

Political Nuclear Winter

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Abstract

Like peanut butter and jelly, the United States and freedom have been associated since its conception. One does not seize power to relinquish it, leaving the elite theory to explain the extreme power imbalances between the 1% and 99%. That theory being: in any place where the rich control policy, there is no democracy. By comparing the institutional and structural approaches to analyzing the government, only one can provide a conclusive and sensible answer to the dissatisfaction with life in America. It becomes elite-favored normative evidence versus empirical evidence when it comes down to explaining the deep issues within our system. After Lobbyists have seized power, they safeguard a revolution by burning it into the brains of the people that the U.S. is free and degrading them to the point where they think of themselves as social capital. They are told that they have complete freedom, despite being locked in place. They are told that the candidates they vote for are there to satisfy their interests, albeit being farther from the truth. As their campaign would lead you to believe, they aim to “change” the status quo, that is, the current state of affairs; the 1% and the 99%. But, by looking at each candidate's policies, it becomes a choice between continuation and a change for the worse.

Political Nuclear Winter

As the United States of America would feed you, this is a free country. A place where everyone can live together in harmony with equal opportunity, equal rights, and equal voting power. You can be whatever you want to be and live the American dream, whatever that is. Being in America means that you are a winner. Working for an American corporation means you have made it. So come to America, where everyone can be a winner! From the beginning, people are led to believe that the definition of freedom *is* the United States. We are the gold star of all patriotism! Proud to be an American! United States of America! Freedom! Remember that! That means, if you find yourself in a rough financial spot, you are in control of that. Pull yourself up by your bootstraps and get to work!--Which is a nice sentiment for fairy tale books.

There are four theories of the American Government. The first, being Traditional Democratic Theory, and that citizens hold influence over policymakers, it deduces that America is empirically democratic. The Institutional Approach. Pluralists argue that the government is too small to represent the people, so one must join a group to influence policy. Hyperpluralists argue that all these different groups are fragmenting society and making it harder for the government to govern, or “pluralism has gone sour”. The final theory is Elite Class Theory, where society is divided into two socioeconomic classes: The Elite and the People. It states that all places are divided into different classes, and in any place where the elite decides policy, it cannot be a democracy. The latter of the four theories seems to be the best way to describe the current rocky, rough patch the US is currently in. Using gathered information, the structural approach can pinpoint where the institutional approach to analyzing the government falls flat on its face like a cardboard prop. By defining the status quo of America, or in simpler terms, the elite at the top, we can see what would have truly come to pass under both Trump and Harris. The elite class

theory only serves to further back the notion that America is not a democracy, and has not been for a very, very long time.

America, The Land of The Free*

There is a large issue with what is considered freedom in the United States today. The version of freedom that is being put in place hides behind its name, attempting to conceal the ugly truth that capitalism plays in our government and general decision-making. The institutional approach explains the structure of America on paper, making the image of the country pieced together with these instructions. While from a structural approach, it will paint a completely different picture, one that is more sensical to use when addressing the issues that unsatisfied citizens are running into. Capitalism and democracy repel each other like magnetic repulsion, baseline structures being incompatible. Despite this, the United States uses freedom with an asterisk to explain how they work in perfect harmony on its soil.

The institutional approach to analyzing America emphasizes the role of formal structures, rules, and organizations in shaping political, economic, and social interactions. This approach focuses on how institutions like Congress, the presidency, the judiciary, the legislative, and the executive branches allow for the country to function. The institutions of America are the board and instructions to the game that is this country, while completely ignoring the pieces of Economics that play a crucial role in how the game plays. The institutional approach claims that economics are pieces of a different game altogether, insisting on their separation.

The structural approach to analyzing America addresses its democracy, the institutions and their role in this country, how it all fits into the larger picture of capitalism. Before we look at the United States' structure, we can begin to get an idea of its structure by looking at other countries.

From China, where astounding economic growth persists despite Communist Party rule, to Russia, where President Vladimir V. Putin has squelched opposition, to Venezuela, where dissent is silenced, developments around the world have been tearing jawbreaker-size holes in what has been a remarkably powerful idea, not only in academic circles but also in both Republican and Democratic administrations — that capitalism and democracy are two sides of a coin. (Cohen, 2007).

For a long time, the idea that capitalism needs democracy to control it so it can thrive and does not turn into something tyrannical has ruled most political spaces. But as Žižek (2015) put it, most of the countries where communists are still in power, like China or Vietnam, appear to be the most efficient managers of a very wildly productive capitalism. Using these examples, the concept of the ironic marriage between democracy and capitalism needing each other begins to deflate.

