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Topics in Inequality

The view that makes the most sense to me is the is the structural view of poverty. People naturally strive for improvement in their life and rarely pass up opportunities to obtain better standing financially. This could be seen in the early 1900s and prior, when capitalism was in full swing, and the vast majority of people were self employed trying to make their fortune and possess full ownership. As the years went by, failings of our society began to pile up such as poor schooling, employment insecurities, unaffordable housing, and laws favoring established businesses that make it difficult for citizens to start their own.

Race/ethnicity where people form an image of what poverty looks like based on the individual’s race, or ethnicity. Gender is viewed as a pattern as there is a gap in poverty lines between women and men. Age where people of different age groups have different representations of the poverty population and children are overly represented. Region where each part of the US has different poverty rates. Family structure shows differences in poverty based on the number of individuals in a household. If I were to focus on a particular pattern, it would be race as it holds one of the most important factors that have changed since the midcentury. As the demographics of the US change, so too do the issues that come with this change.

The view of socio-psychological prejudice is the result of an authoritarian personality that develops in childhood in response to discipline from an authority figure, such as parents, that practice harsh discipline. These figures emphasize obedience to authority, rigid adherence to rules, and unacceptance of different individuals. The view of sociological prejudice is the result of individuals growing up in a culture where prejudice against different groups is acceptable and used in socialization. A second explanation focuses on economic and political competition, such as the search for jobs, search for resources, and disagreement over political issues. One such example would be if a young child grew up in a household that had a prejudice against another race, and the child was disciplined if they were seen socializing with such people.

Of the three explanations of racial and ethnic inequality, the one that makes the most sense to me is cultural. One of the main ways to understand the way a group of people thinks is to analyze the culture that they’ve developed and grown-up in. As a person’s way of thinking changes, so too does the way they act, such as when it comes to the views on things like race.

The gender gap is described as the idea that women earn less money than men in the workplace for the same amount of work. Women of color experiencing “Triple burden” is based on the difficulties that each part of their demographic faces stacked together. These difficulties are their gender, their race, and their social class in order from top to bottom on the socioeconomic ladder and thus these three form the triple burden.