

Social Justice Watch 0915

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Chelsea Handler

2d ·

...

The hypocrisy here is so easy to see that even I, childless and full of edibles, don't understand how some are missing the point.



Devin Michael Lowe

@ThatBoyYouLike

People say all the time "I would kill for my child", but somehow, "I would cross dangerous borders for a better life for my child" is incomprehensible and looked down upon.

10:04 AM · 8/8/19 from Manhattan, NY · Twitter for iPhone



heauxs are us (they/them)

@enbylu

I'm not about to let capitalism gaslight me into being a shitty person. You don't think everyone deserves food, shelter, and drinkable water?? That's sad as fuck, maybe you should reevaluate yourself.



space-aronaut

Wow it's almost like the oversexualisation of queerness is one of the reasons why asexuals, non-binary folks and aromantics are not seen as queer enough to be part of the community



quousque

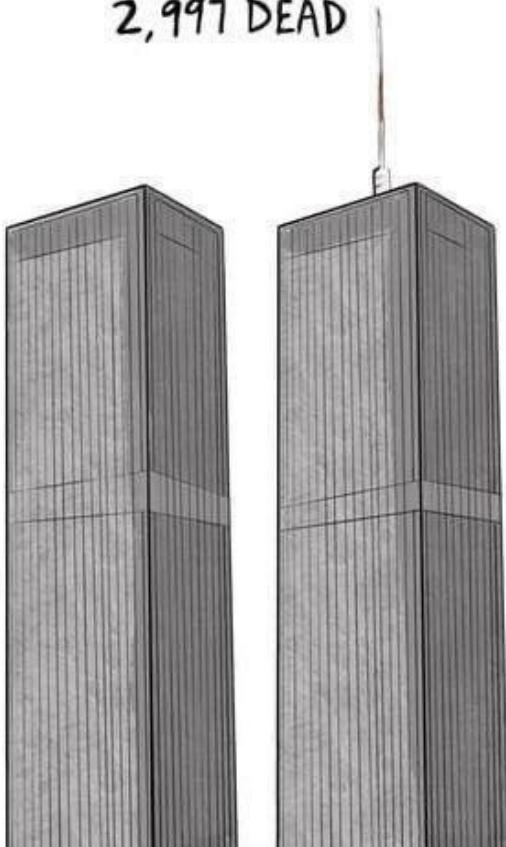
OH



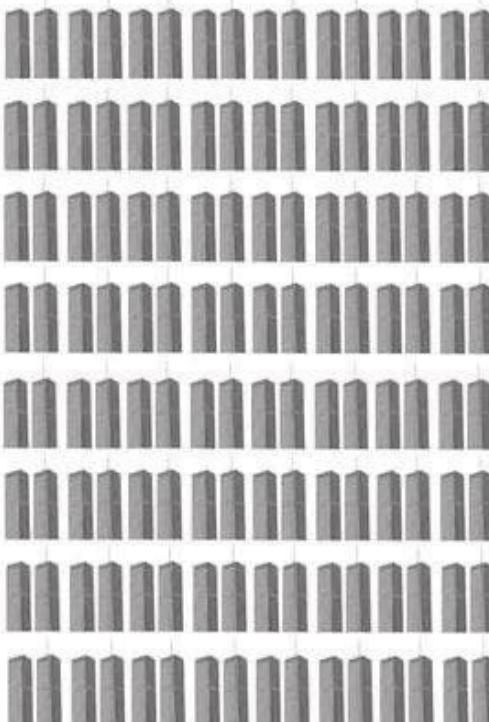
angrylittlesliceofpizza

there you go

SEPTEMBER 11, 2001
2,997 DEAD



TRUMP'S COVID-19 RESPONSE
191,000 DEAD
-OR- ≈ 64 9/11's



Slyngstad ©2020



STATISTICS: HOW WE ARE EMOTIONALLY CONDITIONING OUR YOUTH

"When a baby girl shows positive emotion or is compliant, she is far more likely to be rewarded with smiles, warmth, and food, whereas a boy tends to be similarly rewarded for being stoic and tough."

Source: "Rage Becomes Her: The Power of Women's Anger" by Soraya Chemaly [pg. 6]

@codependentrecovery

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STATISTICS: HOW WE ARE EMOTIONALLY CONDITIONING OUR YOUTH

"Girls are admonished to use "nicer" voices three times more often than boys are, learn to prioritize the needs and feelings of people around them; often this means ignoring their own discomfort, resentment, or anger."

