

The 2024 Elections and the Status Quo Change- If Any

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Abstract

As the 2024 elections came to an end, much controversy and opinions made their way up to the surface. Many democrats claiming democracy has now officially come to an end with Trump in charge, while conservatives think he will make America great yet again. What do you think? If you were given a thorough analysis about what our political leaders have done throughout history without telling you which is which, would you be able to pick them apart? Would their leadership be so distinct if there is evil and good? Thorough research has come to reveal that our political and economic status quo stays the same every four years regardless of who wins. It is more of choosing which oligarch appeals to you the most. Either way, those ruling people will be the same ones who have been working hard for decades to keep up the capitalist system in which only they are rewarded. This article will argue in what ways we can see for ourselves how both parties are one, what is the root of the problem, and how we can deal with oligarch's strategic techniques on trying to keep themselves in power.

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Political Status Quo

The political status quo, have you ever stopped to think about what it could be? One could argue that many do not. However, when you do your research, you would be shocked at how many possible answers there could be. Pluralist theory, where power is dispersed through various interest groups but no main leader. How about Marxist Theory, where the state serves everyone's class, treating them all as equals and not showing favoritism to the rich. Or how about democracy, the one we are all the most familiar about. Where supposedly we get to control how our government is run and have a say in major decisions. Well, there are many different theories as to what our political status quo is, but have you ever considered the oligarchy theory? This political status is one where those with money are in control of all decisions. Why can this be a valid argument? There are hundreds of reasons.

To begin with, back in the 1930's, oligarchs took lots of power from people which resulted in unemployment of millions of people. To stop this, President Roosevelt legalized unions/organizations thanks to the National Labor Relations Act, while putting in place banking regulations to prevent another possible crash (Hedges, 2020). Some examples of those organizations would be the Emergency Banking Act, the Securities Act, and the Banking Act. The Emergency Banking Act (1933) permitted the government to temporarily close banks and fix their problems before reopening them (Gauri, 2024). This reassured other people in knowing that their money can be stored safely. The Securities Act (1933) focused on making sure that companies provided full and correct financial disclosures when sealing a deal (U.S. Securities...2013). This protected both parties by having an honest and transparent exchange. The

Banking act (1933) was also recognized as the Glass-Steagall Act. What this act did was separate commercial banking from investment banking. It also insured bank deposits from losing their money in case of another bank malfunction (AccountingInsights, 2025).

All these acts were working in favor of gaining people's trust in the banks to profit from them once more, and it worked. Not only that, but high earners were also getting taxed at 91% by the government of Dwight Eisenhower. He also put in place several beneficial programs such as Social Security and the public pension program to provide special assistance to farmers and migrant workers. A distinct noticeable thing he also did was to establish the United States Housing Authority and mandated the minimum wage and max on mandatory work hours through the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (Hedges, 2020). Roosevelt was clearly working in favor of classes, and one could say at one point he saved capitalism and democracy. This left oligarchs fuming and therefore with time oligarchs took over and dismantled all these regulations and programs that were taking away their power. Now, they see it as scandalous and irrelevant if we ask for the rights back, as if it was killing them when we had it. Even leaders who now claim that they can make a change, have not ever and will not ever go as far as President Roosevelt did when trying to make people's life easier. The most they would do is maybe make taxes a tad bit less expensive and call it a day. They would do the absolute bare minimum and act as if they worked so hard for that change to occur. Then look at us as if we were crazy or ungrateful when we ask for more. When what we were given was what we always should have had since the beginning. As Hedges' states in his article, "We now live in an oligarchic state. The oligarchs control politics, the economy, culture, education and the press.". Because of how much power oligarchs have, they do not even bother checking in with us on decisions that impact on our everyday lives.

For example, ever since congress passed the AUMF, presidents have used that to protect their legal scaffolding for many years. Which includes having the authority to detain and kill without checking in with the judicial branch or us. This is supported by Rotondaro's article that states, "Congress passed the Authorization for Use of 2 Military Force (AUMF)...The public never had a say". The AUMF has been the paper used to excuse the undeclared wars and murders that have been going on for the past 2 decades. However, many disagreements arise regarding who is in power and act shocked when presidents carry out these actions when in reality both were cooperating on getting this document to pass. From what we can see, the only ones taking part in these decisions are those with sufficient funds to be noticed, in other words oligarchs. None of this happened just because Trump recently stepped into office, he just made it so much clearer to us as to what they are doing because he is pretty bad at hiding it. The same article from Rotondaro quotes, "Trump didn't break democracy. He just took the mask off...revealing the ugly core...We need to reckon with the fact that our democracy has been undermined from within - by both parties, for years." Trump did not destroy democracy, he just revealed that it was never really there. The system is what needs to change. For that, both parties would need to make sacrifices and admit that both parties have contributed to the breaking of rules and democracy. This is something that the pair of parties, especially the democratic, are unwilling to do because it would require them to humble and renounce its legacy by recognizing that they also played a part in how ruined our system is (Rotondaro, 2025).

