

# Information Compilation

\*\*\*If you're reading this on mobile, I recommend turning on Print Layout.

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# PART 1: By Topic

This section was much harder to compile, as I myself am always still learning, and there is SO much to cover. Not to mention, topics more often than not overlap with other issues. Still, I'll try my best to cover each I can think of. **Things in red are still unfinished/in progress.** Underlined text is linked to sources at the end of this document.

## Economics

**\*\*\*Defining capitalism, communism, marxism, socialism, etc.**

I have to consider this one of the most important (yet the most nuanced and difficult) things to understand here, even after years I myself am still constantly learning new things. Still, so many of the problems in this world stem from the overall way in which our economy works, even social issues, as systems like capitalism help perpetuate discrimination by keeping the wealth and power in the hands of a small few. Here are some good starter videos, imo.

By Viki1999:

[What is capitalism? | Ideology explained](#)

[What is socialism? | Ideology explained](#)

[Worker Co-Ops \(and what socialism is\) explained](#)

[What is Marxism? | Ideology explained](#)

[What are markets? | Ideology explained](#)

[Why is capitalism bad? And how is it "stealing" from people?](#)

[Why the free market is inefficient](#)

[The REAL death toll of capitalism](#)

[The REAL death toll of communism](#)

[Who is part of the working class?](#)

[Watching "basic economics" lessons for socialists \(And having a laugh at them\)](#) ← Optional/more of a response video, but still worth a watch.. Last viki1999 video I'll list (or I might end up listing every video she's made lol), but seriously, her channel is such a great source.

By PhilosophyTube:

[Marx Part 1: Labour & Class Conflict](#)

[Marx Part 2: Capitalism's Consequences](#)

[Marx Part 3: Cultural Marxism & Political Correctness](#)

[Marx Part 4: Beyond Capitalism](#)

## Exploitation:

In Marxist theory, the **proletariat** is the working class, including farmers and low-skilled factory workers. They do not own any means of production. The **bourgeoisie** are the capitalist class, the wealthy, who own most of the means of production. Means of production include factories and businesses. Often, the bourgeoisie exploit the working

class. Examples include many things, from giving workers unfair minimum wages to parasitic landlords (who make money off simply having been wealthy enough to own property in the first place). All the American Dream truly is is the hope that, if you study and work hard enough, have connections, and are lucky, you might just get to become the oppressor instead of the oppressed. [But it's a voluntary system....right?](#)

### [The Difference Between Socialism, Communism, and Marxism Explained by a Marxist](#)

**Reaganomics:** [Here's Why Reaganomics is so Controversial](#); [How Reaganomics Destroyed The Middle Class...And Maybe America](#); [Ronald Reagan Killed the American Dream](#)

### **“BuT ThE NaZi’S WeRe SoCiALiSts!!”**

While yes, the Nazi’s were officially called the National Socialist German Workers' Party, this was nothing more than a name. Hitler took the hugely popular rhetoric of the left and used it to gain power, and to say otherwise is pure propaganda that ignores the real and present threat of genuine fascism. For more reading: [The Nazis were not socialists](#)

### **“bUt vEnEzUeLa!” - Debunking anti-communist myths**

Note: There has never been a communist country, and some debate on whether or not there has even been a truly fully-socialist one (it’s debated whether or not market socialism even counts as real socialism). It is important to remember that these categories are not exclusive, a capitalist country can still have socialist features (take how the US has publicly funded things like fire departments and public libraries, yet is still overwhelmingly capitalist).

Many people will say something along the lines of “communism/socialism are great ideas in theory but have “proven” not to work. Not only does this ignore the many failures of capitalism, it often is said by those that both do not fully understand what socialism even is and also do not understand the full history of those commonly-cited examples of “proof communism doesn’t work”.

An interesting listen: [The story of the Paris Commune \(1871\)](#)

This is such a huge topic to cover, I may try to summarize key points later, but many others have already covered this topic much better than I could... so-

HIGHLY RECOMMENDED RESOURCE: [Anti-Communist myths debunked](#) - I recommend starting in the “Socialism doesn’t work, and other common myths” section

**“Eat the rich” (billionaires)-** The phrase (allegedly) originates from Jean-Jacques Rousseau: “When the people shall have nothing more to eat, they will eat the rich”

*The poor cried,  
“We are starving. There is no more bread,  
and we have nothing to eat.”  
The rich man said,  
“Not my problem you don’t work for your bread,”*

*The poor people  
stopped crying,  
and the rich man was satisfied...  
Until they came knocking at his  
door one night;*

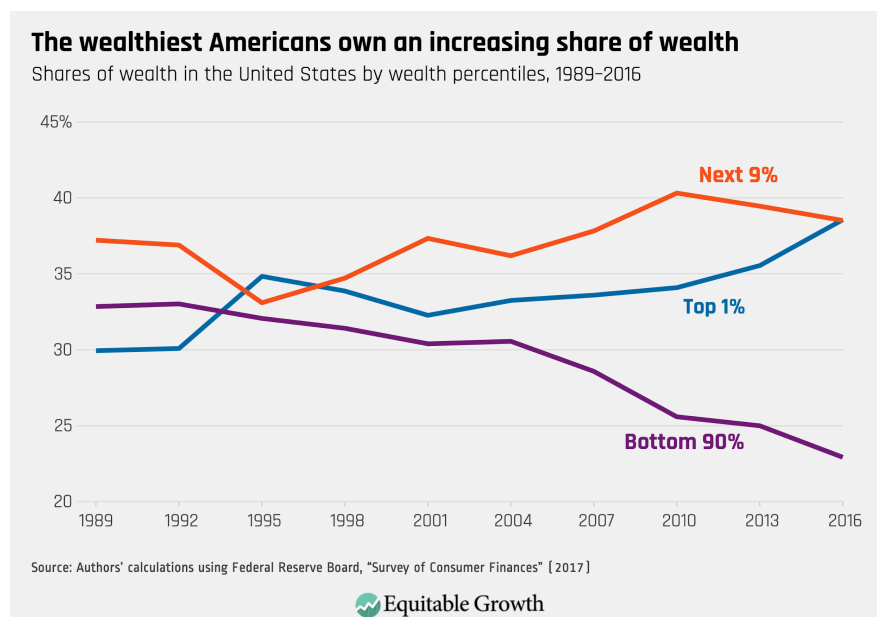
as if he did not snatch away the grain by his own greedy hands  
and create filling bread  
for his own overflowing mouth.  
The poor cried,  
“We are dying. There is no more medicine,  
and we’re all ill.”  
The rich man said,  
“Not my problem you don’t take care of yourselves,”  
as if he did not buy all the medicine  
and raise prices so high  
the gods themselves would not  
be able to reach.

their faces were sunken,  
their flesh decaying,  
their eyes sightless.  
They were monsters  
of the rich man’s  
own making.  
As they devoured his flesh,  
the rich man cried,  
“Please, spare me!”  
The ravenous zombies said,  
“Not our fault  
you fattened yourself  
for slaughter.”

Many people like to push the idea that it is the working class/ everyday people’s fault that things like homelessness and poverty exist- “we should get people to donate more to charities”, etc. While it is great to donate and contribute to a good cause like that, it begs the question- is it an individual responsibility to support eradicating these issues, or is that merely a bandaid on a much larger systemic issue? Sadly, no matter how much charities raise, many of the issues they try to combat are not going to be solved simply by charity:

[Capitalist Philanthropy and Charity - why it doesn't work](#)

“But, what about the charitable billionaires?” [Adam Ruins Everything - Why Billionaire Philanthropy is Not So Selfless | truTV](#)



Despite productivity increasing, the working class are owning a decreasing share of wealth over time. The gap between the rich capitalists and the working class is ever-increasing. In fact, despite millions struggling during this global pandemic, American billionaires got \$434 billion richer between mid-March and mid-May of 2020.

## The Basics of US political parties: right (conservative), left, democrats, and more!

- To generalize, you can somewhat break ideologies into 2 categories: Culture and values/ “social issues”, like supporting gay marriage and weed legalization vs keeping “traditional values”, and then there’s Economics, like Capitalism, Socialism, Communism, etc. The further left you are on the scale, the more likely you are to support progressive social values, and generally, even further left (in US politics) is where you get to the economic side of things- In the US, while *conservatives/republicans* (the right-wing party) tend to be more regressive in social issues, such as being anti-immigration and anti-LGBT+, and *liberals/democrats* (the main left-wing party) tend to be more progressive in social issues, both generally are still supportive of capitalism, with democrats only occasionally wanting to fix a single issue here and there rather than actually change the underlying economic system. This is why I’d personally say that US democrats are borderline centrists (as in, on/near the center of the political spectrum), as while they are more-left than republicans, they still tend to support capitalism, which as you’ll come to see, is kind of the bigger issue here. This is why I do not call myself a democrat or a liberal, but “progressive”, as I am much, much further left than a democrat. There are also Independent parties, such as libertarians (basically conservatives that want weed legalized/ minor social change) and the Green party (more progressive than democrats).
- Also, centrism/apoliticism is quite common nowadays: that is, either being “in the center”, or not caring about politics. Those who aren’t as affected by politics often see it as unnecessary drama, people getting too worked up, or sometimes even see both sides as “equally bad”. However, those that “just don’t care” often either don’t understand the impact of politics on other’s lives, lack the empathy, or can often even be in-denial conservatives that just don’t want the judgement of being a conservative. Overall, all of these ideologies only help the right- given the fact that the left is fighting against the right for basic human rights, centrist’s silence is violence- “Neutrality helps the oppressor, never the victim. Silence encourages the tormentor, never the tormented.” - Elie Wiesel

## Understanding the other side

[Why the Left Will Win | Philosophy Tube](#)

[Trump & the Problem with Politics | Philosophy Tube](#)

[The Fate of the Frog Men](#)

**RADICALIZATION:** [The PewDiePipeline: how edgy humor leads to violence](#)

[The Alt-Right Playbook: How to Radicalize a Normie](#)

- **Buzzwords/dog-whistles:** communism/”commie”, “freedom of speech”, “SJW’s”, “feminazi’s”, “snowflakes”, and “triggered/oversensitive”. These are popular right wing insults/ words that get people riled up. The right wing likes to push the idea

that the left is oversensitive, and getting “too triggered” over politics- causing people that don’t fully understand politics or don’t care to subconsciously start to side with the right, and view being progressive as a bad, shameful thing. For example, they might fixate on a medical institute saying “pregnant people” instead of “pregnant women”, and make a big deal out of “people caring too much about words”, they might fixate on a TV show with diversity and say “they’re virtue signaling, they didn’t need to change how things normally are!”, they might make compilations of angry/ upset feminists, “SJW Cringe Compilations”, framing the left as over-the-top, needlessly changing things that were “fine how they were”. Overall, it’s common to hear them say “society is getting too *politically correct* these days”... Talk like this paints left wing issues to be “people getting worked up over nothing”, once again reinforcing that image of the right as calm, and logical, while the left is too “triggered” and “sensitive”. It’s a very subtle, but effective, way the right causes people to start to move from being centrists, to starting to side with the right out of hate for the left. I would know, that used to be me.

