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What is Social Justice?

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What is Social Justice?

What is social justice? I love this question because it poses many questions that we all need to ponder over. As a country we are in a constant state of fighting for what we believe in. That is the beauty of this country, that is why people immigrate here. Even so, when protesting for the freedoms that we all rightly deserve we need to be careful that it is worth fighting for. When you look up the term "Social Justice" in the MW dictionary it says, "a state or doctrine of egalitarianism" (Merriam Webster, Incorporated). This definition did not help me much because I had no idea what egalitarianism meant, but when looking it up it said this... Egalitarianism, "social philosophy advocating the removal of inequalities among people." (Merriam-Webster, Incorporated) So when I broke it down I understood the dictionary definition of Social justice to be the "State or doctrine of" "advocating the removal of inequality." This definition was encouraging yet confusing me for me. On one hand I was pleasantly surprised that there is actually a definition for something that we struggle to find a meaning, but it confused me a little because we don't just need to advocate for the removal of inequality, we need to fight for the removal of inequality. The definition should be, having social freedoms protected by society and the government that everyone should have no matter their race, gender, religion, or socioeconomic status. The Black Lives Matter Movement, and the Women's rights movements that have been taking place for decades are just a few examples of things that are just not as simple as we would like to think that they are. Also, books we have read this semester like [Evicted By: Matthew Desmond](#) outline perfectly what is unfair and fair in this life and gives perfect everyday examples. I want to start with this; I love

our country. It is a bright place in a dark world. I can do things that other people (especially women) cannot even dream of. All of this I believe to be true, but I think our country is flawed, like everyone and everything in our world, but I believe that we are a nation that can fix it. I believe that there are people who feel just as passionate about this as I do. I choose to believe it will not be like this forever and eventually there will be some peace in this ever-changing crazy world of ours. And with that let's get started.

George Floyd. A 46-year-old African American man who was killed on May 25, 2020. A man who was murdered because an incompetent police officer decided to ignore the dying man pleading for his life right under his face. Floyd's murder will always be remembered. Breonna Taylor. A 26-year-old African American woman. Killed on March 13, 2020. Murdered because incompetent police officers could not bother to follow the proper protocol on serving a warrant. Taylor's murder will always be a shadow. I think this is because she was a black woman, and because there was no footage for the public to feed off. I am sorry, but Floyd's death was not a publicity stunt. It was a real issue, and we should put that same fight for all the others that die on the daily. A black women's activist named Andrea Ritchie said that "We're not trying to compete with Floyd's story, we are trying to complete the story" (Gupta) Even within the social injustice of George Floyd's death there is another justice problem. "Black women remain underrepresented at every level of federal and state political office in the United States" (Institute for Women's Policy Research) and "Black women of all ages were twice as likely to be imprisoned as White women in 2014 (109 per 100,000 Black women were imprisoned in state and federal prisons compared with 53 per 100,000 White women)." (Institute for Women's Policy Research). There is a social injustice right there. I am positive that

black women deserve as many of the benefits as the white male. But for some reason that is not happening. I really dislike topics that I cannot solve, and this is one of them. Why do we give less credit to women? In the eyes of the government middle aged white men can do no wrong and if they are rich, they are untouchable. Black men of all kind are deemed as scary a subject to racial profiling.

So, what is the deal with black women. Is it just because they do not have a voice? Because representation in the political field is very low and there is just no hope for them? I refuse to believe that. Government officials are supposed to fight for all, not just people who look like you. Is our world so broken as to openly feel that one person deserves less because the color of your skin is different? How and why did that even start? We forget that white people were slaves at one point. If we are going by that logic than we are all unworthy. No one is born with that bias it is taught. Social freedoms protected by society and the government that everyone should have no matter their race, gender, religion, or socioeconomic status. None of these things should matter but they do. The black women and the black man should have these basic freedoms. And for some reason we as white people must give that to them as if we have not embarrassed them enough for a lifetime. This problem should have been solved before my generation, And before the generation before. It should have been solved a hundred years ago. But more importantly it should have never been a problem in the first place.