Economic Status Quo

Just like the political status quo, our economic status quo is also rigged. The question now is how? Well, in short, based on our trusted sources, one can argue that we live under a capitalist system made for the success of oligarchs, we could call it an oligarchic capitalism. This

is a system in which oligarchs use their funds and power to manipulate markets, laws, and politics to extract wealth while we suffer with the consequences of it. The worst of both worlds, but once again, it's America.

Take the recurring recessions for example. "Rather, recessions and downturns are how market capitalism "corrects" the imbalances it also causes". The ones who are under this capitalist and oligarchic control are the main ones who deal with the consequences and will continue to do so as long as the system is put. One thing this comes to show is that the recessions are never mistakes in the process. Rather a crucial part of it in order for oligarchs to benefit from it eventually. However, those who suffer from it every couple of years are us. Something a few might find surprising though is how terrified this has our political leaders. They are also trapped in this hardwired game! As Wolff states, "Recessions have always haunted the leaders of countries where capitalism is the prevailing system". Every leader recognizes that their future in politics resides in the next recession and the effect it has both short and long term on everyone and everything (Wolff, 2019). This also proves how promises that the presidents make about our economy are all empty because they both know that neither of them can stop these recessions. Therefore, they just try to sell us the better sounding promise in hopes we vote for them.

Even president Joe Biden proved this claim to be true when he gave a speech to his donors back in 2019. If you are not familiarized with it, it states as follows, "[n]o one's standard of living will change," said Biden. "Nothing would fundamentally change". Biden himself admits that none of his policies would change anyone's standard of living, meaning everything will stay the same. He is here most likely talking about the economy. Not even that though, our situation gradually worsens each day. Our suffering does not matter to them though; all they care about is keeping their donors happy. Here's the cherry on top, when analyzing his small speech, Biden

seemed to feel guilty about having to tax them a very small amount of their earnings. We know this because he mentioned taxing them as a form of unnecessary punishment but reassuring them that the amount taken away would not even hurt their pockets (Higgins, 2019). Which is something that many would say it's ironic to think about because here we are living paycheck for paycheck but where is the sympathy we deserve or get from our president? We are getting taken away much, much more than they are but interestingly enough, ours is considered as a help to the government while to oligarchs it would be considered a punishment. Because of this, it's reasonable to ask then, why do people keep believing all these promises when these crucial conversations and information exist?

Both “Distinct” Parties Under One - Bipartisan Oligarchy

Well, the most logical conclusion one could come up with is that people are simply uninformed or ignorant as to what they hear and pay attention to what benefits them. Listening to what small changes these presidents claim they will be able to make while in office lets them have that small sense of hope to cling onto, and most importantly, that illusion of decision. Why can we say this? Well, let's say someone offered you two different types of beverages, lemonade, and a sweet tea. They give you the freedom of choosing whichever one you prefer; however, they try to hide the fact that both of those drinks have poison infused into them. So whichever one you decide to drink, it might have a better tasting distinct flavor at first, but it leads to the same result and ending then the other drink would have. So, would it have really mattered which one you picked? No, the same with politics. “The Democrats, like the Republicans, are the political face of the oligarchy.” His article goes into depth about the scary similarities there are between our political leaders. As an example, both Democrats and Republicans agreed and authorized the funding of our bloated military in fiscal with \$738 billion dollars. This can serve

to show how both these parties cannot be much apart if they are being funded by the same corporations, and from there, fund the same forever wars. A fun fact you might be surprised at, is that both parties seem to have similar enough moral values to the point where they feel comfortable switching back and forth from the Democratic party to the Republican. Their decision just bases on what they benefit more from (Hedges, 2020).