Source: "Rage Becomes Her: The Power of Women's Anger" by Soraya Chemaly [pg. 7]

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STATISTICS: HOW WE ARE EMOTIONALLY CONDITIONING OUR YOUTH

"Regardless of how they felt, girls were more likely, over average, to smile, say thank you, and appear to be happy, despite feeling disappointed."

Source: "Rage Becomes Her: The Power of Women's Anger" by Soraya Chemaly [pg. 7]

@codependentrecovery

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The Library Owl 🌻🧙‍♀️🦉
@SketchesbyBoze



my girlfriend regularly tells me "if free public libraries didn't already exist and someone tried to invent them, they would be condemned as a socialist plot" and I think about that a lot.

4:00 PM · 9/11/20 · Twitter Web App



itamedgojira

throughout history it has been a man's job to provi..

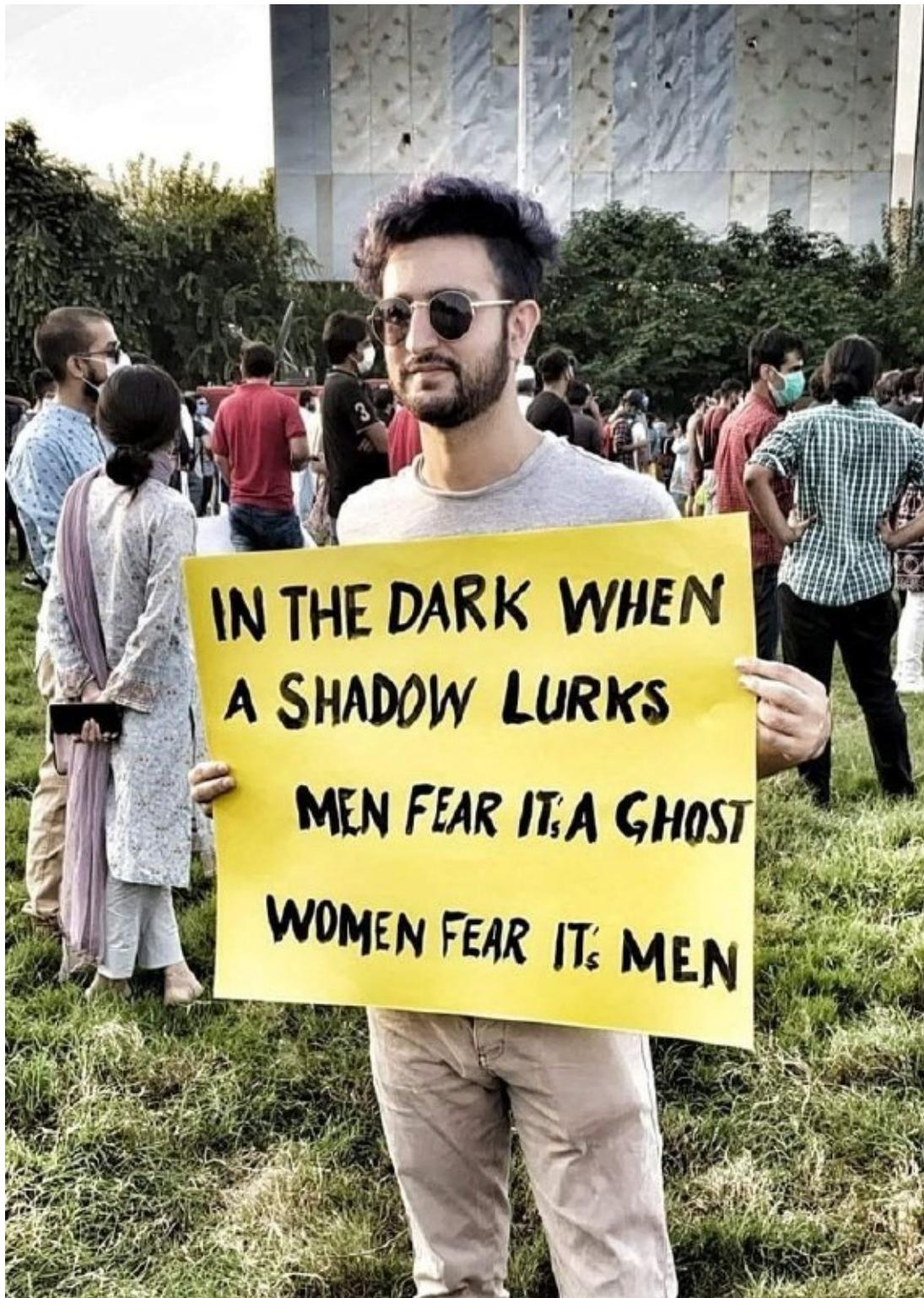
no, throughout history men have actively prevented the independence of women, they have actively prevented our mobility, rights to an education, and livable income. they've abused our reproductive capability and passed us around like properties, they've used religion to rationalize their hatred of us, and to put us in a place of subordination. so y'all can shut the fuck up about men being "providers" like it was some benevolent gesture, in an attempt to rationalize sexism.