- **Ironically, the majority of Americans do have something to be rightfully mad at (capitalism), but due to lack of education/ awareness of class interests, as well as pro-capitalist propaganda, don’t realize who they should be mad at.** They’ll complain about low pay, high taxes, expensive healthcare and housing, etc, yet not have the class awareness to realize that their enemy is not the “SJW feminists” but rather the capitalists.
- **Lack of understanding of communism-** “socialism is communism, and communism is bad”, or “communism = bread lines” is literally how deep most people’s understanding of socialism is in the US. That, or “anything I don’t like is CoMmUniSM”
- **Whitewashed and propagandized schooling-** In school, while there are now mentions of some of the awful things America has done, it is typically written off as “these people did a bad thing” and left at that, rather than analyzing why they did those things, and the full effects and extent of those actions. Not to mention, the more radical/ thought provoking parts of history are left out entirely, rewriting our history so that we don’t have to actually think or acknowledge uncomfortable facts. Certain discussions are taboo, or written off as not worth discussing- for example, when I took an economics class in highschool, we did not learn of much else beyond capitalism, were guided to conclusions by being given very little evidence to be able to understand or support the “wrong” side, and the few times people did challenge the idea that capitalism was the best system, it was laughed off, with no better defense than appealing to “lol that person is a commie, how dumb”.
- **“But it’s just a joke!”-** Offensive humor, from mildly offensive to full blown racist jokes, is commonly defended under the idea that said jokes are all just lighthearted fun. This sort of humor is difficult to openly criticize, as it can be viewed as attacking the one making the joke or as overreacting, yet the jokes being made often have seriously harmful underlying implications, or reinforce harmful beliefs.

- For example: (the rest of this section is credited to u/BigfootKyoshi) Hill, Jane H. "Mock Spanish, Covert Racism and the (Leaky) Boundary Between Public and Private Spheres." 1995 is an interesting read on how English speakers use mock Spanish to convey racism. Hill makes the argument that Americans' insistence on using "middling" language-- that is, language that is neither formal nor informal-- blurs the line between (what we assume) is unbiased "public" speech and biased "private" speech, and that this lack of distinction allows for the insertion of prejudiced language into the public forum. In order to better serve the middling style of American discourse, jokes are often used to lighten conversation because they reside in what we judge to be the private sphere of our lives. Thus, when jokes are used in the public sphere, they carry with them some of the intimacy that we assign to private speech. This intimacy makes it difficult to critique off-color jokes when used in public, because an attack on the joke is seen as an attack on the speaker and not just their opinions. Using Mock Spanish (in its least offensive form) is a way for homogenized white Americans to insert a breezy, casual air into their speech, and as a result is deemed an acceptable element to include in public forums to try and inject some levity. Naturally, this also allows for racially coded phrases to be said in public under the umbrella defense of: "it's just a joke". Hill identifies several different categories of Mock Spanish, which range from the insertion of Spanish words to the incorrect mimicry of Spanish grammar on English words, like no good-o or el train-o. This mimicry of Spanish is often used to represent the difference in power between Americans and Spanish-speaking peoples, particularly those from Mexico and Latin America. It's also an effective, racist dog-whistle when put in the right hands-- think of Trump's "bad hombres" comment.

## **Antifa vs Fascism/White Supremacy, and Nazism**

"Antifa" is short for "anti fascist"

[The Philosophy of Antifa | Philosophy Tube](#)

[What is white supremacy? - A Response to Steven Crowder](#)

[White Supremacist Propaganda Vs Truth | Philosophy Tube](#)

[Decrypting the Alt-Right: How to Recognize a F@scist | ContraPoints](#)



[The Great Replacement Isn't Real - ft. Lauren Southern](#)

Misrepresentation/ an example of modern day apoliticism in effect: **People love to be able to say "well both sides are bad", and love to paint the far left as extreme and violent, yet the right is time and time again shown to be the true threat:** [Leaked Documents Show Police Knew Far-Right Extremists Were the Real Threat at Protests, Not "Antifa"](#).

Attempting to say "both sides are bad" undermines the danger of the right, and unfairly demonizes the left.





		
	FASCISTS	ANTI-FASCISTS
POLITICAL GOAL:	WANTS TO BUILD A WHITE ETHNOSTATE.	WANTS TO NOT DO THAT.
WILLING TO USE VIOLENCE:	YES, IN ORDER TO BUILD A WHITE ETHNOSTATE	YES, IN ORDER TO STOP THE FASCISTS.
WHAT SHOULD WE DO WITH MINORITIES?	KICK THEM OUT OF THE COUNTRY, AT THE BARE MINIMUM.	UM...EQUALITY?
FREE SPEECH?	ABSOLUTELY NOT.	NOT FOR NAZIS ADVOCATING FOR GENOCIDE AND STUFF. OTHERWISE YEAH IT'S COOL.
WHAT TO DO WITH DISSENTERS:	JAIL THEM, THEY ARE UNPATRIOTIC.	LOOK, WE JUST DON'T WANT THE NAZIS TO COME BACK YOU GUYS.
JEWS?	NO.	YES.
COLOR SCHEME:	RED AND BLACK.	RED AND BLACK.

## Police

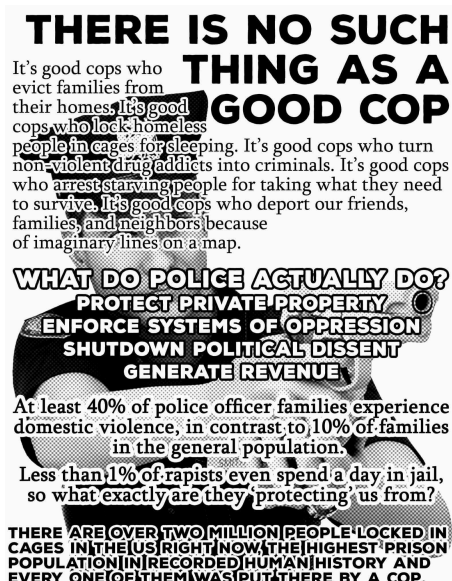
**ACAB** stands for all cops are bastards (sometimes said as “all cops are bad”) So, [Why do people like me say 'ACAB'? Let me explain.](#) To summarize: An individual cop may be morally “good”, but that same cop defends a system that is inherently bad so the cop is a bastard.

“The whole Good Cop / Bad Cop question can be disposed of much more decisively. We need not enumerate what proportion of cops appears to be good or listen to someone's anecdote about his uncle Charlie, an allegedly good cop.

We need only consider the following:

- A cop's job is to enforce the laws, all of them;
- Many of the laws are manifestly unjust, and some are even cruel and wicked;
- Therefore every cop has to agree to act as an enforcer for laws that are manifestly unjust or even cruel and wicked.

There are no good cops.” – Robert Higgs





Seriously ask yourself- **who do they serve? Who do they protect?**

[Police - To Serve and Protect?](#)

[Foucault: Crime, Police, & Power; Foucault 2: Government Surveillance & Prison](#)

[What does it mean to defund the police?](#)

[6 reasons why it's time to defund the police](#)

[Opinion | Yes, We Mean Literally Abolish the Police](#)

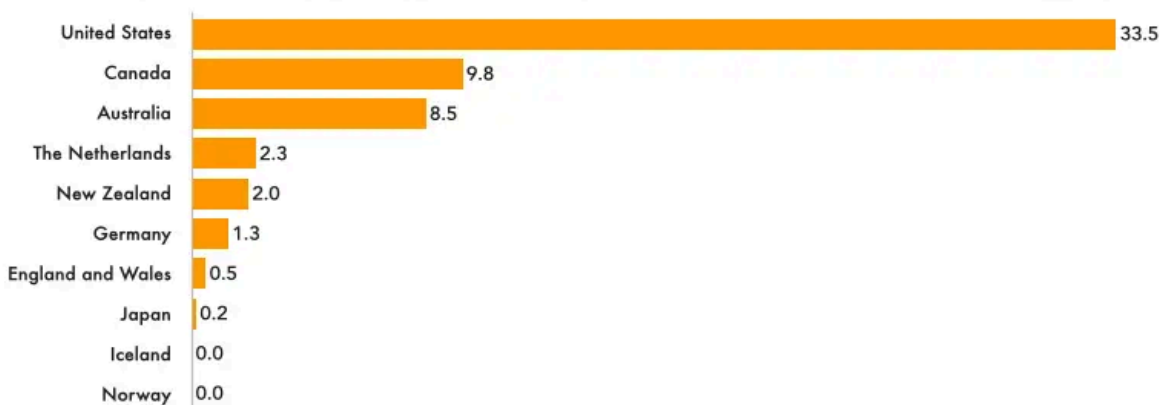
The police have become highly militarized, yet **police militarization does not lead to a decrease in crime** committed or officer injuries, may actually increase both. Police militarization (including the adoption of SWAT teams) decreases public trust in police, which may contribute to increases in crime, and militarized police are disproportionately deployed in African American communities, even when accounting for crime rates. (Source 1). Relevant: [Adam Ruins Everything - Our Overuse of SWAT Teams Makes Us Less Safe](#)

And of course, let us not forget that in the US, it does not take much training to become a cop- compared to countries like Norway and Finland, which require 3 years of training to become a police officer and have had under 10 people killed from 2002-2016, US police tend to receive less than a half-year of training, and killed over a thousand people in 2019 alone. Research suggests that family violence is two to four times higher in the law-enforcement community than in the general population, and law enforcement officers abuse their wives and children at startling rates.

[r/2020PoliceBrutality](#); [Police Brutality](#) - These sites showcase police brutality since George Floyd's death (May 25th, 2020).

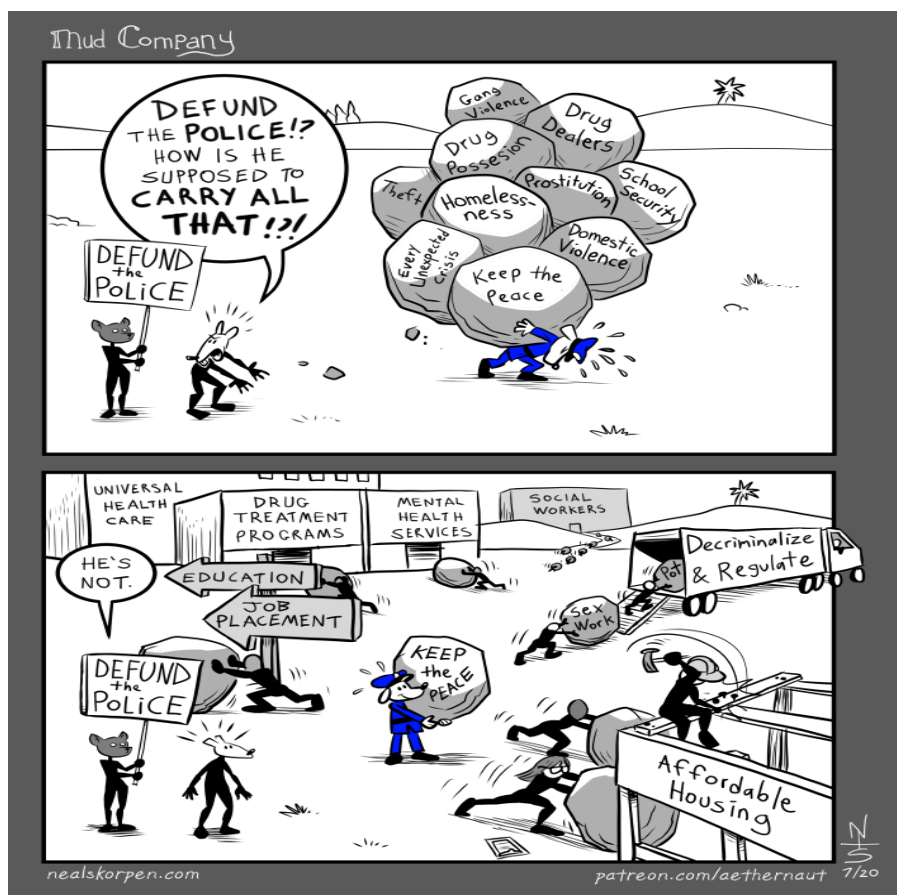
## U.S. POLICE KILL CIVILIANS AT A MUCH HIGHER RATE THAN POLICE IN OTHER WEALTHY COUNTRIES

Number of people killed by law enforcement per 10 million population in the most recent year with available data