That can leave many to start to wonder what really are these two distinct visions these political leaders offer to us that we have to choose from? Well, not much, considering that not only do they both get funded by the same corporations, but they also constructed a perfect playbook to defy the definition of democracy. “The playbook he uses was written by both parties over decades of eroding democratic norms, consolidating executive power, and circumventing meaningful checks on authority...he just brings it out into the open.”. Trump is breaking rules and not listening to both judges and courts, so people are upset. But all presidents from Both Republican and Democratic administrations have done this in many ways, many times, just more discreetly. A very common claim and excuse to abuse their power is using the war card; therefore being able to apply wartime powers without checking in with any legislative or judicial powers (Rotondaro, 2025). Knowing this, would you think it is wise then to put your bet and vote on one leader when they both do the same thing? Well, Hedges' same article put it into words in the shortest but quickest way possible, “if those of the left continue to put their faith and energy into the Democratic Party, they are not simply willfully naive but complicit in their own enslavement.” He lets us know that those who truly want a change in our society, not left of right, but a change in class, should not lie to themselves and believe that any party will do anything for them. Thankfully, many people are starting to open their eyes to the reality that both of our main leader options are a lost cause. The statistics from Washington’s Blog are rather

impressive as he reports, “84% of all Americans believe political leaders are more interested in protecting their power and privilege than doing what is right...78% believe that the Democratic and Republican Parties are essentially useless in changing anything, because both political parties are too beholden to special interests to create any meaningful change”. This is a big reason as to why a lot of people do not even bother to cast their vote. They know that no matter what or who they vote for, their vote might not get counted. Or as usual, we vote, nothing changes, and we do it again repeatedly every four years.

What is even funnier, is that our former ex-president Joe Biden admitted to putting those with money as his first priority and defending their name. For short context once again, Biden was giving a speech to his donors when conducting a fundraising trip in New York. As part of his speech, he mentioned, “‘you know, what I’ve found is rich people are just as patriotic as poor people,’ said Biden. ‘Not a joke. I mean, we may not want to demonize anybody who’s made money’”. His form of expression comes to reveal his heart's true interest: the oligarchs over the American people. What was problematic about this is that for oligarchs to keep their power, they have to take it away from us. This includes having policies and regulations that leave us living paycheck to paycheck and bribing large companies to not abstain from harmful practices that harm both living beings and our home, Earth. If this does not portray the famous saying of, ‘the love of money is the root of all evil’, there is not much else that will. Therefore, knowing this, how can any logical thinker believe that change will occur thanks to the president they chose when that same president is working with the problem itself, oligarchs. Not to mention they are not only working with the problem, but they are also working for the problem.

Root of the Problem? Capitalism

“The basic cause of current and past downturns in capitalist economies is the system itself”. Its author tries to tell us how the status quo will not change by itself or under any of the two main political parties unless we start looking at the root of the problem, the capitalist system. Why are there not many already? Well, believe it or not, research shows that in order to distract people from having the slightest revelation that the problem roots from the system itself, many leaders try to blame current world issues around them as the cause. Why do they do this? Well, because one could say it is a mutualism relationship between oligarchs and capitalist. They both are growing money incredibly fast by the day. The sad part is, for Democrats to keep it this way they are willing to do whatever it takes, including framing everything and everyone but themselves to take the blame as to why we have so many problems. “The leaders of the Democratic Party...would rather implode the party and the democratic state than surrender their positions of privilege...Its lies, deceit, betrayal of working men and women and empowering of corporate pillage made a demagogue like Trump possible.”. This furthermore explains how the system itself, capitalism, is fueling these oligarchs and preventing change from ever occurring.

The Distraction Process

Now that we know why capitalism is the root of the problem, how does it manage to help oligarchs to stay in power? Well, as previously mentioned, leaders try to blame current world issues around them as the cause of our problems. Wolff explains this in detail in his article, “[m]ost political leaders of countries where capitalism is the prevailing system know, consciously or not, that their job descriptions include a commandment: Thou shalt not challenge or even question capitalism as a system...If needed, suitable scapegoats - notably those that have proved useful in the past - need to be blamed.” For presidents to carry this out effectively, they

not only need to find good and effective scapegoats, but also strategically calculate the information they decide to present to us in order for us to barely even see the capital's external issues. Wolff confirms this idea by stating "It is important to notice how leaders carefully consistently avoid any critique of the capitalist system and its internal structure". A scapegoat is someone or something that is being wrongfully blamed for in some cases, something the other person committed.

Here are just a few examples as to what type of scapegoats have been used in the past from many presidents to shift people's attention from capitalism; attacks on the Federal Reserve, China's economic warfare, immigrants, looming recessions, and much more (Wolff, 2019). It is not surprising to know that our leaders are trying to confuse us into believing who is the real problem. Constantly throwing the hot potato to anyone available until it explodes in their hands and the blame falls on them. It is surprising, however, to see how many people are falling for it. Especially because when analyzed further, you come to realize how repetitive our government ruling is. Who would have thought we were actually learning from history and past examples. Instead, we would relate more to the saying, "Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it", a very famous quote by George Santayana. Nevertheless, that is not the only tactic they use. This tactic is probably the one we can visibly see and experience every day wherever we go, whether that is out on the streets or in the media, or culture wars. Oligarchs love the culture wars the Democrats and Republicans fight over because it gives us something to distract us from real world problems, while working as the perfect cover for oligarchs to continue their pillage. There are daily protests and arguments about the minor world problems that people do not want to look outside of. Many of those are about homosexuality, abortion, immigration,

all that are real problems in the world, but none that can be solved by our current political leaders.