Source: itamedgojira



"If I am raped, people say that I have lost my honour. How did I lose my honour? My honour is not in my vagina, it's a patriarchal idea that my rape will defile my community. I'd like to ask everyone why your community's honour is in a woman's vagina? We never did that. It's the rapist who loses his honour, we don't."

- Kamla Bhasin



In the dark when a shadow lurks

Men fear it's a ghost

Women fear it's men



antiandrogen

nobody ever talks about how saying non-binary genders don't exist is racist as fuck



stashlecash

How?



antiandrogen

many many many indigenous cultures have historically included more than two genders and to say that those genders do not exist is to say that those cultural traditions are invalid, and that only the imperialist gender binary is correct. which is racism.

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消息精选

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Understanding trauma as a direct manifestation of systemic violence, injustice, and neglect is a powerful avenue to solidarity, mutual aid, allyship, and collective resistance. [link source](#)

Twitter

Lausan 流傘

"Importantly, by defining [trauma] as one that is inflicted by the system onto a community, it allows us to connect to others who are similarly situated in solidarity and opens up the possibility of imagining collective solutions for healing." <https://t.co/DuSSyjFBr3>

<http://lausan.hk/2020/state-department-train-hong-kong-police/>

Lausan

Trump's executive order confirms US State Department has trained the Hong Kong police - Lausan

Records show the State Department's collaboration with Hong Kong police dates back more than a decade.

telegra.ph/Stop-Trying-to-Make-Fetch-Happen-Social-Theory-for-Shaken-Routines-09-14

Telegraph

Stop Trying to Make Fetch Happen: Social Theory for Shaken Routines
It is hard to keep up habits these days. As the academic year starts up with remote teaching, hybrid teaching, and rapidly-changing plans amid the pandemic, many of us are thinking about how to design new ways to connect now that our old habits are disrupted....

<https://madeinchinajournal.com/2020/09/14/chinese-diaspora-activism-and-the-future-of-international-solidarity/>

Made in China Journal

Chinese Diaspora Activism and the Future of International Solidarity

Yasmin is an international student residing in a southern US city. A queer activist back in China, she participates in the graduate union campaign in her university and is also a community organiser. She is among a group in the Chinese diaspora who are involved...

newbloommag.net/2020/09/14/hk-five-kaohsiung-detention

New Bloom Magazine

Claims That Five Hongkongers Detained in Taiwan Since July Stir Controversy
Controversy has broken out after claims that the Taiwanese government has been holding five Hongkongers that fled to Taiwan under detention for the last two months. The Taiwanese government was, for the most part, opaque over past weeks about whether it is...

telegra.ph/Ruth-Bader-Ginsburg-to-be-awarded-this-years-Liberty-Medal-09-14-2

Telegraph

Ruth Bader Ginsburg to be awarded this year's Liberty Medal

(CNN) Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg has been selected as this year's recipient of the National Constitution Center's Liberty Medal. The Philadelphia center said Wednesday that Ginsburg, 87, would be awarded the medal "for her efforts to advance..."

telegra.ph/Americans-Views-of-Government-Low-Trust-but-Some-Positive-Performance-Ratings-09-14

Telegraph

Americans' Views of Government: Low Trust, but Some Positive Performance Ratings

Pew Research Center conducted this study to understand Americans' evaluations

of the federal government's performance in a variety of areas, as well as their attitudes about the proper size and role of government. For this analysis, we surveyed U.S. adults...

If income had been distributed as evenly over the past five decades as it was in 1970, the median full-time worker in the U.S. would now take home \$92,000 a year (instead of \$50,000), according to a new RAND study. [link source](#)

Intelligencer

Inequality Robs \$2.5 Trillion From U.S. Workers Each Year

If America's level of income inequality had remained constant since 1970, the median U.S. worker would now make \$100,000 a year.

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Americans' Views of Government: Low Trust, but Some Positive Performance Ratings

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Pew Research Center conducted this study to understand Americans' evaluations of the federal government's performance in a variety of areas, as well as their attitudes about the proper size and role of government. For this analysis, we surveyed U.S. adults online and by telephone.