The United States claims that it is a democratic republic where everyone is free to do as they choose, but the vast economic ravines between the general populace and the rich CEO corrupts that idea. The concept of democracy is that normal people should have meaningful influence on how society is managed. In every society, decisions have to be made that impact on every single person. The idea of capitalism has many meanings but one underlying principle that comes in the form of the way it organizes the economy. In every capitalist system, you will find an Employer-employee relationship. There is a boss or manager, someone who owns and runs the business. Then there are typically many workers who obey what an employer, boss, or manager tells them. This is most common in the dominant capitalist institutions: corporations. There, power lies in a few people at the top who decide everything. This leaves people at the bottom to simply obey. The people at the top then use this power to enrich themselves, creating

inequality in the process. The inequality of power in these dynamics directly goes against what Democracy stands for. (Aristotle, 1905).

Inequality undermines political democracy because it allows wealthy individuals to buy up the political system. As Pizzigati put it, 50 billionaire families have already injected more than \$600 million altogether into the 2024 elections, only serving as further proof that the nation's rich consider democracy another commodity they can buy. This sways autonomy when influenced by the general public and their votes can be bought and sold. Not only that, but there are instances of candidates fundamentally bribing millionaires. Donald Trump asked oil industry executives to raise \$1 billion for his campaign and said raising that money would be a 'deal' given how much money they would save if he were to be re-elected as president. Also, Trump reminded said millionaires that a re-elected Joe Biden would let Trump's 2017 tax cuts expire at the end of 2025 (Pizzigati, 2024). This makes it so that running for president is no longer for the interest of the people, but for the interests of millionaires. As Chomsky (1998) explained, the population takes on the role of spectators, forbidden from participating due to the exclusion from the arena that is the economy. The idea of a level playing field with equal opportunity that is ruled by democracy is thrown out the window in the face of big businesses having the Government in their back pocket and vice versa. It does not serve the people at all, and it continues to become abundantly clear as the version of democracy that we run here in the United States continues to spiral into ruin. As Chomsky said, one of the big topics in mainstream political science is comparing public attitudes with public policy. And the results are very telling. About 70% of the population, which are the lowest on the income scale, are disenfranchised. Their opinions have no effect on policy, and their elected representatives do not pay any

attention to their voices. That is one of the main reasons why many of the American citizens do not bother with voting. But, as you move up the income scale, you begin to get a little more influence on policy. When you get to the top where the massive concentration of wealth is, they fundamentally set policy because they are closer to the representatives, matching them monetarily and power-wise. “That’s not democracy, that's Plutocracy and that's what we have accepted.” (Chomsky, 2014). When it comes down to voting in the United States, it tends to lag behind most other developed countries in voter participation, but that does not go without reason (World Population Review, n.d.). America's structure is unsound, leading to the people feeling like their opinion is not heard and facing economic stressors as the higher-ups become less and less in touch with the populace. As the richer get richer, the poorer get poorer. You can see this extreme disproportionate weight at the top with the richest 1% holding about 35% of the nation’s wealth (Pizzigati, 2024).

The education system puts quite a bit of effort in attempting to hide this power imbalance from the masses. According to Chomsky, government funding has shifted in many different ways. Pentagon funding is tanking while funding from the NIH and other health related government institutions is increasing, and the private corporations know. Now, genetic engineering firms are hanging around, attempting to pick up the research that taxpayers are paying for so that they can market it back to them and make profits. “It’s just transparent, it's in front of our eyes and it takes a very effective educational system to prevent people from seeing it.” (Chomsky, 2014). The government-issued textbook can be seen purposefully leaving out information, rewording definitions, and downplaying government involvement in the economy to fit the narrative the government wants to tell, which directly correlates what Chomsky is saying.

Democracy and the free enterprise system are not the same thing. One is a political system, and the other is an economic system. However, both are firmly based on the concept of individual freedom. America's experience with both systems clearly suggests that the two reinforce one another in practice. Because the United States is a democracy, Americans enjoy a long list of economic rights. These include the right to choose one's work, the right to join or to not join labor unions, and the right to acquire, use, transfer, and dispose of property as one wishes (Shea, 2023, p.38).

They argue that because the United States is a democracy, that the people choose to participate by their own will to be in a privatized tyrannical corporate setting. Their pillar of reasoning sits on the foundations of it being freedom, since you are paid, you are free to quit a job, or to buy this or that. But that is only freedom of choice, not full freedom as they would lead you to believe. The worker takes the place of a slave whose only freedom lies with moving throughout the system that is capitalism. Capitalism is a game that you do not have the freedom to opt out of, you will need to play it at some point if you plan on being a functioning member of society. And thus, there cannot be a capitalist democracy because the majority of the people will end up at the bottom of the economic pyramid and do not hold meaningful power. A true capitalist democracy would self-destruct, and that is why it has only been partially instituted. The 'masters', or big business owners, know that they cannot survive a laissez-faire economy or a true democracy since voting would not be for their interests (Chomsky, 2014). As best put by Žižek (2015), in the United States, lives can be controlled and regulated but without the person being aware of it. They will still experience themselves as fully free, but it is a version of unfreedom. It is unfreedom that is unconscious, which is one of the scariest things when it comes to addressing the issues with the United States.