Based on all the evidence provided, it would really be a waste of time and energy focusing on those issues at this moment in time. Not only that, we may not realize it, but this poses a serious danger to humankind if we continue to allow oligarchs to pursue their ambitions. To counter this, you would have to find and criticize their weakness. Talking about class. They will always avoid talking about this topic because that is the only thing where we can all unite as individuals and overpower them. It is 99% versus the 1%. They do not want us to realize that what we are asking for are basic human rights. In Hedges' article, he describes how oligarchs are very scared of this supposed radical socialist, Bernie Sanders, a brave man who talked about class. Shockingly enough, Sanders' democratic socialism revealed political views that would not even be considered to form part of the radical compartment. This is because, unlike the rest, he does not promote nationalizing the banks or having or having people participate in a mass civil disobedience to eliminate the system we are under (Hedges, 2020). And yet, even when he does not go above and beyond to propose a basic system change, he is a huge threat to oligarchs, does that not tell us how weak they truly are under that protective shell they try to show to the world? To try and prevent ideas from socialists like Sanders' to influence our own and try to rebel, oligarchs try and showcase his thoughts as unrealistic and have us settle for the "reality".

A journalist suggested, "In short, 'realism' is their defense for the limitations they place on their studies of responses to capitalist downturns,". Oligarchs want us to believe that they want to help with capitalism, by adding new policies. However, when looking back at the policies that were put in place to limit and be debated to "help" end the capitalist problem, none of them ended up working in the end; so why should we keep reusing that same strategy over and

over knowing it will not change the outcome? It is like that famous saying that goes around, “You can’t read a book twice and expect a different ending”. So why is it any different when it comes to serious real-world problems where every decision taken by oligarchs can have a drastic effect in our life. When debaters are confronted though, they try to gaslight people into thinking that their demands are too unrealistic and unachievable. What seems interestingly realistic though, is adding modifying policies, the same policies in different fonts that have never proved to stop the problem. It is not that they cannot stop it, they simply just do not want to. Like how Wolff mentioned once more, “they once again hesitate to go beyond them to propose basic system change. Genuine ‘realism’ would admit those policies failures and open the public and professional discussion of capitalism’s recurring recessions”. An example of this would be leaders such as Elizabeth Warren that have not been willing to make a change under the ‘New Deal’ that involves the fiscal and monetary anti recessionary policies (Wolff, 2019).

Once again, it is very clear to notice that those with a lot of money are the ones who have the power but use it for the wrong things. Both Republicans and Democrats are afraid to demask the real enemy because they do not really care about the nation, but the amount of money that goes in their bank account. So, what can we really do? This whole time it seems like we are getting the same theme over and over. It is us against them, 99% versus the 1%. Why are they still getting away with their actions? For those who want to stop being taken advantage of, they have to start acting for a change. The more time we let oligarchs get away with their actions, the harder it will be for everyone else to claim their power back. Eventually, one could have so little that all of it combined will not make a single scratch on them. Therefore, from there, unity is going to be incredibly important. Our only hope for change in our system is to take down the oligarchic rule or as Hedges mentioned, we will eventually become extinct. The way for us to do

that would be to have immense patience and perseverance. We have to understand that change will not happen overnight. Will we be willing to sacrifice ourselves and others for what is thought to be the greater good for everyone? Such as organizing unions, strikes, organizations that provide public and local currencies/banks, third parties, and eventually gaining back the power from the oligarchs that were once ours (Hedges, 2020).

Conclusion

A big reason as to why people keep making these bizarre choices on who to elect for president, is because they are uninformed. They truly do not know better. All this information that was discussed and analyzed are things that you have to dig deep for. Because of this, because of the lack of wanting to educate ourselves, we make bizarre decisions on topics that can affect us greatly. Knowing this, it would be wise for those who do know now, to inform those who do not, so they see the reality of things and realize there is no way out of this form of living for as long as we are ruled by these oligarchs in this capitalist system. The more one forms unity with one another, the stronger you become, so in the future it actually becomes a realistic possibility to be able to prevent America's errors from repeating itself indefinitely.

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