

Right Wing Fact Sheet

Hey right wingers, I just started this fact sheet. It would be great for it to expand and we would need multiple people to help contribute to this. If you have any information you would like to add, please email me at ernojames@gmail.com (yes, its a fake email). You can send me new information or new possible sections to add to this document. When you send information to me, you must include sources organized in a way where I can locate which info corresponds to a source easily. Also, please try your best to organize it with a manner of bullet points so I can add it to this document easily. You can literally email me any political information and rebuttals you want that follows the standards of conservatism, libertarianism, or any other right wing belief. Please keep in mind this is not officially done in any manner, as I will continue to add new info covering many studies and debunks to help other conservatives. Thank you!

Key for color coding (for maintenance use):

- White = finished for now but you can still add info
 - Green = formatted but lacking or otherwise needs revisiting
 - Yellow = mixed bag of link dump and formatted
 - Orange = link dump with minimal annotations
 - Red = does not exist yet
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Economics:

Socialism:

- Socialism Inherent Flaws and why it Fails
- Socialism Historical Failures:
- Socialism Failures in Venezuela
- Debunking: "Sanctions Destroyed Venezuela, not Socialism"
- Socialism Failures in the USSR
- Socialism Failures in Cuba
- Socialism Failures in Maoist China
- The Economic Calculation Problem
- Debunking: "Walmart is Proof the ECP is Outdated"
- Debunking: "Market Socialism Solves the ECP"

Communism:

- Communism Inherent Flaws
- Communism Historical Failures

Left-Anarchy:

- Anarchy Inherent Flaws
- Anarchy Historical Failures:

Capitalism:

- Capitalism increases economic growth and income
- Capitalism decreases poverty
- Capitalism increases life expectancy
- Capitalisms historical success:
- China
- South Korea
- USSR-NEP
- Capitalism Increases Overall Happiness
- Capitalism and Innovation
- Capitalism and Space Exploration
- Capitalism helps the Environment
- Private Sector vs Public Sector
- The freer the markets, the freer the people

Inequality:

- Debunking: “The rich getting richer and the poor getting poorer.”
- Debunking: “Wages have not tracked with productivity.”
- Debunking: “CEOs Make 300 Times More Than the Average Worker.”
- Debunking: “intergenerational mobility in the US has been flat for decades.”
- Debunking: “The rate of people surpassing their parents income has dropped.”
- Debunking: “Income Inequality is only growing worse over the years.”
- Debunking: “More inequality means more poverty and worse living conditions”
- Debunking: “The Gini Coefficient shows the US is ranked first in inequality.”
- Debunking: “The top 1% owns so much more income than the bottom 90%.”
- Why Inequality may have Benefits and doesn't really Matter
- Economic freedom increases social mobility
- No statistical evidence for inequalities impact on corruption

Taxation:

- Why High Taxes or Increasing Taxes is Detrimental
- Why Low Taxes or Decreasing Taxes is Beneficial
- Negative economic effects of a wealth tax
- Debunking: “the rich don't pay their taxes”

- Debunking: “The top 1% were taxed 91% in the 1950s”

Regulation:

- Negative effects of raising the minimum wage
- Why the minimum wage law should be abolished
- Negative Effect of Regulations
- Deregulation Benefits

The Top 1%

- Wealthy people are on average, harder workers

Refuting Karl Marx

- Tendency of the Rate of Profit to Fall
- Labor Theory of Value
- State Monopoly Capitalism
- Alienation

Debunks:

- Debunks to common studies and talking points:
- Debunking: “The rich just inherited their money.”
- Debunking: “the rich don't pay their taxes”
- Debunking: “Sanctions destroyed Venezuela, not socialism.”
- Debunking: “The rich getting richer and the poor getting poorer.”
- Debunking: “Wages have not tracked with productivity.”
- Debunking: “CEOs Make 300 Times More Than the Average Worker.”
- Debunking: “intergenerational mobility in the US has been flat for decades.”
- Debunking: “The rate of people surpassing their parents income has dropped.”
- Debunking: “Income Inequality is only growing worse over the years.”
- Debunking: “More inequality means more poverty and worse living conditions”
- Debunking: “The Gini Coefficient shows the US is ranked first in inequality.”
- Debunking: “The top 1% owns so much more income than the bottom 90%.”
- Debunking the Tendency of the Rate of Profit to Fall
- Debunking the Labor Theory of Value

Education

- Public vs Private Schools
 - Benefits of School Choice
 - Charter Schools
 - Educational Funding
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Healthcare:

Medicare for All:

- [Medicare for All reduces the quality of healthcare](#)
- [Medicare for All increases wait times which is sometimes deadly](#)
- [Medicare for All would hurt the economy and increase taxes](#)
- [Medicare for All would worsen the medical innovation in the US](#)
- [Failures of other single-payer systems](#)

The Free Market Alternative

- [Benefits of a Private, Free Market Healthcare System](#)
- [How Government Intervention Ruined the Healthcare System](#)

Debunks:

- [Debunks to common studies and talking points:](#)
- [Debunking: "The US has poor life expectancy compared to single payer countries"](#)
- [Debunking: "68,000 lives would be saved under M4A"](#)
- [Debunking: "45,000 deaths due to lack of insurance in America"](#)
- [Debunking: "the American health system is racist"](#)
- [Debunking: "The VA has shorter wait times than the private sector"](#)
- [Debunking: "22 studies agree that M4A saves money"](#)
- [Debunking: "A Lancet study shows M4A would save 450 billion dollars"](#)
- [Debunking: "M4A will increase job productivity"](#)
- [Debunking: "A Commonwealth Fund study ranked America last of 11 countries"](#)
- [Debunking the UMass study on healthcare](#)

Gun Control:

- [Red Flag Laws](#)
- [Assault Weapons Ban](#)
- [Gun Concealment Restrictions](#)
- [Mass and School Shootings](#)
- [International Gun Control](#)

Drugs:

Pros of Drug Decriminalization:

- [The War on Drugs Negative Impacts](#)

- [Benefits of Decriminalizing Drugs](#)

Cons of Drug Decriminalization:

- [Negative Effects of Drug Decriminalization on Society](#)
 - [Drug Decriminalization Negative Economic Effects](#)
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Systemic Racism:

- [Police](#)
 - [Drugs](#)
 - [Criminal Justice System](#)
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Police:

- [More Cops=Less Crimes=Saved Money](#)
 - [Tasers are Ineffective Weapons](#)
 - [Polls on Law Enforcement](#)
 - [Law Enforcement Violence](#)
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Environment:

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Covid-19:

- [Coronavirus Deaths](#)
 - [Coronavirus Contagion](#)
 - [Coronavirus Lockdowns](#)
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Gender and Sex

- [Gender is NOT a Social Construct](#)

Debunks:

- [Debunks to specific studies and talking points:](#)
 - [Debunking: “Patriarchy is a result of sex differences in gender roles.”](#)
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The USA

- Categories the USA is number one in:
- Economy
- Healthcare
- Military
- Science and Technology
- Culture
- Freedom
- Generosity

Economics

Socialism

- **Socialism Inherent Flaws and why it Fails**

- <https://www.aei.org/carpe-diem/why-socialism-always-fails/>
 - <https://fee.org/articles/why-socialism-failed/>
 - <https://foreignpolicy.com/2020/01/15/socialism-wont-work-capitalism-still-best/>
 - <https://www.heritage.org/conservatism/commentary/the-totally-utterly-irrefutable-case-against-socialism>
 - <https://mises.org/wire/mises-explains-why-socialism-fails>
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- **Socialism Failures**

- *Venezuela*

- [CATO '19](#)

- The 2018 edition of the EFW ranks Venezuela as the **least free economy among the 162 countries studied**

- [John '19](#)

- Prior to self-proclaimed socialist Hugo Chavez taking power in 1999, Venezuela was the richest country in South America. As of 2019, nearly **5 million people** (roughly 15% of Venezuela's total population) have **fled the country**, 44% are **unemployed**, and **inflation has reached 10,000,000%**.

- [Paul '19](#)

- “Before 1973, the Venezuelan government **did not own any companies and Venezuela grew 6.5 percent** year-on-year. In contrast, between 1974 and 1998 Venezuela experimented with democratic socialism and brought **GDP growth to 1.9 percent year-on-year**. Since 1999 they are experimenting with scientific

socialism and the rhythm is **0.0 percent or negative.**”³ (Today, Venezuela’s GDP is contracting at 10 percent.)

- ❑ In contrast, consider another **South American country, Chile**, which abandoned its flirtation with socialism back in 1973. At that time, **Chilean income was about 36 percent of Venezuela’s**. Operating under free markets and capitalism, Chilean incomes **have increased by 228 percent**, while **Venezuelan incomes have declined by 21 percent**. Capitalism has left Chileans **51 percent richer** than their Venezuelan counterparts”

- [FEE '20](#)

- ❑ **Chavez nationalized many industries including:** steel, agriculture, banking, telecomms, electricity, tourism, and oil. From 2001 to 2017, the Venezuelan [state](#) went from owning **74** public enterprises to **526**, four times more than Brazil and ten times more than Argentina. These were the results:
- ❑ **Steel:** In November 2019, Venezuela’s steel output reached an all-time low- a thousand tons, down from 479,000 tons in March 2007.
- ❑ **Agriculture:** Venezuela’s food production [fell](#) 75% in two decades while the country’s population increased by 33%. The economic crisis in Venezuela is so severe that 75 percent of the country’s population has [lost](#) an average of 19 pounds in weight
- ❑ **Banking:** Venezuela in recent years has suffered an annual inflation rate of 10,398 percent
- ❑ **Telecomms:** Venezuela [ranks](#) among the worst five countries for both mobile and broadband connection speeds. The state run telecoms were short \$1.8 million to meet its investment target.
- ❑ **Electricity:** Blackouts were [reported](#) to have hit 22 of 23 states. Venezuela has suffered from recurring electrical blackouts that have left millions without power or internet access for weeks at a time
- ❑ **Tourism and Travel:** Tourism has [declined](#) by about 34% since 1999
- ❑ **Oil:** Venezuela’s oil production is [reaching](#) the level the country had in 1929. Venezuela’s oil production [fell](#) by 24 percent between 2005 and 2016.

- [WhiteHouseGov '18](#)

- ❑ “Going from the U.S. economic freedom level to Venezuela’s would **reduce GDP by about two-thirds after 20 years.**” Another study, by Easton and Walker (1997), found effects that are

smaller although still economically significant. They estimate the elasticity of the steady state level of GDP per worker with respect to economic freedom level of 0.61, so that going to Venezuela's EFW would **reduce real GDP per worker by about 40 percent** in the long run.

- **Debunking: “Sanctions Destroyed Venezuela, not Socialism”**

- [Mises '19](#)

- Socialism destroyed Venezuela, not sanctions. The “analysis in Brookings’s report **does not find sufficient evidence to conclude that the sanctions were responsible for the worsening of the socioeconomic crisis**. At this moment, there is not sufficient publicly available data to rigorously estimate a causal effect. The Brookings report therefore concludes that most of the deterioration of socioeconomic indicators occurred prior to the sanctions of August 2017. In fact, a large part of the suffering and devastation in Venezuela has been inflicted by those in power since 1999 **and not as much by the sanctions imposed in 2017.**”

- ***USSR***

- [WhiteHouseGov '18](#)

- In the USSR, the **collectivization of agriculture** occurred with the First Five-Year Plan, 1928–32. Horses were important for doing the farm work, but their numbers fell by **47 percent**, in part because **nobody had much incentive to care for them when they became collective property**. In the Central Asian parts of the USSR, the number of cattle fell more than **75 percent**, and the number of sheep more than **90 percent**. According to official Soviet data for about 1970, the **entire suite of socialist policies**—“excessive centralization of the planning, control, and management of agriculture, inappropriate price policies, and defective incentive systems for farm managers and workers and for enterprises that supply inputs to agriculture”—**was reducing Soviet agricultural productivity about 50 percent**.

- ***Cuba***

- [WhiteHouseGov '18](#)

- In Cuba, the disincentives inherent in the **socialist system sharply reduced agricultural production**. As O’Connor (1968, 206–7), explains, “Because wage rates bore little or no relationship to labor

productivity and [state farm] income, there were **few incentives for workers to engage wholeheartedly in a collective effort.**” Research has analyzed the change in agricultural production in Cuba spanning the **agrarian reform period of 1959–63**, when about 70 percent of farmland was nationalized. Production of livestock fell between **14 percent** (fish) and **84 percent** (pork). Among the major crops, production fell between **5 percent** (rice) and **75 percent** (malanga). The biggest crop, sugar, fell **35 percent**.

- ❑ The CEA also notes that, while Cuba had **similar gross national income to Puerto Rico** before the Cuban Revolution in the late 1950s, by 2000 **Cuban gross national income had fallen** almost two-thirds relative to Puerto Rico.

- ***Maoist China***

- [WhiteHouseGov '18](#)

- ❑ Mao’s government implemented the so-called **Great Leap Forward for China from 1958 to 1962**, including a policy of mass collectivization of agriculture that provided “no wages or cash rewards for effort” on farms. The per capita output of grain fell **21 percent** from 1957 to 1962; for aquatic products, the drop was **31 percent**; and for cotton, edible oil, and meat, it was about **55 percent**. During the Great Chinese Famine from 1959 to 1961, an estimated **45 million people died**.

- **The Economic Calculation Problem**

- [What is it? \(simple explanation\)](#)

- The economic calculation problem refers to the problem of determining **how resources are to be allocated to productive uses in an economy**. It is argued that socialism fails to do this because of the **absence of private property and profits**. The existence of profits are extremely **vital to an economy**. The whole purpose of profits is not just about companies making money in order to meet their operational costs. The whole purpose is that it's important to understand that **profits are a signal that enable the company or the producers to know what they're going to produce more of and what resources to use and where to allocate them**. For example, companies very frequently see what their most bought products are and what their least bought products are. They see what products have **made the most profit for them** and which have made them least simply just from **consumers choosing to buy their goods voluntarily**. Therefore,

since a company wants to maximize their profits, they are going to **produce more of what consumers buy most of** and what makes them the most profit. Overall, simply from the information of a company's profits and consumer demands, they know what **resources to allocate, where to allocate them, and what to invest more in**. Hence, since socialism eliminates profits, there would be **no way of knowing what resources to produce or where to allocate these resources** which would always lead to the **misallocation of valuable, scarce resources**. This would essentially harm the economy and the people within it which is why a **planned economy can't work**.

- [Mises: pg 119-130](#)
 - Ludwig Von Mises says that **the economic calculation problem holds true** even with complete information as to every **single consumer demand**, the relevant quantities and qualities of all the **different factors of production**, both original and produced, all of the **technological recipes known to man** in existence for producing consumer goods, and the complete **agreement on what exact course of action** to take regarding what needs to be produced. Even with all that, the socialist planner would still **not be able to effectively allocate factors of production** to there use which best satisfies consumers subjective values
- <https://mises.org/power-market/explaining-economic-calculation-problem-principles-class>
- <https://fee.org/articles/economics-and-the-calculation-problem/>
- <https://donaldclavoie.files.wordpress.com/2013/11/between20institutionalism20and20formalism.pdf>
- <https://medium.com/@jedgarmihelic/hayek-and-the-impossibility-of-socialist-calculation-72037c106840>
- https://wiki.mises.org/wiki/Economic_calculation_problem
- <https://mises.org/wire/why-socialist-calculation-always-impossible>
- [https://www.emerald.com/insight/content/doi/10.1016/S1529-2134\(96\)03005-0/full/html?skipTracking=true](https://www.emerald.com/insight/content/doi/10.1016/S1529-2134(96)03005-0/full/html?skipTracking=true)
- <https://www.austriancenter.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/The-Socialist-Calculation-Debate-moving-forward-What-happened-after-%E2%80%98The-Use-of-Knowledge-in-Society%E2%80%99-.pdf>

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- **Debunking: “Walmart is Proof the Economic Calculation Problem is outdated.”**
 - [No, Walmart Is Not Evidence That Centrally-Planned Economies Work](#)
 - [Planned Economy and Economic Planning: What The People’s Republic of Walmart Got Wrong about the Nature of Economic Planning | Márton Kónya](#)

- [Socialist Magazine: Mega-Companies like Amazon and Walmart Show That Central Planning Would Work This Time | Oluwatobi Walker](#)

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- **Debunking: “Market Socialism Solves the Economic Calculation Problem.”**
 - [Did the theory of market socialism answer the challenge of Ludwig von Mises? A reinterpretation of the socialist controversy](#)
 - [The Cambridge Companion to Hayek | Edward Feser | download](#) (PG 51-67)
 - (See the Economic calculation problem section for more)
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Communism

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- **Communism Inherent Flaws**
 - <https://medium.com/@subhanhussain22/a-critique-of-marx-why-communism-never-works-f690b4cfd11a>
 - <https://fee.org/articles/why-communism-failed/>
 - <https://fee.org/articles/soviet-admissions-communism-doesnt-work/>
 - <https://distributistreview.com/archive/case-communism>
 - <https://www.learning-mind.com/why-did-communism-fail/>
-

- **Communism Historical Failures**
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Left-Anarchy

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- **Anarchy Inherent Flaws**
 - <https://www.jstor.org/stable/20099323>
 - http://www.spunk.org/texts/otherpol/anti_a/sp001728.html
 - <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007%2FBF00831906>
 - <http://www.ruthlesscriticism.com/anarchism.htm>
 - <https://kuscholarworks.ku.edu/bitstream/handle/1808/4935/MARSV8N1A4.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y>
-

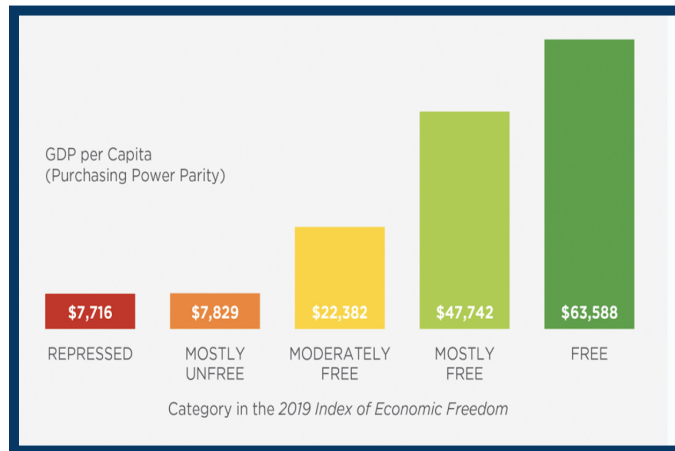
- **Anarchy Historical Failures**
 - <https://libcom.org/history/historical-failure-anarchism>
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Capitalism

- **Capitalism increases economic growth and income**

- [Heritage '19](#)

- The most economically free countries rated in the 2019 Index enjoy **incomes that are over twice the average levels** in all other countries and more than **six times higher than the average levels in least free economies**.
- Throughout the history of the Index, the per capita economic growth rates of countries that have grown in **economic freedom the most are on average at least 50 percent higher** than those of countries where economic freedom has **stagnated or slowed**.



- [CEI '17](#)

- In 2015, nations in the top quartile of economic freedom had an average adjusted **per capita GDP of over \$40,000**, compared to around **\$5,000 for bottom quartile nations**.

- [Johnson '17](#)

- The average income of the poorest 10 percent in the most economically free nations is almost **twice the average per capita income in the least free nations**. That is, the **least fortunate citizens of free countries make more money than the average person in unfree nations**
- Overall, the poorest tenth of the population in free countries earns **10-times as much money** as the same cohort of poor people living in unfree nations (\$11,998 vs. \$1,124)

- **Capitalism decreases poverty**

- [Cato '98](#)

- 40 percent of countries with the **least economic freedom have the highest levels of poverty**, and the 40 percent with the **highest economic freedom have the lowest poverty levels**.
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- **Capitalism increases life expectancy**
 - [Johnson '17](#)
 - People in the **most economically free nations live 16 years longer** (80.7 years vs. 64.4 years) than those in the least economically free.
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- **Capitalism's historical success:**

- ***China***

- [CEI '17](#)

- The rise of China is historical proof that **economic freedom is the greatest driver of prosperity**. China was previously **governed under central planning**, with little respect for individual freedom. They eventually began to give this up after 1978. After the partial **freeing of markets, they started growing exponentially, at 7 to 12 percent**, up from miserable rates of around **2 percent**. While China is not close to entirely economically free, they have still drastically improved their scores, opening up markets to international trade, deregulating the economy, and allowing individuals to exchange voluntarily. This has led to **the greatest reduction in absolute poverty the world has ever seen**.