The good thing about our structure currently is that it leaves room for improvement. Though we seem to be rapidly moving to a plutocracy, there is not a great amount of force put behind imposing ideas America attempts to portray or act against those who speak out. Revolutions from the government happened in points all throughout history, resulting in victories and developments. The consumption and circulation of intellectual property, content that resists being constrained by private profit, is a good step in the right direction because it is communistic in nature. You must keep yourself educated with diverse material out of the reach of capitalism. Always question the information you are given and people in positions of power. Analyze what true motives may lie underneath and resist corruption through protest, strikes, speech, and other methods. Use the freedom that the government cannot touch without breaking their own rules they have set for themselves. Thinking critically in modern-day America is how we can begin to win the fight against the government-backed tyranny capitalism imposes on us.

Due to the opposing forces backing the freedom of democracy and the hierarchical nature of capitalism, it has become exceedingly clear that America's system is in disarray. The government is aware of its erosion of democracy, using a loose definition of freedom, or freedom with an asterisk, to mask its decay. The people have become nothing more than social capital in the eyes of the rich. It is not completely impossible for democracy and capitalism to live in harmony, but the United States is a perfect example of how these two might clash. Using a textbook, it criticizes itself minimally, only further pushing the idea that the institutional approach to confronting our government is overall unreliable. To take a step back and scrutinize America for its structure is where you can begin to see a complete picture rather than mere blueprints. Albeit the country is making a running start towards a capitalistic plutocracy, that can be changed.

There is not much effort behind enforcing the people to stay in line when it comes to criticizing the government, since it mostly leans on its educational system to hide its flaws. The first and most powerful step that can be taken to change the future of the United States is to awaken the sleeping beast that is the people.

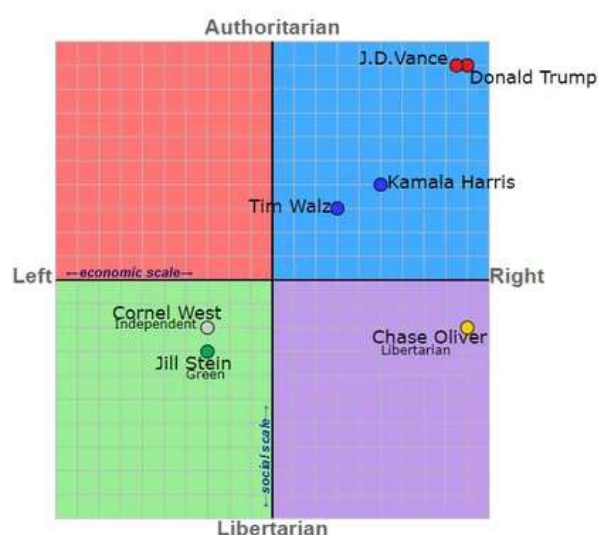
US Jenga

“You could grasp the mechanics of the Society you lived in, but not its underlying motives. Do you remember writing in your diary, ‘I understand HOW: I do not understand WHY’?” (Orwell, p.329, 1949). The two sides that divide America say that their oppositions are completely different than themselves. Democrats versus Republicans: considered polar opposites despite not being very far from each other on the political compass. Each side claims they will change the economic and social status quo, though when it comes down to their policies, we see a stalling or regression of their claimed progression. The Democrat corporate party aims for minor social changes to appease their citizens while changing leading industries to those who benefit their backers. The Republican corporate party aims to tear down the social changes that have already been made to appeal to the older generations, using marginalized groups as a distraction to keep them from noticing that they are enriching themselves. Although neither the Democrat nor Republican party are for the people, citizens would see more benefit in having a Democratic leader rather than a Republican one. As the people want everyone to mutually agree to play a different game, democrats want to keep the game going, and republicans want to sabotage everyone else until they are the winners.

The differences between Democrat and Republican, specifically Trump and Kamala Harris in this case, can be visually measured through a tool called the political compass. It shows where the candidates based on policy fall on an x and y coordinate plane. As the candidate is

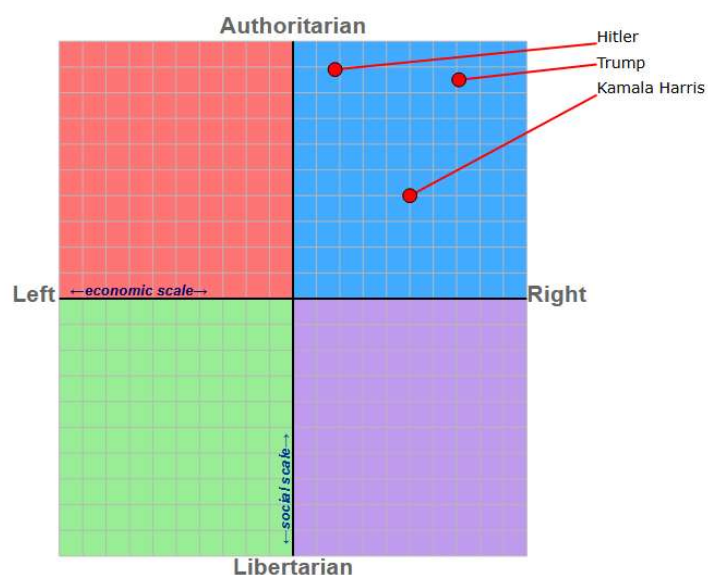
placed to the left based on policies, you will find more progressive and revolutionary parties. When they are put on the right, you get more libertarian and reactionary parties and so on and so forth. (The Political Compass, 2024)

