

SOCIAL JUSTICE



My Drift

Title: Social Justice

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Date: 20 Sep 2020

Article Number: 342-2020-20

| | | |
|---------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|
| Black Lives Matter | Say Their Names | Vote |
| I Can't Breathe | Justice | Peace |
| Equality | Freedom | Enough |
| Power to the People | Justice Now | Say Her Name |
| Sí Se Puede (Yes We Can) | Liberation | See Us |
| Hear Us | Respect Us | Love Us |
| Listen | Listen to Us | Stand Up |
| Ally | Anti-Racist | I Am A Man |
| Speak Up | How Many More | Mentor |

Have you seen any of these “Social Justice” messages lately? Well, if you are a NBA basketball fan and you are watching the playoffs, look closely at the back of the player’s jersey. You will see one of these messages instead of the player’s name. These are the messages agreed upon by the National Basketball Players Association and the NBA.

Of 350 players listed on rosters for the NBA’s restart (in the bubble in Orlando, Florida), 300 players will wear social justice messages on the back of their jerseys, while 50 players decided to stick with their last names. (Notable players who will not be wearing social justice messages include: Jimmy Butler, Anthony Davis, Paul George, James Harden, Dwight Howard, LeBron James, Nikola Jokic, Kawhi Leonard, and Ben Simmons.)



Black Lives Matter May Be the Largest Movement in U.S. History

The recent Black Lives Matter protests (and riots) peaked on June 6, when half a million people turned out in nearly 550 cities across the United States. That was a single day in more than a month of protests that still continue to this writing in Mid-September 2020. Example: Portland Police arrest over 50 people on 100th consecutive night of violent demonstrations.



Portland, Oregon has had more Protests and Riots than any other US city

Recent polls suggest that about 20 million people in the United States have participated in demonstrations over the death of George Floyd and others in recent weeks. These figures would make the recent protests the largest movement in the country's history, according to scholars and crowd-counting experts.

Social Justice and Social Injustice Definitions

Social justice is a concept of fair and just relations between the individual and society, as measured by the distribution of wealth, opportunities for personal activity, and social privileges. In Western as well as most Asian cultures, the concept of social justice has often referred to the process of ensuring that individuals fulfill their societal roles and receive what was their due from society.

In the current global grassroots movements for social justice, the emphasis has been on the breaking of barriers for social mobility, the creation of safety nets and economic justice.

Social justice assigns rights and duties in the institutions of society, which enables people to receive the basic benefits and burdens of cooperation. The relevant institutions often include taxation, social insurance, public health, public school, public services, labor law and regulation of markets, to ensure fair distribution of wealth, and equal opportunity.



Social injustice can be described as a situation in which dominant population is made known of the inequity that leads for others due to their relative position in the structure of power. Social injustice is also the way unjust actions are done in the society. Social injustice occurs in a situation where the equals are treated unequally, and the unequal is treated equally.

In other words, social injustice discrimination can also be described as unequal treatment of persons, for a reason which has nothing to do with legal rights or ability.

Examples of Social Justice Issues Facing the World

Equal human rights for all seems like it would be simple enough. However, there are vast social justice issues that plague countries around the globe. When you look at social justice, it is all about equality. To be socially just, every individual must be treated equitably and fairly by society.

Unfortunately, around the world, this utopian ideal is far from reality. Social injustices can happen at small and global scales, in schools and by whole diverse groups. Whether it is the segregation of an entire cultural group or bullying in the hallways of a school because of your sexual orientation, social injustice is everywhere.

Changing Face of Social Justice

With the modern era, the face of social justice has changed. While rallies and marches are still prevalent, the Internet is also used to bring social justice issues to light. This can be seen through movements like “Black Lives Matter” and the “Me Too Movement” against sexual harassment. These campaigns work to expand issues into bigger movements that rally activists together.

Types and Examples of Social Justice

Now that we know what social justice is and how it's changed, it's time to take a look at a few historical and modern examples.



Racial Discrimination

While several global organizations are looking to provide equal rights to all, racial discrimination is still a hot topic. There are laws in place around the world, but incidents still happen to illustrate that racial discrimination has not been irradiated. Here is a classic example of racial discrimination.

Slavery

An ultimate example of racial discrimination was slavery, which was abolished in America in 1865. African Americans and people of color were forced into servitude on homes and farms, and they were treated badly.

You would think that slavery was a non-issue in our current culture. However, it is still a social injustice issue found around the world. Even today in 2020, according to Free the Slaves, 40 million people around the world are still trapped in some form of slavery, including marriage slavery and forced labor.