- [Forbes '19](#)

- In [1978](#), in China, nearly **80% of urban labourers were employed in the public sector**. However, as they became more economically free, public sector employment dropped to **21.5%**, while that of the **private sector increased substantially to 76%**. After this, per capita GDP [grew](#) by nearly **24 times** from 1978 to 2017 due to the **increase of worker productivity**. According to [IMF research](#), worker productivity increases accounted for more than **42 percent** of China's growth and later on became the main source of economic growth. In fact, poverty incidence in rural China has [dropped](#) sharply from **97.5% in 1978 to only 4.5% in 2016**. Overall, this increase in GDP per capita also increased life expectancy. In 1978, the average life expectancy in China was [65.8](#) years. By 2018, after major economic growth, **life expectancy increased to 77** years. Hence, an increase in **economic freedom within China has been shown to have many benefits for the population**

- ***South Korea***

- [CEI '17](#)

- South Korea is another example of the success of economic freedom. They were a **desperately poor country just 60 years**

ago, it is now one of the **wealthiest in the world**. It makes for a particularly interesting comparison with the African nation of Ghana, as **Ghana and South Korea had the same GDP per capita in 1957**. Since then, South Korea has embraced **foreign investment, liberalized trade, and strong property rights**. Ghana, instead, went down another path, with a **socialist government** that was propped up by foreign aid. By 1990, **South Korea's GDP was 10 times that of Ghana**. By 2015, Ghana's GDP per capita sits at just under **\$2,000**, while South Korea is over **\$25,000**. This was while Ghana was receiving enormous amounts of foreign aid, whereas **South Korea received substantially less**. More importantly, the aid South Korea did receive **did not dominate its domestic policy like it did in Ghana**.

○ *USSR-NEP*

- After the fall of the communist USSR, the area became more free market and economic growth had a major increase following:
 - [NEP was capitalist, free-enterprise, and market-oriented.](#)
 - [Standard of Living Increased during NEP](#)
 - [Agricultural Output Restored to 1913 Levels](#)
 - [No famines in the midst of NEP.](#)

● **Capitalism Increases Overall Happiness**

- Free markets are correlated with human happiness - Multiple independent studies conform:
 - [Is Economic Freedom the Secret to Happiness?](#)
 - [Economic Freedom and Happiness](#)
 - [Happiness and economic freedom: Are they related?](#)
 - [FREEDOM AND HAPPINESS A comparative study in 46 nations in the early 1990's](#)
 - [A note on the impact of economic regulation on life satisfaction](#)
 - [Who Benefits from Economic Freedom? Unraveling the Effect of Economic Freedom on Subjective Well-Being](#)
 - [Does Internal or External Locus of Control Have a Stronger Link to Mental and Physical Health?](#)
 - [The bigger the better? Evidence of the effect of government size on life satisfaction around the world](#)
 - [Economic Freedom and Quality of Life: Evidence from the OECD's Your Better Life Index](#)

● **Capitalism and Innovation**

- General Innovation
 - [Nintil](#)
- On how the gov does very little if any at all to spur innovation
 - [080710 Block Keller.indd](#)
- Government investment in tech is below 50%
 - [Data check: U.S. government share of basic research funding falls below 50%](#)
- R&D expenditure: the private sector accounted for 71% of total national expenditures, with universities spending 14%
 - [US R&D Increased in 2013, Well Ahead of the Pace of Gross Domestic Product](#)
- More than 60% of OECD R&D in scientific and technical fields is carried out by industry, 20% by universities and 10% by government.
 - [OECD Science, Technology and Industry Scoreboard 2015: Innovation for growth and society](#)
- Capitalism and Innovation
 - [Why Innovation Is Still Capitalism's Star](#)
- On how economic growth is the real driver of innovation
 - [Taxation and Innovation in the 20th Century](#)

- **Capitalism and Space Exploration**

- [A Case for Capitalism, In Regards to Space Travel](#)
 - Budget cuts + Apathy means NASA does not have plans to explore space - The private sector is the **only** option
- [Capitalism in Space](#)
 - More on how the gov has failed in space travel
- [SpaceX Rocket Is A Capitalist Triumph](#)
 - Nasa has failed, competition is the only way to make into space
- [Colonizing mars](#)
 - Extinction is a threat, Mars colonization means we save ourselves from extinction.
- [Synthetic Biology for Space Exploration: Promises and Societal Implications](#)
 - Capitalism has led to the development of cyanobacteria which solve for solve nitrogen, water, food, and metal constraints
 - The implication is we can colonize mars
 - Space colonization is a moral imperative, if we stay on earth extinction is **certain** (pp 89-92)
 - High investment into space is the only way to make it up there (pp 89-92)
 - Space exploration means a more innovative economy as a whole (pp. 92-94)

- [In Order to Ensure Our Survival, We Must Become a Multi-Planetary Species](#)
 - CC, Nuke war, Asteroids means that we we need to get off the rock
- [We're Underestimating the Risk of Human Extinction](#)
 - “ So many people that could come into existence in the future if humanity survives this critical period of time---we might live for billions of years, our descendants might colonize billions of solar systems, and there could be billions and billions times more people than exist now. **Therefore, even a very small reduction in the probability of realizing this enormous good will tend to outweigh even immense benefits like eliminating poverty or curing malaria**”

- **Capitalism helps the Environment**

- [Wood '14](#)
 - After controlling for the effects of income, political freedom, and other **confounding variables**, we find that a permanent **one-point increase in economic freedom results in a 7.15% decrease** in concentrations of fine particulate matter in the long-run
 - The 20 countries rated the **most economically free experience much cleaner air quality than the 20 countries with the lowest scores for economic freedom**. In 2010, the 20 countries that were most economically free had average concentrations of fine particulate matter that were nearly **40% less** than the 20 least-free countries.
- [IER '20](#)
 - The **Environmental Kuznets Curve** means that as economies grow from a pre-industrial state into what we know as a developed state, environmental degradation initially surges, but **eventually levels off and finally falls**. Since capitalism increases economic growth, **it would therefore help the environment in the long run**
 - One of the best pieces of evidence supporting the Environmental Kuznets Curve and the Environmental Transition Hypothesis **can be seen in air pollution in the United States**. Between 1970 and 2018, U.S. gross domestic product increased **275 percent**, vehicle miles traveled increased **191 percent**, energy consumption increased **49 percent**, and the U.S. population increased by **60 percent**. During the same time period, total emissions of the six principal air pollutants dropped by **74 percent**.
 - Since 1980, the United States has drastically **reduced harmful pollutants in the air**. Nitrogen dioxide, which can inflame the lungs and weaken immunity, **is down 57 percent**. The equally harmful sulfur dioxide is **down 80 percent**. Lead, which has adverse neurological and cardiovascular effects, **is down 98 percent**.

- [Huge Site Showing Many Sources Indicating that Free Markets Help the Environment](#)
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- **Private Sector vs Public Sector**

- Case Studies (Mostly England)
 - [Utility gains Assessing the record of Britain's privatized utilities](#)
 - [Privatisation in Theory and Practice](#)
 - [Privatisation in Theory and Practice Part 2](#)
 - [The Enterprise Imperative](#)
 - [Margaret Thatcher's Privatization Legacy](#)
 - [Options for Federal Privatization and Reform Lessons from Abroad](#)
 - [Privatization in the Irish hospital sector since 1980](#)
 - Austerity means the public sector cannot properly meet demand.
- Privatization in Theory
 - [Cato Handbook - Privatization](#)
 - [Privatization: The Real Way to Make American Infrastructure Great Again](#)
 - [Fixing Transit: The Case for Privatization](#)
 - [Privatization: The Worker Buy-Out Option](#)
 - [Privatization: An Economic Analysis \(Regulation of Economic Activity\)](#)
 - [Privatization and Economic Performance](#)
 - [Voucher privatization](#)
 - [Privatization and Incentives](#)
 - [Privatization in theory and practice | Economic Policy | Oxford Academic](#)
 - [From State to Market: A Survey of Empirical Studies on Privatization](#)
 - <https://booksc.xyz/book/11388079/fa4d9f>
 - [The Productivity Effects of Privatization: Longitudinal Estimates from Hungary, Romania, Russia, and Ukraine | Journal of Political Economy](#)
 - [How Does Privatization Work? Evidence from the Russian Shops | Journal of Political Economy: Vol 104, No 4](#)
 - [Water for Life: The Impact of the Privatization of Water Services on Child Mortality | Journal of Political Economy](#)
 - [Privatization: An Economic Analysis. John Vickers , George Yarrow | Journal of Political Economy: Vol 98, No 4](#)
 - [Public versus Private Initiative in Arctic Exploration: The Effects of Incentives and Organizational Structure | Journal of Political Economy](#)
 - [Structural adjustment, state capacity and child health: evidence from IMF programmes](#)
 - [Downsizing the federal government](#)
 - [Mail at the Millennium: Will the Postal Service Go Private?](#)
 - [Privatization](#) - Reason Foundation

- [A Plan to Liquidate Amtrak](#)
-

- **The freer the markets, the freer the people**
 - [Lawson '10](#)
 - Using data on economic and political freedom for a sample of up to **123 nations back as far as 1970**, we find relatively **few instances of societies combining relatively high political freedom without relatively high levels of economic freedom**. In addition, we find that these cases are diminishing over time.
-

Inequality

This section will be dedicated to refuting leftist claims about capitalism and inequality

- **Debunking: “The share of the income going to the higher income groups has grown faster than the bottom income groups (the rich getting richer and the poor getting poorer).”**
 - [Mises '19](#)
 - This isn't so much an outright fallacy as it has to do with **incomplete knowledge and misunderstanding of statistics**. There are two basic problems with this. The argument falls apart when you take into account the following:
 - ❑ **Income mobility** (ie ability to move between income groups)
 - ❑ **All households saw increases**
 - A study published by the Pew Charitable Trusts that examined the Panel Study of Income Dynamics which tracked data on the same people from the late 1960's up to 2002 that showed **“children raised in the poorest families made the largest gains as adults relative to children born into richer families.”**
 - Recent research by the Office of Tax Analysis in the Treasury Department “used tax returns to see how rich and poor did between 1987 and 2007. **They find the same encouraging pattern: poorer people had the largest percentage gains in income over time (compared to richer people).**” Specifically, the study examined people who were between the ages of 35–40 in 1987 and then followed up with them 20 years later when they were 55–60. **The results shattered the myth of the common**

narrative. “The median income of the people in the top 20% in 1987 ended up 5% lower twenty years later. The people in the middle 20% ended up with median income that was 27% higher. And **if you started in the bottom 20%, your income doubled. If you were in the top 1% in 1987, 20 years later, median income was 29% lower.**”

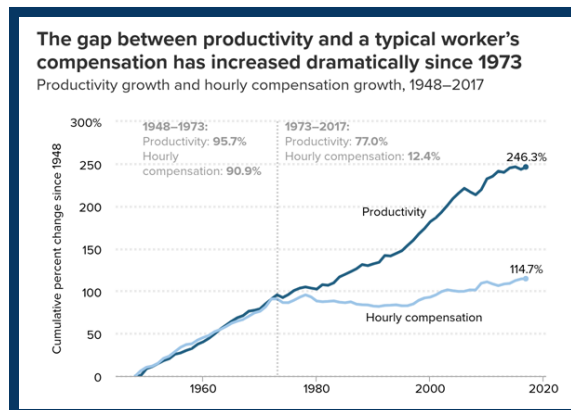
- [Cato '16](#)

- For those who reach the 1 percent of income, spending long periods of **time in that bracket is relatively rare.** According to a recent study, only about **2.2 percent** of people spend five or more years in the top 1 percent of the income distribution from age 25 to 60. Just **1.1 percent** spend **10 or more years** in the top 1 percent. Attaining **10 consecutive years** in the top 1 percent of income is even rarer: just **over half of 1 percent do so.** In short, there is **no class of 1 percenters who stay there**, earning enormous incomes year after year. At the same time, it remains possible for the poor to become rich, or, if not rich, **at least not poor.** Studies show that roughly **half of those who begin in the bottom quintile move up to a higher quintile within 10 years.** A more recent working paper found that **43 percent** of families in the poorest income quintile and **27 percent** of those in the second quintile saw earnings growth of at least **25 percent over a two-year period.**

- **Debunking: “Wages have not tracked productivity.”**

- [Fee '18](#)

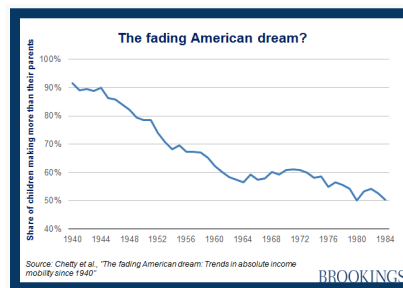
- [You may have seen this argument made by the Economic Policy Institute.](#) The first chart (below) shows a disconnect between productivity and pay starting around the year 1973 and continuing into the present day:



○ [Cato '16](#)

- The study that claimed “the rates of intergenerational mobility are flat” **focus only on relative income mobility**. However, when looking at absolute mobility, **which is much more accurate** because it considers whether children grow up to have higher incomes than their parents after **adjusting for things like cost of living and household size**, the vast majority of **Americans actually have family income higher than their parents**

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- **Debunking: “According to Raj Chetty, most Americans born in 1940 ended up better off, in real terms, than their parents at the same age (30). Only half of those born in 1980 have surpassed their parent’s family income.”**



○ [Cato '17](#)

- **This study is majorly flawed and filled with inaccurate methodologies:**
- First, incomes were extremely low in 1940, so it was quite easy to do better 30 years later. It should be no surprise that **children born during the Great Depression or World War II did better than their parents**. Of course they did. We don’t need a statistical study to make such an obvious point. Only **38.1%** of Americans aged 25–29 had a high school diploma or higher in 1940, compared with **75.4%** in 1970. Only **25.7%** of American age 18–24 were enrolled in college in 1970, compared with **40.5%** in 2015. To return to the “absolute mobility” of children born in the 1940s would require **another 1930-38 Great Depression, another World War, and a massive loss of college degrees**.
- Secondly, A rising percentage of young people remain in grad school at age 30, so their **current income is lower than that of their parents at that age but their future income is likely to be much higher**. Essentially, grad students have low current incomes at age 30, but high lifetime incomes. An Urban Institute report finds “The share of adults ages 25 and older who have completed graduate degrees rose from **8 percent** in 1995 to **10 percent** in 2005, and to 12 percent in 2015, growing from **34 percent to 37 percent** of individuals with bachelor’s degrees.” Most men born around 1940 **went to work right after high school**. Mr. Chetty

failed to take this factor into account. Mr. Chetty also compares incomes of children at age 30 with the ages of their parents when sampled sometime between the ages of 25 and 35. Most parents of those turning 30 in the study's last year (2014) were born during the Reagan years of 1983-89 when **economic growth averaged 4.4% a year**. To compare incomes between President Reagan's boom years and President Obama's prolonged slump reflects the *poor economy* of 2008–2014, not poor "mobility." Those born in 1984 turned 30 in 2014, when median household income was **\$53,718** —6.5% below 2007 and nearly the same as **\$53,367** in 1989 (when tax rates were much lower). Thus, this study uses an **inappropriate comparison**.

- Thirdly, doing better than your parents is not defined by your income at age 30, but by **income and wealth accumulated over a lifetime** (including retirement). Labor incomes **peak at age 50 for most college grads, and in the mid-50s for those with advanced degrees**. Investment incomes commonly peak in retirement. The Graph from Advisor Perspectives shows cumulative changes in real median income by age groups from 1967 to 2015. Median income **rose much more at ages 45–64 than it did at ages 25–34**, and the *growth* of median income has been fastest by far for those over age 65 (thanks in large part to rapid growth of tax-favored savings plans for retirement). To judge yourself a failure *at age 30* because your income had not *yet* passed your father's income at the same age would be a psychological problem, **not an economic problem**.
- [Strain '20](#)
 - This study also wanted to investigate the claim about social mobility in America in terms of income. The measure of family income used in this study includes **labor market earnings, interest, dividends, and government cash transfers** (for example, Social Security benefits) to family members.
 - The study found that around **73 percent** of Americans in their 40s have higher incomes than did their parents. Among children raised in the bottom quintile, **86 percent** have gone on to enjoy higher incomes than their parents. For adults who were raised in the second quintile, about **76 percent** enjoy a higher income than their parents. This is particularly important since **upward mobility from the bottom of the income distribution** is what we should care about most.

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- **Debunking: "Income Inequality is only growing worse over the years."**
 - [Cato '16](#)

- These talking points have **failed to take into account taxes or transfer payments** (or changes in household size or composition). The failure to consider those factors considerably **overstates effective levels of inequality**.
- The top 1 percent of tax filers earn 19 percent of U.S. income, but in 2013 they paid 37.8 percent of federal income taxes. **The inclusion of other taxes (payroll, sales, property, and so on) reduces this disparity.** A report from the Congressional Budget Office estimates that the top 1 percent paid **25.4 percent** of all federal taxes in 2013, compared to **15 percent** of pre-tax income. The wealthy pay a disproportionate amount of taxes. At the same time, lower-income earners benefit disproportionately from a variety of wealth transfer programs. **The federal government alone, for example, currently funds more than 100 anti-poverty programs**, dozens of which provide either cash or in-kind benefits directly to individuals. In 2012, individuals in the bottom quintile (that is, the bottom 20 percent) of incomes (families with less than \$17,104 in market income) **received \$27,171** on average in net benefits through all levels of government, while on average those in the top quintile (families with market incomes above \$119,695) **pay \$87,076 more than they receive**. The top 1 percent **paid some \$812,000 more**. According to the CBO, accounting for taxes reduces the amount of inequality in the United States **by more than 8 percent**, while including transfer payments reduces inequality by slightly more than **18 percent**. By fully accounting for redistribution from taxes and transfers, true inequality is almost **26 percent less than it initially appears**. In another study in the American Economic Review that controlled for changes in household composition (that is, adjusting for size and dependency) and transfers (both cash and in-kind), found that there were **significant gains across the income spectrum from 1979 to 2007**. However, gains at the top were smaller than gains at the bottom, meaning by this measure, **inequality actually decreased from 1989** to the Great Recession. When you include taxes and transfers to income [data](#), you find that **inequality has decreased by 7% between 2007 and 2016**.
- Given these problems, a better way to measure inequality might be to look **at differences in consumption between income groups**: A study by the American Enterprise Institute found that the “consumption gap across income groups has **remained remarkably stable over time**. If you sort households according to their pretax income, in 2010 the bottom fifth accounted for **8.7%** of overall consumption, the middle fifth for **17.1%**, and the top fifth for about **38.6%**. Go back 10 years to 2000, and the

numbers are extremely similar. The bottom fifth accounted for **8.9%** of consumption, the middle fifth for **17.3%**, and the top fifth for **37.3%**”

- Additionally, according to research using the Federal Reserve’s Survey of Consumer Finances, the wealthiest 1 percent of Americans held **34.4 percent** of the country’s wealth in 1969. By 2013, the last year for which data are available, that proportion had **barely risen, to roughly 36 percent**.
- It appears, then, that inequality may **not be as big a problem as commonly portrayed**. After considering **taxes, transfers, and other factors**, the gap between rich and poor is **neither as large nor growing as rapidly** as many leftists have alleged
- [Henderson '20](#)
 - On a global level, meanwhile, **inequality is declining**—and it's likely to fall further. Economists measure inequality with something called the **Gini coefficient**. A coefficient of 100 would mean that one person gets all the income while everyone else gets nothing; **a coefficient of zero would mean complete equality**. In a 2015 study published by the Peterson Institute for International Economics, Tomas Hellebrandt of the Bank of England and Paolo Mauro of the International Monetary Fund tracked the **global Gini coefficient from 2003 and 2013**. During that time it fell from **69 to 65, thanks to rapid economic growth in lower-income countries**—not just India and China but also sub-Saharan Africa. Hellebrandt and Mauro project that **by 2035 it will have declined to 61**.
- [Hoover '03](#)
 - Using the Gini Coefficient, **inequality in the United States fell by about a third** between the 1870s and the 1970s.
- [Mercatus '14](#)
 - “Income inequality for the world as a whole has been **falling for most of the last 20 years**.”