Although the two candidates have a little gap between them, it still matters who is in power. An area with “blind submission to authority and the repression of individual freedom of thought and action” (Lindstaedt & Pereira, n.d.) is described as authoritarian. Harris is still in the top half; therefore, she is still partially authoritarian. She is considered a protector of the status quo. The status quo economically lies in the way the population is arranged by income; a few people at the top hold a lot, and a lot of people at the bottom hold little.



Socially, it is to maintain the illusion of equal opportunity and equality among the general populace. Harris maintains this exact idea with her policies. For Trump, it is the opposite as he pushes the economy to become even more top-heavy as he dismantles the illusion of equality. It is described as such by Meyer (2024):

The rules of the game it intends to shred are, in the main, those that offer some dignity and hope to immigrants, trans people, women, and other oppressed groups. The change Republicans are after is reactionary in direction: sabotaging the country’s excruciatingly slow transition out of a fossil fuel economy, tearing up workplace safety protections and union rights, and handing out a new round of generous tax cuts for the rich.



The majority of the voters in the US do not believe their vote can make a difference, and in a way, it does not. To see real change, citizens would need to vote outside of the red-blue party trap. Conveniently, those two parties have the most money, and money is power over public opinion. There is still a difference between protecting the social and economic status quo by investing a

little bit in the base of our top-heavy structure, versus taking more and more to the point of collapse. As Hartung (2025) put it:

What's at stake, however, goes well beyond how the government spends its money. After all, such decisions are being accompanied by an assault on basic constitutional rights like freedom of speech and a campaign of mass deportations that already includes people with the legal right to remain in the United States. And that's not to mention the bullying and financial blackmailing of universities, law firms, and major media outlets in an attempt to force them to bow down to the administration's political preferences.

Even if there is not a lot of change economically, there is still quite a bit of change when you look at the social axis. Hitler and Trump being so close socially is not that outlandish, considering the violent ICE deportations that target specifically Latinos, the violation of personal rights and freedoms, and the attempts to erase any mention of diversity from government files

and articles. Instead of gas chambers or concentration camps, we have innocent Latin Americans being sent to a foreign mega prison without due process (Reichlin-Melnick, 2025).

Kamala Harris changes the status quo with her tax plan, as it would get rid of Trump's 2018 tax plan. Harris's tax plan was to strengthen the middle class with tax cuts and higher taxes for the rich, which economists support enthusiastically. Her policies were to pass major economic plans that invested in infrastructure and green energy. She also wanted to ban price gouging, as well as give economic support to new home buyers and parents (BBC, 2024). Harris's policies would change the status quo by strengthening the economy as a whole and encouraging population growth. With the investment in green energy to match the overarching status quo of the developing world, that comes at the cost of older, not-so-green industries. She called for polluters to pay up for their damage to the atmosphere, and for fossil fuel companies to be prosecuted (Glasser & Sarnoff, 2024). For the economy, it would be likely that gas prices would go up, but the tax cuts and the plan to transition the US as a whole to be greener would soften the blow.

Her policies, if followed through, would be a slight change for the status quo. In 2019, Kamala Harris vowed to end the filibuster and pass the Green New Deal (Bradner & Kelly, 2019). This would force companies to create unnecessary pollution to stop, creating more green energy power sources, making public transit more readily available, as well as addressing social issues like race disparities, the wage gap, and improving public education. If passed and implemented, the Green New Deal would have greatly benefited the middle class when paired with the rich burdening most of the expenses (Cortez, 2019). Though with this, her bluff was called when she was asked if this proclamation meant that the US would have free healthcare. She responded that she would not push for a single-payer system if she were elected. Instead, she

opts for reducing prescription drug prices and erasing a chunk of medical debt carried by Americans. Though the question of how she planned on doing that had some not-so-detailed information backing it.

Harris was planning on reinstating Roe V. Wade, having a strong stance on it being a violation of personal freedoms. That would be a reinstatement and continuation of the social status quo, as it puts back what had once been taken away. She made no plan to change gun laws. She had originally aimed to “reform” the border, but she ultimately chose to continue the construction of the wall (BBC, 2024). Not much would change socially other than reinstatements and continuations.