**PRISON**  
POLICY INITIATIVE

Sources: Data compiled by the Prison Policy Initiative from news sources, government reports, and advocacy groups. Data from the U.S., the Netherlands, England and Wales, and Iceland are from 2019. Data from Australia, New Zealand, Germany, Japan, and Norway are from 2018, and data from Canada are from 2017. For details, see: [www.prisonpolicy.org/blog/2020/06/05/policekillings/](http://www.prisonpolicy.org/blog/2020/06/05/policekillings/)

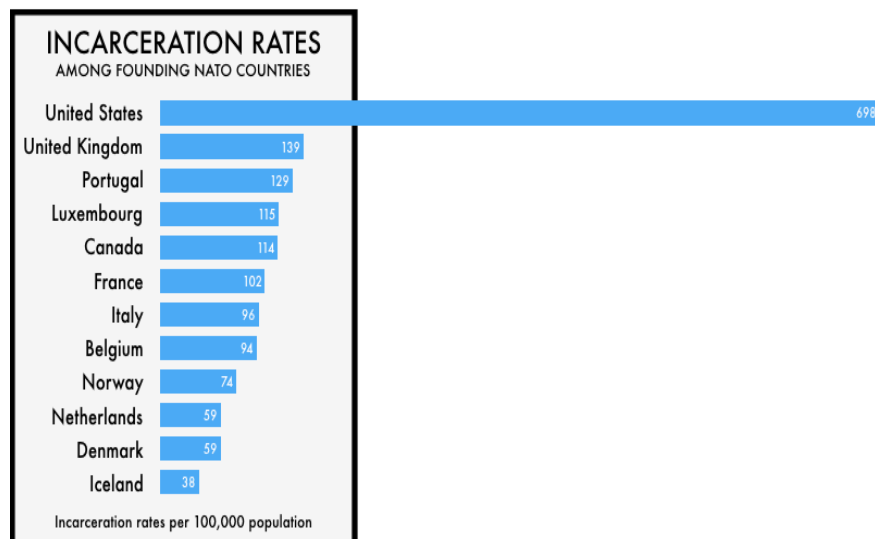


Just as people back in the 1860's couldn't imagine a society working without slavery ("how else would we run the economy?"), and people in the 1950's couldn't imagine a world unsegregated ("isn't it better we just keep things how they are?"), many people today consider the idea of straight up abolishing the police (or even lessing their power) unrealistic ("how else would society maintain order, how would we stay safe?")... The answer to that is, we need to not only

abolish or defund the police, but redistribute the tasks they currently handle. Crime often being caused by low standards of living, we should put in effort to increase people's standards of living rather than focusing on punishment.

Overall, whether you believe in defunding the police or abolishing them altogether, the most important thing is to recognize that there is a problem: the police as of now are highly overused, their power is abused and used more often for bad than good, and some sort of extreme change IS needed to the current police system beyond just putting the especially bad cops on paid leave. They should be here to serve and protect the people, not to protect the interests of those in power.

## US Mass Incarceration (Prisons)



Source: <https://www.prisonpolicy.org/global/2018.html>

**Private prisons allow people to make money off of people being locked up.** Again, especially interesting when you remember that the 13th amendment “abolished slavery”, EXCEPT as punishment for crime.

[Adam Ruins Everything - The Shocking Way Private Prisons Make Money](#)

[Why Do We Have Private Prisons?](#)

It is worth nothing that significant reductions in the size of prison populations are possible without endangering public safety (Source 3). A huge portion of people are locked up for non-violent offenses, or no crime at all. Highly recommended: [Mass Incarceration: The Whole Pie 2020](#).

What about the law itself? Just because something is law does not mean it should be obeyed, and many of those imprisoned were arrested for things like drugs and immigration.

["Law & Order" and Civil Disobedience | Philosophy Tube](#)

[Crime: Crash Course Sociology #20](#)

Also, let's talk about **crime: what causes it?**– People usually commit crime for a reason. Things like poverty, unemployment, and lack of proper mental healthcare are often causes of crime, and as noted, our economic system exacerbates these problems. You lessen crime by eliminating poverty, you lessen crime with universal healthcare, public housing, high wages, universal childcare, and free college. You lessen crime by creating happy, healthy communities that aren't fighting over the scraps of wealth the rich aren't hoarding.

Things like cash bail, the way the law is especially enforced against minorities, the many arrests for victimless or non-violent crime, and the tendency of the justice system to be more lenient towards those that are deemed more “useful” to society (the rich “job

creators”), all combine to create a prison population full of people that don’t need to be there, but don’t have the financial or social power to have any choice in the matter. It is no coincidence that you don’t often see the rich or powerful jailed. And let us not forget how the prison system is used to further beat down and silence the underprivileged- prisoners are treated poorly during their time in prison, stripped of their right to participate in democracy, and when they are released, a permanent stain is left on their record, making it hard to do things like get a job.

[Adam Ruins Everything - Why Solitary Confinement Needs to Be Banned](#)  
[Should People in Prison have a Right to Vote? | Philosophy Tube](#)

### **Rehabilitation vs Punishment**

As of now, US prisons are there more as punishment than to help rehabilitate people, despite rehabilitation being highly helpful to both the individual and society- just compare the US (which prioritizes punishment) to Norway (which prioritizes rehabilitation). The US has an incarceration rate 10 times the amount of Norway (707 per 100,000 people vs 75 per 100,000), and when criminals in Norway leave prison, they stay out- it has one of the lowest recidivism(reoffending) rates in the world at 20%. The US has one of the highest: 76.6% of prisoners are rearrested within five years. Norway also has a relatively low level of crime compared to the US, according to the Bureau of Diplomatic Security (Source 13).

The idea that mass incarceration keeps us safer is fiction- We have wasted billions of taxpayer dollars, and thousands of lives.

### **The Death Penalty**

[The Death Penalty feat. PragerU](#)

It’s also just one more way the current criminal justice system perpetuates racism. To give some examples of how: North Carolina’s state legislator had previously passed a law stating death penalty defendants who could demonstrate racial bias in their jury selection could have their sentences changed to life without parole. The legislature later repealed that law... Black defendants are 4.5 times as likely to receive a death sentence as similarly-situated whites, making race by far the most influential statistical factor compared to any other factors. It’s worth noting, this disparity disappears completely when the murder victim is black... Interesting to see how the justice system values life. (Source 1)

### **Child Abuse**

This isn’t talked about much in politics, but as someone who’s been a victim of child abuse, I think it’s important to address the issue, as it is political in the way that our society currently doesn’t do nearly enough to protect children from abuse. Child protective services are often ineffective at actually solving the problem; and given that children are not capable of defending themselves (and often don’t know how to), this really should be focused on more. Not to mention, although “obvious” abuse like strong physical violence or sexual assault are

generally accepted as “legitimate” abuse, “less-serious” forms of abuse such as emotional abuse or “light” physical abuse- commonly spanking- are often ignored, despite being much more common, with some estimates stating that by the time a child reaches the fifth grade [in the United States], 80 percent of children have been spanked (Source 8). Many states explicitly allow spanking due to its commonality (Source 5), despite studies overwhelmingly supporting the fact that physical punishment, spanking included, is not effective, and is actually damaging. (Source 6). The same goes for psychological abuse (Source 7). Much like with other topics that are often written off as “no big deal” or “people these days being too sensitive” from those with a lack of empathy, the harm done by emotional and “light” physical child abuse are yet another example of the damage a lack of empathy for others can have. Not to mention, the fact this is rarely discussed highlights how focusing on topics that shouldn’t even have to be argued (topics like LGBT+ rights, immigration, etc), keeps serious issues like this from being discussed and worked on. Because we’re so often stuck fighting against right-wing idiocy, we’re unable to progress as far on important but ignored issues like these.

## Environmentalism, Veganism

[Adam Ruins Everything - Climate Change is Already Happening. Now what?](#)

[Adam Ruins Everything - The Corporate Conspiracy to Blame You for Their Trash](#)

Highly recommended: [Will Veganism REALLY Save The Planet?](#)

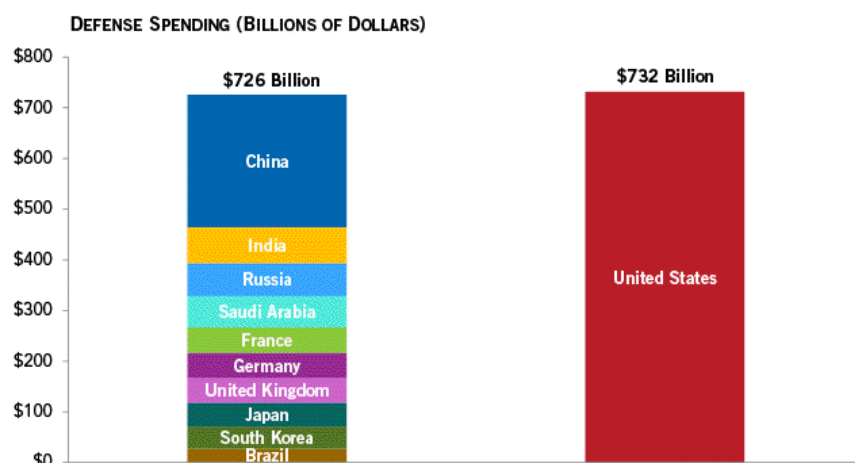
About 100 companies have been responsible for about 71% of the world's greenhouse gas emissions.

Discuss later///// MUCH work needed

## The US Military



The United States spends more on defense than the next 10 countries combined



SOURCE: Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, SIPRI Military Expenditure Database, April 2020.  
 NOTES: Figures are in U.S. dollars converted from local currencies using market exchange rates. Data for the United States are for fiscal year 2019, which ran from October 1, 2018 through September 30, 2019. Data for the other countries are for calendar year 2019. The source for this chart uses a definition of defense spending that is more broad than budget function 050 and defense discretionary spending.

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PGPF.ORG

Military recruitment is often exploitative, predatory to those with no other options- just look at all the military recruiters in highschools, looking for low income young adults. By having such a low standard of living for Americans that don't serve, the US can make joining the military quite appealing, giving people the benefits they should've had in the first place causing many to "voluntarily" choose to serve for the benefits. This allows the US to easily recruit people to help serve its own interests, without having to take the highly unpopular route of drafting people. That aside, it's clear to see that US spending on the military is highly excessive- if we were to reduce it, the US would be able to fund so many more things that actually help the people, such as medicare for all, free college, and so much more (Source 9).

## The Electoral College

[Adam Ruins Everything - Why the Electoral College Ruins Democracy](#)

Previously, those in the electoral college didn't even have to vote for what the majority of the population they represented chose- this was very recently unanimously disagreed with by the supreme court (2020): [Supreme Court Ruling Shows Absurdity of Electoral College](#)

Even then, it's generally agreed upon that the electoral college needs to go, in favor of popular vote. To explore the topic more in depth: [It's time to abolish the Electoral College](#)  
Debunking concerns over National Popular Vote bill: [Answering Myths](#)

## Human Rights

According to the United Nations: "Human rights are rights inherent to all human beings, regardless of race, sex, nationality, ethnicity, language, religion, or any other status. Human rights include the right to life and liberty, freedom from slavery and torture, freedom of opinion and expression, the right to work and education, and many more."

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, in article 25, states "Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services, and the right to security in the event of unemployment, sickness, disability, widowhood, old age or other lack of livelihood in circumstances beyond his control." (Source 17).

[What are the universal human rights? - Benedetta Berti](#)

[Police Brutality, Libertarianism, & Human Rights - Philosophy Tube](#)

## Homelessness/Poverty

[How to Fix the Housing Crisis | Philosophy Tube ft. Mexie](#)

The right to adequate housing and shelter is recognized in some national constitutions and in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. So then- should housing be a human right? While many people's gut reaction is "we shouldn't just give away housing for free", then we have to ask- why not?