● **Debunking: “More inequality means more poverty and worse living conditions”**

- [Cato '16](#)
 - Logically and historically, **this is nowhere near true**. Essentially, inequality is better than shared poverty:
 - For example, China had an inequality rate (measured by the Gini Coefficient) of **32 in 1990 and it rose to 42 in 2009**, meaning China became much more **unequal in terms of wealth**. At the same time, the proportion of the population living below **\$1.25 a day, even after adjusting for purchasing power**, fell from **60.18 percent in 1990 to only 11.8 percent in 2009**. Thus, even as inequality has risen, people at the

bottom of the income scale have better standards of living. It becomes an open question, therefore, whether inequality matters as long as everyone is becoming better off. In other words, **if the poor are richer, do we care if the rich are even richer?**

- [Bloome '13](#)

- Recent research finds that **poverty cannot be tied to inequality:** A paper by Dierdre Bloome of Harvard finds “little evidence of a relationship between individuals’ **economic mobility and the income inequality they experienced when growing up...** Over a twenty year period in which income inequality rose continuously, the intergenerational income elasticity **showed no consistent trend.**” Again, there is no evidence of a relationship, as “the inequality to which children were exposed in their state when growing up **provides no information about the mobility they experienced as adults.**”

- [Akers '20](#)

- “There is **no evidence that reducing wealth inequality will increase economic growth.** It may even **harm growth** because it discourages saving and investment.”

- **Debunking: The Gini Coefficient found that America is the most unequal country in the world in terms of wealth**

- [WSJ '18](#)

- The only problem with this argument is that there are **variations in how each nation reports income.** The U.S. deviates significantly from the norm by **excluding several large government transfers to low-income households.** Inexplicably, the Census Bureau excludes Medicare and Medicaid, which redistribute more than **\$760 billion a year to the bottom 40% of American households.** The data also exclude **93 other federal redistribution programs that annually transfer some \$520 billion to low-income households.** These include the Children’s Health Insurance Program, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families and the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children. States and localities directly fund another **\$310 billion in redistribution programs** also excluded from the Census Bureau’s submission. The poorest fifth of U.S. households receive **84.2%** of their disposable income from taxpayer-funded transfers, and the second quintile gets **57.8%**. U.S. transfer payments constitute **28.5%** of Americans’ disposable income—almost double the **15%** reported by the Census Bureau. That’s a bigger share than in all large developed countries other than France, which redistributes **33.1%** of its disposable income.

- This means current OECD comparisons omit about **\$1.6 trillion in annual redistributions to low-income Americans**—close to 80% of their total redistribution receipts. This significantly skews the U.S. Gini coefficient. The correct Gini should be **0.32—not 0.39**. That puts the U.S. income distribution in **the middle of the seven largest developed nations, not first**.
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- **Debunking: “The top 1% own a significant portion of the nations income than the bottom 90%.”**

- [Investors '11](#)

- These census **stats are misleading**. For one, they are a snapshot of income distribution at a single point in time. Yet **income is not static**. It changes over time. Low-paying jobs from early adulthood give way to **better-paying jobs later in life**. And income groups in America are not fixed. There's no caste system here, really no such thing even as a middle "class." The **poor aren't stuck in poverty**. And the rich don't enjoy lifetime membership in an exclusive club.
 - A **2007 Treasury Department study** bears this out. Nearly **58% of U.S. households in the lowest-income quintile in 1996 moved to a higher level by 2005**. The reverse also held true. Of those households that were in the top 1% in income in 1996, **more than 57% dropped to a lower-income group by 2005**. Every day in America, **the poor join the ranks of the rich, and the rich fall out of comfort**. So even if income equality is increasing, it **does not mean income mobility is decreasing**. There is still a great deal of movement in and out of the richest and poorest groups in America.
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- **Why Inequality actually has many benefits and doesn't really matter**

- [AdamSmith '17](#)

- A study found that, “an increase in a country’s level of income inequality has a **significant positive relationship with subsequent economic growth**.” Another paper, which controls for lots of the factors finds that across US states, **lower inequality is associated with lower subjective well being**. Another 2012 paper that looked at survey data from all 34 OECD countries over 30 years found **no effect from inequality on honesty, altruism or civic-ness, very little effect on obedience or tolerance, and a positive effect on work ethic**.

- [E. Payne '13](#)

- We investigate the **causal relationship between income inequality and economic freedom** using data from U.S. states over the period 1981 to 2004 within a panel error correction model framework. The results

indicate bidirectional causality between income inequality and economic freedom **in both the short and the long run**. These results suggest that high income inequality may cause states to **implement redistributive policies causing economic freedom to decline**. As economic freedom declines, **income inequality rises even more**. In other words, it is quite possible for a state to get caught in a vicious circle of high income inequality and heavy redistribution.

- <https://fraser.stlouisfed.org/title/inside-vault-6107/spring-2010-586637>
- <https://psmag.com/economics/benefits-wealth-inequality-now-fear-67567>
- <https://www.cnn.com/2015/06/15/why-wealth-inequality-isnt-a-bad-thing-commentary.html>

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- **The more economically free a country is, the more social mobility they have**
 - [FSUL '13](#)
 - Data from **23 countries**, many industrialized and Western countries are included, indicate that “**increases in economic freedom result in a higher degree of upward social mobility** from the bottom-most income classes.”

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- **No statistical evidence for inequalities impact on corruption**
 - [Wealth Inequality and Democracy](#)
 - [The Relationship Between Income Inequality and Authoritarianism by Sinan Bruce](#)
 - [Has Wealth Inequality Eroded US Democracy? | Cato @ Liberty](#)
 - [Political Parties: A Sociological Study of the Oligarchical Tendencies of Modern Democracy](#)
 - Democracy will inherently be captured by the elites and become oligarchical.
 - ^ [Statistical Support](#)

Taxation

- **Why High Taxes or Increasing Taxes is Detrimental**
 - [Economic Principles for Prosperity](#) pg. 59-65
 - [Economics in One Lesson](#) pg 23-25
 - [The Economics and Ethics of Private Property](#) pg 33-77
 - For a logical explanation of why taxation discourages production and lowers wages, take a look at those pages
 - [Northern Lights '13](#)

- ❑ In 1970, Sweden was the **world's 4th richest country**. From 1970 to 1993, the top marginal tax rate rose to 84%, spending rose to 67% of GDP, and public debt rose to 70% of GDP. By 1993, Sweden **fell to the 14th richest country in the world**. The average Swede was now **poorer than the average Briton or Italian**.
- [Ladner '06](#)
 - ❑ The 10 highest-tax states **suffered an average increase in poverty of 3 percent**. Some high-tax states, such as California, Hawaii, and New York, **suffered catastrophic increases in poverty**. As California began to reject the low-tax legacy of the Reagan governorship, **the state's poverty rate jumped 13 percent in the 1990s**.
- [CATO '15](#)
 - ❑ The upshot is that for every **\$1 billion tax increase, the harm to the private economy is more than \$1 billion because of the losses caused as taxpayers reduce their productive efforts**. The Congressional Budget Office found that “typical estimates of the economic [or deadweight] cost of a dollar of tax revenue range **from 20 cents to 60 cents over and above the revenue raised**.” Harvard University's Martin Feldstein estimates that the deadweight cost of tax rate increases may exceed “**one dollar per dollar of revenue raised**.”
- [IMF '20](#)
 - ❑ As a result of a tax increase policy, after-tax income would decline by 6.5% for the top 1%, but it would **decline by 1.7% for all taxpayers on average, by 2030**. You may ask why a tax income would decline is bad, Overall, for the current scale of the pandemic, a **3.2 percent reduction in aggregate output/turnover from the pre-COVID-19 baseline is expected to lead to a 6.5 percent reduction in corporate income tax revenue**. A much deeper slowdown, in which aggregate output is assumed to be reduced by 14 percent, would lead to a **24 percent reduction in revenue**.
- [Hoover '19](#)
 - ❑ Joe Biden's tax plan which would increase taxes would **reduce long-run real GDP per capita by more than 8 percent** as a result of reducing full-time equivalent employment (FTEs) per person by **3 percent, the capital stock per person by 15 percent and total factor productivity by 2 percent**. Relative to the CBO's 2030

projections for these variables (Congressional Budget Office 2020), this suggests there will be **4.9 million fewer employed individuals, \$2.6 trillion less GDP, and \$1.5 trillion less consumption in that year alone**. Median household income in 2030 would be **\$6,500 less**.

- [Tax structure and economic growth](#)
- [Taxation and Economic Growth | NBER](#)
- [Government size and growth: Accounting for economic freedom and globalization](#)
- [The Macroeconomic Effects of Tax Changes: Estimates Based on a New Measure of Fiscal Shocks](#)

- **Why Low Taxes or Decreasing Taxes is Beneficial**

- [Northern Lights '13](#)
 - From 1993 to 2013, **Sweden cut spending from 67% to 49% of GDP, cut the top marginal tax rate from 84% to 57%**, cut its corporate tax from 26.3% to 22%, and scrapped property, wealth, gifts, and inheritance taxes. The two decades from 1990 were a period of recovery. Sweden's **debt fell from 70% of GDP to 37%**. GDP growth between 1993 and 2010 **averaged 2.7% a year and productivity 2.1% a year, compared with 1.9% and 1%**, respectively, for the main 15 EU countries.
- [Ladner '06](#)
 - Using data from the Census Bureau, **states with the lowest tax rates enjoyed sizable decreases in poverty**. For example, the 10 states with the lowest total state and local tax burdens saw an average poverty reduction of 13 percent – **two times better than the national average**.
- [USDT '18](#)
 - The tax cut policy that would cut taxes for a typical family of four **earning \$73,000 annually by over \$2,000** in 2018. According to the CEA, this comprehensive tax cut is set to **increase the average household income** by an estimated **\$4,000**.

- **Negative economic effects of a wealth tax**

- [Mercatus '20](#)
 - The wealthy **do not hoard their wealth and spend only a small percentage of it on luxury consumption**. They use much of it to invest in companies, fund R&D that contributes to the creation of **better consumer goods and services, or provide capital for innovators to grow their**

businesses. In these ways, the wealthiest are creating new products, raising workers' wages, and driving down consumer prices. Hence, a **wealth tax will reduce this amount of prosperity.**

- Fifteen European countries have implemented a wealth tax, but **only three still have one due to their failures.** Here are a few:
 - **Sweden:** When abolished in 2016, Sweden's wealth tax was generating a small amount of revenue (**0.16 percent of GDP**), with levels of tax avoidance and evasion significantly higher than 15 percent. Abolishing the tax was an attempt to **boost low levels of investment, encourage entrepreneurial activity, and increase employment.**
 - **France:** From the inception of France's wealth tax in 1988 until its end in 2006, about **€200 billion was lost in capital flight every year.** It is estimated that the tax reduced GDP growth by **0.2 percent per annum** while shifting the tax burden from wealthy taxpayers leaving France onto other taxpayers.
 - **Germany:** The country eliminated its failing wealth tax in 1996. One study estimates that reintroducing it would decrease annual GDP growth by **0.33 percentage points, production by 5 percent, and investment by 10 percent.**
 - **United Kingdom:** The United Kingdom considered a wealth tax in the 1970s but decided against it. One reason was the **cost of compliance and administration that comes with regularly compiled valuations of wealth.** According to the country's chancellor of the exchequer, "I found it impossible to draft [a tax] which would yield enough revenue to be worth the political hassle."
- [AAF '20](#)
 - A wealth tax would cause wealthy business owners to have **less money to invest**, so their employees would have less capital to work with, resulting in **lower wages than if there were no wealth tax.** This is why [60%](#) of the burden of a wealth tax would fall on workers.
 - The Warren wealth tax would **cost workers \$1.2 trillion** in lost earnings over the first 10 years, and ultimately, for every dollar of revenue raised, workers would **lose more than 60 cents of earnings**
 - The Sanders wealth tax would **cost workers \$1.6 trillion** in lost earnings over the first 10 years, and similarly impose over **60 percent of the burden of the proposal on workers.**
 - This study indicates that if the federal government needs to raise more revenue, these specific proposals are **poorly designed and would have a**

uniquely negative impact on workers' real wages – ultimately imposing an effective tax of **63 cents on workers for every dollar** the government raises in revenue from the wealthy.

Regulation

- **Effects of Raising the Minimum Wage**
 - [NBER '19](#)
 - In 2017, researchers from the University of Washington studied the effects of Seattle's minimum wage increase to \$15 an hour. **They found that the average workers' earnings dropped by \$125 a month due to cuts in workers' hours.** Overall, costs to workers [outweighed](#) the benefits by 3 to 1. The study also estimated that there are about **5,000 fewer low-wage jobs in the city than there would have been without the law.**
 - [Purdue '17](#)
 - A Purdue University study released in 2015 found that raising wages to **\$15 an hour** for limited service restaurant employees would lead to an estimated 4.3 percent increase in prices at those restaurants. The findings of the Purdue study are echoed by the results of a 2019 [survey](#) of 173 restaurants representing more than 4,000 locations about the impact of hikes in the minimum wage. The survey revealed: **71% of restaurant operators raised menu prices** — the most common response. Nearly half reworked their food and beverage options to reduce costs. **64% reduced employee hours. 43% eliminated jobs.**
 - [Sabia '10](#)
 - A paper published in the *Southern Economic Journal* in 2010 found that state and federal minimum wage increases between **2003 and 2007 had no effect on state poverty rates and that the working poor face a disproportionate share of the job losses.** "Our results suggest that raising the federal minimum wage continues to be an inadequate way to help the working poor."
 - [CBO '19](#)
 - the Congressional Budget Office [found](#) that raising the federal minimum wage to \$15 an hour by 2025 would lift 1.3 million people out of poverty — **but also put another 1.3 million people out of work.** The raise would **reduce total real family income by \$9 billion.** The CBO released an [interactive calculator](#) based on its analysis that reveals the effects of minimum wage increases at various levels.
 - [Economist '08](#)

- UC Irvine researchers studied the effects of Israel's minimum wage hike on business owners from 2006 to 2008. **Businesses with 60-80% minimum wage staff saw their profits nearly cut in half.** Profits fell more for low-income owners than for high-income owners.
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- **Why the minimum wage law should be abolished**

- [Fee '19](#)

- When the price of any product goes up, people buy less of it. Similarly, minimum wage [increases](#) cause the price of labor to go up, and when that happens, people, in this case employers, hire less labor. The thing is, a higher minimum wage doesn't make workers more productive; **it simply makes them more expensive.** This is because if higher wages increase worker productivity beyond the cost of the increase, **employers would be raising wages voluntarily.** Abolishing the minimum wage would allow companies to compete for employees the same way they have to compete for customers. Through supply and demand, competitive market forces drive up the wage rates of most workers to levels considerably above the current federal minimum rate.

- [CATO '14](#)

- The success of no minimum wage laws has proven its success in many other countries: In the 21 countries with a minimum wage, the average country has an unemployment rate of 11.8%. Whereas, the average unemployment rate in the seven countries without mandatory minimum wages is about **one third lower at only 7.9%.** In [Switzerland](#) for example, where minimum wage laws are non-existent, the lowest hourly paid Swiss employees receive an average of \$24.77, which is **significantly more than the US minimum wage at only \$7.25.** Another example is [Denmark](#) where minimum wage laws are also absent, the lowest-paid Danish employees receive an **average of approximately \$17.32 an hour,** which is also significantly more than the US average minimum wage. The success of no minimum wage has also proven its success in many other countries as well. Essentially, minimum wage laws don't make employment more productive, **it simply makes it more costly, and abolishing minimum wage laws would get rid of this specific issue.**
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- **Negative Effects of Regulations**

- [Coffey et al. 16](#)

- Regulations have **shrunk the economy by 25%,** and reduced wages by **\$13,000 per year**

- [Deregulating Electric Utilities: A Market-Process Approach](#)

- [How do federal regulations affect consumer prices? An analysis of the regressive effects of regulation](#)
 - [Regressive effects of regulation on wages](#)
 - nber.org/papers/w23583
 - <https://www.cato-unbound.org/2008/11/10/roderick-t-long/corporations-versus-market-or-whip-conflation-now>
 - <https://www.mercatus.org/system/files/Bailey-Regulation-Entrepreneurship.pdf>
-

- **Deregulation Benefits**

- [Bumann et al, 13](#)
 - Meta analysis determines that across the board, financial **deregulation has improved economic performance**
 - [De Soysa '11](#)
 - Fewer regulations lead to **less Human Rights violations**: “We make use of the change in the Index of Economic Freedom as a measure of market liberalizing reforms, employing data from a panel of **117 countries for the period from 1981–2006**. Our results show a **strong positive association** between reforms towards more free markets with regard to governments’ respect for **human rights**, controlling for a host of relevant factors, including the possibility of endogeneity.”
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The Top 1%

- **Wealthy individuals are on average harder workers**

- [Mfoundry '20](#)
 - Research conducted by Thomas Corley of Rich Habits, showed that **86 percent of wealthy people who work full time put in 50 hours or more each week at their career**. On the other hand, the average full time worker works just [40 hours](#) a week. 88 percent of self-made millionaires read at least 30 minutes every day, focused on self education. The average American on the other hand reads just [16](#) minutes a day. **Lastly, 66 percent of millionaires own their own business which suggest that they endured a larger risk than non business owners.**
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Refuting Karl Marx

- **Tendency of the Rate of Profit to Fall**

- What is it:

- Marx's theory of capitalism is that the **rate of profit would tend to decline over time as a result of technological change.**
- In Marx's theory, the **value of a commodity is tied to the amount of labour** that is necessary to produce a commodity. Marx argued that **technological innovation enabled more efficient means of production.** In the short run, **physical productivity would increase as a result,** allowing the early adopting capitalists to **produce greater use values** (i.e., physical output). However, in the long run, **if demand remains the same** and the **more productive methods** are adopted across the entire economy, the **amount of labour required (as a ratio to capital, i.e. the organic composition of capital) would decrease.** Now, assuming value is tied to the amount of labor necessary, the **value of the physical output would decrease relative to the value of production capital invested.** In response, the average rate of **industrial profit would therefore tend to decline in the longer term.**
- However, **this theory has been refuted** many time (below):

- [Marx and the Falling Rate of Profit](#)

- Review of the literature finds **no empirical evidence of the tendency of the rate of profit to fall**

- [Demography and the Falling Rate of Profit](#)

- Demographics explain the falling rate of profit

- **Other empirical analysis contradicting the theory:**

- [Technology, distribution, and long-run profit rate dynamics in the US manufacturing sector, 1948-2011: evidence from a Vector Error Correction Model \(VECM\)](#)
- [Profit rate in the US, 1949–2007: a Markov switching assessment](#)
- [Rate of Return on Everything, 1870–2015* | The Quarterly Journal of Economics | Oxford Academic](#)
- [Declining Labor and Capital Shares by Simcha Barkai :: SSRN](#)
- [Karl Marx: Intellectual Fraud of the 19th and 20th Centuries](#)
- [NIPA vs. S&P 500 Profits Margins](#)
- [Technical change and the profit rate: a simple proof of the Okishio theorem](#)
- [S&P 500 Sectors & Industries Profit Margins \(quarterly\)](#)

- **Labor Theory of Value**

- What is it:

- **The theory's basic claim is simple:** the value of a commodity can be objectively measured by the average **number of labor hours required to produce that commodity.**
- **Here is an example of how the labor theory of value works:** A worker in a factory is given \$30 worth of material, and after working 3 hours producing a good, and using \$10 worth of fuel to run a machine, he creates a product which is sold for \$100. According to Marx, **the labor and only the labor of the worker increased the value of the natural materials to \$100.** The worker is thus justly entitled to a \$60 payment, **or \$20 per hour.** If the worker is employed by a factory owner who pays him only \$15 per hour, **according to Marx, the \$5 per hour the factory owner receives is simply a ripoff.** The **factory owner has done nothing to earn the money** and the \$5 per hour he receives is **“surplus value”**, representing **exploitation of the worker.**
- However, **this theory has been refuted** many time (below):
 - [Mises '19 \(1884 by British philosopher and economist Philip Wicksteed\)](#)
 - **Value is Subjective**
 - First, Wicksteed informs us that value is not measured by something inherent in each commodity, but rather by the subjective evaluations of the end user. “Now the ‘common something’ which all exchangeable things contain, is neither more nor less than abstract utility, i.e., power of satisfying human desires,” he wrote. **“The exchanged articles differ from each other in the specific desires which they satisfy,** they resemble each other in the degree of satisfaction which they confer.” Commodities exchange for like amounts not because they contain the same amount of labor, but because the **users value the ends they satisfy with similar intensity.** “If I am willing to give the same sum of money for a family Bible and for a dozen of brandy, it is because I have **reduced the respective satisfactions their possession will afford me to a common measure, and have found them equivalent,**” Wicksteed wrote.
 - **Marginal Utility**
 - A key insight of Austrian economics is the use of marginal analysis and the concept of diminishing marginal utility. In other words, **goods are evaluated by the needs-satisfaction of the next unit of that good,** not by the value of all existing units of the good. In other words, the more of a good you already possess, the less important the need that the next unit of that good will satisfy.

