Stephen Giang

Prof. Kallas

Political Science 102

December 17th, 2018

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In short, Parenti argues that plutocrats or people who derive great power through their ownership of wealth and resources are not patriotic. Instead, he argues that they use the concept of patriotism to create a foe sense of unity within the general population in order to control people into bending to their will. What this essentially does is causes people to be complacent in their oppression so that they generate even more wealth for the plutocrats whilst they are forced into a system wherein they must work in order to survive. The reason that this is such an effective tactic is that people from a very young age are taught in publically funded institutions that America is a bastion of freedom and that they live in the most economically prosperous and lucrative time and place in world history. They are made to stand and pledge to the flag and sing the country’s every single morning without question. This sense of patriotism and indoctrination is what large American corporations count on to keep people working for their businesses. If people did not believe that they lived in the greatest economic conditions in the world, they would be more likely to see the inherent flaws within the laissez-faire capitalist system. Particularly, the fact that owners of these large corporations control about half of America’s wealth while twelve percent of the population lives in poverty and ninety percent of the population owns little to no net assets. In conclusion, patriotism is used by capitalists and plutocrats to perpetuate a system in which the general population becomes complacent in their own oppression by generating money for the wealthy one percent while they are forced to struggle and work just to stay alive and meet their basic needs such as food, shelter, and clothing.

Veterans are one of the most severe examples of what foe-patriotism accomplishes for plutocrats and politicians that control all of the money’s resources and power. Veterans are fed the promise of valor and dignity in protecting one’s country and community, meanwhile, politicians do everything in their power to cut their benefits after they are done exploiting them for some sense of gain and power, which is often the underlying goal of wars such as those in Iraq, El Salvador, Haiti, etc. The plutocrats usually instill a false narrative through the use of propaganda of protecting “freedom” and restoring “order” to a certain geographical location. Meanwhile, they use these area’s political hardships as a way to exploit the country’s resources (such as oil) and installing a political puppet of the United States government who is expected to cooperate with the US in order for the plutocrats to maintain power in these areas. Because plutocrats have an almost limitless supply of wealth, their propaganda campaigns are highly effective towards and already superpatriotic American population (hence, the connection between this chapter and the last). However, after veterans have been exposed to war and unfathomable suffering under the guise of freedom, many plutocrats advocate for the reduction of veterans benefits once they leave the service. This essentially allows the wealthy to mitigate any economic damage that they caused during their military campaigns. Veterans experience colossally high rates of PTSD, depression, and suicide compared to the general population. However, the government often fails to take responsibility for these illnesses directly correlated with people’s time in the service. Basically, patriotism to plutocrats is used as a very thin veil of “reverence” for veterans in thanking them for their service, while not actually helping them assimilate into society in any tangible or beneficial way: they use propaganda to instill patriotism in people in order to manipulate them into doing their bidding, and then they dispose of them when they stop being useful.