People need proper shelter to survive, and in today's age, it wouldn't cost that much to end homelessness in the US- according to estimates from a Housing and Urban Development official, it would cost about \$20 billion for the government to effectively eliminate homelessness in the United States. This may sound like a lot, but that's just slightly less money than Americans spend on Christmas decorations (Source 11)- and let us not forget the fact that the US currently spends well over \$700 billion on the military. In fact, Finland has made efforts to essentially end homelessness, by providing homeless people with a flat if they need one- without any preconditions. Not only was it highly effective, but actually saved money compared to just allowing homelessness to continue- the state now spends 15,000 euros less per year per homeless person than before! (Source 4). This was not some one-off case- Some early research on this produced truly mind-boggling results like a Central Florida Commission on Homelessness study indicating that the region was spending about triple on policing homeless people's nonviolent rule-breaking as it would cost to get each homeless person a house and a caseworker. More recent, somewhat more careful studies, were a bit less enthusiastic about the cost-saving potential but still highly positive- A 2017 RAND Corporation analysis of the Housing for Health program in LA County concluded that the county saved about 20 percent by putting people with complex mental health issues in supportive housing rather than relying on law enforcement and emergency room visits. A 2015 randomized control trial of a housing-first approach across several Canadian cities saw essentially no change in money spent (Canada's structurally lower health care costs are likely a factor here) but gains in quality of life and community functioning. A separate randomized trial study in Toronto found that housing first was effective in combating alcohol abuse disorders. Earlier studies from Charlotte and Southeastern Colorado also show large cost savings from focusing on simply housing the homeless (Source 12).

So then, why is homelessness allowed to continue? Why is poverty allowed to continue in general? Well, to be to the point- like with many sufferings of the working class, it benefits the rich- private property/ real estate allows those with excess wealth to grow that wealth by charging rent to other people with less money, letting those rich people grow their money and hoard more and more wealth. And, by allowing a large majority of the population to remain in poverty, there is less competition on who can own the real estate, and plenty of people to take advantage of that need a place to live.

## Healthcare

[The real reason American healthcare is so expensive](#)

[Adam Ruins Everything - The Real Reason Hospitals Are So Expensive | truTV](#)

[Healthcare, Ethics, & Postmodernism | Philosophy Tube](#)

Perhaps even more than housing, many consider healthcare to be a human right. Free/universal healthcare (paid by taxes) might sound like some crazy idea to Americans, but it actually isn't radical in the slightest. In fact, pretty much any other country besides the US has some sort of system like this in place (Source 15). Not only does private

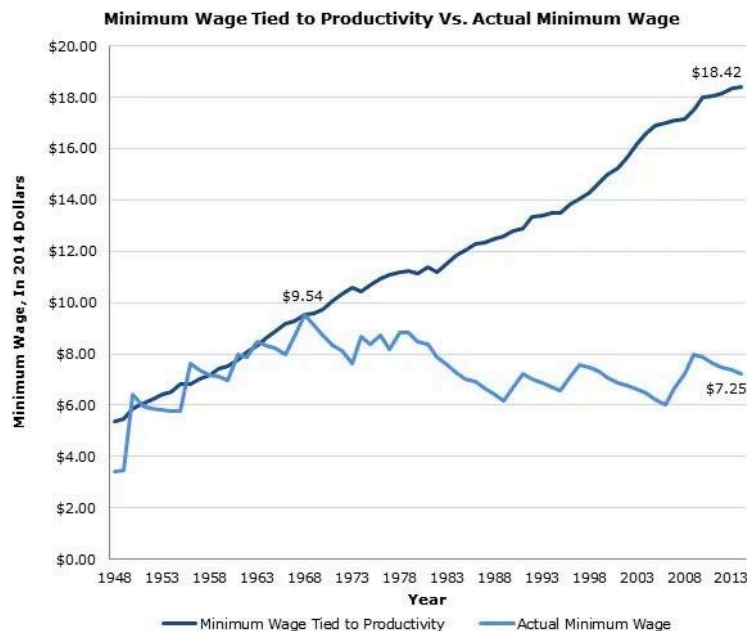
healthcare raise the overall prices of healthcare, those who don't qualify for government programs like Medicare must either get private insurance, or expect to pay astronomical prices out-of-pocket. With the majority of people in the US (49% of the population) having employer-sponsored health insurance, meaning their health insurance is provided through their job, many are discouraged from changing jobs; from starting a business of their own; or from reducing their hours to care for family members or moving gradually toward retirement. This makes it harder to match workers to the most suitable jobs, and cuts labor productivity. On top of this, workers with high paid jobs get most of the benefits, while those with lower pay or part-time jobs get little help- in fact, low-wage workers, by and large, are not even offered the option of health benefits (Source 16). Given that most people get healthcare through their employers, and not everyone qualifies for programs like Medicare, the current lack of universal healthcare also discriminates against those jobless, stripping those already struggling in our society of what many would consider basic human rights.

As of 2018, roughly 27.5 million people (8.5% of the population), did not have health insurance at any point during the year (Source 18).

## Secondary education/ minimum wage

### [What the US gets wrong about minimum wage](#)

A common concern with raising the minimum wage is, “what about inflation?” While simply raising the minimum wage to a set higher price does tend to spark inflation, there are ways to avoid this, such as gradually changing the minimum wage and tying it to inflation. **As of**



**now, the minimum wage is nowhere near being a livable wage (Source 14).** It is also worth noting that, as of 2016, tying the minimum wage to productivity would raise pay to \$18.67 per hour (Source 19)- substantially more than current minimum wage workers are paid.

However, many businesses will do all they can to make sure that they can pay workers as little as possible, so what would likely need to be done in order to avoid inflation and for this to work would also be putting more regulation on said businesses. This all ties back

into the labor theory of value. [Defending the labour theory of value \(against libertarians/conservatives\)](#)

Much like with healthcare, despite many other countries offering free college or lower-cost college, the US has a relatively high cost of college per student. While it is agreed that college “pays for itself” long term by increasing average hourly pay, a college degree is becoming a more and more common requirement for job applicants looking to make much money beyond minimum wage. And, because colleges are becoming run more and more like businesses, the increasing cost of college means that most students must take on extreme student loans to be able to afford to go. The US also has a much larger gap between average earnings of a college graduate vs. those without, further incentivizing people to take on those loans just to make a reasonable amount of money. With the cost of college so high, college is made less accessible to those with lower incomes, and those that do want to make more money must take on massive student loans in order to do so. This paywall on college tends to force social minorities and those of lower socioeconomic status into lower-pay jobs, as many cannot afford to take on such massive debt- meaning that these people end up trapped making the minimum wage and struggling to get by. And, for those that do take on student loans, they will often take decades to repay those loans- on average, over 20 years. Yet, likely in part due to the previously discussed terrible minimum wage, more and more students are going to college, often citing one of their main reasons as “to earn more money”. Overall, the current system of colleges run as businesses prevents and discourages class mobility, and unnecessarily makes many acquire massive debt.

[Why is College So Expensive?](#)

[What's the Deal With Free College?](#)

## **Work Culture/ The Capitalist Mindset**

[The 40 Hour Work Week](#)

In the US, a 40 hour work week is standard, despite being damaging to workers’ mental health, decreasing productivity, and overall being a waste of people’s time. It’s worth noting, when people are made to spend so much of their time working, it makes it much harder to find time to be politically active or force change outside of work. However, on the topic of mental health- [Let's Talk About Mental Illness](#). [Capitalist Realism, Mental Illness and Societies of Control](#). People are left feeling drained from working a 9-5 day after day, yet lacking the motivation to work is considered “depression” even though we weren’t naturally born to spend over ⅓ of our time awake being used by the economy as a source of cheap labor. We are trained from birth to value ourselves based on how corporations value us- how we will contribute to the economy. People are made to feel the purpose/value of their life (and other’s lives) is their job, some even seeing the lives of jobless adults as worthless. Needing assistance is shamed (such as living off welfare/food stamps), and people working low-pay jobs are less respected, even though those with higher pay “jobs” often work much less than those at the bottom, or may not work at all- take landlords for example, who only make money off having been rich enough to own property and sell it out to those less

advantaged. Meanwhile, those at the bottom are all just trying their best to survive, their food, shelter, and future ([Adam Ruins Everything - 401k](#)) not guaranteed at all under the guise of “personal responsibility”, their livelihoods tied to a market that would gladly sacrifice their wellbeing for profit.

## Privilege

*“If you’ve never had a supreme court case decide if you have the same rights as others, you have privilege.”*

If you engage much with politics, you might hear the word “privilege” come up. So, what is it? Well, there are different types of privileges, so to understand that, it’s important to note that in general, majorities have the privilege over minorities- and it’s worth noting that the majority isn’t always the majority of the population, a majority can also refer to groups that hold the majority of the power or don’t face discrimination like those in the opposite group do, such as men, or the 1% richest that hold the majority of the wealth. When minority groups are unfairly disadvantaged, often due to factors often beyond their control, it in turn gives the majority on the other side of that coin unfair advantages, as unlike the minority they will have one less thing making their life more difficult. Thus, majorities have privilege simply by not being a part of the minority group. \*This is not to say that majorities do not face hardships\*, it simply means that they are lucky enough not to face some of those hardships that those in the minority group have to. Often, this shows itself in ways that would seem insignificant to those with privilege- such as not needing to be involved in politics because “it doesn’t affect me”, or being able to see your own kind depicted in films, television, and other media.

## Abusing Statistics

As you can generally see from watching response videos to conservative nonsense, the right tends to either twist data and misrepresent it to fit their views, use unreputable sources, or outright lie. While yes, anyone can spread misinformation, and it is good to fact check the information you consume, abusing statistics is highly prevalent in right-wing communities and the basis of many people’s misunderstanding of political issues, so I think it’s important to understand where these beliefs come from. There are plenty of response videos out there to right wing misinformation, if you’re interested I recommend looking at the Youtubers I list in part 2. Highly recommended: [Abusing Statistics ft. Black Pigeon Speaks](#)

## Holocaust Denial

Sadly, some people deny the severity of the holocaust, or that it even happened in the first place. There is an enormous body of historical research concerning the Holocaust, none of which holocaust deniers care to engage with. They are conspiracists, regurgitating already-debunked talking points which “question the official narrative” but do not engage with existing research. This is because, no matter how tenacious they are in their

ignorance, their talking points are very easy to disprove. [Holocaust Denial And The Alt Right](#) (Source 1)

## GUNS

It's interesting to look at the topic of guns as an example of nuance in the political spectrum. If you aren't aware, it's actually the right wing party in the US that tends to be the one arguing for the right to bear arms, while liberals tend to oppose it. As an infant to understanding politics I used to favor the idea of getting rid of guns/ heavily limiting who can own them, as the liberal argument tends to be persuasive by pointing out the commonness of shootings in the US/how dangerous guns can be. However, what they neglect to account for is that guns aren't just going to disappear- even if we take them from the people, the government would still have guns, and thus have even more power over the working class. So, if you agree that the current ruling class is corrupt, it would be illogical to argue that we take away the people's means of defense against our oppressors. That is to say, in arguing to disarm the working class rather than addressing the systemic issues that contribute to the mental health issues that provoke these shootings, liberals only give more power to the capitalists in power, strengthening their control over us, while also not fixing those issues actually causing people to want to shoot up a building. This is NOT to say regulation couldn't be handy, but I do believe it's safe to say that we need to protect our right to bear arms, as the working class and those who are targets of oppression should never give up that power.

[Gun Control - Socialist Rifle Association](#)

[We Keep Us Safe](#) - while not explaining much, I feel this gives a good vibe of why we need guns- especially in the age of alt-right radicalization.

[Adam Ruins Everything - Black People Are Left Out of the Gun Control Debate | truTV](#)

Armed minorities are harder to oppress.