Stereotyping

Stereotyping is something that can happen to any racial group. While there is positive and negative stereotyping, both can have consequences in a society. For example, since 9/11, Muslims have faced discrimination and prejudice in America, sparked by fears of terrorism and acts committed by radical Mideast Muslims.

Segregation

A famous historical example was the segregation of Black Americans in the U.S. via Jim Crow laws. Black Americans were required to use specific schools, houses, and medical services, among other institutions and facilities, that were separate and of lesser quality than white Americans.



Ageism

Discrimination comes in all shapes and sizes. The number of birthdays that you have accumulated is another example. Ageism, where the elderly are discriminated against, creates negative stereotypes of the elderly being weak, feeble, or unable to change. A few examples include being denied work and/or being seen as a burden to society.

Sexuality and Gender

Beyond discrimination based on age, other hot topics both currently and historically are gender and sexuality. In recent years, gender has morphed into a complicated topic that goes beyond the binary designations of male and female. Now days it is sometimes hard to determine a person's sex due to gender identity laws including transgender status or because of sexual orientation preferences.

Wage Gap

When it comes to wages in the workplace, there is a noticeable differentiation between men and women. According to the American Association of University Women (AAUW), today in 2020, the gender pay gap from men and women for the same job was 82 percent. Stated simply, women make 82 percent of what men make doing the same work.



Some LGBTQ Individuals Protesting

LGBTQ Oppression

When it comes to oppression and human rights, individuals of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transsexual and Queer (LGBTQ) community face several forms of social injustice and oppression. For example, same sex marriages are outlawed in some states and countries. Additionally, transsexual students often face discrimination and bullying within school settings.

Education System

Globally, steps are being made to close the education gap between male and female students. However, there are still several areas around the world where girls may never set foot into a classroom at all. UNESCO notes that more than nine million girls never go to school, compared to only six million boys in many areas of Africa.

Child Welfare

Social workers and human rights activists are working tirelessly to combat issues relating to children and their welfare. Despite their efforts, there are still several problems children face that are harmful to their health and mental wellbeing.

Forced Child Labor

Laws are in place around the world to ensure a safe work environment for children. These laws were drafted from historically harsh and dangerous working conditions for children. While many would like to believe that child labor is a thing of the past, it persists in some areas around the globe.



Children Forced to work in Factories in India

For example, China and India still have children working in forced labor, producing carpets, clothing, footwear, yarn, and most everything else. Not only are conditions unhealthy and unsafe, but the work hours are also very long.

Child Abuse and Neglect

Thousands of children globally are being neglected. They're also being physically, sexually and emotionally abused. The World Health Organization (WHO) reports that as many as a quarter of adults have been abused as children. This abuse has both social and economic impacts that include mental health problems.

Poverty and Economic Injustice

Poverty and economic injustice are pressing issues for human rights and social justice. Not only do many men, women, and children in the U.S. and abroad lack access to housing and food, but many also lack access to the basic human necessity of clean water. For example, several industrial cities like Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, Flint and Detroit Michigan have discovered unsafe levels of lead and other chemicals in their water, which can lead to permanent brain damage in children.



Lack of Resources

When you think of poverty, you might think of having little food or maybe living in a homeless shelter. However, the sad truth is that many individuals don't have access to food, clean water, schooling, healthcare or even sanitation at all. The World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that more than 500,000 children die from lack of food, shelter, or clean water each year. Here in the U.S. alone, more than two million children lack clean water, especially the Native American Indians.

Quality Healthcare

Poverty and disease go hand in hand. Access to quality healthcare is harder when your income is lower, but access to quality food is diminished too. This means heart disease and diabetes are more likely among impoverished individuals.



Creating the same human rights for all would be nice but it will probably never happen. Humans have been on earth for about 200,000 years and there has always been social justice issues. Do you think things will change overnight?



What group of people have suffered the most social injustice in the history of the world? Take a guess.

Answer: The Jews

- The Romans were responsible for the crucifixion of Jesus Christ.
- The Romans slaughtered thousands of Jews during the Jewish-Roman Wars.



- Lions and other wild animals served as a popular form of public execution for convicted criminals and Jews/Christians at the Roman colosseums.
- Jewish (the Israelites) enslavement to Pharaoh of Egypt. You remember Moses and the Red Sea miracle – right?
- The Holocaust was the World War II genocide of the European Jews. Between 1941 and 1945, Nazi Germany systematically murdered more than six million Jews, around two-thirds of Europe's Jewish population.