One of the biggest economic and social status quo changes introduced by Trump's presidency was tariffs. The way Trump presented tariffs to his followers by saying that it will create more jobs, and that, “It is a tax on a foreign country. It’s a tax on a country that is ripping us off and stealing our jobs.” (60 Minutes, 2025). The Trump administration released a chart of their reciprocal tariffs, where the second column was half of the first column of percentages. The first side being labeled “Tariffs Charged to the USA Including Currency Manipulation and Trade Barriers,” is not the case when it comes to their calculations. That side is how much the US would need to charge other countries to achieve a Trade Balance. By finding the trade surpluses and deficits of the trade between the US and other countries, the tariff percentage is what is needed for the equal cost of goods bought and sold. In short, tariffs are supposed to be made so that there are equal amounts of money in trades between countries. When put like that, tariffs don’t seem that horrible, but they only work against the consumer. The equation must have demand for a product to go down in relation to prices, which will not happen for different essentials like food or lumber after a disaster. The final percentages are also not consistent with

the calculations put on the chart if they wanted to have an equal budget, as they proposed. As far as surpluses go, out of the chart Trump had been waving around when he proposed this to his supporters, 17 countries on that single part alone have a trade surplus with the US. That should mean their tariffs should be in the negatives according to their equation. But the Trump administration instead chose to keep the tariffs equal, always falling at 10% (Parker, 2025). Therefore, there is an underlying reason that it is likely to enrich themselves, considering the risk of trade wars. The original equation does not account for reciprocal tariffs, how much the consumer will be affected, or what the contents of the imports and exports from each country are. Though the Trump administration has held back from putting these into action, if they went through, it would mean an immediate jump in price for goods. It is estimated that they will cost the average consumer 4,700\$ each year. Even the Trump administration has come out to say, while presenting this policy, that it will increase inflation by 10% (Budget Lab Yale, 2025). This is a clear attempt to manipulate the market by forcing scarcity, allowing those in power to charge whatever they want for goods when the country is closed off from affordable trade. This does not change the status quo at all but makes the middle and lower classes become an extremely unstable stool for them to stand on.

Donald Trump's tax plan, which is to keep lower taxes on the rich, is an example of trickle-down economics. It does not work, having been discredited by economists and already executed in the US before, proving that same point. "A new Economic Policy Institute report finds that extending Trump's tax cuts for the rich and corporations would likely cause more damage to working families and the U.S. economy than previous rounds of tax cuts." (Bivens, 2025). To make up for this large chunk of tax dollars they are no longer receiving, they tax the

middle and lower classes higher and cut different social programs or lower funding. As said by Hartung (2025):

Under the guise of efficiency, the Trump administration is taking a sledgehammer to essential programs and agencies that are the backbone of America's civilian government. The virtual elimination of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and plans to shut down the Department of Education are just the most visible examples of a campaign that includes layoffs of budget experts, public health officials, scientists, and other critical personnel whose work undergirds the daily operations of government and provides the basic services needed by businesses, families, and individuals alike. Many of those services can make the difference between solvency and poverty, health and illness, or even, in some cases, life and death for vulnerable populations.

This means cuts for things like social security, including the financial relief and medical programs that come with it, public education, and others. Those who are elderly, disabled, or single-parent households will be neglected. Those who are unable to afford private education will be turned away. This would only make it all the harder for those struggling to keep their head above water. This does continue his 2018 tax cuts, which would be a continuation in the eyes of the status quo, if there were not the cutting of social programs on top of that. The status quo is tweaked as the people on top are putting in even more effort than before to privatize these government programs by ripping them to pieces. With this, it has become exceedingly obvious that the tearing down of these government programs is so that they become another thing to be privatized. And again, this serves to only make the future of the status quo look more and more foggy as these risks collapse.

Social programs are not the only targeted thing, as science development is being cut off and misconstrued. Donald Trump talked about cutting funding for ‘transgender mice’, actively mocking the research by saying they are spending all this money to “make mice transgender”. But the actual scientific study was for transgenic mice, which covers a large area of neuroscience. “Of the \$8 million in research funding they are mocking, only \$1.4 million went specifically toward transgender research. The rest? It was spent on studies of Alzheimer’s, PTSD, and depression — research that could save lives. But that’s not what they want you to focus on.” (McCoy, 2025). The defunding of this research is going to greatly impact our neuroscience development in the US, as the president villainizes the trans community to spread misinformation. The Trump administration continues to target marginalized groups like the LGBTQ+ community and immigrants for issues in the country, which directly changes the status quo for these groups as this country devolves into a blame game of who is the true traitor of freedom. The Office of Personnel Management was told to strip gender ideology and eliminate any mention of diversity, equity, and inclusion from websites, contracts, emails, and government forms. As well as disbanding any employee resource groups and terminating grants and contracts related to these ‘deep issues’, as the Trump administration would refer to them in Project 2025. (Johnson, 2025). The status quo changes when they aggressively backpedal by defunding science and erasing diversity, discouraging progression in social spaces and scientific spaces. As Hartung (2025) said, freezing actions made by the civil rights division of the Justice Department will let racial injustice run rampant without legal pushback. The crackdown on DEI is the attempt to erase the hard-won victories of the civil, women’s, labor, immigrant, and LGBTQ rights movements. These movements had brought the country closer to living up to its own claims to freedom and equality for all.