## So, your friend/family member is a nazi... what now?

One of the toughest questions I've dealt with is, "how do you respond when someone in your life holds right-wing, or even centrist/moderate, beliefs?" This is a personal decision to make, and a big one- but it's important to figure out how you'd like to interact with those in your life with harmful ideas. Generally, you can either ignore them/not engage (a good option if you won't interact with them ever again/ often, or if you're in danger), try to change their mind (even partially)/ debate them, or distance yourself from them/ even cut them out of your life if it's bad enough (and you're not dependent on them of course). You can't control what others think; in order to learn the person has to want to learn- and sadly most don't, which is why over the years I've transitioned from trying to debate most of the time, to providing resources and leaving it up to them if they want to learn. It isn't your responsibility to convince someone of your views, and again, you don't owe anyone a defense of your positions- if they want to learn and become a better person, they'll find a way to do so. When a person is criticized for their beliefs, they tend to either clearly want



to learn/ask how they can be better, or become defensive and try to debate you- hence (I've found), debates are usually bad-faith and go nowhere.  
Don't fall for sealioning- a very common tactic with fascists:



Also, never forget that even if someone treats you “nicely” in real life, if they support a political candidate that seeks your extermination, they are also supporting your extermination. It doesn't matter how they treat you interpersonally, they want you dead structurally. Too many people think that politics is all just opinions with no consequences, and will shame you if you treat conservatives differently, or cut them out of your life- never forget that you deserve so much better than to have to tolerate or be kind to your own oppressors.

## ● Feminism

- Abortion: [Abortion and Philosophy Tube | Is The Discussion Over?](#)  
[Abortion & Ben Shapiro | Philosophy Tube](#)
- Gender pay gap: [Is the Gender Pay Gap Real?](#)
- It's not pie! Equal rights for others does not mean less rights for you. The majority of actual feminists do not want to put men down, they want to be equal. Giving women more rights doesn't mean taking anything away from men). The “ALL MeN ShOuLD DiE” feminist is essentially a straw man people use to justify their own sexism.
- **men's rights - an example of the right way**  
<https://www.reddit.com/r/MensLib/about> : Feel free to browse the community, it's a great example of healthy discussion on men's issues.
- **men's rights - the wrong way.** There are plenty of examples, just look up terms like “MGTOV” and “redpill/incel”, or general



“anti-feminist”/“anti-SJW” content (SJW is an insulting term standing for “social justice warrior”). To these groups, feminism (and women in general) are viewed as oversensitive, “triggered” and annoying, with these people often saying something along the lines of “feminism was good back in the day when women didn’t have rights, but they’re equal now, and are going to far/ they just hate men” or even “they just hate how inferior they naturally are to men”. You might start to notice a trend of hate or general disdain for any trait associated with femininity.

- **Toxic masculinity:** [Toxic masculinity: A primer and commentary | www.xyonline.net](http://www.xyonline.net)
- **slut-shaming/ sex work:** [Sex Work | Philosophy Tube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6Uj0L8v8Y00)
- **The majority of sexual assaults go unreported, but why?** The justice system is notorious for not being effective against sexual assaults, not to mention the fact that the victim is already dealing with a ton of trauma, and many in our culture often shame the victims/place the burden of proof on them. Also, some places may not legally consider certain things sexual assault. To read more: [Reporting Sexual Assault: Why Survivors Often Don't](https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2018/05/24/sexual-assault-reporting/)
- It’s important to note, **sexism affects everyone**. Non-women can still be victims of misogyny, often it is being female itself that makes one a target of sexism (or also being perceived as a woman/assumed to be one). Plus, as discussed in healthy communities like r/menslib, sexism is also harmful to men- such as how women tend to be given custody of kids over men, due to the sexist belief that all women have maternal instinct/ are nurturers, or the ways men are expected to be “tough”.
- Virginity- [Virginity 101; a \(very\) brief history of virginity](https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2018/05/24/sexual-assault-reporting/)
- Other things you wouldn’t think of/ examples of why (even in the US) this is still a serious issue: walking at night is much more unsafe, doing everyday things you have to always worry at the back of your mind (like getting into a car and locking the door right away, having to be extra careful going on dates/ telling people where you’re going “just in case”), being raised to think your appearance is what matters most, yet being shamed for caring about it, and especially general sexism/ being treated and seen as weak 24/7.
- [Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez's Full Response to Rep. Ted Yoho | NowThis](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6Uj0L8v8Y00)

## ● LGBTQ+

- To understand **general terminology**: LGBT+ stands for Lesbian (women loving women only), Gay (men loving only men, though also an umbrella term for loving the same gender as oneself), Bisexual (liking 2 or more genders), and Transgender (a person whose gender identity does not match with their gender assigned at birth based on sex). There are many other sexualities, and many gender identities, hence the + in LGBT+. Common examples include Pansexuality (liking all genders), Asexuality (not

experiencing sexual attraction), and being Aromantic (experiencing little or no romantic attraction to others).

- People who are not transgender are **cisgender**, meaning their gender identity matches what they were assigned at birth.
- **Being LGBTQ+ is not a mental illness.** Many people especially like to claim that being trans is, but this is simply not true. Reputable scientific & social organizations affirm the validity of transgender people, and recognize the distinction between gender and sex. (Source 1).
- Claims that trans people who transition will most likely end up regretting it are also false- while detransitioners exist, the **evidence overwhelmingly supports the idea that transition will generally improve the lives of those that seek it** (Source 1).
- **TERFS** - stands for “trans exclusionary radical feminists” - basically, they’re “feminists” (not really but they call themselves that) that hate on trans people (especially trans women) under the act of “protecting women”. A TERF might say a trans woman is “a man invading women’s spaces”, and say that trans men “just are women with internalized misogyny” or something. If you want an example of a terf and how they can act, look no further than the J.K. Rowling controversy: [Responding to JK Rowling's Essay | Is It Anti-Trans?](#)
- **The “religious freedom” argument** - an excuse often made to argue that someone should be able to discriminate/ control others because they believe it’s part of their religious beliefs. Examples include businesses refusing to do something like make a cake or be a photographer for gay weddings, religiously affiliated schools firing women because they became pregnant while not married, graduate students training to be social workers refusing to counsel gay people, and even business owners refusing to provide insurance coverage for contraception for their employees (remember most people in the US get their healthcare thru their employer). While people can think whatever they want (flawed as their beliefs may be), allowing people to treat others unequally based on their bigotry is pure discrimination. If a person doesn’t support gay marriage, then they can choose not to get gay-married, if they don’t support abortion they can chose not to abort, but their own beliefs don’t give them any right to control the lives and bodies of others. To say things should be any other way either implies that minorities should be able to control what those people do as well, or that the majority is somehow deserving of control or better than the minority.
- **This is not some new trend-** LGBTQ+ people have been around forever, but much of LGBTQ+ history is often erased or ignored.
- **The Bible is not anti gay nor anti trans-** Sadly, a lot of bigotry seems to come from a lack of understanding. The seven Scriptures sometimes claimed to be about homosexuality are not at all related to the consensual, committed homosexual relationships we see today: [The Bible Doesn't Say That Homosexuality is a Sin](#). On top of this, it is not at all supportive of

transphobia: [Opinion | Where in the Bible does it say you can't be transgender? Nowhere.](#)

- [Nonbinary Folks Don't Owe You Anything | by Rachel Anne Williams](#)
- **The bathroom “issue”** – transphobes (terfs included) tend to use the argument of “letting trans women into women’s bathroom is letting men invade women’s spaces” to paint trans women out to be predatory, dangerous men all the while pretending that they’re arguing this because they’re concerned” for cis women. Much like how it was not about water fountains in the 60’s, it is not about bathrooms now- this is just another way transphobes like to push fear of trans people, and push for laws that make us more excluded and invalidated in our day to day lives. If the concern was truly over women, these people would be fighting against crimes that actually happen, or actual women’s issues like the previously discussed pay-gap. There is simply no evidence supporting the idea that trans women are being predatory when they use the restroom (Source 1) (and it’s worth pointing out, most transphobic arguments center around trans women, as it’s easier to make them seem like a threat, and they are also much more hated, likely because in our society, being masculine is admirable, while associating with femininity is seen as bad, especially for those perceived as men, which is sadly how many transphobes think of trans women).
- **Transgender people are too frequently targeted for violence and abuse because of their gender identity or presentation.** Routinely, however, that violence and abuse comes from the very authorities entrusted with their safety. Police frequently harass and profile transgender people of color, sowing distrust among the very communities they have sworn to serve. According to the 2015 US Transgender Survey, a majority (57%) of transgender people are afraid to go to the police when they need it. Transgender people in prison are exposed to horrific rates of abuse by both staff and their fellow inmates, facing physical and sexual assault at much higher rates than their counterparts. As the USTS found, transgender people are ten times as likely to be sexually assaulted by their fellow inmates and five times as likely to be sexually assaulted by staff. Transgender prisoners also face numerous other challenges behind bars, including denials of medical care and lengthy stays in solitary confinement. (Source 9)
- **Pride month**- celebrated in June, it celebrates LGBT+ identities, yet some cishet (cisgender and heterosexual/straight) people might say “well why don’t we have straight pride??” Or they might imply something along the lines of, “if they want to be equal, why do they keep making such a big deal out of their identities?” However unlike us, they do not have to fear being disowned by family for being openly themselves. They do not have to fear being discriminated against, they can hold hands with their partners in public, openly be in a relationship, and go into the bathroom that fits their gender identity, all without a second thought. Their average life expectancy is over

70, a Black trans woman's is 35. They can travel wherever they want without having to research if they'll be arrested for being themselves in those countries. They're represented in the popular media of our culture, they're made to feel they're normal. People don't argue whether or not to tell children that straight, cis people exist. People don't make cis people feel like their kind shouldn't exist.

- **Trans women in sports**- once again we focus on trans women here, as trans men aren't perceived as much of a "threat"/ generally are less noticed by society. That said, even in sports, trans women generally do not have any advantage over cis women when they're allowed to compete. Currently, there is no direct or consistent research suggesting transgender female individuals have an athletic advantage at any stage of their transition, and, therefore, competitive sport policies that place restrictions on transgender people need to be considered and potentially revised. (Source 1)
- **Gay marriage and adoption**- for whatever reason (homophobia really) some argue that gay couples aren't capable of raising kids. Saying "kids need both a mother and a father" Pretty hypocritical given how many kids are raised by single parents.. but also just one more reflection of how obsessed our society is with gender. Still, time and time again studies affirm that children of same-sex couples fare no worse than children of opposite-sex couples, with the few dissenting studies acknowledging that social prejudice may explain worse outcomes. (Source 1)
- **"Gender reveal" parties**- just one more problematic thing in this world. Not only does a gender reveal operate under the idea that a person's genitals make their gender, it often comes with celebrating by preparing for how they're gonna groom the child to fit those gender roles: like deciding what toys they'll get, what they'll wear, how they'll be raised, etc. Also, just the fact that the first thing people ask is "it is a boy or a girl?"... go ahead and tell me that our society isn't \*obsessed\* with gender.
- **Sex is a spectrum:** A common transphobic argument to hear is "science doesn't care how you feel, your sex is male or female". They already hate/deny the idea that gender is a spectrum, so to many it's not even comprehensible that sex is too. That said, much like gender is much more than only man and woman, sex itself is a spectrum- and modern science agrees. (Source 1). [Beyond XX and XY](#); [There Are More Than Two Human Sexes](#)
- **Gender is a spectrum:** Gender is what a person identifies as, be it a man, a woman, or non-binary. "Non-binary" is an umbrella term for any gender identity that doesn't fall under that binary. Gender fluid people can feel like different genders/ aren't on a "fixed" point of the spectrum, Agender people have no gender at all, and there are \*many\* more identities.
- **Why you should always use a trans person's preferred pronouns-** Sometimes, people are hesitant to use a person's pronouns if they "don't look

like” the gender they identify as. In reality, the idea that you have to look a certain way to be a man, woman, or even nonbinary, is just rooted in transphobia- transgender people do not owe you a certain gender presentation. It’s just one more way society tries to force trans people into a box of what they (cis people) think trans people should be. Even if you don’t agree with this, calling trans people by their correct pronouns costs you nothing; the fact that using the correct pronouns will make that person much more comfortable should be reason enough to do so. Cisgender people don’t have to “make an effort to look the part”, but people respect their pronouns all the same. Are trans people really so much worse than cis people that we MUST look the part for others to respect us enough to not remove our own agency in self-determination?