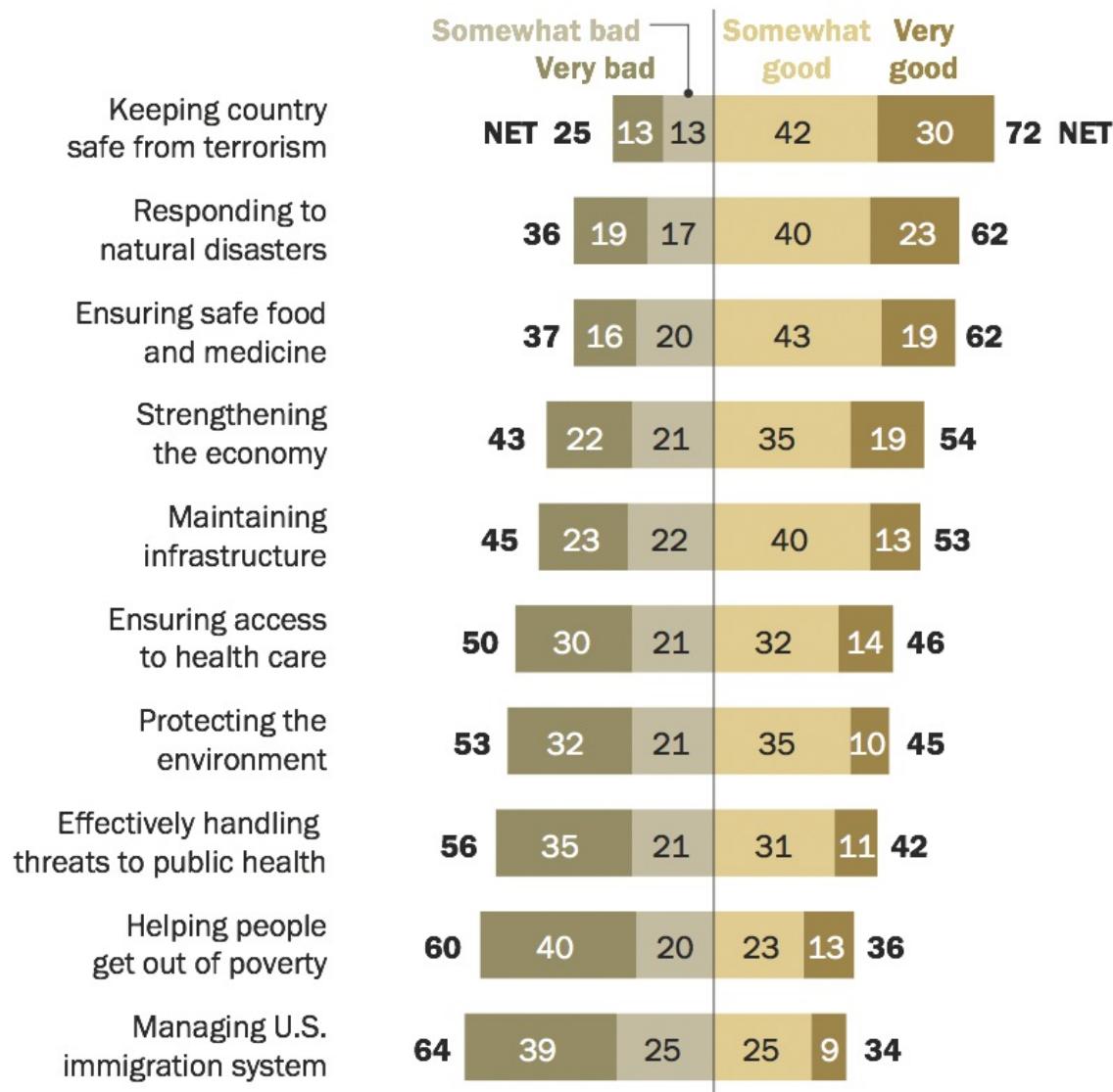
We surveyed 11,001 U.S. adults online in July and August 2020. Everyone who took part is a member of the Center's American Trends Panel (ATP), an online survey panel that is recruited through national, random sampling of residential addresses. This way nearly all U.S. adults have a chance of selection. The survey is weighted to be representative of the U.S. adult population by gender, race, ethnicity, partisan affiliation, education and other categories. Read more about the ATP's methodology.

We also surveyed 1,750 U.S. adults by telephone in July and August 2020. The surveys were conducted in both English and Spanish over the phone under the direction of Abt Associates. Respondents to this survey were randomly selected via a combination of landline and cellphone random-digit-dial samples. To ensure that the results of this survey reflect a balanced cross-section of the nation, the data are weighted to match the U.S. adult population by gender, age, education, race and ethnicity and other categories.