- According to a popular opinion, capitalism inevitably tends to a monopoly economy. In this monopoly environment, the dominant companies can freeze competition and entrepreneurial initiative.
 - However, **this theory has been refuted** many time (below):
 - <https://mises.org/library/myth-natural-monopoly>
 - <https://mises.org/wire/capitalism-and-misunderstanding-monopoly>
 - <https://mises.org/library/100-years-myths-about-standard-oil>
 - <https://fee.org/articles/7-more-falsehoods-about-the-free-market/>
 - [Great Document explaining why free markets don't lead to monopolies: By Liam Roma](#)
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- **Alienation**

- What is it:
 - Alienation (described by Karl Marx) under the capitalist mode of production is **not just a subjective state of mind**, that one enters, but an objective process that develops from the reality that **we experience through labor in capitalist society**. Alienation in a generalized abstract sense, is the loss of control over an attribute of the self, one in which the **actor is separated from any sense of agency in relation to the attribute**. It is a historical objective process that comes into being from the relations and forces of production in the specific mode of production in existence. **Workers in capitalist society are forced by the necessity of subsistence and lack of ownership over the means of production to sell their labor-power as a commodity to someone else: the capitalist.**
However, this theory has been refuted (below):
 - <https://stars.library.ucf.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?referer=&httpsredir=1&article=2251&context=honorstheses1990-2015>
 - <https://rationalstandard.com/marx-alienation/>
 - <https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/alienation/#SomeUnreEmpiIssu>
 - <https://www.lewrockwell.com/1970/01/murray-n-rothbard/marx-and-alienation/>
 - <https://mises.org/library/marx-and-alienation>
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Debunks (Economics)

- **Debunking: “the rich just inherit their money”**
 - [Stanly '10](#)
 - Facts about American millionaires: more than half are entirely self-made. Fewer than 20% inherited 10% or more of their wealth. 58% come from [middle class](#) backgrounds. One in five grew up poor.

- **Debunking: “The rich don't pay their taxes”**

- [York '20](#)

- In 2017, the top 50% of all taxpayers paid 97% of all individual income taxes, while the bottom 50% paid the remaining 3%. The top 1% paid a greater share of individual income taxes (38.5%) than the bottom 90% combined (29.9%). For context, the share of the total adjusted gross income earned by the top 1% in 2017 was just 21%.

- [Brookings Institute '19](#)

- The Tax Policy Center estimation on the average federal tax rates paid by different categories of earners in 2019: The top 1% of earners: 30.2%. The middle 20% of earners: 12.4% The bottom 20% of earners: 3%. Overall, the rich pay their fair share.

- **Debunking: “The top 1% were taxed 91% in the 1950s and they have major economic growth”**

- [Magness '17](#)

- The actual effective tax rate **paid was just 46 percent due to the use of deductions and other legal techniques to reduce one's overall tax burden.** In fact, from 1958 to 2010, the taxes paid by the top 3% of earners, as a percentage of total personal income [increased](#) to **3.96% from 2.72%.**

- [Syrios '16](#)

- To illustrate just how many changes there have been, note that in 1955, there were **24 tax brackets.** In 1988, there were only **2** and today there are only **7.**

- The biggest change to the code was in 1986 when the entire code was all but rewritten with the **Tax Reform Act of 1986.** Yes, the top marginal tax rate was reduced, but a whole host of **deductions and loopholes were eliminated as well.** The fact is that these deductions and loopholes were significantly **more present in the 1950s than today,** meaning **the top 1% didn't really pay a “91% tax rate.”**

- **More sources on this Rebuttal:**

- <https://taxfoundation.org/taxes-on-the-rich-1950s-not-high/>

- <https://mises.org/library/good-ol-days-when-tax-rates-were-90-percent>

- <https://almostclassical.blogspot.com/2011/03/90-tax-rate-myth.html>

- <https://www.aei.org/economics/public-economics/why-we-cant-go-back-to-sky-high-1950s-tax-rates/>

- Debunking “[SEVEN DECADES OF HISTORICAL DATA FIND NO CORRELATION BETWEEN MINIMUM WAGE INCREASES AND EMPLOYMENT LEVELS](#)”

- 1) they do not exclude cases where states had minimum wages above the federal minimum wage. A federal increase to \$5 will have no effect when the minimum wage is \$5 on the state level already, that is not a scientific finding.
- 2) they are looking at data *one year* after the hike, which is disgustingly aggregated. The minimum wage would need to eliminate *all* jobs gained throughout that year to register as a negative. Why not look at a decade after the minimum wage increase? 50 years? That they thought this was okay is baffling.
- 3) they say that for some hikes they only had annual data while for others they had monthly data. None of this monthly data is shown, probably because it would display the setback that the minimum wage caused. Only presenting the data after a full year hides this setback.
- 4) they are looking at absolute numbers. Total employment can increase while still increasing unemployment when there are more people in total.
- 5) they mention that the cases where a decrease was recorded could be explained by economic downturns, but omit that the same applies vice versa.
- 6) they explain some of the decreases by saying they were "shortly before or after recessions", but the economy does not decline before or after recessions. At best they would have lower growth, which makes it more difficult to mask the job losses through a better economy, and may thus reveal negative effects despite their best efforts to hide it.
(Credits to Ando)

Education

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- Public vs Private Schools
 - [NAEP '06](#)

- In 2006, the National Assessment of Educational Progress (under the U.S. Department of Education) **examined differences in mean National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) reading and mathematics scores between public and private schools for students grades 4 and 8.**
 - "In grades 4 and 8 for both reading and mathematics, **students in private schools achieved at higher levels than students in public schools.** The average difference in school means ranged from almost **8 points** for grade 4 mathematics, to about **18 points** for grade 8 reading. The average differences were **all statistically significant.**"
 - Researchers also **adjusted the comparisons for various student characteristics**, including gender, race/ethnicity, disability status, and identification as an English language learner.
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- **Benefits of School Choice**

- [EdChoice '16](#)

- In 2016, EdChoice, an education reform and school choice advocacy organization, published a comprehensive review of **studies evaluating various effects of school choice. The results are as follows:**
 - Fourteen of 18 random assignment studies show choice participants' proficiency scores **improved as a result of using a private school voucher or scholarship.** Two of those 18 studies show no visible effect on student test scores. This report also discusses the negative results found in two new studies of the same Louisiana voucher program, including potential reasons for their anomalous findings. Also, 31 of 33 studies find the competitive effects driven by **school choice programs led to improvement in public schools' academic performance.** In fact, **more expansive school choice programs can be expected to lead to more positive changes for students and schools.**
 - **Eight of 10 empirical studies find educational choice programs move students from more segregated public schools to less segregated private schools.** The other two studies find no visible effect. No studies have ever shown private school choice programs exacerbate segregation in schools. In fact, two recent studies of the Louisiana Scholarship Program find **school choice programs help desegregate participating private schools** and affected public schools.
 - Opponents often argue that choice programs are expensive and drain resources from public schools. However, 25 of the 28 studies

on the fiscal effects of **school choice show such programs save taxpayers money—sometimes thousands of dollars per participating student**. Three studies show the programs examined are revenue neutral, and **none find school choice programs cost taxpayers additional money**. Though savings vary from program to program, the research demonstrates that **educational choice has the power to save millions, even billions, of dollars for taxpayers and school districts**.

- Eight of 11 empirical studies show **choice programs have a positive effect on students' civic values and participation**, and three studies show no impact. Civic values are measured in a variety of ways, from tolerance for the rights of others to voting. Studies also show students participating in **educational choice programs are likely to volunteer more and give more to charity than their public school counterparts**.
- [Harvard '12](#)
 - A Harvard study published in the *Quarterly Journal of Economics* in 2011 **studied the effects of a public school choice initiative** in the 20th largest school district in the nation (Charlotte-Mecklenburg, North Carolina).
 - The study **compared the adult crime outcomes of male students who won and did not win a first-choice-of-school lottery and found:**
 - “Across several different outcome measures and scalings of crime by severity, high-risk youth who win the lottery commit about **50% less crime**.”
 - “The effect is concentrated among **African American males and youth** who are at highest risk for criminal involvement.”
 - “They are also more likely to remain **enrolled and ‘on track’** in school, and they show **modest improvements** on school-based behavioral outcomes such as absences and suspensions.”
- See [How School Choice Can Improve Education and Society](#) for an overview of the positive impact of school choice
- [Does School Choice Reduce Crime?](#)
- [School Choice in the United States: 2019](#)

- **Charter Schools**

- [Study: Charter High Schools Have 7-11% Higher Graduation Rates Than Their Public School Peers](#)
- [School management and efficiency: An assessment of charter vs. traditional public schools](#)
- [The Effect of Charter Schools on Student Achievement](#) (Meta Analysis)

- [Urban Charter School Study Report on 41 Regions](#)
- [National Charter School Study 2013](#)
- [What Can We Learn from Charter School Lotteries?](#)
- [Charter Schools and Labor Market Outcomes | NBER](#)
- [Do charter middle schools improve students' college outcomes?](#)
- [Chicago's Charter High Schools](#)
- [The Effects of Start-Up Charter Schools on Academic Milestones](#)
- [Charter High Schools' Effects on Long-Term Attainment and Earnings](#)
- [The Medium-Term Impacts of High-Achieving Charter Schools](#)
- [FISCAL IMPACTS OF CHARTER SCHOOLS: LESSONS FROM NEW YORK](#)
[Robert Bifulco Syracuse University 426 Eggers Hall Syracuse, New York 1](#)
- [School Choice and School Productivity \(or Could School Choice be a Tide that Lifts All Boats?\)](#)
- [Charter Schools and Student Achievement in Florida](#)
- [The effect of charter schools on traditional public school students in Texas: Are children who stay behind left behind?](#)
- [The Impacts of Charter Schools on Student Achievement: Evidence from North Carolina](#)
- [Direct and indirect impact of charter schools' entry on traditional public schools: New evidence from North Carolina](#)
- [Rising Tide: Charter School Market Share and Student Achievement](#)
- [A Good Investment: The Updated Productivity of Public Charter Schools in Eight U.S. Cities](#)
- Charter Schools help public schools
 - Charter schools increase property values, thereby increasing tax revenues for public schools
 - Boost to property taxes [Willing to Pay: Charter Schools' Impact on Georgia Property Values](#)
 - Schools reliance on property taxes [The Property Tax- School Funding Dilemma](#)
 - Also see [In Pursuit of the Common Good: The Spillover Effects of Charter Schools on Public School Students in New York City](#)

- **Educational Funding**

- [Chingos '17](#)
 - A 2017 study by the Urban Institute found: “Nationwide, per-student K-12 education funding from all sources (local, state, and federal) is **similar, on average, at the districts attended by poor students (\$12,961) and non-poor students (\$12,640),**” a 2.5% difference in favor of poor students.

- Unlike many other studies on school funding, which only consider state and local funding, this study examined **funding across all three levels of government**, while adjusting for the cost of education in individual districts.
- Federal funding is primarily allocated to school districts with fewer resources. In 2011, the Government Accountability Office [noted](#), “In individual districts, the share of funding from Title I ranged from **zero** to **36 percent** in 2008. Generally, Title I allocations to districts are based on the district’s size and percentage of students from low-income families, as well as the **population of the district’s state and how much that state spends per pupil on education.**”
- [CATO '10](#)
 - In 2010, the CATO Institute **compared public school spending to estimated total expenditures in local private schools.**
 - They found that most reports comparing public and private school spending “**leave out major costs of education and thus understate what is actually spent.**”
 - In the areas studied, **public schools spent 93%** more than the estimated median private school.
 - The analysis also revealed that **27 cents of every dollar collected at the state or local level is consumed** by the public K–12 education system.
- [Brookings '17](#)
 - Research published by the Brookings Institution in 2017 revealed that “on average, poor and minority students receive between **1-2 percent more resources** than non-poor or white students in their districts, equivalent to about **\$65 per pupil.**”

Healthcare

Medicare for All

- **Quality and Health Outcomes**
 - [NHS UTTON '13](#)
 - A single payer system does not **incentivize hospitals and medical companies to compete with each other to provide high quality medical**

treatment and additional medical resources. Due to the lack of competition and incentive in a single payer system, the quality of healthcare is significantly worse.

- Take the UK (the UK has a single payer healthcare system) for example; When controlling for relevant variables, studies found that **people who have treatment in the UK are four times more likely to die than US citizens undergoing similar operations**. The most seriously ill UK patients were **seven times more likely to die than their American counterparts**.
- In fact, Detailed [Research](#) has confirmed that there is a direct link **between medicare for all and a decrease in quality health care**. It concluded that competition in the health care business inevitably increases the quality of health care while free health care does the opposite.
- [British Journal '03](#)
 - Researchers from University College London and Columbia University, in New York, studied **1,000 surgery patients at the Mount Sinai Hospital, Manhattan, and compared them to nearly 1,100 people who had similar operations** at the Queen Alexandra Hospital, in Portsmouth.
 - The results showed that nearly **10% of British patients died in hospital afterwards compared to only 2.5% in America**. Among the most seriously ill cases, there was a seven-fold difference in the death rates. If free healthcare is so effective in saving peoples lives, why are you more likely to die during surgery in the UK than in America?
- [Forbes '19](#)
 - Research has revealed government health coverage actually yields worse health outcomes. A 2010 study conducted by researchers at the University of Virginia looked at nearly 900,000 major surgeries between 2003 and 2007. Patients with government health coverage were **13% more likely to die after surgery than uninsured patients**.
 - Another study analyzed Medicaid expansions, which allowed states to amplify Medicaid coverage to people in households with incomes below 133% of the federal poverty line. Thirty-six states opted to do so. **Some 12 million people gained coverage through Medicaid this year thanks to the expansion. As of the end of 2018, nearly 66 million people were enrolled in Medicaid nationwide**. Since 14 states didn't expand the program, researchers had the chance to compare differences in mortality between the expansion and non-expansion states while controlling for other relevant variables. If giving people government health insurance actually leads to improved health outcomes, states that expanded Medicaid

should have seen a decrease in mortality rates. **However, this research did not find that at all.**

- [Nber '08](#)
 - A detailed study looked at a Medicaid expansion scheme in Oregon that predated Obamacare. In 2008, Oregon used a lottery to determine who would be able to enroll. The lottery was exclusive to low income, uninsured adults. Researchers analyzed the health outcomes of 6,400 people who won the lottery and gained Medicaid coverage compared to 5,800 who remained uninsured. **The study concluded the Medicaid beneficiaries showed "no significant improvements in measured physical health outcomes over the course of two years."** If medicare for all really improved the health outcomes for low income, uninsured people, these results would simply not appear.
- [Pipes '18](#)
 - Due to higher quality care in America, it best explains why roughly 40 percent of patients seeking treatment outside their home country **go to the United States.** That's more than **twice the share of the second-most popular country.**

- **Wait Times**

- [PRI '18 Staff Absence and Wait Times](#)
 - When a single payer system is implemented, **doctors and medical professionals will earn significantly less.** Nevertheless, you will see a **major decrease in doctors entering the field because there is less motivation to become a doctor.** The UK (which is a single payer healthcare system) has struggled to fully staff its hospitals and clinics since its inception in 1948. But today, the shortages are growing worse.
 - 9% of physician posts are vacant. That's a **shortfall of nearly 11,500 doctors.** The **UK is also short 42,000 nurses.**
 - Meanwhile, in the United States, nearly all states will have a **surplus of nurses by 2030.** The shortage of providers has resulted in **longer wait times for patients in the UK.** In one month, 4.3 million people were on a waiting list for surgeries.
 - In fact, [research](#) has proven that 19% of the UK waits two months or longer for specialist appointments compared to only 6% in the US. **31% of British doctors report patients often experience long wait times to receive treatment after diagnosis compared to only 9% of American doctors.** 12% of the UK waits 4 months or longer for elective/non-emergency surgery compared to only 4% of the US. 32% of

the UK waited two hours or more for care in emergency rooms compared to only 25% of the US.

- **In 2015, the UK [reported](#) that 30,000 patients died which was primarily contributed by long inefficient wait times.** After ruling out data errors, cold weather and flu as main causes for the spike, the researchers found that UK performance data **revealed clear evidence of health system failures.** Almost all targets were missed including ambulance call-out times and A&E waiting times. **These are all direct symptoms of free health care.**
- [Research](#) has shown that around 26,000 Americans die each year due to lack of health insurance. By contrast, 30,000 patients died in the UK due to long wait times. After adjusting for population, this means that **you are approximately 470% more likely to die in the UK due to wait times than to die in America due to lack of health insurance.** If free healthcare was all about saving and helping lives, this would not be happening in free healthcare countries.
- [PragerU Analysis](#)
 - If you want to understand what a government run healthcare system would look like in America, just take a look at The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (the VA). The **VA provides a single payer healthcare system for all veterans.** They run the largest hospital and health care system in America, employing over 340,000 people, operating on a \$180 billion annual budget, and serving 7 million patients. However, **the VA's healthcare system is inefficient, inaductable, and sometimes deadly.**
 - For example, Phoenix revealed that 1,700 veterans had waited an average of 115 days just to receive an initial appointment. According to the VA's official policy, **that wait time should have been no more than 14 days.** If you look at different healthcare systems, the UK has significantly longer waiting times than in America. Reports have revealed that 30,000 patients died in the UK due to long wait times. Thus, Government run healthcare would inevitably result in longer wait times which **result in more deaths.**
 - Due to the horrendous inefficiency of the VA's single payer health care system, it would best explain why **two-thirds of all veterans (14 million people) don't use the VA at all.** And those who do use the VA still get 75 percent of their healthcare outside of the VA system even though they have to pay more for it. In short, whoever can afford not to use the VA doesn't use the VA because **of poor quality care.**
 - In 2018, 39% of patients were sent for treatment outside a VA hospital because the government's facilities **could not provide care in a timely manner,** investigators [Reported](#)

- An Inspector General [report](#) released in 2017 found that 36 percent of new patients had wait times in excess of 30 days. Of these patients, **the average wait time was 59 days**. A 2014 [survey](#) of **private physician practices found that the average wait time to see a physician in medical specialties was only 18.5 days**. This is a vast improvement compared to the VA.
 - If the government can't provide adequate healthcare to 7 million veterans, it certainly can't provide it for **320 million Americans**.
- [Mises Institute 19'](#)
 - Under Medicare for All, doctors will be **forced to take a 40 percent pay cut on all their former private insurance patients**.
- [Washington Policy '20](#)
 - A recent report backed by the Partnership for America's Health Care Future predicts that the physician workforce would **decrease by over 44,000 doctors by 2050 under a single-payer system**.
 - [Research](#) has analyzed the 3 major private sector healthcare companies and confirmed that the highest physician payments for many healthcare services were **at least 350% higher than Medicare payments**.
 - [Research](#) from the Journal of the American Medical Association found that American general physicians earn an average annual salary of \$218,000. The comparable compensation for Canadian generalists was \$146,000, while British generalists received just \$134,000.