- **They/them pronouns-** They’ve been used for a while in singular ways, this ain’t new (Source 2). And even if it were, so what, language evolves. People really just need to be more comfortable and understanding of the fact that gender is a spectrum. There are also other pronouns less commonly used, such as ze/zir.
- **NORMALIZE ASKING PRONOUNS-** A great thing to get in the habit of doing is asking pronouns rather than assuming. A great way to go about this is simply making it a habit to introduce yourself with both your name and pronouns (prompting the other person to do the same), or otherwise use “they/them” pronouns until you do know. Yes, it might feel weird or be difficult to remember at first, but it makes the world a much more inclusive space, and is also more accurate- it’s unfair to assume someone’s pronouns, as gender expression (how a person looks/dresses) does not equal gender identity. Such a small change can make a world of difference to a minority that already faces a ton of difficulty simply existing in our heteronormative society.
- **INTERSEX ISSUES:** sex being a spectrum, while most people are easily categorized at birth as “male” or “female”, some people closer to the middle of that spectrum are not as easily categorized at birth- making them intersex. It is estimated that 1 in 60 people might be intersex. Yet, it is sadly very common “standard procedure” for intersex babies to be given medically-unnecessary surgeries so that they’ll fit into one of the two “accepted” boxes. Relevant: [The Fight To Stop Genital Surgeries on Intersex Infants](#); [US: End Irreversible Genital Surgeries on Intersex Infants](#)
- **Educating children:** for some reason this is controversial, as people can either think it’s somehow “inappropriate” for kids, or think that kids won’t understand. However, gay relationships are no more inappropriate than straight ones, and being trans isn’t that complicated a topic to understand- especially if you’ve been raised with the right knowledge of gender and sex from the start. In fact, more education on these topics (and thus more understanding) would likely decrease bullying/stigma, as being LGBTQ+



would go from being some weird, misunderstood thing to being seen as a regular and acceptable trait people have. A wholesome example of how education/exposure leads to acceptance/understanding, even if not right away: [Kids React star who went viral for anti-gay views is now pro-LGBT](#). There are also plenty of vids out there on how to explain these topics to kids in easy-to-understand ways, and also plenty of videos of people coming out to kids, like so: [COMING OUT AS TRANSGENDER TO MY SISTERS IN-LAW](#)

- **Transgender children**- Transphobes, or even those that do support trans adults, can often be unsupportive of trans children transitioning, or even having their gender affirmed by social transition (as in, being allowed to dress how they want and other things that wouldn't medically affect the child). However, children allowed to socially transition are at less risk of depression and anxiety, and in general, recognition and treatment of gender dysphoria in trans people of any age greatly increases their quality of life. (Source 1)
- **Homelessness**- LGBTQ+ youth are 120% (2.2x) as likely to experience homelessness as cisgender and heterosexual youth, with up to 40% of the homeless youth population being LGBTQ+, often due to getting kicked out of the home by unwelcoming/openly hostile family. (Source 1)
- **Suicide rates**- Gender-based victimization, discrimination, bullying, violence, being rejected by the family, friends, and community; harassment by intimate partner, family members, police and public; discrimination and ill treatment at health-care system are the major risk factors that influence the suicidal behavior among transgender persons. Notably, in transgender youth, strong parental support decreases the likelihood of a suicide attempt within the past year from 57% to just 4%. (Source 1)

## ● Racism

- **Racism is far from dead.**
- **Institutional Racism**- Racism that is embedded as normal practice within society or an organisation. It can lead to such issues as discrimination in criminal justice, employment, housing, health care, political power, and education, among other issues.
- Black people make up a disproportionate amount of the prison population due to police tending to heavily target them (**racial minorities are extremely more likely to be stopped and searched by police**), and the factors which lead to disproportionate criminality amongst black Americans are also in large part a product of racial bias. Underfunded public programs, redlining, generational poverty, bad schooling, and myriad other factors which influence criminality can also be traced to racial bias. (Source 1)
- **An example of systemic racism:** Investigation of the Ferguson Police Department - Between 2012 and 2014, black people in Ferguson accounted for 85 percent of vehicle stops, 90 percent of citations and 93 percent of



arrests, despite comprising 67 percent of the population. Blacks were more than twice as likely as whites to be searched after traffic stops even after controlling for related variables, though they proved to be 26 percent less likely to be in possession of illegal drugs or weapons. Between 2011 and 2013, blacks also received 95 percent of jaywalking tickets and 94 percent of tickets for “failure to comply.” The Justice Department also found that the racial discrepancy for speeding tickets increased dramatically when researchers looked at tickets based on only an officer’s word vs. tickets based on objective evidence, such as a radar. Black people facing similar low-level charges as white people were 68 percent less likely to see those charges dismissed in court. More than 90 percent of the arrest warrants stemming from failure to pay/failure to appear were issued for black people. (Source 1)

- **Biases in Stops, Searches & Arrests-** While White & Black Americans admit to using and selling illicit drugs at similar rates, Black Americans are VASTLY more likely to go to prison for a drug offense. Today, Blacks are 3.7x as likely to be arrested for a marijuana offense as Whites, despite similar usage. 97% of “large-population counties” have racial biases in their drug offense incarceration. (Source 1)
- In an enormous study of nearly 100,000,000 traffic stops conducted across America, analysis found that the bar for searching black and hispanic drivers’ cars is significantly lower than the bar for white drivers. Additionally, black drivers are less likely to be pulled over after sunset, when “a ‘veil of darkness’ masks ones’ race” (Source 1).
- **Biases by Judges, Juries & Prosecutors-** Extensive multivariate regression analysis indicates black male offenders receive 19.1% longer federal sentences than similarly-situated white male offenders (white male offenders with similar past offenses, socioeconomic background, etc.) Much of the sentencing disparity between similarly situated black males and white males comes down to judicial discretion to deviate from standard sentencing guidelines. Blacks are also less likely to receive a reduced charge compared with whites. (Source 1)
- A study of bail in 5 large counties found Blacks received significantly higher bail than whites who had committed similar crimes. (Source 1). Given that Black people are also generally less wealthy, this sets the bar extremely higher for them to make bail- Cash bail being allowed generally has this effect, as the rich and privileged will much easier make bail.
- In short, while the laws may not technically specifically target Black people, the ways police and the criminal justice system tend to choose how to enforce those laws undeniably targets racial minorities. And let us not forget, many of these laws were made to specifically target minorities- for example: [The Sinister Reason Weed is Illegal | Adam Ruins Everything](#)
- On the topic of drugs: **Why we should [Legalize All Drugs](#)**

- **Implicit Bias-** people tend to subconsciously view light-skinned people as more trustworthy and less threatening compared to dark-skinned people. Black boys as young as 10 are more likely to be considered criminal or untrustworthy, and more likely to face police violence. (Source 1)
- Police officers were tested on dehumanization of blacks by comparing people of different races to animal groups. Police who engaged in higher levels of dehumanization were more likely to use violence against black children. (Source 1)
- [Slavery to Mass Incarceration](#)
- **The 13th amendment “abolished slavery”, EXCEPT as punishment for crime:** “Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, *except as a punishment for crime* whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States”. Then take a look at the percentage of black people in prison...
- Private prisons are a modern system of slavery to be profited off of - [Labor Exploitation in Private Prisons: A Blog Series](#). Much more info in the [Prison](#) section

## ● Immigration

- **Immigration Doesn't Really Hurt Wages-** In fact, research shows average American wage RISES due to immigration, both short-term and long-term. Overall, the vast majority of American workers' wages increase from immigration, and the available evidence suggests that immigration leads to more innovation, a better educated workforce, greater occupational specialization, better matching of skills with jobs, and higher overall economic productivity. “Immigration also has a net positive effect on combined federal, state, and local budgets”. “Economists generally agree that the effects of immigration on the U.S. economy are broadly positive”. (Source 1)
- **Diversity Doesn't Hurt Social Cohesion-** White supremacists will often argue racial diversity leads to less social cohesion than racial homogeneity. The data disagrees. Plurality of data does not support (and largely contradicts) assertion that diversity hurts social cohesion- Most experiments found a positive relationship between diversity and social cohesion. \*\*\*Proposed mechanism is that diversity causes people to identify more broadly with humanity, increasing sociability. In a study that suggested immigration often leads to decrease in social trust, but results were heavily affected by ethnic polarization & economic stability. With low polarization and a good economy, immigration was shown to actually increase social trust. Results suggest it isn't the diversity of immigrants which lessens trust, but rather the economic and political context in which they arrive. (Source 1)

- I mentioned this vid in the Fascism section, but it's certainly relevant here as well. [The Great Replacement Isn't Real - ft. Lauren Southern](#)
- Hot take: If a Capitalist lays off an American worker to be replaced by an immigrant due to being able to pay the immigrant less, you should be mad at the Capitalist that took advantage of the immigrant to make a profit, not the immigrant.
- **ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement)-**  
[Why The US Border Facilities Are 'Concentration Camps.' According To History](#); [Why do people say Abolish ICE?](#);  
[Ocasio-Cortez Defends Calling Migrant Detention Centers 'Concentration Camps' | NBC News](#)  
[Abolish ICE: Why We Need to Abolish Immigrations and Customs Enforcement](#)
- **The wall:** [Why a Wall Won't Stop Immigration | Adam Ruins Everything](#)

## ● Foreign issues

- **Palestine/Israel-** Anti-Zionism is not the same as Anti-Semitism. Opposing the state of Israel does not make a person an anti-semite. Opposing the genocide of Palestinians is not anti-Semitic. It is human decency and basic anti-imperialism and anti-colonialism. [Why Israelis and Palestinians both claim Jerusalem](#); [Michael Brooks takes a question on Israel](#)
- **DPRK** [DPRK Reading guide](#)
- **China!!** (especially in relation to US propaganda)
- **honk kong**
- lots of research needed/// aaaAAaAaaaaa ill get to it someday i swear

## PART 2: Youtubers

I am more aware of good youtubers than literature, as it's how I prefer to learn, so I figured I'd provide a list for those interested. Many of the Youtubers listed cite their sources as well, which from all I've ever looked into, are reputable.

### PhilosophyTube

(<https://www.youtube.com/user/thephilosophytube>)

Perhaps one of my favorites. She used to make more lecture-style talks, and now makes more fully produced videos that are both entertaining and educational. Sources are cited.

### Viki1999

(<https://www.youtube.com/c/Viki1999>)

A queen of information. And a great small channel to support, though she's finally gaining a decent amount of subs! Viki makes short, concise content that is a lot more "digestible" than the long video essays of others. Also, imo it's more information-packed.

### Hbomberguy

(<https://www.youtube.com/c/hbomberguy>)

A lot of his videos are response videos, but in responding he is quite entertaining, and makes learning fun. Sources cited and reputable. Also makes some top notch reviews- love this dude!

### Shaun

(<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCJ6o36XL0CpYb6U5dNBiXHQ>)

Makes very straightforward videos, often looking at both sides or responding to right-wing talk. Videos are mostly just audio, so they can be great to listen to when doing other stuff (if you can learn like that anyhow)

### Shonalika

([https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCZ\\_ckIrAKe6H-DMR0yqzbWA](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCZ_ckIrAKe6H-DMR0yqzbWA))

A smaller nonbinary creator that I think deserves some love. Videos are insightful, well-produced, and unique. If you enjoy YouTubers like Jack Saint and PhilosophyTube, you'll also enjoy this channel.