Along with George Floyd's death there is another important issue that is a justice the rest of us deserve. The fear and turmoil that the people in Minneapolis felt when their homes were being attacked by protesters should never be a problem. You are supposed to feel safe in your home and now these people will never feel that way again. Yes, we have the right to protest, but it

says we have “the right to petition the Government for a redress of grievances”(Constitution Annotated) but we do not have the right to riot and destroy government property. I understand that the death of George Floyd was very sad, and I honestly believe that he should not have died that way. I just think that the protests, the riots, and the property destruction was taking it way too far and really was contradictory in what they were protesting. George Floyd was a criminal. He was a drug user and not a great role model for the African Americans in this country. (Hill et al.) But for some reason we set him up on a pedestal. For some reason, the people of this nation feel that their children should be more like him. They have taught them that it is ok to ruin things in the name of justice for a man who did nothing for our nation other than creating a global panic. The protesters are seeking justice for the wrong person and for the wrong cause. There is no law that says that black people are any less than whites. There is not a law that states that they cannot vote or be landowners. It is illegal to discriminate against black people and other races. So, what is the point? What was the goal of destroying cities and national monuments? What change did they want to see in the world? And why of all people would they pick George Floyd to put up on a pedestal.

The real reason for this outbreak was that no one wanted to be in quarantine, and they were bored. George Floyd would have gotten the justice he deserved without the mass chaos. The cop would still be in jail and lives would still be ruined. So, the result of a pointless protest was destruction. I am sorry but you cannot change opinion and no matter how hard you try you cannot change bias. Despite all of this in my opinion the person that they should held on the pedestal is Breonna Taylors. A woman with a high-powered job who was a symptom of an incompetent police service. That is another difference, Floyds death was not a matter of racism

it was a matter of an incompetent police officer who had former allegations of being too hard on his detainees. The man was not killed because of his color, he was killed because he was in the wrong place at the wrong time with the wrong cop. An because the rookies had no idea how to help him (Jr and Barker). I do not know about you, but I do not think I would disobey my boss especially one who seems to have a temper and a gun.

Sometimes I feel like it is not the color of your skin or the fact that you are a racist cop it is just the skittishness of the cop. In cases the Breonna Taylor the police thought they were under attack and could not have cared less about the color of their skin. If I were in a life or death situation like that, I would try to protect myself. I am aware that the warrant was not severed properly a bad decision were made by the officers, but my point still stands. Being in constant danger is scary. Now that I say that I realized that black people are in constant danger because of trigger happy police officers. I could not even imagine what that feels like. There needs to be justice for the people who go through that I just do not know how to give it to them. I am constantly worrying that I am offending someone. I know that is not pretty but maybe that is the justice that needs to be served. If you think it might be offensive, unfair, or unjust than do not do it. Social Justice is all throughout this problem an proves my definition in every way. Freedoms like being able to walk the streets at night without being shot should be given by society and our government. It does not matter what your race is. They have family they want to come home to. We need to remember that next time we feel our white privilege taking over.

The book [Evicted By: Matthew Desmond](#) also presents more than one problem relating to social justice in this country. On one hand we can continue the argument that people of color an even people in who have a lower socioeconomic status do not get treated as well as they should. Just

because you are poor does not mean that you are not smart or worthy. This is honestly a better example than anything because there are things that we can do to fix this problem. And there are things our government can do to change the poverty level in our country. There is no reason for an efficient country to have problems with the poor population. In class we talked a lot about how it is unfair to the tenant to be kicked out and treated like trash, but we must remember that a lot of people are living paycheck to paycheck. And it is one thing to have a steady income but when you must gamble on unreliable tenant it is not fun, and it gets old fast. There should be a way for them to have their own justice. The landlords should get help from the government because it helps the economy to run that type of business. And the tenants should not have to live day to day not knowing where their next meal is coming from.

Desmond gets so many accounts and spends so much time with these people it is encouraging. He talks about his unlikely friends and we think he is such a good guy. We find it humbling and normal that he is able and willing to do all of that. But if we got the opportunity to connect with those people, we would show up our noses. It is not always about the laws being unfair. Most of the time it is about the people being unfair. You cannot fight for something and then make no actions to change it. It does not work like that. When you really want to change something then you fight with all your heart. At this point all the protest about everything are just words and there is nothing to back them up.

Another odd example would be the trophy idea. In little league games they have started giving trophies for participating. Most think that is not how to treat a child. But in this case, we all should get the same treatment. The losers might not have the fancy equipment and the biggest guys, but they are just as important and being blown out by the others does not mean that they are any

less. We could be better. We could peacefully protest. We could write letters and share what we believe.

There is no reason to not fight for what you truly believe in. Social Justice, it should not be a belief it should be a fact. Everyone should want this world to be just. It should mean equal not separated. It should mean Good things and not bad things. One day I hope the definition will change from something that is theoretical to something that is applied.

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