- **Economy and Taxes**

- [Cato Institute '20](#)
 - **Even if Congress doubled all federal individual and corporate income taxes, it would not be enough to pay for Medicare for All**. The Council of Economic Advisors estimates the necessary tax increase would leave the economy 9 percent smaller than otherwise. (One of the worst economic disasters, The Great Recession erased just 4.3 percent of GDP.) The study projects “free” health care would **leave households with \$17,000 less to spend on non-health items**.
- [Forbes '13](#)
 - In European countries with a universal right to health care, the cost of coverage is paid through higher taxes. In the United Kingdom and other European countries, payroll taxes are on average **37% which is much higher than the 15.3% payroll taxes paid by the average US worker**. According to a Research Fellow at the Hoover Institution, financing a

universal right to health care in the United States **would cause payroll taxes to double.**

- [UCLA '14](#)
 - A single payer health care system would increase the US debt and deficit. Spending on all government programs that provide a right to health care for certain segments of the population, totaled less than 10% of the federal budget in 1985, but by 2012, these programs took up 21% of the federal budget and are predicted to **reach 30% of federal spending by 2028.** [Research](#) from George Mason University concludes that providing government funded health care to all could **increase federal spending by \$32.6 trillion over the first ten years of implementation.** The [Committee for a Responsible Budget](#) calculates that universal health care coverage would result in an additional \$19 trillion of federal debt **“causing debt to rise from 74 percent of GDP in 2015 to 154 percent of GDP by 2026.”**
- [NYtimes '19](#)
 - Expanding medicare would make hospitals lose a large percentage of their money and likely make many hospitals go out of business. For example, For a patient’s knee replacement, Medicare will pay a hospital \$17,000. **The same hospital can get more than twice as much for the same surgery on a patient with private insurance.** On average, the government program pays hospitals about 87 cents for every dollar of their costs, compared with private insurers that pay \$1.45.
 - In fact, **Hospitals could lose as much as \$151 billion in annual revenues, a 16 percent decline,** under Medicare for all
 - Some hospitals, especially struggling rural centers, **would close virtually overnight,** according to many policy experts.
- [Boehm '17](#)
 - In 2018, the state of California completely [rejected](#) the Medicare for All plans **in light of the fact that it would [double](#) the states budget.** In New York State when they attempted to implement a single payer healthcare system, it was completely rejected because it would **require doubling or possibly quadrupling the state's tax burden.** Vermont’s (Bernie Sanders own hometown) attempt to implement a single-payer healthcare system **collapsed in 2014 because the costs were too high.** Colorado voters rejected a proposed single-payer system in 2016 when **faced with the prospect of increasing payroll taxes by 10 percent to meet the estimated \$25 billion annual price tag.** This all despite the fact that all of these states are liberal. If a few states can’t pass a Medicare for All plan, **then why would the entire United States be able too?**

- [Ramm '19](#)
 - Due to the fact that Hospitals under Medicare for All will earn significantly, many hospitals, especially **rural hospitals could close virtually overnight**. For example, Iowa's rural hospitals could experience **a loss of more than \$476 million dollars under a public health insurance proposal**, putting dozens at high risk for closure. If a public option plan would go into effect, the study found that between **25 and 52 of Iowa's 90 rural hospitals would be at high financial risk for closure due to a loss of millions in revenue**. Overall, the total revenue loss for the 1,900 rural hospitals in the United States is projected at **up to 25.6 billion dollars**.
- [AHA '19](#)
 - In [2018](#), **hospitals lost money providing care to Medicare and Medicaid patients and about one-third of hospitals were operating on negative operating profits**.
 - Government health coverage represents 71% of the typical hospital's volume of patients, and **hospitals lose 13 cents for every dollar spent caring for government health beneficiaries**. Thus, eliminating private insurance and replacing it with fully government insurance would likely make **many hospitals lose a ton of money and make many go out of business**.

- **Innovation**

- [Forbes '19](#)
 - Currently, America leads the world in the most medical innovations. In a profit-driven healthcare market, private innovation around medicine yields big monetary gains. Thus, **moving to a publicly funded healthcare system would reduce the profit incentives and thereby reduce private innovation in medicine**.
 - The reason for this is that the availability of funding "is the single most important factor explaining the dominant role of the USA in innovative research." As one illustration, in the 15-year period, the **U.S. invested more than 5 times as much as European nations did into private biotechnology companies**.
 - The aggregate social cost of **lost innovation under single-payer health care would be up to \$152 billion**.

Failures of Other Single Payer Systems

- **Canada**

- Canada has a **single payer healthcare system similar to Medicare for All**
- **Taxes:** Taxes are extremely high in Canada due to the government run healthcare. Technically, when accounting for taxes, medicare for all is not free. [Research](#) has shown that In 2017, the estimated average payment for public health care **insurance ranges from \$4,000 to \$12, 500** for six common Canadian family types, depending on the type of family. For the average Canadian family, the cost of public health care insurance increased 1.8 times faster than average income.
- **The 10% of Canadian families with the lowest incomes will pay an average of about \$470 for public health care insurance in 2017.** The 10% of Canadian families who earn an average income of \$63,000 will pay an average of \$5,800 for public health care insurance, and the **families among the top 10% of income earners in Canada will pay \$39,000.**
- **Wait Times:** [Research](#) shows that Americans are more likely to see a specialist far more quickly than in Canada. “In the United States, **70% of patients are able to be seen by specialists less than four weeks after a referral,**” according to a 2019 report. “In Canada, less than 40% were seen inside of four weeks. After being advised that they need a procedure done, only about **35% of Canadians had their surgery within a month, whereas in the United States, 61%** did. After four months, about 97% of Americans were able to have their surgery, whereas Canada struggled to achieve 80%.
- [Research](#) has shown that in Canada, **21% of doctors report patients often experience long wait times to receive treatment after diagnosis compared to only 9% of American doctors.** 50% of patients in Canada waited 2 or more hours for care in emergency rooms compared to only 25% of America. 30% of Canadian patients waited 2 months or longer for specialist appointments compared to only 6% in America. 18% of Canadian patients waited four month or longer for elective/non-emergency surgery compared to only 4% americans.
- In another [study](#), 27 percent of Canadians said that waiting times were their biggest complaint about their health system, **versus only 3 percent of Americans.**
- An [analysis](#) estimates that up to 63,000 Canadian women may have died as a result of increased wait times in the past 2 decades. And that doesn't even account for men
- **Quality:** [Research](#) has revealed that patients in Canadian hospitals are 177% more likely to die following a stroke compared to US patients. Also, patients in Canadian hospitals are **21% more likely to die following a heart attack** compared to US patients.
- Detailed [research](#) of 191 members nationwide ranked the US "responsiveness", or quality of service for individuals receiving treatment, **as 1st, compared with 7th for Canada.**

- **The United Kingdom**

- The UK has a single payer system very similar to that of Medicare for All
- **Taxes:** [18%](#) of a citizen's income tax goes towards healthcare, which is about 4.5% of the average citizen's income.
- **Wait Times:** The UK is short **42,000 nurses**. Meanwhile, in the United States, nearly all states will have a **surplus of nurses by 2030**. The shortage of providers has resulted in **longer wait times for patients in the UK**.
- In one month, 4.3 million people were on a waiting list for surgeries. In fact, [research](#) has proven that 19% of the UK waits two months or longer for specialist appointments compared to only 6% in the US. **31% of British doctors report patients often experience long wait times to receive treatment after diagnosis compared to only 9% of American doctors.** 12% of the UK waits 4 months or longer for elective/non-emergency surgery compared to only 4% of the US. 32% of the UK waited two hours or more for care in emergency rooms compared to only 25% of the US.
- In 2015, the UK [reported](#) that **30,000 patients died which was primarily contributed by long inefficient wait times.**
- **These are all direct symptoms of free health care.** [Research](#) has shown that around 26,000 Americans die each year due to lack of health insurance. By contrast, 30,000 patients died in the UK due to long wait times. After adjusting for population, this means that **you are approximately 470% more likely to die in the UK due to wait times than to die in America due to lack of health insurance.**
- Nearly a [quarter](#) of patients waited at least four hours to be seen, while 372,000 in total turned up to casualty
- **Quality:** A [study](#) conducted by the London School of Hygiene concluded that around 750 patients a month – one in 28 – pass away due to poor quality of care. In other words, patients needlessly die as a result of the incompetence of the single payer system in the UK
- For example, in [January](#), an elderly woman died from cardiac arrest after waiting 35 hours on a trolley because there was a shortage of hospital beds.
- When controlling for relevant variables, [studies](#) found that **people who have treatment in the UK are four times more likely to die than US citizens undergoing similar operations.** The most seriously ill UK patients were **seven times more likely to die than their American counterparts.**
- Terminally ill patients are incorrectly classified as “close to death” so as to allow the withdrawal of expensive life support.
- In the British National Health Service, cancellations are common. Last year, the UK [canceled](#) 85,000 elective operations in England for nonclinical reasons on the day the patient was due to arrive. The same year, it canceled 4,000 urgent

operations in England, including 154 urgent operations canceled two or more times. Times of high illness are a key driver in this problem. For instance, in flu season, the UK also [canceled](#) 50,000 “non-urgent” surgeries.

The Free Market Alternative

- **Benefits of Private, Free Market Healthcare System**

- <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5375601/>
 - <https://poseidon01.ssrn.com/delivery.php?ID=60406403109812609706712107806807910301805>
 - <https://moscow.sci-hub.do/4914/ea6539a9a83f95cdcf9b59fb39416c20/testa2013.pdf?download=t>
 - <https://www.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/Reforming-Americas-Healthcare-System-Through-Choice>
 - <https://mises.org/library/private-sector-health-care-leads-way>
 - <https://www.city-journal.org/free-market-health-care-solutions>
 - <https://lawecommons.luc.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1585&context=lclr>
-

- **How Government Intervention Ruined the American Healthcare System**

- <https://mises.org/wire/how-government-ruined-us-healthcare-and-what-can-be-done>
 - <https://fee.org/articles/government-makes-healthcare-worse-and-more-expensive/>
 - <https://www.learnliberty.org/blog/how-the-aca-ruins-health-care-for-those-who-need-it-most/>
 - <https://reason.com/2015/01/26/how-bureaucracy-and-big-government-ruine/>
 - <https://mises.org/wire/how-government-regulations-made-healthcare-so-expensive>
 - <https://www.forbes.com/sites/sallypipes/2018/12/24/blame-government-regulations-for-americas-uninsured-problem/?sh=6e76a89a6ec9>
 - <https://mises.org/wire/medicare-and-medicaid-destroyed-healthcare>
 - <https://www.heritage.org/medicare/commentary/medicare-all-would-ruin-the-care-americans-already>
-

Debunks (Healthcare)

Claim 1: Since the overall life expectancy and mortality rates in free healthcare systems (Canada, UK, Australia, ect) are significantly better than Non Free healthcare systems (America,

Somalia, Vietnam, ect), then therefore, the healthcare quality in free healthcare countries is overall better than non free healthcare countries.

Response 1: The problem with this claim is that it relies on a logical fallacy known as the causation correlation fallacy. Essentially, there is no evidence of casualty indicating that life expectancy is a direct result of the healthcare system. Several [factors](#) unrelated to our healthcare system explain Americans' poor life expectancy. Our nation's rate of gun deaths, for example, is ten times higher than that of other wealthy countries. Our death rate from car crashes is more than double that of other high-income nations. The U.S. drug overdose death rate is higher as well; Americans are twice as likely as Brits and six times as likely as the French to die of overdoses. Americans are also heavier than citizens of other nations. More than 70 percent of U.S. adults are either overweight or obese, which increases their risk of premature death. None of these factors reflects the quality of America's doctors or hospitals; yet they all contribute to our low life expectancy. In fact, after removing deaths from fatal injuries, among the 29 members of the OECD, America actually [ranks](#) number 1 in overall life expectancy. Essentially, there are many other confounding variables to be considered when suggesting that life expectancy is linked to a healthcare system. If you wanted to correctly measure the quality of a healthcare system, it would be more accurate to measure the rates of death after surgery. And the [fact](#) is that people who have treatment in the UK (free healthcare country) are four times more likely to die than US citizens undergoing similar operations. The most seriously ill UK patients were seven times more likely to die than their American counterparts. This number was similar in other single payer systems. Overall, it is illogical to assume that a healthcare system causes either low or high life expectancy rates, rather, life expectancy is linked through personal life choices in that specific country.

[The Myth of American's Poor Life Expectancy:](#) As shown by the chart below when you measure the likelihood of women to actually survive and recover from different types of cancers, after already having been treated by the American medical system women in America have by far the highest likelihood of survival on average for all types of cancer generally, and the highest likelihood of survival for 4 of the 6 main cancers women get, in the entire world.

5-Year Relative Survival Rates in Various Cancers, From the CONCORD Study (2008)

Country	Breast Women	Colorectal Men	Colorectal Women	Prostate	Average
United States	83.9%	59.1%	60.2%	91.9%	73.8%
Canada	82.5%	55.3%	58.9%	85.1%	70.5%
Australia	80.7%	56.7%	58.2%	77.4%	68.3%
Austria	74.9%	52.7%	55.1%	86.1%	67.2%
Germany	75.5%	50.1%	55.0%	76.4%	64.3%
Sweden	82.0%	52.8%	56.2%	66.0%	64.3%
Netherlands	77.6%	53.6%	55.1%	69.5%	64.0%
Iceland	79.0%	49.5%	54.0%	69.7%	63.1%
Japan	81.6%	61.1%	57.3%	50.4%	62.6%
Finland	80.2%	52.5%	54.0%	62.9%	62.4%
Italy	79.5%	50.7%	52.7%	65.4%	62.1%
Norway	76.3%	51.1%	55.3%	63.0%	61.4%
Spain	77.7%	52.5%	54.7%	60.5%	61.4%
Ireland	69.6%	46.0%	50.0%	62.8%	57.1%
Portugal	72.2%	46.5%	44.7%	47.7%	52.8%
UK	69.7%	42.3%	44.7%	51.1%	52.0%
Denmark	73.6%	44.2%	47.7%	38.4%	51.0%
Switzerland	76.0%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

“Healthcare” is not identical to Medical Care: If you leave out people who are victims of homicide or who die in automobile accidents, Americans live longer than people in any other Western country. Doctors do not prevent homicides or car crashes. In the things that doctors can affect, such as the survival rates of cancer patients, the United States leads the world. Therefore, if we wish to measure the success of the American healthcare system, which is not a free-market system but a mixed economic industry, we ought to directly measure the success of doctors and healthcare facilities in America rather than the health outcomes of Americans. This is because life expectancy statistics come down to a variety of factors that indicate nothing about the quality or success of our actual healthcare system. Such factors range from lifestyle choices, diets, exercise, fatalities like homicides and car accident deaths; none of these factors indicate anything about our healthcare system and if transitioning to government-run healthcare would actually improve our health outcomes. However, the chart below controls for fatalities like homicides and car accidents, and Americans have the #1 highest life expectancy in the world once you account for this fact. This is true without even controlling for differences in lifestyles choices, diets and exercise in which Americans notoriously make worse personal decisions than those in other countries.

NATIONAL LIFE EXPECTANCY: 1980 TO 1999

(with and without fatal injuries)

RANKING	OECD NATIONS	ACTUAL MEAN LIFE EXPECTANCY (INCLUDING FATAL INJURIES)	OECD NATIONS	STANDARDIZED MEAN LIFE EXPECTANCY (WITHOUT FATAL INJURIES)
1.	Japan	78.7	United States	76.9
2.	Iceland	78.0	Switzerland	76.6
3.	Sweden	77.7	Norway	76.3
4.	Switzerland	77.6	Canada	76.2
5.	Canada	77.3	Iceland	76.1
6.	Spain	77.3	Sweden	76.1
7.	Greece	77.1	Germany	76.1
8.	Netherlands	77.0	Denmark	76.1
9.	Norway	77.0	Japan	76.0
10.	Australia	76.8	Australia	76.0
11.	Italy	76.6	France	76.0
12.	France	76.6	Belgium	76.0
13.	Belgium	75.7	Austria	76.0
14.	United Kingdom	75.6	Netherlands	75.9
15.	Germany	75.4	Italy	75.8
16.	Finland	75.4	United Kingdom	75.7
17.	New Zealand	75.4	Finland	75.7
18.	Austria	75.3	New Zealand	75.4
19.	United States	75.3	Czech Republic	75.1
20.	Denmark	75.1	Ireland	75.0
21.	Ireland	74.8	Spain	74.9
22.	Portugal	73.9	Slovak Republic	74.4
23.	Czech Republic	72.2	Greece	74.4
24.	Slovak Republic	71.6	Portugal	74.3
25.	Poland	71.5	Hungary	74.3
26.	Korea	71.1	Korea	73.3
27.	Mexico	70.9	Poland	73.2
28.	Hungary	69.7	Mexico	72.8
29.	Turkey	64.4	Turkey	72.0

Claim 2: A recent study from Lancet confirmed that Medicare for All will lower health care costs in this country by \$450 billion a year and save the lives of 68,000 people who would otherwise have died.

Response 2: This study is extremely flawed in light of the fact that it **cherry picks data, and ignores several other factors and reasoning.** For instance, when it mentions the Medicare for All savings, they base their data on uncertain assumptions. The researchers calculate \$78.2 billion in savings from providing primary care to uninsured people, \$70.4 billion from avoided hospitalizations, and \$7.8 billion from avoided emergency room visits. But previous evidence suggests that this methodology is extremely flawed and relies on many fallacies. When you look at the proven data, when states expanded Medicaid providing new insurance to people who had previously lacked coverage, providing more insurance actually **did not reduce emergency room visits or avoidable hospitalizations because people could suddenly use preventive care, unlike what the Lancet study falsely assumed.** The Lancet study assumes that these hospitalizations and emergency room visits would completely disappear, however, **this has never manifested historically.** Next, The researchers also assume that a Medicare for All system would pay hospitals at a maximum of Medicare rates. This assumption is incredibly flawed because if you look at the year 2017, the Medicare Payment Advisory Commission estimated that, on average, **a hospital loses 9.9% on a patient who is insured through Medicare.** (Private pay helps make up that difference.) Some hospitals certainly would be able to swallow this cost. But others would struggle to stay afloat. Beyond the lower payments, the researchers also suggest hospitals would spend less money on overhead, only having to navigate a single insurance plan. That change accounts for \$29 billion in their estimated savings. But again, **that ignores some of the reality of how hospitals work.** While a single-payer system would undoubtedly cost less to administer, **it would not eliminate the need for expensive items like electronic health records, which coordinate care between hospitals.** Now, let's move one to the figure about saving 68,000 lives under Medicare for All. The figure is based on a 2009 paper. This 2009 paper has received a lot of [criticism](#) due to its flawed methodology. What the study did is that they noted the insurance status of a group of people in 1993. They followed up in 2001, checking whether they were dead or alive. They found that the group who had been uninsured in 1993 had a higher mortality rate than those who were insured, and from that they calculated a 40% increased risk for death due to lack of insurance. However, there is one major problem which the authors themselves admitted and I quote: *“We were unable to measure the effect of gaining or losing coverage after the interview.”* In other words the authors had no idea how many people uninsured in 1993 acquired health insurance later on. For example, if someone was uninsured in 1993, got insurance in 1996, and then died in 2001 from a car crash, the authors of the study would have considered him to die due to lack of health insurance even though they were unaware of the fact of whether he had insurance at the time or not. In fact, a study found that people who are uninsured at one point in time are more likely to be insured in the later years. Thus, due to the fact that the study failed to account for this, it is logically false to say Medicare for All would save 68,000 lives.

- *Optional:* If you wanted to see how government health coverage expansions really affected mortality, you can look at a recent [study](#) that analyzed the health outcomes of 6,400 people who won the lottery and gained government health coverage compared to 5,800 who remained uninsured. The lottery was exclusive to low income, uninsured adults (the individuals you claim would have had better health outcomes under Medicare for All). The study concluded the government health beneficiaries showed "**no significant improvements in measured physical health outcomes over the course of two years.**" If Medicare for All really improved the health outcomes for low income, uninsured people, these results would simply not appear. Also, the study fails to take into account the lives that would be lost as a result of increased wait times and poorer quality care under Medicare for All. Overall, even an unbiased official fact checker known as "**Politifact**" actually rated all these claims false when Bernie Sanders mentioned the study during the democratic debate. Essentially, as I have demonstrated, the research done by Lancet is **extremely flawed and relies on cherry picked assumptions.**

Claim 3: A Meta Analysis from PLOS of 22 peer reviewed journals found that 91% agreed that Medicare for All would save money in both the short run and the long run.