### Contrapoints

(<https://www.youtube.com/user/ContraPoints>)

She's had her controversies, so as always be critical of what you take in, but all in all makes some great content that is both well-produced, entertaining, and informative. *EDIT: sadly she has deleted many of her old videos, but a decent amount still remain.*

**Other Youtubers:** huge credit to u/BigfootKyoshi, they compiled the rest of this youtuber list. I've italicized people I personally watch/ enjoy.

- Mainly Straight Political Content:

- Vaush: The king of Debate Bro Leftists. If you like watching debates/arguments and the occasional edgy joke, Vaush is the guy for you.
- Peter Coffin: A video-essayist who mainly tackles modern issues through a Marxist lens. Generally, their style is Contra-esque, but severely toned down because no one is as extra as Contra is.
- For Harriet: Hot take: Kim is one of the most under-appreciated creators on the whole platform. Her typical videos are chill breakdowns of issues and media from a black feminist perspective. Radiates "cool older sister who has her life together" vibes. Recently she's been doing interviews with professors, activists, and experts related to the BLM and Defund the Police movements.
- Angie Speaks: Angie's an interesting one. She does a mix of things, from interviews to video essays. I think that her most unique/best work are her analysis videos on the mental and emotional consequences of capitalism, and the ways in which we have deified capitalism as something like a religion and not just an economic system.
- Black Goat 666: I mean, with a name that metal, how could you not tune in?
- Innuendo Studios: I mean, his essays in "The Alt-Right Playbook" are the best breakdowns on online fascist tactics. Highly recommended.
- KAR: KAR literally just got started on YouTube last month. A very small channel, but he has great potential and I'd like to see him grow in the future.
- Some More News: Newsman Cody breaks down current events with frenetic energy and a no-bs attitude.
- Three Arrows: Kind of similar to Shaun. He debunks alt-right talking points/ makes response videos. History nerd, so many of his videos critique bad historical narratives.

- Culture Through a Political Lens:

- *Jack Saint*: His cops in media videos are fantastic. //I second this, love his videos!
- Curio: My personal favorite video of theirs is "Comedy and Masculinity," but all of Curio's stuff is lovely.
- Kay and Skittles: Kay's videos on the politics of The Legend of Korra is required watching if you're a fan of the series. Such a good watch! They also do tons of videos on British political issues. A great small channel that could use some love.
- *Big Joel*: Henry is a soothing, sweater-wearing man who likes digging deep into the logic and philosophy of media.
- José: I never thought that I'd care about the political messaging in sitcoms, but José changed my mind.
- Maggie Mae Fish: Her video on Cats? Chef's kiss.

- Renegade Cut: A mixture of cultural analysis and some fantastic take-downs of politicians all delivered in a soothing, detached voice that make the burns all the worse.
- Niche Interests:
  - Atun-Shei Films: If anyone likes American history, Andy's the guy to watch. He has a great sense of humor, and his videos are very educational and entertaining. His "CHECKMATE, LINCOLNITES!" series where he dismantles common myths about the Civil War is hilarious. He goes in hard after people who idolize the Confederacy and the Antebellum South.
  - Folding Ideas: For people who love films and film-making. Most videos aren't strictly speaking "political," but Dan teaches how film conveys meaning which is very useful in identifying propaganda. (Watch his video on Triumph of the Will if nothing else.)
  - *Jim Sterling*: Thank god for Jim! He's one of the few people in the video game community that's overtly anti-capitalist. He posts reviews, but his best work are the exposés he does on the video game industry as a whole.
  - Kyle Kallgren: Shakespeare, anyone? Kyle discusses and makes accessible films and media that are commonly considered "artsy."
  - *Lindsay Ellis*: The Queen Mother of YouTube video essays about media. Watch her video on The Producers if you want to shut down people making tasteless Holocaust jokes.
  - Patricia Taxxon: Patricia is an experimental musician who also dabbles in making response videos to right wing content creators.
  - *Quinton Reviews*: Quinton specializes in talking about forgotten media and weird internet stuff. Wonderful videos on conspiracy theories and the ideologies behind them.
  - *Mad Blender*: Another great creator of leftist video essays



# SOURCES:

## In-text:

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2. A short blog post discussing the history and use of singular they  
<https://public.oed.com/blog/a-brief-history-of-singular-they/>
3. Is Downsizing Prisons Dangerous? The Effect of California's Realignment Act on Public Safety, 2015.  
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4. Finland ends homelessness, and saves money in doing so  
<https://scoop.me/housing-first-finland-homelessness/>
5. Discusses definitions of child abuse in the US  
<https://www.childwelfare.gov/pubPDFs/define.pdf>
6. Physical punishment of children: lessons from 20 years of research  
<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3447048/>
7. Childhood Psychological Abuse as Harmful as Sexual or Physical Abuse  
<https://www.apa.org/news/press/releases/2014/10/psychological-abuse>
8. Quote from George Holden, a professor of psychology at Southern Methodist University who studies parenting and corporal punishment, found on article on Spanking  
<https://www.theatlantic.com/family/archive/2018/11/spanking-kids-effective/574978/>
9. Police, Jails & Prisons, National Center for Transgender Equality  
<https://transequality.org/issues/police-jails-prisons>
10. Here's What We Could Have If We Slashed the Military Budget  
<https://www.jacobinmag.com/2018/09/pentagon-budget-spending-war-military>
11. U.S. Could End Homelessness With Money Used To Buy Christmas Decorations  
[https://www.huffpost.com/entry/homelessness-christmas-decorations\\_n\\_2276536](https://www.huffpost.com/entry/homelessness-christmas-decorations_n_2276536)
12. The most cost-effective way to help the homeless is to give them homes  
<https://www.vox.com/2014/5/30/5764096/homeless-shelter-housing-help-solutions>
13. Why Norway's prison system is so successful  
<https://www.businessinsider.com/why-norways-prison-system-is-so-successful-2014-12>
14. Bare Facts About the Living Wage in America 2017-2018  
<https://livingwage.mit.edu/articles/31-bare-facts-about-the-living-wage-in-america-2017-2018>

15. Here's a Map of the Countries That Provide Universal Health Care (America's Still Not on It)  
<https://www.theatlantic.com/international/archive/2012/06/heres-a-map-of-the-countries-that-provide-universal-health-care-americas-still-not-on-it/259153/>
16. What's Wrong with Employer Sponsored Health Insurance  
<https://www.niskanencenter.org/whats-wrong-with-employer-sponsored-health-insurance/>
17. Universal Declaration of Human Rights  
<https://www.un.org/en/universal-declaration-human-rights/>
18. Health Insurance Coverage in the United States: 2018  
<https://www.census.gov/library/publications/2019/demo/p60-267.html>
19. Should The Minimum Wage Be Tied To Productivity?  
<https://www.upr.org/post/should-minimum-wage-be-tied-productivity>

## **LINKS PROVIDED IN DOCUMENT:**

[What is capitalism? | Ideology explained](#)  
[What is socialism? | Ideology explained](#)  
[Worker Co-Ops \(and what socialism is\) explained](#)  
[What is Marxism? | Ideology explained](#)  
[What are markets? | Ideology explained](#)  
[Why is capitalism bad? And how is it "stealing" from people?](#)  
[Why the free market is inefficient](#)  
[The REAL death toll of capitalism](#)  
[The REAL death toll of communism](#)  
[Who is part of the working class?](#)  
[Watching "basic economics" lessons for socialists \(And having a laugh at them\)](#)  
[Marx Part 1: Labour & Class Conflict](#)  
[Marx Part 2: Capitalism's Consequences](#)  
[Marx Part 3: Cultural Marxism & Political Correctness](#)  
[Marx Part 4: Beyond Capitalism](#)  
[Socialism101.com](#)  
[But it's a voluntary system....right?](#)  
[The Difference Between Socialism, Communism, and Marxism Explained by a Marxist](#)  
[Here's Why Reaganomics is so Controversial | History](#)  
[How Reaganomics Destroyed The Middle Class...And Maybe America](#)  
[Ronald Reagan Killed the American Dream](#)  
[The Nazis were not socialists](#)  
[The story of the Paris Commune \(1871\)](#)  
[Anti-Communist myths debunked](#)  
[Capitalist Philanthropy and Charity - why it doesn't work](#)  
[Adam Ruins Everything - Why Billionaire Philanthropy is Not So Selfless | truTV](#)  
[Why the Left Will Win | Philosophy Tube](#)

[Trump & the Problem with Politics | Philosophy Tube](#)  
[The Fate of the Frog Men](#)  
[The PewDiePipeline: how edgy humor leads to violence](#)  
[The Alt-Right Playbook: How to Radicalize a Normie](#)  
[The Philosophy of Antifa | Philosophy Tube](#)  
[What is white supremacy? - A Response to Steven Crowder](#)  
[White Supremacist Propaganda Vs Truth | Philosophy Tube](#)  
[Decrypting the Alt-Right: How to Recognize a F@scist | ContraPoints](#)  
[The Great Replacement Isn't Real - ft. Lauren Southern](#)  
[Leaked Documents Show Police Knew Far-Right Extremists Were the Real Threat at Protests, Not "Antifa"](#)  
[Why do people like me say 'ACAB'? Let me explain](#)  
[Police - To Serve and Protect?](#)  
[Foucault: Crime, Police, & Power | Philosophy Tube](#)  
[What does it mean to defund the police?](#)  
[6 reasons why it's time to defund the police](#)  
[Opinion | Yes, We Mean Literally Abolish the Police](#)  
[Adam Ruins Everything - Our Overuse of SWAT Teams Makes Us Less Safe | truTV](#)  
[r/2020PoliceBrutality; Police Brutality](#)  
[Adam Ruins Everything - The Shocking Way Private Prisons Make Money](#)  
[Why Do We Have Private Prisons?](#)  
[Mass Incarceration: The Whole Pie 2020](#)  
["Law & Order" and Civil Disobedience | Philosophy Tube](#)  
[Crime: Crash Course Sociology #20](#)  
[Adam Ruins Everything - Why Solitary Confinement Needs to Be Banned](#)  
[Should People in Prison have a Right to Vote? | Philosophy Tube](#)  
[The Death Penalty feat. PragerU](#)  
[Adam Ruins Everything - Climate Change is Already Happening. Now what?](#)  
[Adam Ruins Everything - The Corporate Conspiracy to Blame You for Their Trash](#)  
[Will Veganism REALLY Save The Planet?](#)  
[Adam Ruins Everything - Why the Electoral College Ruins Democracy](#)  
[Supreme Court Ruling Shows Absurdity of Electoral College](#)  
[It's time to abolish the Electoral College](#)  
[Answering Myths](#)  
[What are the universal human rights? - Benedetta Berti](#)  
[Police Brutality, Libertarianism, & Human Rights - Philosophy Tube](#)  
[How to Fix the Housing Crisis | Philosophy Tube ft. Mexie](#)  
[The real reason American healthcare is so expensive](#)  
[Adam Ruins Everything - The Real Reason Hospitals Are So Expensive | truTV](#)  
[Healthcare, Ethics, & Postmodernism | Philosophy Tube](#)  
[What the US gets wrong about minimum wage](#)  
[Defending the labour theory of value \(against libertarians/conservatives\)](#)  
[Why is College So Expensive?](#)