“...The heretic, the enemy of society, will always be there, so that he can be defeated and humiliated over again. Everything that you have undergone since you have been in our hands—all that will continue, and worse. The espionage, the betrayals, the arrests, the tortures, the executions, the disappearances will never cease. It will be a world of terror as much as a world of triumph. The more the Party is powerful, the less it will be tolerant: the weaker the opposition, the tighter the despotism. Goldstein and his heresies will live for ever. Every day, at every moment, they will be defeated, discredited, ridiculed, spat upon and yet they will always survive. This drama that I have played out with you during seven years will be played out over and over again generation after generation, always in subtler forms. Always we shall have the heretic here at our mercy, screaming with pain, broken up, contemptible—and in the end utterly penitent, saved from himself, crawling to our feet of his own accord. That is the world that we are preparing, Winston. A world of victory after victory, triumph after triumph after triumph: an endless pressing, pressing, pressing upon the nerve of power. You are beginning, I can see, to realize what that world will be like. But in the end you will do more than understand it. You will accept it, welcome it, become part of it.” (Orwell, p.348, 1949)

Each party has its Lobbying, which is defined as “seeking to influence government action through written or oral communication.” (NCSL, 2025). What changes is how we run the country, which is based on who or what the lobbyist is backing each candidate, since the incoming policies will be geared toward enriching that particular group. Kamala Harris’s top 3 backers were Forward Future USA, Asana, and American Bridge 21st Century (OpenSecrets,

2024). An important key detail is that all of these are organizations. Forward Future USA aims to “rebuild America’s middle class” (Forward Future USA, n.d.). It was founded by Chauncey McLean, who works largely in consumer data collection to run ad campaigns for democratic campaign members (InfluenceWatch, n.d.). Forward Future USA’s goal aligns with Kamala Harris’s tax plan and her plans to aid new families. Asana, a software company whose CEO is Dustin Moskovitz. Dustin was an economics major, a co-founder of Facebook, and a philanthropist who donated to science organizations fighting diseases (Forbes, n.d.). Dustin is clearly tech-oriented, which would fit in well with Harris’s tech-heavy future. Being an economics major would fit into Kamala’s tax plan, and the fact that Trump is now defunding the very same programs he has been giving money to for the past years, it would make sense he would fund Harris’s campaign. As for American Bridge 21st Century, it is a super PAC organization that “supports democrats and opposes republicans” (American Bridge 21st Century, n.d.). It was founded by David Brock, who worked largely as a journalist for a good chunk of his life (Ballotpedia, n.d.). The whole notion of American Bridge’s goal being ‘democrats good, republicans bad’ would make sense for their funding. In the case of Kamala Harris, her top three backers are much cleaner corruption-wise.

Donald Trump’s top 3 backers were SpaceX, Timothy Mellon, and Miriam Adelson (OpenSecrets, 2024). A key detail is that half of these are direct people. SpaceX is a company that designs, manufactures, and launches rockets (SpaceX, n.d.). Due to Trump’s praise of fossil fuels and Harris’s opposition, SpaceX would either need to support Trump or kiss their fossil fuels goodbye. That and Trump funneling more and more into the Pentagon and away from the people is directly being given to SpaceX. Lipton (2025) said this:

The boost in federal spending for SpaceX will come in part as a result of actions by President Trump and Mr. Musk's allies and employees who now hold government positions. The company will also benefit from policies under the current Trump administration that prioritize hiring commercial space vendors for everything from communications systems to satellite fabrication, areas in which SpaceX now dominates.

As best put by Hartung (2025), "Activities that funnel revenue to weapons contractors have barely been touched — hardly surprising given that Musk himself presides over a significant Pentagon contractor, SpaceX". SpaceX, if they could secure a win for Trump, could become a monopoly of space-oriented technology and be safe from prosecution by becoming a government contractor. It is no surprise that their CEO, Elon Musk, who is the richest man in the world, would benefit significantly from Trump's tax cuts for the rich, and how he planned on boosting the Pentagon funding. What he is allowed to do, buying a seat in our government, only stands as a blatant sign that corruption has infested and taken over the Republican party. As for Timothy Mellon, he is a banker. Trump's policy to cap interest rates on credit cards at 10% seems like a good thing, but it could decrease credit availability for low-income households, which would push them to turn to even more immoral payday lenders for money. This means fewer poor people who are less likely to pay back their loans will be thrown out by bankers. Miriam Adelson is a notable shareholder of the Las Vegas Sands. Trump's policy on ending taxes on tips as a way to boost the income of tipped workers, especially in Las Vegas, will have little to no effect unless it also ends Social Security taxes on tips. In which case, it negatively affects tipped workers' retirement income (Meyer, 2024). What ending taxes on tips will mean is that a worker will hit their minimum wage faster, so if they do not meet it through tips, Miriam will not have to foot

the bill. The people will be the ones to feel the corruption as if it were a cavity, as Trump continues his presidency.

