

I do believe that society has a responsibility towards combating homelessness. Due to the fundamental principles of our society, capitalism breeds grounds for socioeconomic inequality. I believe there are actions we can take as a society to fix these issues without causing additional harm.

I'd like to first begin with the ethical principle of Justice. Justice claims that we should strive towards fairness, distribution of resources, access to services, and other things. I am claiming that by having individuals such as Jeff Bezos with 184 billion dollars, this puts the burden of upholding fairness onto the country and the society. Jeff Bezos can pay for all 550,000 homeless people in the United States to live in a 3 bedroom apartment each in the Bay Area for an entire year for less than $\frac{1}{5}$ of his net worth. The fact that this is possible and is that Amazon only paid 1.2% in taxes last year and so we continue to undertax the rich at the expense of the poor is unethical, and breaks the ideas of justice ethics.

I'd like to also take the beneficence ethical principle, which promotes the well being of others through actions that provide positive benefits and actions that prevent harm. I'd like to first claim that money does not make people happy; it is the strive towards making money, the happiness achieved by going towards your goals that produces happiness. And so, by making it more difficult for billionaires to make billions would not make them less happy, but would rather make them exactly equally happy, if not more. Similarly, giving housing to homeless people or education to imprisoned people is simply giving them options that they did not have before; therefore, these cannot detract from their happiness, but can only add. And so, I claim that taxing billionaire MUCH more money would be a positive for both; that it would add an additional barrier towards extreme wealth, which would produce happiness to overcome similar to how you gain happiness from defeating a difficult level in a game. I'd also like to say that this would not necessarily be a huge issue if the wealthy were not redistributing the wealth and if trickle down economics actually worked. If the government instead taxed 'saved-income' rather than base

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December 6, 2020

income, and encouraged billionaires to spend their billions of profits and taxed those transactions instead, they could still acknowledge that the money is for the billionaires, but would also force them to reenter it to the society from which they siphoned it from.

We can also utilize non-maleficence to make the argument that we are causing harm through inaction; that by allowing billionaires to hoarding hundreds of billions of dollars, we are bystanders and accomplices to the negative effects of capitalism on homelessness and other problems.