Here are the questions used for the report, along with responses, and its methodology.

Positive views of government's handling of terrorism, disasters; negative views on public health, poverty

% who say the federal government is doing a ___ job in each area



Note: Don't know responses not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted July 23-Aug. 4, 2020.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

For years, public trust in the federal government has hovered at near-record lows. That remains the case today, as the United States struggles with a

pandemic and economic recession. Just 20% of U.S. adults say they trust the government in Washington to “do the right thing” just about always or most of the time.

Yet Americans also have long expressed positive views of the federal government’s performance in several specific areas. And majorities *want* the government to play a major role on everything from keeping the country safe from terrorism to ensuring access to health care and alleviating poverty.

Attitudes about the appropriate role for government and its performance have changed only modestly since 2017, though Democrats have become more critical of government performance in some areas since then.

Among the public overall, majorities say the government does a very good or somewhat good job keeping the country safe from terrorism (72%), responding to natural disasters (62%), ensuring safe food and medicine (62%), strengthening the economy (54%) and maintaining infrastructure (53%).

Americans are far more critical of how the government handles several other issues, including managing the immigration system (just 34% say it does a good job), helping people get out of poverty (36%) and effectively handling threats to public health (42%).

Partisanship continues to be a major factor in attitudes about the government’s performance and its role. Republicans and Republican-leaning independents are broadly positive about the government’s performance in most areas. Still, while substantial majorities of Republicans say the government is doing well in dealing in addressing natural disasters (89%), terrorism (87%) and the economy (80%), far fewer rate the government’s performance positively when it comes to helping people get out of poverty (59%) or managing the immigration system (58%).

Democrats and Democratic leaners are far more negative; for example, just 18% say the government does a good job assisting people to get out of poverty while 17% give the government positive ratings for dealing with public health threats.

There is more common ground among partisans in views of the role the government *should* play. Large majorities of Democrats (no fewer than about three-quarters) say the government should play a major role in all 10 areas included in the survey. Republicans are less uniformly supportive of a significant

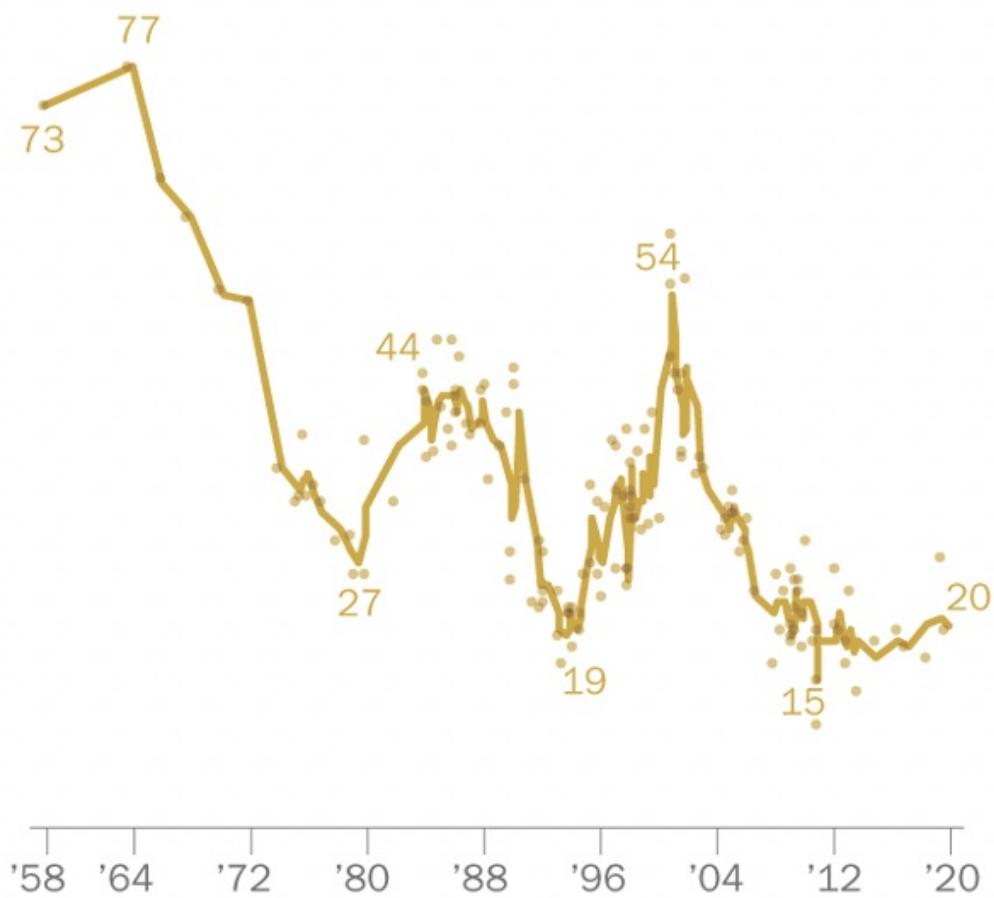
government role, but half or more say it should play a major role in nine of 10.

