laws that file money into other people's pockets or people being

killed because they are of a different race, gender, or love differently than the status quo. No more dying on the streets because jobs are so scarce or not being able to go to college because they cannot afford to. It is time for everyone to be accounted for and for everyone to feel safe in a country they call home. Democracy allows this to happen. If we left all the power in the hands of those who are trained for this kind of job it would be even more about themselves rather than the people, they are ruling. If we found a way to keep the system the exact same but make sure all the rules and laws actually benefited the people, then everything would be perfect. The next question to ask ourselves is what kind of economy do we want? While both capitalism and democracy are good for the country, they cannot be together. Socialism is the best economic practice. Instead of trying to get as much money as a person can, the economy would focus on making as much money as we can in total. We would strengthen our trading partners and instead of having private owners, a large group of people would have a share. This would help the entire economy grow rather than a select few. There will still be a higher up group, but everyone would have an equal amount of profit rather than a gigantic separation. Every person whose data has been used has had many different ideas about how our country should run, but at the end of the day we yearn to have representation. Government is one of the most controversial topics because people can argue for days and never come to a consensus. But it is a great honor to live in the world we do, allowing us to be open minded to all the different opinions we might see ourselves facing. At the end of the day all the people want is to feel safe, loved and protected. Hopefully we can give it to them.

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