

Modern Society's Great Plague

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Today, the world is in a very volatile state, the division sown in humanity has grown too great. Hatred and violence are on a rapid rise across the spectrum throughout the world, but in this article I will be focusing on America. Families at each other's throats or torn apart, protestors descended upon by fellow compatriots, people assaulted on the streets, politicians scared for their lives, just some examples of the terrible curse that's binding us. Lies are being spread en masse through social media to try and justify these actions, furthering the putrid stench of violence into a thick fog blanketing the globe in which we can no longer ignore. There is no wrong or right side, all extremes are evil, we must meet in the middle to come together and overcome this great plague.

Statistics and polls show that across the spectrum political violence has been growing increasingly in the past six years. Using data, polls, field study, and the current U.S. population, approximately 40% of Democrats and 25% of Republicans support the use of political violence, very troubling. To put this into perspective, about 99.2 million Americans or 29.3% of the U.S. population. That means about one in four Americans regardless of age or opinions, support political violence. These numbers are too large to be laughed at and ignored, and around the world these numbers swell like ugly pimples.
(Pape)

It sickens me that there are abhorrent examples from the past six years, especially this past one. Political Violence hurts everyone, not just one side. Two Minnesota lawmakers and their partners were assaulted in their homes, one of the couples being murdered. Josh Shapiro suffered a fire bombing on his home, imagine if his wife and kids were inside, now imagine if it was **your** wife and kids. Nancy Pelosi had an attempted kidnapping, her husband caught in the crossfire was ruthlessly smashed in the head with a hammer. Four assassination attempts on a U.S. president, in the modern era within the last couple years, greatly disturbing. An assassination attempt on supreme court justice Brett Kavanaugh. A \$45,000 bounty (Hitman contract) was placed on Pam Bondi. A French conservative activist was beaten to death in France by far left activists, similarly in the U.S. a homemade bomb was thrown into a crowd of protestors at the home of N.Y.C. mayor Zohran Mamdani. I applaud Mr. Mamdani for decrying the act as barbaric, "Violence at a protest is never acceptable. The attempt to use an explosive device and hurt others is not only criminal, it is reprehensible and the antithesis of who we are." (Mamdani), while also recognizing that although the protest may have been rooted in hatred and fear, it's wrong to commit acts of violence on those practicing their first amendment rights. Charlie Kirk, a burgeoning political icon, was assassinated in Utah at a college campus. The putrid act occurred in front of not only his wife and very young son and daughter, but also thousands of young college kids. These events are only some of the countless disgusting acts of violence that pollutes the globe. If you cheered for any of these examples, you need to stop and ask yourself what you're becoming, because it's not something good. We should not live in a world where violence becomes a solution to disagreements with fellow Americans, or else our world will cease. (Ruben) (Walsh)

You may believe this issue can't be solved, that it's grown too big, but there are proven ways to combat it. The U.S. national joint terrorism task force is currently being used by the U.S. government to fight it. It's not just the government combating it either, several influencers have proven to help unify and bridge divides. I even have proven myself that this issue can be solved with the creation of my own organization. I bridged divides and helped unify people around the world of all race, religion, politics, affiliation, and other dividers. It's been clearly present that we can still come together and not let this blight on humanity thrive, it's never too late to mend this great divide. One issue others may find and voraciously use to pick apart what I'm saying in order to justify their actions or opinion, is that political violence is "necessary" to overthrow and defeat tyranny. Which in the case of America's own revolution, as well as the case of fighting facism, anarchism, communism, and regimes found in the world today such as Iran or North Korea, it could be seen as such. Fascism, Anarchism, and Communism are three main examples of extremes. Extremes are historically correlated to increased political violence and anarchy, while they may seem shiny on the outside, but they're rotten black on the inside. Staying on track, in the case of our own revolution, it was colonists vs. Britain, not colonist vs. colonist. This also was a war of secession, not a war to change Britain's form of government but to create their own. In the cases of tarring and feathering fellow colonists, that was still a disgusting act that should not have been committed. You may feel scared and powerless when the government or a person does something you don't like, but we live in a democratic republic, one with elections and free speech as well as the ability to protest, protests that don't involve breaking laws. Your elected officials should be representing your interests, and if they aren't then you

need to vote for someone else if they just sit around and do nothing. If every citizen becomes the judge of what ideas deserve violence, then violence becomes endless. People today, especially the media, will overamplify an event and use language to influence you. This is a good tactic but it plays on your emotions and can cause you to come to extremes and slap labels on things without making sure what you heard or saw is true, which harms others. We live in an age of misinformation, one where AI is prevalent, which I implore you to question everything you hear and always listen to all sides, not people on tiktok with their hot takes. This is the 21st century, we aren't barbarians, we can talk things out amongst one another and come to better conclusions through cooperation. Extremism across the spectrum and violence against our compatriots should not be tolerated nor prevalent in modern society. (White House)

Political violence in today's society, especially in a democracy, does not belong. You cannot harm someone because they think differently than you. We come to much greater solutions when we hear each other out and work together. The presence of valid peaceful ways to change your government eliminates the need and invalidates the use of violence. Violence on your fellow Americans will lead you nowhere but to chaos, and chaos must not govern a society or it will rot and collapse. I encourage you to instead of screaming obscenities and labels at one another because they're different from you, to have a real conversation and find better solutions. If I can unify others, fall in love with someone different from me, and befriend even the most opposite of me, then so can you. Together we can overcome and rid ourselves of this wretched infestation.

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Definitions:

Democratic Republic: a democratic republic is a form of government operating on principles of both a republic (a state without a monarch, where power is held by the people and their elected representatives) and a democracy (a system where citizens exercise power, directly or indirectly). Citizens elect officials to represent them and make decisions, rather than voting directly on every policy.

Facism: a far-right, authoritarian, and ultranationalist political ideology characterized by a dictatorial leader, centralized autocracy, militarism, characterized by severe economic and social regimentation and by forcible suppression of opposition.

Anarchism: a political philosophy that advocates for the abolition of government, the state, and all coercive, top-down hierarchies in favor of a society based on voluntary cooperation, self-governance, and mutual aid.

Communism: a political and economic ideology aiming for a classless, stateless society based on common ownership of the means of production. It depicts a system where property is owned communally, wealth is distributed based on need, and private property is abolished.

Voracious: someone with an insatiable, ravenous appetite for food, or an excessive, eager desire for an activity (e.g., a "voracious reader"). It implies consuming large quantities or being intensely involved in pursuits.

Abhorrent: something that's disgusting, loathsome, or morally repulsive. It signifies intense hatred or detestation, often used to describe acts that violate principles or decency (e.g., "abhorrent behavior").

Obscenity: refers to material, language, or behavior that is extremely offensive, indecent, or sexual, often violating contemporary community standards of decency. Legally, it is defined as a narrow category of unprotected speech that appeals to prurient interests, depicts sexual conduct in a patently offensive way, and lacks serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value.