These are among the findings of Pew Research Center's study of attitudes about government, which updates studies from 2019, 2017 and 2015. This study is based on two national surveys by Pew Research Center: A survey conducted July 27-Aug. 2 among 11,001 U.S. adults, including 9,114 registered voters, on the Center's American Trends Panel; and a separate survey, conducted July 23-Aug. 4 on cellphones and landlines among 1,750 U.S. adults, including 1,455 registered voters.

Other findings from the surveys

Public trust in federal government near historic lows for more than a decade

% who say they trust the federal government to do what is right just about always/most of the time



Note: From 1976-2020 the trend line represents a three-survey moving average.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted July 27-Aug. 2, 2020.

Trend sources: Pew Research Center's American Trends Panel (2020), Pew Research Center phone surveys (2019 and earlier), National Election Studies, Gallup, ABC/Washington Post, CBS/New York Times, and CNN polls.

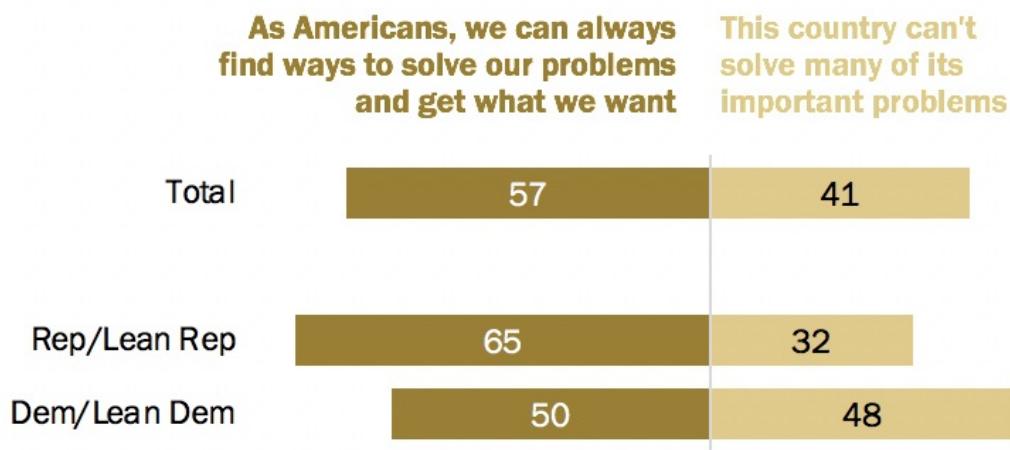
PEW RESEARCH CENTER

Just 20% trust the federal government. During the last three presidencies – through the final years of the George W. Bush administration and the presidencies of Barack Obama and Donald Trump, the share of Americans who say they trust the government just about always or most of the time has been below 30%. Today, 20% say they trust the government. While the share of Republicans who trust the government has increased during Trump’s time as president, only 28% say they trust the government, compared with 12% of Democrats.

Democrats’ anger at federal government rises. Among both Democrats and Republicans, the dominant feeling toward the federal government is frustration, rather than anger or contentment. Still, roughly a third of Democrats (34%) say they are angry with the federal government, the highest share in more than two decades. Among Republicans, anger at the federal government decreased sharply when Trump became president. Today, 14% say they are angry with the federal government.

Majority of Americans say the country ‘can always find ways to solve our problems’

% who say ...



Note: No answer responses not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted July 27-Aug. 2, 2020.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

Majority continues to say that Americans can solve problems. Despite the pandemic and the grim national mood, a majority of adults (57%) continue to say that, as Americans, we can always find ways to solve our problems and get what we want. This is essentially unchanged since September 2019, when 55% expressed optimism in the country's ability to solve its problems.