The third party does not agree with the direction in which America is headed. As best put by Sanders (2025),

I do not often find myself in the habit of thanking Elon Musk but I must confess that he has done an exceptional job of demonstrating a point that a few of us have been making for years. And that is the reality that we live in an oligarchic society in which billionaires dominate not only our politics and the information we consume from the media, but our government and economic lives as well...But given the news attention Mr. Musk has been given over the last few weeks as he illegally and unconstitutionally dismantles government agencies, I think it is an appropriate time to ask the question that the media and most politicians don't seem to be asking: What do he and other multi-millionaires really want? What is their endgame?.... It is what ruling classes throughout history have always wanted and have always believed is theirs by right: more power, more control, and more wealth.

The status quo has not changed, but the actions taken by Elon Musk have made it extremely clear what exactly the status quo economically is. And that is to fill his own pockets and nobody else. This has always been the status quo, but the republican party is pushing its limits. Where the status quo has changed is that the citizens are now being told through action that they are worth less than millionaires. The Trump Administration is spitting in the face of their followers while they allow Elon Musk to shake the working class down for money. The curtain is now glass, and the people watch as they are being taken advantage of. And they know that the people will not stand up to leave the theater because it is all they have ever known.

“The proletarians will never revolt, not in a thousand years or a million. They cannot. I do not have to tell you the reason: you know it already. If you have ever cherished any dreams of violent insurrection, you must abandon them. There is no way in which the Party can be overthrown. The rule of the Party is forever. Make that the starting-point of your thoughts.” (Orwell, p.330, 1949).

Conclusion

Using evidence, both normative and empirical, that has previously been gathered and the information of the four theories, the question of the type of government that America has can be answered. It has become clear that America proves the elite class theory with how its democracy is in tatters. “...Power is not a means, it is an end. One does not establish a dictatorship in order to safeguard a revolution; one makes the revolution in order to establish the dictatorship. The object of persecution is persecution. The object of torture is torture. The object of power is power. Now do you begin to understand me?” (Orwell, p.332, 1949). Money, a form of power within itself, combined with power over policy, only serves to boost each other indefinitely. This is not a combination that we should be allowing for if we are as hungry for equality and freedom for all as we so claim.

We are the priests of power,’ he said. ‘God is power. But at present power is only a word so far as you are concerned. It is time for you to gather some idea of what power means. The first thing you must realize is that power is collective. The individual only has power in so far as he ceases to be an individual. You know the Party slogan: ‘Freedom is Slavery’. Has it ever occurred to you that it is reversible? Slavery is freedom. Alone—free—the human being is always defeated. It must be so, because every human being is doomed to die, which is the greatest of all failures. But if he can make complete, utter

submission, if he can escape from his identity, if he can merge himself in the Party so that he IS the Party, then he is all-powerful and immortal. The second thing for you to realize is that power is power over human beings. Over the body—but, above all, over the mind. Power over matter—external reality, as you would call it—is not important. Already our control over matter is absolute.” (Orwell, p.333, 1949)

The biggest monopoly of all is the power over the media and information given to the public. They will always, as long as they hold this position, have say what is real and what is fake. Governments should be regulating monopolies, but ours allows itself to be bought, which is the ultimate monopoly when paired with money and the ability to manipulate the people. Business owners of any kind should never be considered for a position in the government. Point blank. Especially if they have the power to sway public opinion. America is not a democracy; it is a monopoly, and that is what it brainwashes generation after generation to accept as okay. It comes to a point where they do not need to hide corruption when the people are told time and time again that the corruption is normal. The human lifespan is not long enough for a single person to think back to when America’s capitalism did not decay its democracy. This system, rusted and weak, is something the people are actively trained by those in power to accept and take what is given. Learned helplessness is defined as, “...when an individual continuously faces a negative, uncontrollable situation and stops trying to change their circumstances, even when they have the ability to do so... The perception that one cannot control the situation essentially elicits a passive response to the harm that is occurring” (Psychology Today, n.d.). This is what has become evolution in a capitalist society, and it should be no surprise that we see a massive hike in mental health issues like depression. Learned helplessness is something that can be seen

all around in modern day human nature, as more and more people accept that things are the way they are and that they will always be that way. It has become fight, flight, or acceptance.

“We control life, Winston, at all its levels. You are imagining that there is something called human nature which will be outraged by what we do and will turn against us. But we create human nature. Men are infinitely malleable. Or perhaps you have returned to your old idea that the proletarians or the slaves will arise and overthrow us. Put it out of your mind. They are helpless, like the animals. Humanity is the Party. The others are outside—irrelevant.’