Response 3: First off, the survey included 22 studies, **more than half of which were written by the same four authors**, some of which dated back to 1991. Secondly, the survey cherry picks which studies it wants to include in the study and excludes all the other conservative estimates. A reanalysis of the survey found that **the report excluded 35 studies that have shown different results.** Overall, the survey relies on cherry picked evidence and excludes all the other studies that have shown different results.

Claim 4: 45,000 Americans die each year due to lack of health insurance. Medicare for All would eliminate all of these deaths.

Response 4: This study has received a lot of criticism due to its flawed methodology. What the study did is that it noted the insurance status of a group of people in 1993. They followed up in 2001, checking whether they were dead or alive. They found that the group who had been uninsured in 1993 had a **higher mortality rate than those who were insured, and from that they calculated that 45,000 people die each year due to lack of insurance.** However, there is one major problem which the authors themselves admitted and I quote: "***We were unable to measure the effect of gaining or losing coverage after the interview.***" In other words the authors had no idea how many people uninsured in 1993 acquired health insurance later on. For example, if someone was uninsured in 1993, got insurance in 1996, and then died in 2001 from a car crash, **the authors of the study would have considered him to die due to lack of health insurance even though they were unaware of whether he had insurance at the time or not.** In fact, a study found that people who are uninsured at one point in time are more likely to be insured in the later years as **nearly half of those uninsured in 1993 reached age sixty-five and**

became eligible for Medicare by 2000. Thus, due to the fact that the study failed to account for this, it is logically false to say 45,000 people die each year due to lack of insurance.

Claim 5: Studies have confirmed that black and hispanic Americans are more likely to not have health coverage compared to white Americans. This is the shocking reality of how racism penetrates the healthcare system. With Medicare for All, it would help eliminate these racial inequities.

Response 5: That is actually evidence of a disparity not really discrimination. And the fact is that **disparity does not equal discrimination the same way causation does not equal correlation.** Just because there is a difference in health coverage rates by the races does not mean there is discrimination. For example, it turns out that Asian Americans are more likely than white Americans to have health coverage, but **no one calls that racist against whites in favor of Asian Americans.** These racial disparities are caused by differences of wealth between the races **rather than discrimination on part of the actual healthcare system.** Essentially, this brings me back to my original point, disparity simply does not equal discrimination.

Claim 6: Medicare for All would boost job productivity and benefit the market place

Response 6: Actually, Medicare for All would **wipe out a staggering 2.5 million health insurance and healthcare jobs nationwide,** causing the number of **unemployed people in this country to jump by almost half.** In fact, New research by Stanford shows that Medicare for All will cause hospitals to lose a whopping \$151 billion in payments the first year. Hospitals will be **forced to eliminate as many as 1.5 million jobs overnight.** Overall, this totals to **4.5 million layoffs, almost doubling the number of unemployed Americans.** When you weigh, causing 4.5 million people to go unemployed is significantly worse than increasing job productivity by a slight amount. Bernie Sanders loves to brag about how Medicare for All will prevent Americans from having to choose between food on the table and medicine. **Well sorry, but if your job is eliminated, putting food on your table will be impossible.**

Claim 7: “In 2017, the average VA wait time was 17.7 days, while the private-sector average was 29.8 days. That translates to a shorter average wait time of 12 days in the VA, compared with the private sector (Reuters Health JAMA).”

Response 7: That study actually contains many methodological errors: [Researchers](#) have looked at primary and mental health care appointments for new patients and referrals for specialists and found that overall, **36% had to wait longer than a month for an appointment, but the VA scheduling system said only 10% had waited that long.** A reanalysis also reviewed a sampling of more than 1,400 appointment records from the last quarter of 2015 and found **veterans waited an average of 27 days for primary care appointments, however, the VA scheduling system said the average was only eight days.** Also, the study failed to control for the VA patients that had to visit a private hospital because the government hospitals had too many people. In 2018,

39% of patients were sent for treatment outside a VA hospital because the government's facilities **could not provide care in a timely manner**, investigators [reported](#). In a [separate report released](#), they found that since the VA's tracking system captures only part of the appointment scheduling process; the department may show it is meeting its average wait time goal of 30 days, **but when considering all factors, veterans potentially are waiting up to 70 days for an appointment**. Essentially, The study that claimed the VA healthcare system has shorter wait times relies on logical fallacies and methodological errors.

Debunking the Umass Study

[Original study](#)

1. Administrative Savings won't Materialize: Govt plans already spends more on administrative costs even when the private market is heavily regulated and it's gonna get worse in a fully single-payer system

a) The math is fuzzy - medicare patients (elderly/disabled/etc.) have a higher avg. patient care costs, expressing admin costs as a percentage of total costs gives a distorted picture in favor of medicare. If private healthcare and Medicare both had identical levels of admin efficiency, medicare would still appear more efficient which means its a flawed metric [Insert Figure 1]

Source:

<https://www.heritage.org/health-care-reform/report/medicare-administrative-costs-are-higher-not-lower-private-insurance>

b) Private Sector Regulatory Compliance - the private healthcare sector is severely regulated to the point where they are forced to spend a ton of time and money on regulatory compliance. This is living proof that we do not have a free market in healthcare.

- Health Systems/Hospitals/PAC providers must comply with ****629**** discrete regulatory requirements across 9 domain

- As a result, they spend nearly \$39 Billion/Year on administrative activities in just these 9 domains

- 1 of 4 Physicians/Nurses/Health Staff dedicate their time to regulatory compliance

- Complicating Factors Include: Timing/Pace of Regulatory Change, IT Interoperability Issues, Inefficient/Duplicate Quality Reporting Requirements, Outdated Fraud/Abuse Laws

Source: <https://www.aha.org/guidesreports/2017-11-03-regulatory-overload-report>

c) Current Medicare Collapse - Spending is Out of Control and Medicare itself is based on a perverse incentive. You cannot trust projections with government spending as a rule of thumb. You have to at least double it, or in this case, multiply it by a factor of 8. This doesn't cover all of why Medicare itself is a colossal failure worse than the private sector. [Insert Figure 2]

Source:

<https://www.heritage.org/health-care-reform/report/medicares-next-50-years-preserving-the-program-future-retirees>

2. Drug Price Controls Fails and Increases Spending in the Long-Run: price controls discourage drug development and end up costing more for taxpayers

a) The authors explicitly acknowledge that it costs \$2.9 Billion to bring a new drug to the market. Pharma companies are not willing to go through that risk with price controls that call for a 42% decrease in drug spending.

- Common Counter: "They're making a crapload in profit!" - Yes, but just because they made a lot of money beforehand doesn't mean that they are willing to just give away all that money post facto. If you were a business owner and you got some grant of \$100 k, would you be willing to put in an investment that would almost certainly lose you that money?

- Common Counter: "They're just repeating the same drugs with patents!" - Probably true, but that's a problem of the patent system and the FDA, not the healthcare system at-large.

b) Breakthroughs in Medicine outweigh upfront cost-saving measures. A single Alzheimer's drug saved Medicare/Medicaid \$218 Billion ANNUALLY every year until 2050

3. Hospital Death: Steep cuts to hospital budgets cause them to go out of business and Congress isn't gonna allow that

a) Sanders' 22% cuts were wrong, it's 40%: that was his 2017 Senate Bill

b) The most efficient hospitals are operating on -2% margins in Medicare Payments. Now expand this to the entire industry.

Source:

<https://www.healthcarefinancenews.com/news/efficient-hospitals-operate-2-margins-medicare-payments-medpac-reports#:~:text=Hospitals%20are%20currently%20losing%20money,2%20percent%2C%20according%20to%20MedPAC.&text=%22Medicare%20margins%20in%20the%20hospital,time%20now%2C%22%20Mathews%20said.>

c) That causes shortages and rationing - it's significant already in the NHS and the Canadian System

Common Counter: "Rationing exists in the US" - Yes, but this is not a free market. You need to prove that an m4a system can result in the absence of rationing, not rely on a tu quo que fallacy

Debunking the Commonwealth Fund Studies

The most politically biased and disingenuous study to ever exist

Claim 1: According to a commonwealth fund study, Among the 11 wealthy nations studied, the U.S. ranks last overall in terms of healthcare. The scorecards used to determine this ranking are as follows: Healthy lives, Access to care, Health care quality, Efficiency, and Equity.

Response 1: Many critics have raised red flags on this study because it provides evidence of health outcomes; however, these health outcomes have no causal link to the actual healthcare system. It also cherry picks data designed to make the US look bad. Lets go over each scorecard category one by one:

Healthy Lives: A major error in which they calculated "healthy lives" was that they used infant mortality rates as a justification. The major problems with infant mortality statistics is that studies use different data definitions. For instance, American medical practice more commonly resuscitates very small premature and nonviable-birth babies; these babies later die but are treated as "live births" in U.S. statistics. Countries such as France, Japan, and other European nations are likely to classify these babies as stillbirths, which aren't counted into the infant mortality statistics. This would inevitably increase the amount of infant mortalities counted in the United States. Infant mortality rates are also affected by outside factors such as the mother's behavior and lifestyle (e.g., obesity, tobacco use, excessive alcohol use, recreational drug use, and marital status). Now, let's talk about the second category used to calculate Healthy Lives. The commonwealth study included something called "amenable mortality" or "potentially preventable deaths." All the study does is show how many people died in each country from a set of diseases and conditions. Period. This study was not an effort to identify people who died when their particular condition could have been preventable or amenable to care; all it measures is the number of people in each country who died from a list of conditions. If I am talking to you and I suddenly flop over instantly dead of a massive heart attack, the author's of the study consider me to have died of a disease amenable to healthcare. This makes it entirely possible that this mortality difference is entirely due to lifestyle differences and disease incidence rates rather than the relative merits of the healthcare system. In fact, this study is close to meaningless. If they really wanted to make a point about the quality of health care systems, they would compare them on relative to the disease mortality rates and not relative to the total population. If you wanted to

see this in data, [Research](#) has actually revealed that patients in Canadian hospitals (which is a single payer system) are 177% more likely to die following a stroke compared to US patients. Also, patients in Canadian hospitals are **21% more likely to die following a heart attack** compared to US patients. This number was even larger in the UK (which is another single payer system). Overall, deaths amenable to mortality is an incredibly misleading statistics and has absolutely nothing to do with the nation's actual healthcare system.

Access to Care: The Commonwealth Fund study also ignores massive problems with actual access to care in the countries it heralds. Every citizen of a country with socialized medicine may have insurance; But that doesn't mean they have quality access. For [example](#), 31% of British doctors report patients often experience long wait times to receive treatment after diagnosis compared to only 9% of American doctors. In fact, In 2015, the UK [reported](#) that 30,000 patients died which was primarily contributed by long inefficient wait times. After adjusting for population, this means that you are approximately 470% more likely to die in the UK due to wait times than to die in America due to [lack](#) of health insurance. It is no accident the study did not include wait times as a measure to rank the access of care. Now, The Commonwealth Fund is right about one thing in the category: the U.S. healthcare system is too expensive. However, access to a long inefficient waiting list is not access to quality health care.

Healthcare Quality: For this category, the [study](#) describes healthcare quality as “care that is effective, safe, coordinated, and patient-centered.” Essentially, it is using subjective data on the patients' satisfaction, delays, or errors reported in the health checkup. The only problem here is that there is no evidence of causality. What I mean by this is that there is no proof that a single payer system consistently yields better healthcare quality in these specific categories than other systems simply because of the fact that it is a single payer system. Essentially, if single payer healthcare systems consistently yield better quality measures, then you would see this consistently in other single payer systems. For example, Canada and the UK are both single payer systems very similar to medicare for all; however, the Commonwealth fund study ranked the UK 1st in these quality measures and ranked Canada 9th in these quality measures. What this suggests is that the measures the commonwealth study used to calculate the quality of a healthcare system have no direct link to the fact that the country runs on a single payer system. Rather, it can be explained by outside factors. So adopting something similar to Canada or the UK's healthcare model would likely not impact the quality of the health outcomes in the US because there is no evidence of causality.

Efficiency: This category methodology is very similar to that of the last category: the healthcare quality measures. As I have pointed out before, there is no evidence of causality that shows a single payer system would help America increase its efficiency measures. For example, in the [study](#), the UK was ranked 1st in efficiency measures while Canada was ranked 10th. However, they are both single payer systems. This suggests that the single payer system is not responsible

for producing these high efficiency measures, so there is no proof it would actually benefit the US.

Equity: A better way to rephrase this category would be by calling inequality rather than inequity. This is the only part of the [study](#) that measured the merits of inequality in the healthcare system. However, a healthcare system should be more focused on providing good quality care to patients in a timely manner; however, every single payer system has failed to do this.

Overall, as I have demonstrated, the vast majority of the measurements of the healthcare system rankings are majorly flawed. Also, take into consideration how the study failed to include other measurements such as the responsiveness of care, medical innovation, surgical mortality rates, cancer survival rates, wait times, and many other things. The fact is that America consistently outperforms other single payer systems in all these categories but the commonwealth study cherry picked the categories in which America performs poorly in specifically to make America's healthcare system look defective.

Gun Control

- **Red Flag Laws**

- [CPRC '18](#)

- Moody and Lott Jr. (2018) analyzed the 4 states of California (2016), Indiana (2005), Connecticut (1999), and Washington (2016) and the effects of their red flag laws on crime. They concluded that the implementation of **red flag laws had no substantial effect on the minimization on murder, robbery, aggravated assault, public mass shootings, and burglary**. Furthermore, insignificant evidence suggests rape cases decrease while suicide rates had some inclines.

- **Assault Weapons ban**

- [Gius '14](#)

- A review of states who enacted an assault weapon ban was shown to **not have any significant effect on the murder rates** in those states, deeming the laws inutile

- [FBI '18](#)

- In 2019, fewer murder victims were killed with rifles (364) than with:
 - ❑ Blunt objects, like **clubs and hammers** (397)
 - ❑ Personal weapons, like **hands, feet, and fists** (600)

□ **Knives or cutting instruments (1,476)**

- [Reuters '18](#)
 - “[A Journal of the American College of Surgeons] research team found that [mass shooting] events with a handgun were associated with a higher percentage of people killed, whereas events involving a rifle were associated with more people shot. About 26 percent of those shot with a handgun had more than one fatal wound, versus two percent of people shot with a rifle. Handguns were also more likely to be associated with brain and heart injuries.” In all fairness, [more](#) people shot means a high death toll is more likely, but FBI [data](#) affirms that the vast majority, 64%, of intentional slayings with a firearm involve handguns, while those involving rifles account for a mere 4%.
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● **Gun Concealment Restrictions**

- [Gius '14](#)
 - Studied the effects of states with more severe gun concealment regulation while controlling for state and year fixed effects. He found that **states with tighter gun concealment restrictions had higher gun related murder rates** than other states with less ferocious restrictions.
- [WashingtonPost '16](#)
 - Researchers at the University of Pittsburgh analyzed all 893 firearms that police recovered from crime scenes in Pittsburgh in 2008. In approximately 8 out of 10 cases (80%), the perpetrator of the crime was not the lawful owner of the firearm.
- [Bureau of Justice Statistics](#)
 - According to the Bureau of Justice Statistics, only **10%** of prisoners who possessed a gun during their offense obtained it from a retail source. **Fewer than 1%** obtained it at a gun show. **43%** obtained the firearm from the **underground market/off-the-street** — the most common source.
- [CDC '13](#)
 - Gun concealment restrictions would take away guns from many individuals that use guns in self defense. According to the CDC, “Almost all national survey estimates indicate that defensive gun uses by victims are at least as common as offensive uses by criminals, with estimates of **annual uses ranging from about 500,000 to more than 3 million.**” “Studies that directly assessed the effect of actual defensive uses of guns (i.e., incidents in which a gun was ‘used’ by the crime victim in the sense of attacking or threatening an offender) have found consistently lower injury rates among gun-using crime victims compared with victims who used other self-protective strategies.”

- **Mass and School Shootings**

- [CPRC '18](#)

- A 2018 study by the Crime Prevention Research Center found that the U.S. accounts for less than **1.43%** of the world's mass public shooters, **2.88%** of their attacks, and **2.11%** of their murders—all much less than the **4.6% U.S. share** of the world population. The US is simply not the mass shootings capital of the world

- [SS '19](#)

- A Secret Service analysis of school shooters found:
 - **80%** were bullied by classmates.
 - **91%** showed symptoms of mental health disorder(s).
 - **89%** exhibited concerning behaviors prior to the attack—e.g. direct threats of violence—which were observed by others.

- [NE '18](#)

- A Northeastern University study found that, on average, **four times the** number of children were killed in schools in the early 1990s than today. The study also found that shooting incidents involving students declined approximately **80%** from 1992 to 2015. In fact, In the United States, approximately **1%** of homicides of [school-age children](#) occur in schools. More kids are [killed](#) each year from **pool drownings** or **bicycle accidents** than from school shootings.

- [CRS '13](#)

- A 2013 Congressional Research Service report identified **78 public mass shootings** from 1983 to 2012, in which a total of **547 people** were killed. For context, **11,622 people** died in gun homicides **in 2012 alone**. Essentially, mass shootings are uncommon

- [AFLF '16](#)

- According to the Crime Prevention Research Center, “gun free zones” (areas where guns are prohibited) have been the target of more than **98% of all mass shootings**. This staggering number is why such designated areas are often referred to as “**soft targets,**” meaning **unprotected and vulnerable**. Only a little more than **1% of mass public shootings since 1950 have occurred in places that were not considered to be a gun-free zone**. In fact, only **two mass shootings** in the U.S. since 1950 have occurred in an area where citizens were not prohibited from carrying a gun.

- [Follman '20](#)

- Gun control laws will not prevent criminals from obtaining guns or breaking laws. **Of 62 mass shootings in the United States between 1982**

and 2012, 49 of the shooters used legally obtained guns. Collectively, 143 guns were possessed by the killers with about 75% obtained legally. A Secret Service [analysis](#) found that of 24 mass shootings in 2019 at least 10 (42%) involved illegally possessed guns. John R. Lott, Jr., PhD, gun rights activist, [stated](#), “The problem with such [gun control] laws is that they take away guns from law-abiding citizens, while would-be **criminals ignore them.**” According to a Bureau of Justice Statistics [report](#), **37.4% of state prison inmates who “used, carried, or possessed a firearm when they committed the crime for which they were serving a prison sentence”** obtained the gun from a family member or friend. Despite Chicago’s ban on gun shops, shooting ranges, assault weapons, and high capacity magazines, in 2014 Chicago had [2,089](#) shooting victims including at least [390](#) murders. Approximately [50,000](#) guns were recovered by police in Chicago between 2001 and Mar. 2012. The guns came from all 50 states, and **more than half came from outside of Illinois.**

- **International Gun Control**

- *Multiple Countries*

- [Miron '12](#)

- A common correlation fallacy is that just because some countries with tight gun control have lower homicide rates, gun control must work. For example, Japan and England have **one homicide per 100k citizens but the US has 9 per 100k**. With this info, some would make the argument that just because Japan and England have tighter gun control, that it must be the factor that correlates it. But a look at **Israel, New Zealand and Switzerland show that despite having relatively relaxed gun control policy and a high firearm availability rate, they have very similar homicide rates to England and Japan.** Miron (2012) found that countries with more lax gun control and have lower rates of homicide.

- *Australia*

- [Kleck '18](#)

- In 1996 Australia implemented arguably the **most ambitious gun control effort ever attempted**, banning all semi auto rifles and shotguns and all pump-action rifles and shotguns, and buying the banned guns already in circulation. Chapman, Alpers, and Jones (2016) produced what is arguably the most extensive evaluation, concluding that the measure was a success. In fact, their own data

indicated that **the effort failed to reduce homicides, suicides, or unintentional firearms deaths**. It is even questionable whether the effort reduced mass shootings, the problem that had triggered the gun control effort in the first place.

- [Baker '11](#)

- The current paper examines the incidence of mass shootings in **Australia and New Zealand (a country that is socioeconomically similar to Australia, but with a different approach to firearms regulation) over a 30 year period**. It does not find support for the **hypothesis that Australia's prohibition of certain types of firearms has prevented mass shootings**, with New Zealand not experiencing a mass shooting since 1997 despite the availability in that country of firearms banned in Australia. These findings are discussed in the **context of social and economic trends**.