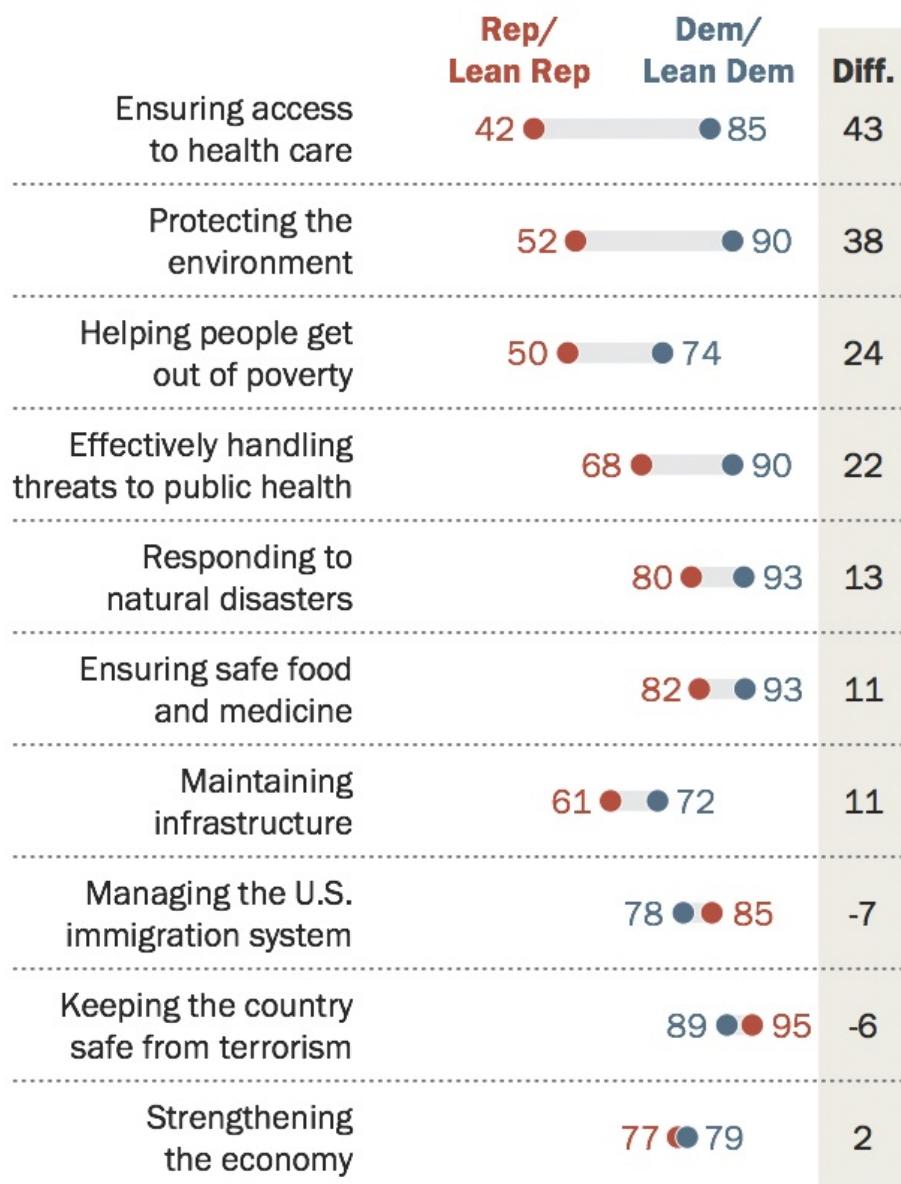
Republicans are somewhat more likely than Democrats to say that Americans can always find ways to solve our problems. Nearly two-thirds of Republicans say this (65%), compared with half of Democrats.

Majorities of both Republicans and Democrats see a major role for the federal government in many areas

Majorities of adults say that the federal government should play a major role on a wide variety of issues. Roughly nine-in-ten say the government should play a major role in keeping the country safe from terrorism (91%), responding to natural disasters (87%) and ensuring safe food and medicine (87%). Smaller majorities say it should play a major role in helping people get out of poverty (62%) and ensuring access to health care (65%).

Wide partisan divides on whether government should play a ‘major role’ on health care, environment, poverty

% who say the federal government should play a major role in ...



Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted July 23-Aug. 4, 2020.