‘I don’t care. In the end they will beat you...’ ‘No. I believe it. I KNOW that you will fail. There is something in the universe—I don’t know, some spirit, some principle—that you will never overcome.’

‘Do you believe in God, Winston?’

‘No.’

‘Then what is it, this principle that will defeat us?’

‘I don’t know. The spirit of Man.’

‘And do you consider yourself a man?’

‘Yes.’

‘If you are a man, Winston, you are the last man. Your kind is extinct; we are the inheritors. Do you understand that you are ALONE? You are outside history, you are nonexistent.” (Orwell, p.340, 1949).

Those who try to rise on their own to fix an issue are shot and killed. There will not be one singular person to be the ‘hero’ of society. No one person will come to save the country, and that is why waiting for one is infinitely more harmful than trying to spark change yourself.

People do not seize power to relinquish it. It will need to be a collective movement, with no particular person at the head, to instate a new system. “Too big to fail,” as they say. There can be no single inheritor. In an age where we can make it so that not a single person would ever need to work a physical labor job ever again, why do we find ourselves riddled with fear over survival? People hoard wealth to accumulate power. People seek power to make sure their life either stays the same or continues to improve. Survival, though practically promised in recent times through advancement after advancement, dictates our each and every action. We have allowed for cortisol to be the true leader of society. And the people with the least amount of self-control are allowed to take and take in an infinite search for more control, more wealth, and more power; the first two being versions of the last. Modern-day society has been an ongoing construction project for a millionaire’s nirvana. The reason we see the scale beginning to tip is because that construction is coming to an end, especially in the United States.

“The real power, the power we have to fight for night and day, is not power over things, but over men.’ He paused, and for a moment assumed again his air of a schoolmaster questioning a promising pupil: ‘How does one man assert his power over another, Winston?’

Winston thought. ‘By making him suffer,’ he said.

‘Exactly. By making him suffer. Obedience is not enough. Unless he is suffering, how can you be sure that he is obeying your will and not his own? Power is in inflicting pain and humiliation. Power is in tearing human minds to pieces and putting them together again in new shapes of your own choosing. Do you begin to see, then, what kind of world we are creating? It is the exact opposite of the stupid hedonistic Utopias that the old reformers imagined. A world of fear and treachery and torment, a world of trampling and

being trampled upon, a world which will grow not less but MORE merciless as it refines itself. Progress in our world will be progress towards more pain. The old civilizations claimed that they were founded on love or justice. Ours is founded upon hatred. In our world there will be no emotions except fear, rage, triumph, and self-abasement.

Everything else we shall destroy—everything. Already we are breaking down the habits of thought which have survived from before the Revolution. We have cut the links between child and parent, and between man and man, and between man and woman.”

(Orwell, p.336, 1949)

If we were to keep our current republic system, then we would need a more libertarian leader. A watchdog for the people, rather than an errand boy and lapdog for lobbyists. A government without any involvement of larger economic forces, though still breathing down the necks of those in charge of corporations, is funded by only anonymous donations and tax dollars. A government that has that same transparency of the glass curtain. But this time, it will tell the people the truth and only the truth, and will strive to make genuine change.

If we were to replace our current system to fix the issue at its core and ensure that there is no decay. And that means we who will decay with time cannot be the pillar that will hold future generations. What we need is a system where survival, stress, anxiety, and yearning for power are of no concern to itself. These things are the true creators of conflict and unsatisfactory ruling. Insecurity is unstable. For a human to do that on their own would be to deny all aspects that have driven humanity up to this point. Until we can figure out how to erase those things from our own DNA, we could possibly create something that does not have those things built into it. Code, ones and zeros. Although there have been countless horror films created about this same idea, if coded correctly, there should be no reason to fear: Artificial Intelligence. With new rises in

strong AI programs coming from China to crash NVIDIA stock, as well as its ability to learn and interpret information given, it can serve as an unwavering moral pillar program that future actions taken will need to be run through to ensure no catastrophic events will occur from it. Though it is still in its infancy, there are becoming more and more developments where software stops limiting hardware, especially in places like China where there is less monetary motivation within tech. With a rise in robotics as well, there could be a lot to benefit from by making a police force that is also like this. A referee or set of rules that comes with its enforcer, of sorts. For a system to be satisfactory, it needs to listen to all of its people in a timely fashion, ensure nobody is forgotten, and think of every single possible outcome to an action. To run at a large scale and have consistent results, there is no possible way that a team, full of different types of people with different backgrounds, can be able to execute something to that degree. As this form of technology continues to develop, it becomes more and more complex, much like how humans do. It can learn to think with logic and empathy. It can serve to be an unfaltering ethical and virtuous backbone to society. As humans continue to be tied down to a short life span for our complexity, AI is not. And it can make sure that certain standards are upheld for generations and generations to come.

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