- **Canada**

- [Mauser '04](#)

- In the past 20 years, both Conservative and Labour governments have introduced restrictive firearm laws; even banning all handguns in 1997. Unfortunately, **these Draconian firearm regulations have totally failed**. The **public is not any safer and may be less safe**. Police statistics show that England and Wales are enduring a serious crime wave. In contrast to the handgun-dense United States, where the homicide rate has been falling for over 20 years, the **homicide rate in handgun-banning England and Wales has been growing**. In the 1990s alone, **the homicide rate jumped 50%, going from 10 per million in 1990 to 15 per million in 2000**. Police statistics show that violent crime in general has increased since the late 1980s and, in fact, since 1996 has been more serious than in the United States. The **firearm laws may even have increased criminal violence by disarming the general public**. Despite Britain's banning and confiscating all handguns, violent crime, and firearm crime, continue to grow.

- **New Zealand**

- [SFU '19](#)

- The Arms Legislation Bill of 2019 creates a regulatory behemoth that focuses exclusively on non-violent, lawful firearms ownership. **No convincing evidence has been presented to justify the numerous restrictions on the lawful use and possession of arms**

and ammunition. A review of the international evidence shows that **civilian firearms ownership does not pose a public safety hazard.** Moreover, there is no convincing evidence that the introduction of **strict regulations on firearms ownership acts to reduce criminal violence or suicide rates.**

Drugs

From a Libertarian Viewpoint (Pros)

- **The War on Drugs**
 - [The Hill: Clark 18](#)
 - **\$100 billion a year** is spent waging the war on drugs globally
 - **\$40 billion** of that is spent in the United States alone
 - Despite this, drug use **rose by 31%** between 2011 and 2016.
 - Illegal drug markets have expanded relentlessly to meet this growing demand, with opium and [cocaine] production rising respectively by **130% and 34%** between 2009 and 2018.
- [Justice Policy Institute: McVay et al. 04](#)
 - Among drug offenders released from prison, **41.2%** will be **re-arrested** on another drug offense.
- [Center on Addiction 10](#)
 - Approximately 65% of prison inmates in the US meet the diagnostic criteria for addiction [but] **only 11%** receive any form of treatment.
 - *“In 2005, federal, state and local governments spent **\$74 billion** on incarceration, court proceedings, probation and parole for substance-involved adult and juvenile offenders and **less than 1%** of that amount (\$632 million) on prevention and treatment for them”*
- [Skywood Recovery: O’Leary 18](#)
 - Approximately **95%** of incarcerated addicts will **return to substance abuse** after their release from prison.
 - **60% to 80%** of them will **commit new crimes.**
 - Others will become addicted while in prison due to access to **smuggled drugs.**
 - There have been a number of reports of individuals **dying from severe withdrawal** while in prison.

- **Decriminalization**

- [Drug Policy Alliance 15 \(easier to read\)](#)

- An empirical analysis of drug decriminalization in Portugal
- As a result of decriminalizing all drugs, Portugal experienced:
 - No major increase in **overall drug use**
 - Reduced problematic and **adolescent drug use**
 - Reduced **drug-induced death**
 - More people receiving **drug treatment**
 - **18% reduction** in the **social costs** of drug misuse (legal and health related)
 - The European Union also confirmed in 2013 that countries like Portugal that have decriminalized drug possession, have not experienced any increases in monthly rates of use and in fact tend to have lower rates than countries with strict drug laws
 - Separate informational piece - [Drug Policy Alliance](#): notes also that overdose deaths **decreased by over 80%**
 - Overall, the legalization of drugs in many countries has benefited the overall lives of the individuals living there. This suggests that **legalizing Cannabis would likely not have a negative impact on the individuals living in the United States.**

- [Choo et al. 14](#)

- This study Looks at adolescent marijuana use before and after legalisation of medical marijuana:
- *'There were **no statistically significant differences in marijuana use before and after policy change for any state pairing.** In the regression analysis, we did not find an overall increased probability of marijuana use related to the policy change.'*

- [Gallup '19](#)

- In 2019, **66% of Americans** said “Cannabis should be made legal.”
-

From a Conservative Viewpoint (Cons)

- **Effects on Society:**

- [Samdha.gov '15](#)

- Legalizing Cannabis has a major increase on use by teens, **which results is harmful results:**

- Denver's rate of hospital discharges was over **65 percent higher than Colorado's rate and increased 29 percent** when marijuana was legalized.
 - The Children's Hospital Colorado reported **1 marijuana ingestion among children under 9 years old in 2009 compared to 16 in 2015** the year after legalization
 - Hospitalizations related to marijuana also **rose 200% after retail marijuana stores legally opened in Colorado**
 - Poison-control marijuana exposure cases for kids ages 9 and under **increased by five times in Colorado after legalization.**
-

- **Economic Effects**

- [UNE.edu '17](#)
 - For every \$1 in alcohol and tobacco tax revenues, **society loses \$10 in social costs, from accidents to health damage and hospitalizations**
 - When Cannabis is legalized, there will be a **major increase in hospitalizations associated with Cannabis**. Thus, the legalization of marijuana will lead to a **significant loss in social cost** which negatively impacts both the economy and society.
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Systemic Racism

- **Police**

- [Tress et al. '19](#)
 - Tress et al. 2019 found **no evidence of an anti-black and anti-hispanic bias among white police officers**, and also suggests that an incline in racial diversity among police would not reduce any racially biased police shooting disparities.
- [Cesario et al. 2018](#)
 - Using a **crime benchmark** instead of a population one, Cesario et al. 2018 found that this vanishes any police fatal shooting disparity. "When adjusting for crime, we find **no systematic evidence of anti-Black disparities in fatal shootings, fatal shootings of unarmed citizens, or fatal shootings involving misidentification of harmless objects.**"
- [NIJ '13](#)
 - A study in Cincinnati found that black drivers had longer stops and higher search rates than white drivers. However, when the researchers matched

stops involving black drivers with **similarly situated white drivers**, those stopped at the same time, place, and context (reason for the stop, validity of the driver's license, etc.), **they found no differences**. Their conclusion was that differences in the time, place, and context of the stops were the cause of the longer stops and higher search rates. Overall, it was evidence of **disparity, not discrimination**.

- [ASC '16](#)
 - This paper studied police from different departments around the U.S. and using a realistic simulation, found that the group of **mostly white officers** had a **mean reaction shot time of 1.09 seconds for whites and 1.32 seconds for blacks**.

- **Drugs**

- A common argument individuals claim is that blacks and whites use drugs and other illegal substances at equal rates but blacks are more likely to be arrested or incarcerated for it. They use this as a justification to suggest that systemic racism exists. This section will refute these claims:

- [Pacula '16](#)

- Studied the differences in the use in drug use and behavior between black and white users, and found that “**African Americans are nearly twice as likely to buy outdoors (0.31 versus 0.14), three times more likely to buy from a stranger (0.30 versus 0.09), and significantly more likely to buy away from their homes (0.61 versus 0.48)**. This analysis shows that African Americans are statistically more likely to engage in risky purchasing behaviors that increase their likelihood of arrest. This reflects that blacks are more likely to be more visible to law enforcement which causes them to be at risk for marijuana arrest than whites, not racial bias.

- [BJS '95](#)

- A well established criminological fact is that the **more crimes a person commits, the more likely that person is to be arrested**. Accordingly, frequent drug users are more at risk of arrest than infrequent users. Among black drug users, 54% reported using drugs at least monthly and 32% reported using them weekly. **Such frequent drug use was less common among white drug users**. Among white users, only 39% reported using drugs monthly and 20% reported using them weekly. **Black drug users are significantly more likely to be frequent drug users than whites, meaning that they are at higher risk for drug arrest than**

whites because they use drugs more frequently than whites, not racial bias.

- ❑ Now to the next point; With respect to the type of drug used, the races differ in ways that place black drug users at greater risk of arrest than whites. Specifically, according to the SAMHSA survey data, among blacks who reported using illicit drugs during the year, 20% said the drug was heroin or cocaine, the type with the greatest risk of arrest. For white drug users, the figure was lower - 16%. **The type of drug with the lowest risk of arrest - psychotherapeutics/hallucinogens - had a high use rate among whites and a low use rate among blacks.** That is, 19% of black drug users and 30% of white drug users reported using this drug. Another factor to why blacks are at greater risk for arrest than whites is because they are more likely to use risky drugs than whites, not racial bias.
- ❑ Now to the next point; Drug law enforcement is heavily concentrated in large urban places. To illustrate, large metropolitan areas are where 44% of Americans live and where 47% of illicit drug use occurs but where 60% of drug possession arrests occur. **With respect to place of residence, the races differ in ways that place black drug users at greater risk of arrest than white users.** Large metropolitan areas are where 60% of blacks live but where 41% of whites live. Moreover, large metropolitan areas are where 63% of black drug use occurs compared to 45% of white drug use. **Many other factors come into play when taking consideration of the risk of arrests between whites and blacks and there is essentially no proven evidence that takes these factors into account when suggesting racial discrimination**
- [Hill '03](#)
 - ❑ Kim and Hill (2003) studied the validity of youth black drug report validity. They surveyed 290 black men being treated for high blood pressure, **only 48 admitted that they were using illegal drugs but urine tests found out that 131 of them were.** 45% of them were taking drugs but only 19% admitted it
- [Price '03](#)
 - ❑ Concluded that blacks were more than **20x more likely than whites to lie about cocaine & more than 2x as likely to lie about marijuana**
- [Lu et al. '01](#)

- ❑ When people arrested for various crimes were asked about drug use & then tested, **whites were less likely to lie about marijuana** or methamphetamines, aka **blacks were more likely to lie** about marijuana & methamphetamines] blacks were more likely to admit using crack cocaine than other races
- [Fendrich '94](#)
 - ❑ This study analyzed white and black 9-20 year olds and found **blacks were 6x more likely to claim they didn't use cocaine even when it showed up in their urine test.**
- [Najaka '06](#)
 - ❑ After studying the differences in drug use validity, Rosay, Herz & Najaka (2006) found that **Black offenders provide less accurate self-reports than White offenders** when looking at Gender, Race, age, type of drug, and severity of drug mental implications. Black offenders do so because **they are more likely to underreport crack/cocaine use than White offenders**
- [Rudolph '00](#)
 - ❑ Cernkovich, Giordano, & Rudolph (2000), “There is evidence that black males' **self-reports of delinquency are less valid than the reports of other groups**: Black males **underreport involvement** at every level of delinquency, especially at the high end of the continuum.”
- [SAMHSA '11](#)
 - ❑ In 2011, the most recent year for which data are available, Blacks were **2.8 times more likely than whites to end up in the ER because of marijuana, and seven times more likely because of cocaine.** For all drugs, the multiple was 3.5. There is **no reason to think these figures reflect anything other than different rates of illegal drug use.**
- [FBI '11](#)
 - ❑ In 2011, blacks comprised **31.7% of all drug arrests, while they made up 30.7% of all emergency room visits for overdosing on illegal drugs.** The 1% difference between ER visits & drug arrests could be due to the fact that when police arrest someone for committing a violent or property crime, that person is searched for illegal drugs. Blacks **commit more violent crimes & property crimes, they are more likely to be searched as a result.**
- [DeLaquil '19](#)
 - ❑ In 2019, Blacks were almost **2x more likely to die of a drug overdose than whites.**

- [O'Malley '84](#)
 - ❑ Johnston, Bachman, & O'Malley (1984) found that black non-drug users were more than **twice as likely as whites to indicate that they would not have reported drug use had they been involved**, 14% versus 6% for marijuana, & 19% versus 8% for heroin.
- [Owen '13](#)
 - ❑ Blacks tend to buy, sell & do drugs in "**open air**" markets while whites "**hide at home, in the basement or the country club.**" Blacks tend to "lash out, use profanities or be rebellious" which Burnett notes makes it more likely that an officer will make an arrest, while whites tend to say "yes sir," & comply with the officers directions. Funding or profiling are neither necessary nor sufficient to determine **causation of disparate marijuana arrest between black & white.**

- **Criminal Justice System**

- Debunking: *"Black male offenders receive 19.1% longer federal sentences than similarly-situated white male."*
 - [Beaver et al. '13](#)
 - ❑ This is true, when controlling for legal and social variables blacks still receive longer sentences than whites for the same crime. **Contrary to this, though, controlling for past criminal record and verbal IQ make the sentencing gap between blacks and whites go away.** "Table 5 presents the results of the models and reveals that race was not significantly associated with sentence length in the baseline model. After controlling for the effects of self-reported lifetime violence and verbal IQ, **the effect of race on sentence length remained non-significant.**"
 - [USSC '17](#)
 - ❑ In fact, **according to the study itself:**
 - ❑ "Judges may consider potentially relevant information available to them in a presentence report, such as an **offender's employment history or family circumstances.** However, **the Commission does not routinely extract this information from the sentencing documents it receives** and, therefore, data about those factors are not controlled for in this analysis. Additionally, **judges may make decisions about sentencing offenders based on other legitimate considerations that cannot be measured.**"

whether a given defendant was guilty. It was found that **whites have nearly no bias in such decisions while the black people exhibit an in-group bias that is 15 times larger than the minuscule bias seen among whites.** [Devine and Caughlin \(2014\)](#) conducted a meta-analysis and found that white jurors had no bias against black defendants, but did have a moderate bias against hispanic defendants. **Black jurors, though, showed a pro-black or anti-white bias.**

- Debunking: “*Black defendants are 4.5 times as likely to receive a death sentence as similarly-situated whites.*”
 - [Katz '89](#)
 - **This noted that the discrepancy vanishes altogether when further controls are imposed** (Statement to the Senate Committee on the Judiciary Concerning the Relationship between Race and the Death Penalty: page 999). Race was not a significant variable in someone getting the death penalty since the p-value was $p < 0.221$. Something being “influential” **does not mean it’s statistically significant.** % black was the only racial variable that was statically significant, but this could just mean that blacker areas are more likely to have criminals that get the death penalty. Some studies found no bias in death penalty decisions by race.
 - [Klein and Rolf \(1991\)](#) note that “After accounting for some of the many factors that may influence penalty decisions, **neither race of the defendant nor race of the victim appreciably improved prediction of who was sentenced to death.**” Baime (in Systemic Proportionality Review Project: 2001-2002 Term): “[W]e state our conclusions: (1) there is no sustained, statistically significant evidence that the race of the defendant affects which cases advance to penalty trial; (2) there is no sustained, statistically significant evidence that the race of the defendant affects which cases result in imposition of the death penalty.” Finally, [Corzine, Codey, and Roberts \(2007\)](#) report that “**The available data do not support a finding of invidious racial bias in the application of the death penalty in New Jersey.**”
 - Considering most crime in the U.S. is committed by blacks ([Beaver, Ellis, and Wright 2009](#)), **we should expect death penalty sentences by race to reflect this.**
-

Police:

- **More cops=less crimes=saved money**

- [Princeton '18](#)

- A Princeton University study found that each additional sworn police officer is associated with **4.27 fewer violent crimes and 15.39 fewer property crimes.**

- [Trilling '17](#)

- A 10 percent increase in the total value of military aid [given to a community] **leads to a decrease of 5.9 crimes per 100,000 population.** Military aid is associated with a fall in local citizens' complaints about crime.
- Based on the average cost of a crime, the authors conduct a cost-benefit analysis that reasons \$5,800 worth of military gear **can save society about \$112,000.** Thus, military aid is **“a very inexpensive crime-reducing tool”** when compared to the costs and benefits of hiring additional police officers.

- [Haynes Jr. '17](#)

- **“Increased police militarization results in lower incarceration rates even after controlling for reduced crime rates,** suggesting a broader law and order impact beyond just enhanced capabilities. The results make clear that increased police militarization in the United States has **played a meaningful role in the reduction in violent crime** observed over the last twenty-five years.”

- [NBER '20](#)

- A Harvard University study found that investigations into “viral” incidents of deadly force, including the Michael Brown incident, led to a **significant reduction in police presence & activity**—causing nearly **900 excess homicides** and **34,000 excess felonies.**

- [Politico '20](#)

- From 1994-2017, police spending per capita **increased by 46%** nationally. In the same period, the U.S. homicide rate **dropped by 32%.** However, you must note that this is **correlation, not causation**

- [Berkeley '12](#)

- A UC Berkeley study on crime and police spending found that each dollar spent on police **saves \$1.60 in victimization costs,** which suggests that "U.S. cities employ too few police

- **Tasers are ineffective weapons**

- [APMreports '19](#)
 - A 2019 report analyzed Taser use data from some of the largest police departments in the nation and found that police officers “rate their Tasers **as effective as little as 55 percent of the time, or just a little better than a coin flip.**”

- **Polls on Law Enforcement** (*Credits to @noble_politics on instagram for finding this info in this subsection. Go give him a follow for great political content!*)

- [Gallup '20](#)
 - A poll, conducted June 23 – July 6 of 2020, asked respondents, "Would you rather the police spend more time, the same amount of time, or less time as they currently spend in your area?" **61% of black Americans indicated that they want police presence to remain the same. 20% said they want to see police officers spend "more" time in their communities, and 19% said "less."**
 - **59% of Hispanic Americans said they want police presence** to remain the same, as do 63% of Asian Americans. 71% of white Americans agreed. 24% of Hispanic Americans said they want to see officers spend "more time" in their area, versus 17% who said "less time." **34% of Black Americans who say they often see the police in their neighborhood think the police should spend less time there, 56% think they should spend the same amount of time, 10% think they should spend more time.**
 - **"Most Black Americans want the police to spend at least as much time in their area as they currently do,** indicating that they value the need for the service that police provide."
- [Gallup '15](#)
 - A poll, conducted in 2015, found that the percentage of black respondents who wanted more police in their community was more than **twice as high as the percentage of white respondents who said the same**
- [Quinnipiac](#)
 - A July 2017 Quinnipiac University poll in New York City found that **black Americans strongly support the cops in their own neighborhoods – 62% over 35% approved.** This approval rating was 11% higher than for the NYPD as a whole. More recently, a Monmouth University poll surveyed a national sample of 807 adults between May 28 to June 1, 2020, and found that **Americans of all races are largely supportive of their local police.** The poll asked "How satisfied are you with your local police department (Very or somewhat satisfied/ Somewhat or very dissatisfied)." The answers: **College educated whites: (73%/9%).**

Non-college whites: (70%/14%). Black: (72%/17%). Hispanic/Asian: (68%/18%).

- **Police Violence**

- [Johnson '16](#)

- Are Police really out of control? According to the CDC, in 2013 there were 16,121 people murdered in the U.S. by criminals (**16.3 times higher** than deaths from police use of force). 30,208 people died from falls (**30.5 times higher** than deaths from police), 33,804 died in motor vehicle traffic deaths (**34.2 times higher** than deaths from police), and 38,851 died from accidental poisonings (**39.2 times higher** than deaths from police). There were 41,149 suicide deaths in 2013 (**41.6 times higher** than deaths from police use of force). In fact, the risk of death from a doctor or nurse is **254 times greater than the risk of death from police use of force**.
- Officers make around 10 million arrests each year and there's an average of **27 deadly-weapon attacks on officers per day** in just two-thirds of the nation's police departments

- [Reyes '18](#)

- **The U.S. Census Bureau estimated that in 2015 there were 321,418,820 people residing within the United States.** 670,439 of those are police officers. That means there are less than 2.2 police officers per 1,000, or 2,133 officers per million. Police officers are less than .22 % of the population but come into contact with 17% of the population annually. That means 53,380,000 contacts, which led to 26,000 excessive force complaints against officers. **That's 0.049% of contacts.** Only 8% of those complaints were sustained. That's 2,080 out of 53,380,000 contacts, or .0039%. Using the Washington Post estimate of 990 deaths, this means that only **0.00031% of the U.S. population died from police use of force in 2015.**
- **990 people were shot by police in 2015. 494 (50%) were White. 258 (26%) were Black. 172 (17%) were Hispanic.** 66 (7%) were classified as "Other." Of those: Mental illness played a role in 25%. 25% involved fleeing suspects. In 75% of the incidents, **the officer was under attack or defended someone** that was.