[What's the Deal With Free College?](#)  
[The 40 Hour Work Week](#)  
[Let's Talk About Mental Illness](#)  
[Capitalist Realism, Mental Illness and Societies of Control](#)  
[Adam Ruins Everything - 401k](#)  
[Abusing Statistics ft. Black Pigeon Speaks](#)  
[Holocaust Denial And The Alt Right](#)  
[Gun Control - Socialist Rifle Association](#)  
[We Keep Us Safe](#)  
[Adam Ruins Everything - Black People Are Left Out of the Gun Control Debate | truTV](#)  
[Abortion and Philosophy Tube | Is The Discussion Over?](#)  
[Abortion & Ben Shapiro | Philosophy Tube](#)  
[Is the Gender Pay Gap Real?](#)  
<https://www.reddit.com/r/MensLib/about>  
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[Sex Work | Philosophy Tube](#)  
[Reporting Sexual Assault: Why Survivors Often Don't](#)  
[Virginity 101](#)  
[a \(very\) brief history of virginity](#)  
[Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez's Full Response to Rep. Ted Yoho | NowThis](#)  
[Responding to JK Rowling's Essay | Is It Anti-Trans?](#)  
[The Bible Doesn't Say That Homosexuality is a Sin](#)  
[Opinion | Where in the Bible does it say you can't be transgender? Nowhere.](#)  
[Nonbinary Folks Don't Owe You Anything | by Rachel Anne Williams](#)  
[Beyond XX and XY](#)  
[There Are More Than Two Human Sexes](#)  
[The Fight To Stop Genital Surgeries on Intersex Infants](#)  
[US: End Irreversible Genital Surgeries on Intersex Infants](#)  
[Kids React star who went viral for anti-gay views is now pro-LGBT](#)  
[COMING OUT AS TRANSGENDER TO MY SISTERS IN-LAW](#)  
[The Sinister Reason Weed is Illegal | Adam Ruins Everything](#)  
[Legalize All Drugs](#)  
[Slavery to Mass Incarceration](#)  
[Labor Exploitation in Private Prisons: A Blog Series](#)  
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[Why The US Border Facilities Are 'Concentration Camps.' According To History](#)  
[Why do people say Abolish ICE?](#)  
[Ocasio-Cortez Defends Calling Migrant Detention Centers 'Concentration Camps' | NBC News](#)  
[Abolish ICE: Why We Need to Abolish Immigrations and Customs Enforcement](#)  
[Why a Wall Won't Stop Immigration | Adam Ruins Everything](#)  
[Why Israelis and Palestinians both claim Jerusalem](#)  
[Michael Brooks takes a question on Israel](#)

# LEARN MORE: Other EXTREMELY Useful Sources

[Sources I use for debate and facts](#) : THE compilation of compilations, some with an insane amount of material. Including:

- [Source Library](#) (google doc) && [Source Library | source-library](#) (site)
- [Anti-Communist myths debunked](#)
- [S21C reading list](#)
- [Stinky Rightwinger Factsheet | Socialism Done Left](#)
- [🌸 Trans Rights Factsheet 🌸](#)
- [Notes on 2020 Protests and Relevant Events](#)

## Documentary masterlist by topic (huge credit to u/BigfootKyoshi)

### Black Issues, Black History, and Policing

- Boom for Real: The Late Teenage Years of Jean-Michel Basquiat: Available on Hulu. Discusses the early life and art of renowned African American artist Jean-Michel Basquiat.
- Crime + Punishment: Available on Hulu. Chronicles the experience of several black NYPD whistleblowers as they attempt to shed light on the NYPD's unofficial mandate for officers to hit arrest quotas.
- Whose Streets?: Available on Hulu. Documentary about the Ferguson protests.
- Killing Them Safely: Available on Hulu. Examines supposedly "non-lethal" police equipment and tactics.
- Tales of the Grim Sleeper: Available on Hulu. True crime documentary about the notorious serial killer dubbed "The Grim Sleeper." Examines racial and socioeconomic bias, and how many of the cases were under-investigated because many of the the victims were poor, black, sex-workers.
- 13th: Available on Netflix. Provides an analysis of the US prison boom, and its disproportionate effect on the black community.
- 3 1/2 Minutes, Ten Bullets: Available on HBO. Tells the story of Jordan Davis' tragic death, and the legal case that followed.
- King in the Wilderness: Available on HBO. Tells the story of the last few years of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s life.
- Lock-Up: The Prisoners of Rikers Island: Available on HBO. A look inside one of America's most famous-- and largest-- jail.
- Say Her Name: The Life and Death of Sandra Bland: Available on HBO. A look at Sandra Bland's life, and the mysteries surrounding her death.
- Solitary: Inside Red Onion State Prison: Available on HBO. Provides a look inside a Supermax prison.



- **Black Panthers: Vanguard of the Revolution:** Available on Amazon Prime. A history of the Black Panther movement.
- **Death of a Black Panther: Fred Hampton:** Available on Amazon Prime. The assassination of Black Panther member Fred Hampton, and the government's crackdown on the movement.
- **Answering the Call:** Explores the history of Selma, the site of civil rights protests in 1965, and modern day voter suppression.
- **Not Black Enough:** Available on Amazon Prime. A look at the intersection of race and class, and how we define them.
- **Back to Natural:** A documentary looking at the history of race and beauty standards in America, and how hair fits in.
- **August Wilson: The Ground on Which I Stand:** Available on Amazon Prime. Gives an account of the life and career of noted black playwright August Wilson.
- **I Am Not Your Negro:** Available on Amazon Prime. A comprehensive look at black history from the civil rights era to now.

### **Immigration**

- **Clinica de Migrantes:** Available on HBO. Showcases a small clinic that caters to undocumented immigrants, and discusses the exorbitant fees of the US medical industry.
- **Gun Control and Violence**
- **Making a Killing: Guns, Greed, and the NRA:** Available on Hulu. All about gun control in the United States.

### **The MeToo Movement and Sexual Assault**

- **Untouchable:** Available on Hulu. Details the rise and fall of Harvey Weinstein, and the start of the MeToo movement.
- **On the Record:** Available on HBO. Follows the primary accusers against hip-hop mogul Russell Simmons. Discusses the atmosphere surrounding the hip-hop/rap production community in the 90s, and how black women's voices are often silenced.
- **Jeffrey Epstein: Filthy Rich:** Available on Netflix. A thorough documentation of Epstein's many, many crimes.
- **Surviving R. Kelly:** Available on Netflix. Interviews with women detailing their experiences with famous singer R. Kelly.
- **At the Heart of Gold: Inside the USA Gymnastics Scandal:** Available on HBO. An in-depth examination of how the US Olympic committee sheltered sexual abuser Dr. Larry Nassar, and the changes that have to be made to protect athletes.
- **Leaving Neverland, Parts I and II:** Available on HBO. Interviews with two of Michael Jackson's (alleged) victims, and their families. A gut wrenching look at how wealth and influence can let a predator get in close.
- **Anita:** Available on Amazon Prime. Gives a frustrating account of Anita Hill's challenge to Clarence Thomas' nomination to the US Supreme Court.

### **Class, Corruption, and Money**

- **Class Divide:** Available on HBO. Explores gentrification of a New York neighborhood.
- **Dirty Money:** Available on Netflix. Each episode details a different scheme that the rich have used to get richer. There's an episode on creepy doll boy Jared Kushner.
- **Harlan County, USA:** Available on HBO. The trials and tribulations of a small mining town, and the worker's attempts to unionize.
- **Triangle: Remembering the Fire:** Available on HBO. Recounts the story of the worst industrial accident in New York City's history, and the labor reforms that arose from it.

### **International Issues and US Foreign Policy**

- **Cries from Syria:** Available on HBO. Documents the civil war in Syria, and the ongoing humanitarian crisis.
- **For Neda:** Available on HBO. A documentary about the tragic death of Neda Agha Soltan, and how it fueled the desire for Iranian revolution.
- **Ghosts of Abu Ghraib:** Available on HBO. A disturbing look into the torture and mistreatment of Iraqi prisoners at the hands of members of the US military. Examines how depersonalization can lead people to justify doing horrible things.
- **Hope in the Bottle:** A look into the life of Palestinian olive farmers, and their struggle with an uncertain future as Israel looks to expand its borders.

### **General Politics**

- **Get Me Roger Stone:** Available on Netflix. An expose on Trump advisor Roger Stone.
- **Bully. Coward. Victim. The Story of Roy Cohn:** Available on HBO. Details the political career of pundit Roy Cohn, from his early days working with Senator Joseph McCarthy to his mentorship of Donald Trump.

### **Cults, Extreme Belief**

- **Children of God:** Available on Netflix. Talks about the Children of God cult that abused children.
- **Going Clear: Scientology and the Prison of Belief:** Available on HBO. Former Scientologists detail how they joined the church, and why they left.
- **Skinheads USA: Soldiers of the Race War:** Available on HBO. A short film diving into the Aryan National Front, detailing their mentality and methods.

### **LGBTQ Issues and History**

- **The Times of Harvey Milk:** Available on HBO. Chronicles the rise of San Francisco's first openly gay councilor, and the general political atmosphere of SanFran in the 1960s-1970s.
- **The Case Against 8:** Available on HBO. All about the campaign to overturn California's ban on same-sex marriage.
- **Larry Kramer in Love & Anger:** Available on HBO. Examines the life and impact of noted AIDS activist and author Larry Kramer.

- Happy Birthday, Marsha!: Available on Amazon Prime. A film about iconic trans activist Marsha Johnson.
- Transmilitary: Available on Amazon Prime. A look inside what life is like for the thousands of transgender people currently serving in the US military, and their struggle to obtain rights and protections.
- Major!: Available on Amazon Prime. Follows the campaigns of trans rights activist Miss Major Griffin-Gracy.
- United in Anger: A History of ACT UP: Available on Amazon Prime. A history of AIDS activist group ACT UP from its foundation in the 1980s to today.
- How to Survive a Plague: Another documentary that deals with the activity of ACT UP. This one has a slightly more personal focus on the lives of some of the members.
- Native American/ First Peoples
- Bad Sugar: An exploration of the diabetes epidemic in Native American communities. Presents the history of food deserts and scarcity on reservations.

## MISCELLANEOUS

- The Free Black Library ([Black History Month Library](#)) contains mountains of free info on black experiences. Essays, video clips, they've got it all. Credit to u/BigfootKyoshi
- An excellent source on the basics of socialism if you want to read extra: [Socialism101.com](#)
- [Mapping the Margins: Intersectionality, Identity Politics, and Violence against Women of Color](#). Credit to u/BigfootKyoshi
- Reading recommendation: [The Spirit Level: Why More Equal Societies Almost Always Do Better](#) by Richard Wilkinson and Kate Pickett. They do a statistical analysis of a bunch of wealthy countries, as well as the various U.S. states along wealth inequality vs. various quality-of-life markers. Credit to u/lochaberthegrey
- A Dictionary of Marxist Thought ([A Dictionary of Marxist Thought by TB Bottomore](#)) (edited by T.B. Bottomore but the entries are by dozens of different authors expert on various topics). Credit to u/East\_River
- [The Purity Myth](#): How America's Obsession with Virginity Is Hurting Young Women- an interesting read on the concept of virginity
- [The Liberal Media Myth Revisited: An Examination of Factors Influencing Perceptions of Media Bias](#): An examination of why people think the media is unfairly sympathetic to liberal ideas.
  - Key takeaway info in case anyone can't get past the paywall: The source of mistrust may stem from the perception of the media as being left-leaning by Republicans, despite results showing that the political affiliations of individual journalists does not bias their reporting (although this may speak more to the fact that journalists do not always work at companies whose overall ideologies align with their own). On average, there is a strong correlation between conservativeness and membership of the Republican party, and as the United States continues to diversify we are seeing a national

trend towards liberalism. Because people often project their own biases onto objective reporting, the prevalence of liberal topics may feel like a personal attack to many.

**//Brainstorming for later:**

other topic: Systems of government/ democracy

Add later --Internationalism- the abolition of borders altogether. Imperialism, colonialism, etc

//lowkey lets just disarm the entire military industrial complex lol

Soviet union, cuba, china,, etc.////

Mao, stalin, lenin, malcom x, etc..

praxis vs theory////

us imperialism/ unjust wars////

Ableism, fat shaming,,

//get into how the world could change if we did in fact “eat the rich”

//the panama papers/ rich hoarding wealth in offshore accounts

//solidarity w/ puerto rico

freedom of speech

//anarchism

//syndicalism