Racial Makeup of the United States

| Race | Percentage | Population |
|--|-------------|--------------------|
| White | 60.0% | 200,000,000 |
| Hispanics and Latino | 18.5% | 60,000,000 |
| Black | 13.5% | 45,000,000 |
| Asians | 6.0% | 20,000,000 |
| Middle Easterners and North Africans | 1.3% | 4,500,000 |
| American Indians and Alaska Natives | 1.0% | 3,000,000 |
| Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders | 0.3% | 700,000 |
| Two or more races | 2.4% | 7,500,000 |
| Total | 100% | 330,000,000 |

**** Percentages and Populations are best estimates and rounded**

So, out of all these different races that makeup the people of the U.S., which one has suffered the most social injustice? Take a guess.

Did you say the Blacks? In my humble opinion it is the American Indians – not the Blacks.



Some of the Injustices of the Past and Present Against Native Americans

The land that is now the United States of America originally belonged to the Native American Indians. They were here first! Then the “White Man” came starting with Christopher Columbus in 1492. European discovery and colonization of our country lead to the demise of millions of Indians.

The legal basis of the US relationship with tribal nations is rooted in the treaties. The US made approximately 800 treaties with tribes and all of them were violated by the US in sometimes extreme ways that resulted in massive land theft and the subjection of Native Americans to the power of American law.

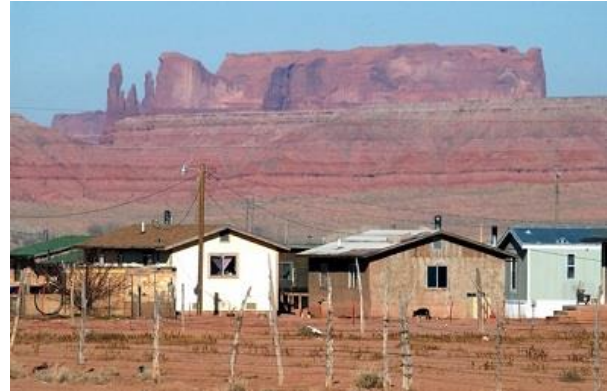
It is estimated that during the initial Spanish conquest of the Americas up to eight million Native American people died, primarily through the spread of Afro-Eurasian diseases in a series of events that have been described as the first large-scale act of genocide of the modern era.

The Indians did fight back and won a few battles. The Battle of the Little Bighorn was an armed engagement between combined forces of the Lakota, Northern Cheyenne, and Arapaho tribes against the 7th Cavalry Regiment of the US Army. The battle, which resulted in the defeat of U.S. forces, was the most significant action of the Great Sioux War of 1876. It took place along the Little Bighorn River on the Crow Indian Reservation in southeastern Montana Territory.



General Custer's Last Stand

But eventually the Indians were defeated and forced onto reservations around the country in the most desolate places our government could find to put them.



Today in the year 2020, most Indians are still on the reservations and they have a lot of problems. **Talk about Social Injustice!**

Yes, Native Americans face many challenges today. These challenges are experienced socially, economically, culturally and on many other fronts, that include but aren't limited to:

- **Impoverishment and Unemployment**
- **Violence against Women and Children**
- **Native Americans are Less Educated**
- **Poor Quality Housing**
- **Inadequate Health Care**
- **Unable to Exercise Voting Rights**
- **Native Language is Becoming Extinct**
- **Limited Financial Institutions**
- **Natural Resources Exploitation**



American Indian Family

There are 567 tribes that are recognized by the federal government and this entire diverse race of people are subjected to racial abuse, social discrimination, wrong depiction in mental, spiritual, and physical violence. These historical and social hurdles have resulted in many Native Americans becoming alcoholics and suicide potentials.



My Views on Social Justice and Social Injustice

(Everybody has their own opinions about the “Black Lives Matter” and “Social Justice for All” movement going on in the U.S. today – Here is mine.)



George Floyd

George Floyd had ‘violent criminal history’

In 2009, Floyd was sentenced to five years in prison for an assault and robbery. He entered a pregnant woman’s home and pointed a gun at her stomach while he searched the house for drugs and money.

Before that, Floyd had been arrested at least 9 times and convicted of charges ranging from theft with a firearm to drugs and served time in jail or prison 5 times.

On May 25, 2020, George Floyd, a 46-year-old black man died in Minneapolis, Minnesota during an arrest for using a counterfeit bill.