- [Saavedra '20](#)

- There are about 7,300 Black homicide victims a year, the **14 unarmed victims in fatal police shootings comprise just 0.2% of that.** By contrast, a police officer is **18.5 times** more likely to be killed by a black male than an unarmed black male is to be killed by a police officer

Environment:

•

Covid 19:

- **Coronavirus Deaths**

- [JHU '20](#)

- John Hopkins University (Gu 2020) found that deaths prior to the covid outbreak have **remained very similar throughout all age groups, especially older people**. They also found that there has been **no excessive deaths that have come as a result of covid**

- [Klausner '20](#)

- This study found that somebody aged 50-64 who has a single interaction has a **1 in 852,000 chance of getting hospitalized and a 1 in 19.1 million chance of dying from it**, presuming the virus is a **lot less lethal than people have assumed it is**. And keep in mind that for people ages 50-64 whereas the number is going to be **unanimously a lot lower** for younger people

- [Bhopal '20](#)

- Researchers from Newcastle University and the University of Edinburgh (UK) found that at least **six times as many children died from the seasonal flu than from coronavirus** during lockdowns in the U.S.

- [CDC '19](#)

- Just **6%** of COVID-19 deaths have the virus **as the only cause mentioned**, according to the CDC. **94%** of those who died from coronavirus also had other “health conditions and contributing causes.”
- “For deaths with conditions or causes in addition to COVID-19, on average, there were **2.6 additional conditions or causes per death.**”
- These conditions include influenza & pneumonia, respiratory failure, hypertensive disease, diabetes, and vascular & unspecified dementia.

- **Coronavirus Contagion**

- [Cao et al. '20](#)

- This studied the effects that asymptomatic individuals with COVID-19 had on the probability of others to contract the virus and found that there

were **no new covid deaths after thousands of asymptomatic people were put in close proximity of people who don't have covid**

- **Coronavirus Lockdowns**

- [Watson '20](#)

- Sweden did not use any practice of mask mandates or lockdowns but has one of the lowest infection rates in the world.- **“Sweden has gone from being the country with the most infections in Europe to the safest one,**’ Sweden’s senior epidemiologist Dr. Anders Tegnell commented to Italian newspaper Corriere della Sera. **‘What we see now is that the sustainable policy might be slower in getting results,** but it will get results eventually,’ Tegnell clarified.”

- [Heine '20](#)

- Covid lockdowns are ten times **deadlier than virus itself-** “The results are nothing short of staggering, and suggest that the lockdowns will end up costing Americans over **10 times as many years of life as they will save from the virus itself.**”
-

Gender and Sex

- **Gender is not a social construct**

- [Mascolo '19](#)

- According to the [Oxford](#) Dictionary, gender is defined as: *“Either of the two sexes (male and female), especially when considered with reference to social and cultural differences rather than biological ones. The term is also used more broadly to denote a range of identities that do not correspond to established ideas of male and female.”* To say that one’s experience of self may not comport with one’s assigned sex is to make a distinction between sex and gender. However, the capacity to discriminate sex from gender does not make one independent of the other. Terms like male, female, boy, girl, man, and woman have their historical origins in social roles that have been organized with reference to sex. The meanings of boy and girl, masculine, feminine, and androgyny, while not fixed by sex, are nonetheless defined with reference to sex. It follows to the extent that sex-linked biological processes contribute to the development of psychological differences between people; those psychological processes play a role in the social meanings that define gender.
- The problem with the popular concept that “sex is biological” and “gender is cultural” is the idea that sex and gender reflect independent aspects of

the person. However, there are no separable biological and cultural aspects of a person. Acting and experiencing do not have separate biological and cultural components. Biology and culture influence each other; they make each other up. For example, the act of writing is a historically and culturally constructed process; however, it is made possible by the biology of the opposable thumb. In all things, biology and culture make each other up. The same is true for the relation between biology and culture as they relate to the construction of gender. Here are some studies that show how biological sex has a direct influence on gender:

- [Putten '18](#)
 - This study found that you can correctly identify the sex of a person using brain wave [repetitive patterns of neural activity in the central nervous system] differences between males and females with 80% accuracy.
- [Zhang et al. '18](#)
 - This study remarked that connections inside the brain show sex differences; and patterns in functional connectivity leads to identification of sex with 87% accuracy.
- [Checkround et al. '16](#)
 - Using MRI scans on 1,566 individuals (57.7% female), provided evidence that an individual's biological sex can be classified with an accuracy of 93% using the brain's "mosiac" patterns.
- [Sepehrband et al. '17](#)
 - Using structure and organization of the nervous system, also known as neuroanatomy, accurately predicted someones sex with 83% accuracy in cross-validated sets and 77% in independent data sets
- [Lou et al. '19](#)
 - This study found that using 3D cortical morphology, you can find a sex prediction of 96.77%.
- [Del Giudice '12](#)
 - This study looked at 5,137 females and 5,124 men and had them take a 15 personality scale. After calculating the effect size, they found that men and women differed in some traits significantly based on their calculated *d*. In table 2 of their analysis, women scored higher on items like warmth and sensitivity, items typical of gender roles. Women were warm, outgoing and attentive to others (-0.89); sensitive and sentimental (-2.29); and cooperative (-0.54). Men were also more dominant (+0.54).
- [Costa '01](#)
 - This study ran a similar analysis as the study up above. Women showed higher warmth towards others (+0.33); altruistic concern for others (+0.43); and sympathized with others (+0.31). In family settings and even

in non-family settings, men are dominant (refer to the Del Guidice study above) and take a leadership position in family decision making (O Brim et al. 1963; Stuchert 1963). Caring for one's own offspring and spending time with them was also found to be higher in adult women than men, with similar findings in providing care/nurturance for others.

- [Liss '81](#)
 - Kindergarten children were videotaped playing with female- and male-traditional toys as well as nonsex-typed toys. Coders calculated time spent by each child in behavioral categories (positive and negative comments, aggression, nurturance, movement, noise, and gadgetry) and rated children on scales (talkativeness, activity, familiarity, enjoyment, proximity, appropriateness, and gentleness). Sex differences were revealed on most dimensions. Boys were rated as familiar with, enjoying, and playing appropriately with two toys (male-traditional and nonsex-typed) and girls on the female-traditional toy. Thus, sex differences affected the sociological factors in which individuals choose toys by.
- [Ellis et al. '09](#)
 - In early childhood, childhood, adolescents, and adulthood, females exhibit more of a nurturing personality towards infants, according to the majority of studies reviewed. Specifically, 9 studies found differences in nurturing towards infants in early childhood that favored women and only 1 didn't; 16 found differences favoring women compared to 2 that didn't in childhood; 9 in adolescents compared to 1; and in adulthood it was 20 compared to 6. Overall, the majority of studies support girls and women being more nurturing towards infants than men and boys.
- [Archer '03](#)
 - This study found that across age groups, males engage in more direct aggression (physical and verbal) and females tend to engage in indirect aggression. Another [study](#) found similar results for physical and verbal aggression in children and adolescents in their meta-analysis. In early childhood and adolescence, boys are more dominant than girls. In fact, [research](#) concludes that “the males greater aggression has a biological component.”

Debunks (Gender and Sex)

- **Debunking:** “Patriarchy is a result of sex differences in gender roles. Gender roles exist and are reinforced because of how parents raise their sons and daughters and how society treats men and women.”

- [Joyce et al. '16](#)
 - Environmentalists have failed to explain why every society has raised boys and girls differently. If males and females are equal and gender roles are artifacts of social learning, why have all societies had gender roles? Using culture and social learning as an all-purpose explanation for human behavior ignores that culture itself is just one more natural phenomenon, a product of man responding to his given environment. If cultures raise boys and girls differently, then those cultures and the humans who make it are predisposed to raise boys and girls differently. It's probable that egalitarian societies raise boys and girls the same, but this relies on the assumption that parents raise their kids differently based on their sex and that sex differences in personality are null in egalitarian societies. In reality, a meta-analysis of 126 studies that featured 15,034 families found that there is only a minimal difference in parenting for boys and girls. Sex differences are also larger in egalitarian societies.
- [Levin '87](#)
 - If parents reinforce gendered behavior onto their kids because of their genes, this is correlated under gene-environment correlation. As the study remarks: "Suppose women find nurturant behavior more rewarding than men do, whereas men are more apt than women to compete in most environments. Norms encouraging women to shun nurturance and compete with men will steer women away from environments in which they do what they enjoy, and toward environments in which they do not. More traditional norms, which encourage women to do what they enjoy, are more adaptive and will be selected over time. Since a group is more apt to survive the happier its members are, a society whose norms encourage women to seek opportunities for nurturance is more likely to survive, and transmit its norms, than a society indifferent or hostile to female enjoyment of nurturance. It does not matter why people think they should encourage girls to be feminine; such norms survive because they reinforce the most socially adaptive manifestations of innate dispositions."
- [Wilcox '06](#)
 - Using data from the National Survey of Family and Household, the study found that wives who hold egalitarian attitudes, who work part time, and who take a larger share of the family breadwinning responsibilities are less happy. Men who are married to more traditional-minded women and to homemakers are more likely to

devote themselves to spending quality time with their wives (correlation was weak at only 0.10, though). Overall, women who are in traditional marriages with traditional gender roles are happier “with the emotional work they receive and do receive more such emotional work from their husbands” (pg. 1339). The effects remain even after controlling for multiple variables.

- [Hyden '89](#)
 - This study looked at General Social Survey data spanning between 1972-1986. Of women who held non-traditional attitudes, they were less happy, and remained married despite their stress associated with their views on gender roles. Traditional women were happier and less likely to divorce. The differences remained even after controlling for age, year, education or work status.
- [Shepher '75](#)
 - A real world example of this is that of the kibbutzniks. Less than three decades after the kibbutzniks tried to achieve unisex equality, traditional sex roles had reemerged. Female kibbutzniks had placed their babies in creches, but found themselves wanting to be near their babies and arranged for jobs near their children. These jobs involved traditional female tasks. Environmentalist theory wouldn't have predicted this.
- [Haas '80](#)
 - Another example of this could be found in marriages with role-sharing. In looking at 31 couples, this study remarked that the wife was reluctant to give up her traditional roles, something reported by half of the couples. Wives were also reluctant to give up authority over many domestic chores. “The change to a more even sharing of domestic chores was not easy. Not only did the wives have to contend with the husband's disinclination to do chores, they also had to cope with guilt feelings about abandoning their traditional role and with the mixed feelings they had seeing their husbands do nontraditional tasks.”

Abortion

A fetus is a human being

Embryologists consistently agree that the unborn are alive and human from fertilization.

Consider the following from the most-used textbooks on the issue:

*“Although life is a continuous process, fertilization (which, incidentally, is not a ‘moment’) is a critical landmark because, under ordinary circumstances, a new genetically distinct human organism is formed when the chromosomes of the male and female pronuclei blend in the oocyte.” (Ronan O’Rahilly and Fabiola Muller, *Human Embryology and Teratology*, 3rd ed., New York: Wiley-Liss, 2001, p.8.)*

*“A zygote is the beginning of a new human being (i.e., an embryo).” (Keith L. Moore, *The Developing Human: Clinically Oriented Embryology*, 7th ed., Philadelphia, PA: Saunders, 2003, p.2.)*

*"The zygote and early embryo are living human organisms.” [Keith L. Moore & T.V.N. Persaud *Before We Are Born – Essentials of Embryology and Birth Defects* (W.B. Saunders Company, 1998. Fifth edition.) Page 500]*

*"The development of a human begins with fertilization, a process by which the *spermatozoon* from the male and the *oocyte* from the female unite to give rise to a new organism, the zygote." [Sadler, *T.W. Langman's Medical Embryology*. 7th edition. Baltimore: Williams & Wilkins 1995, p. 3]*

A fetus is a person

Most pro-choicers state that you don't become valuable until you pass a particular "threshold" of an ability or functionality. So is it a particular function that you can perform that makes you valuable? There are two types of capacities we can be said to have. One is the presently-exercisable capacity, and the other is the radical, or inherent, capacity. If you have the presently-exercisable capacity to perform a function, that means you can perform it now (such as you have the presently-exercisable capacity to read). The inherent capacity is one in which you can't presently exercise, but you can or will do it if you develop enough or learn how to do it (infants have the inherent capacity to read). I also have the presently-exercisable capacity to speak English. I have the inherent capacity to speak German, which would become presently-exercisable if I ever decide to learn the language.

The problem with requiring a presently-exercisable capacity to perform these functions is that we occasionally lose the ability to perform these functions, and we once lacked the ability to perform these functions.

For example, some argue that self-awareness is what makes us valuable. But we begin life out of the womb without being self-aware. We don't become self-aware until about sixteen to eighteen months after we're born. So if that's your criterion, then you would have to support infanticide. Consider the following analogy:

"Suppose your Uncle Jed is in a terrible car accident that results in his being in a coma from which he may or may not wake. Imagine that he remains in this state for roughly two years and then awakens. He seems to be the same Uncle Jed that you knew before he went into the coma, even though he's lost some weight, hair, and memories. Was he an intrinsically valuable human being (IVHB) during the coma? Could the physicians have killed Uncle Jed -- the living organism we refer to as 'Uncle Jed' -- during that time because he did not exhibit certain functions or have certain present capacities? If one holds that IV depends on capacities that are immediately exercisable, it is difficult to see why it would be wrong to kill Uncle Jed while he was in the coma. Yet it would be wrong, precisely because Uncle Jed is identical to himself through all the changes he undergoes and that self, by nature, has certain basic capacities.

Consequently, the pro-choicer cannot reply by arguing that Uncle Jed's life was intrinsically valuable during the coma because in the past he functioned as an IVHB and probably will do so in the future. For we can change the story a bit and say that when Uncle Jed awakens from the coma he loses virtually all his memories and knowledge including his ability to speak a language, engage in rational thought, and have self-awareness. He then would be in precisely the same position as the standard fetus. He would still literally be the same human being he was before the coma but he would be more like he was before he had a "past." He would have the basic capacities to speak a language, engage in rational thought, and have self-awareness, but he would have to develop and learn them all over again for these basic capacities to result, as they did before, in present capacities and actual abilities."

So it really seems that it's not our present capacity to perform a function, but our inherent capacities, that make us human. This way we can lose our present ability to function but still be seen as a valuable human being that is wrong to kill, whether in the embryonic stage or in a case like Uncle Jed.

Finally, what of people who fail to develop a capacity that other human beings can perform, like the seriously disabled? Singer would admit that they are not persons, but is it truly permissible to kill them? Just because a human being or person fails to develop a capacity that makes one a "person" (say because of a disability), he is still a person because he still has the inherent capacity to fulfill these functions. If a dog loses the ability to bark, does he cease to be a dog? If a person becomes blind, does he cease to be a "person" or "human," even though this is a function that human people can perform? Of course not.

It seems that the best explanation for what makes us valuable human persons is not the functions that we develop to perform, but the functions that are in our inherent nature as human beings to perform. The unborn share our common human nature, and the inherent capacities that make us valuable as human persons.

The Violinist Analogy Debunked

Another example of this idea is a thought experiment by Judith Jarvis Thomson. She wrote an essay called “[A Defense of Abortion](#)” in which she argued that we need not debate whether the fetus is a person because abortion is justified anyway. To illustrate her point, she asks you to imagine you wake up one day in a hospital bed and your circulatory system is hooked up to a man in the bed next to you. You learn this man is a very talented and famous violinist with a fatal kidney ailment, and his fans - the Society of Music Lovers - have somehow reviewed all available medical records and learned that you are the only person with the right kidney or blood type to filter the poisons from the Violinist’s blood. So the Society of Music Lovers kidnaps you, knocks you out, and attaches you to the Violinist.

1. There is all the difference between initiating and allowing harm. It's what separates someone who refuses to help a drowning person compared to someone who deliberately holds the person underwater. Similarly, there is a difference between unplugging from the violinist and shooting him in the head.

2. The environment isn't comparable to pregnancy. Pregnancy is a product of, [in the vast majority of cases](#), consensual sex. When someone consents to sex, they also accept the possibility of pregnancy, regardless if contraception was used. They're not suddenly strapped to your body, as is the case in the Violinist analogy.

3. This analogy assumes that a fetus is a human being. Well if that's the case, the mother has a moral obligation to that fetus. If I go into a store and some random kid walks onto the street and gets hit by a car, I'm not responsible, because it's not my kid. But if it was my own child who walked onto the street and got hit by a car while I was in the store, I would rightly be held accountable.

Forced Organ/Blood Donation Debunked

This analogy attempts to make the same argument as the Violinist Story. Because it entails fewer sci-fi contrivances, it is initially more appealing. Actually, however, it is less intellectually sound than Thomson’s story. This is because the Kidney Story fails adequately to represent the case of abortion. If having one’s kidney inside another person is analogous to being pregnant (as the story implies), then donating the kidney is analogous to becoming pregnant. Thus, all it proves is that the government should not forcibly impregnate anyone—an assertion with which everyone agrees.

Theoretically, the pro-choicer could respond by modifying the analogy accordingly. In the improved analogy, the woman was drugged and had her kidney removed against her will (analogous, perhaps, to a case of rape). Everyone agrees that this (like rape) should be illegal. But it happened, and now the kidney is in the man. The question then becomes: should the

woman be allowed, in the name of exercising ownership over her body parts, to kill the man and rip him open in order to reclaim the kidney? This action on the part of the woman would, in the context of the analogy, most nearly approximate an abortion. We think that most people's intuition would be that, no, the woman may not dismember or burn the man to death, regardless of the injustice of the situation. If not, then neither should a pregnant woman be allowed to do likewise to her unborn child. ([credits](#))

[Abortion from a libertarian perspective \(evictionism\)](#)

The USA

- **Categories the USA is number one in**
 - Economy
 - [Highest average household disposable income in the OECD](#)
 - [Highest average household net financial wealth in the OECD](#)
 - [Lowest taxes in the developed world...](#)
 - [Highest quality, most reasonably priced housing in the OECD.](#)
 - [Most productive workers](#) on a per-person basis.
 - [Highest amount of people](#) investing money here
 - Highest in the [most businesses started](#)
 - [The poorest 20 percent of Americans consume more goods and services than the EU averages.](#) In other words, if the US “poor” were a nation, it would be one of the world's richest.
 - Healthcare
 - [The US has been the global leader in health technology development](#)
 - [Number one in healthcare responsiveness](#) or quality of service for individuals receiving treatment
 - [Highest cancer survival rate](#)
 - [Highest cancer survival rates \(2\)](#)
 - [40 percent of patients seeking treatment outside their home country](#) go to the United States. That's more than twice the share of the second-most popular country.
 - Military
 - Retains by far the world's [most powerful military](#).
 - Does it by spending [more in absolute dollars](#) on our military than any other nation - 5 times what China does on theirs...but does it while keeping expenditures as a percentage of GDP to [just 4.4%](#)! (10th place when measured by that metric!)

- [Back-to-back world war champs.](#)
- Science and Technology
 - More [missions to Mars](#) than any other country.
 - Responsible for 100% of all manned landings on another planetary body (the moon).
 - The internet: [invented in America](#) and [administered from California](#).
 - Top 15 universities in the world? [Eleven are in the United States](#).
 - That's probably why [more foreigners study here than anywhere else](#).
 - Human Genome Project? [American](#).
 - Paleontology? [Started here](#).
 - [More investment in information technology than anywhere else in the OECD](#).
 - More [women in science](#) than anywhere else
 - [America leads the world in artificial intelligence](#)
- Culture
 - [Hollywood Rules the World as it was started in America](#)
 - [American music dominates the international music industry](#)
 - [America invented the idea of national parks and we have more large protected areas than any other country](#).
 - [Most charitable population on the planet? Americans](#).
 - [Half of the world's top brands are American](#).
 - [Number one in olympic sports](#)
- Freedom
 - [More people would like to move to the USA than any other country in the world most likely due to our freedom](#)
 - [FIRST in freedom to travel abroad](#).
 - [By far the most guns in private hands](#)
 - [Top rankings from Freedomhouse in Political Rights and Civil Liberties: #1](#)
- Generosity
 - The US is the [most generous country in the world](#).
 - The United States is home to more [immigrants](#) than any other country in the world. While the United States has taken in nearly one-fifth of all global migrants, no other nation on earth has taken in more than one-twentieth.
 - Although the U.S. makes up less than 4.5% of the world's population, it [took in 69% of the world's resettled refugees between 1982 and 2016](#).