The policemen in Minneapolis screwed up and police across the nation are paying the price for it. Murder? I don’t think so, but let the courts decide that. George Floyd was a known thug and criminal who was a dangerous large man who had a history of not following police orders.

THIS IS THE POSTER BOY FOR THE ‘BLACK LIVES MATTER’ MOVEMENT?? WONDERFUL!

I have not heard anything bad about George Floyd from our liberal media. Have you? They make him look like the greatest person ever to walk on earth!

Violent Protesters have caused several \$billions in damage. Buildings, businesses, and homes were burned to the ground. Police and private cars were set on fire. Historic statues were destroyed. There were beatings and general mayhem. Hundreds of stores were looted and trashed. Many businesses already in trouble because of the Coronavirus will never open again. Many cities that are broke or almost broke are in big trouble. Who is going to pay for all this damage? **YOU the working taxpayer.**

DO YOU THINK THE GENERAL PUBLIC (BLACK AND WHITE AND OTHERS) ARE HAPPY ABOUT OUR GREAT CITIES BEING TRASHED BY GEORGE FLOYD PROTESTERS AND DOMESTIC TERRORISTS?? I DON’T THINK SO.

Race relations could be and should be a lot better. Protests that result in burning and trashing our cities is NOT going to help. **IT IS GOING TO MAKE MATTERS MUCH WORSE.**

Protesters who incited, set fires, broke windows, looted, destroyed statues, and/or attacked police and other civilians should be arrested, tried as Domestic Terrorists and put in jail.



Protesters in Salt Lake City, Utah



Protesters Tear Down Statue of Andrew Jackson



Protesters Want to Defund the Police

DEFUND THE POLICE or in other words, GET RID OF THE POLICE.

That is the DUMBEST idea I ever heard!!

Only the armed criminals would benefit by doing this.

The US is a country based on LAW and ORDER. We need more police and more jails especially with all this crap going on.

Sorry - I must stop here to take a break – My blood pressure is going sky high just thinking about what's going on in our once great country.

Did you know that in Chicago, 523 people have been murdered so far this year? That is 157 more than all of 2019. Here is the breakdown by race:

Black = 443

White = 55

Hispanic = 23

Asian = 2

The majority of the victims are young black men killed by other young black men. **DON'T THESE BLACK LIVES MATTER?** Where are the protesters?

There are only protests and riots when a white person kills a black person no matter what the circumstances might be. **The protesters don't care!**

The only black person I have heard talk about it thinks that black people must also “do better” is basketball great Charles Barkley. Here is what he had to say:



Charles Barkley

Charles Barkley recently weighed in on inflamed racial tensions across the country after the fatal police shootings of black men, saying black people are also to blame and have to “do better.”

The former NBA player and current analyst for Turner Sports, who has taken provocative stances on race previously, said in a telephone interview on the Dan Le Batard Show with Stugotz that while some police officers have “made some mistakes,” black people who commit crimes and “kill each other” are also part of the problem.

“There’s a lot of people at fault. The cops have made some mistakes; black people have made some mistakes,” Barkley said. “We have to sit back and be honest with each other. The cops have made some mistakes—that don’t give us the right to riot and shoot cops. We need the cops, especially in the black community. We as black people, we’ve got to do better.”

Barkley said he respects and admires what police officers do. He said there is “some reason why there’s racial stereotypes” and added that “some of these black people out there are committing crimes.”

“Let’s don’t sit there and act like all our hands are clean,” Barkley said. “We never get mad when black people kill each other, which that always has bothered me. I’ve always said we as black people, if you want respect, you’ve got to give each other respect. You can’t demand respect from white people and the cops if we don’t respect each other.”

I AGREE 100% WITH CHARLES!

One more thing. Back to those NBA basketball players. The average salary in the NBA is \$7.7 million dollars a season. The more famous players like Lebron James and Steph Curry make more than \$37 million a season plus another \$50 million plus for endorsements. Most players are millionaires and live in mansions located in exclusive “gated” communities. In 2020, 81% of players in the NBA are black. Life cannot be too bad for these guys and their families.



Steph Curry’s New \$6 Million Dollar Mansion

Darn! If I had been just a little bit better basketball player back in the day, I could had been playing in the NBA, rich, and living in one of those mansions. Oh well, I can’t complain since life has been good for me.

That is my take on Social Justice and the Black Lives Matter Movement, but what do I know since I’m old and a burden to society!

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