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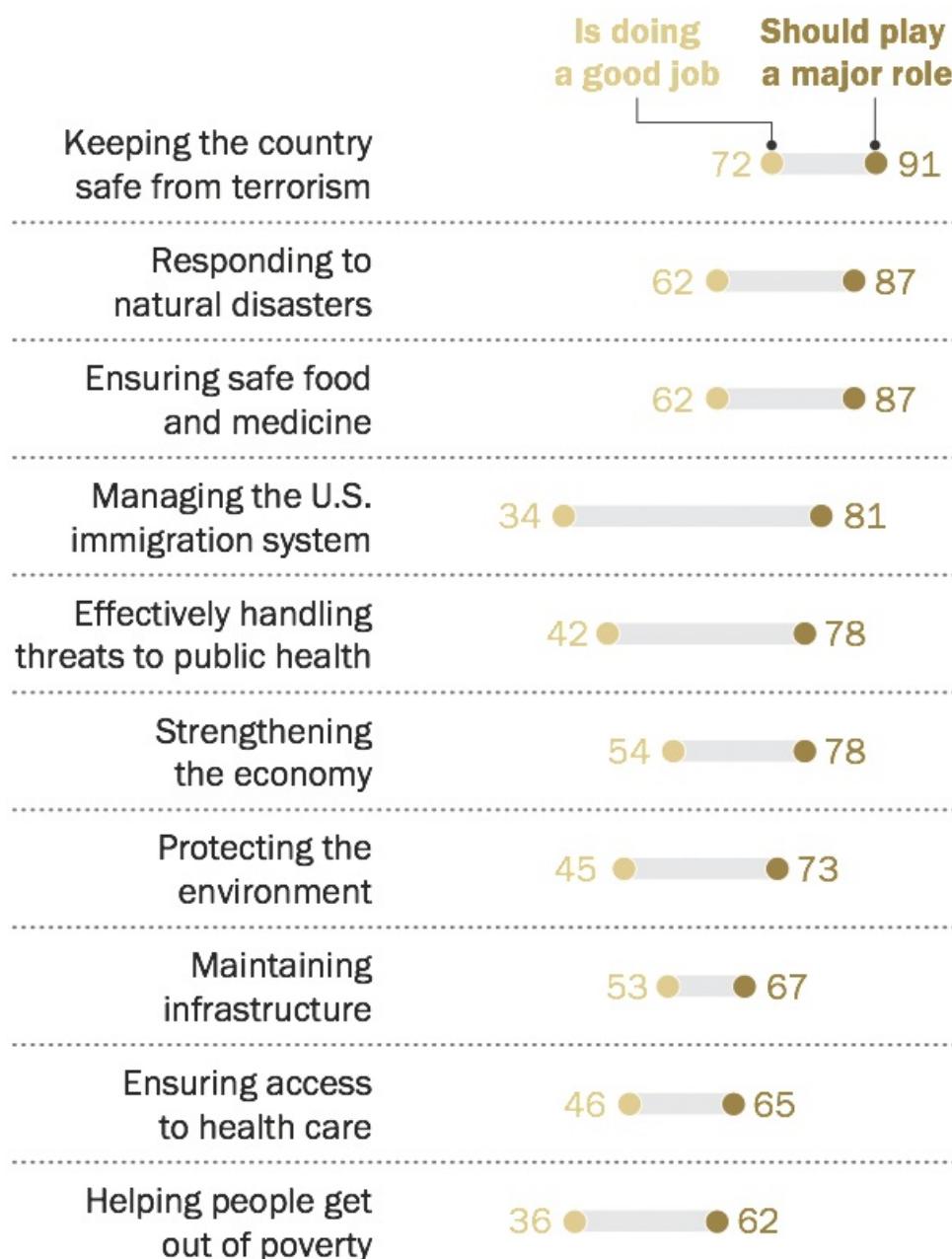
Across the board, substantial majorities of Democrats and Democratic leaners say that government should play a major role in addressing these issues. There is greater variance in opinions among Republicans and GOP leaners. While 95% of Republicans say the government should have a major role in keeping the country safe from terrorism, and a sizable majority says the same about managing the immigration system (85%), only about half say the government should play a major role in protecting the environment (52%) or helping people get out of poverty (50%). And just four-in-ten Republicans (42%) say the federal government should play a major role in ensuring access to health care.

Republicans and Democrats are farthest apart in how they view government's role in ensuring access to health care, with a 43 percentage point gap between the share in each party who say the federal government should have a major role. There is also a 38-point gap on the issue of protecting the environment and a 24-point gap on helping people out of poverty, with Democrats more likely to say the government should have a major role in each case.

Republicans are slightly more likely than Democrats to say the federal government should have a major role in managing the U.S. immigration system (85% of Republicans vs. 78% of Democrats) and keeping the country safe from terrorism (95% vs. 89%). Nearly identical shares of Republicans (77%) and Democrats (79%) say the government should play a major role in strengthening the economy.

Sizable gap between public's views of government's role and its performance

% who say the federal government ...



Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted July 23-Aug. 4, 2020.

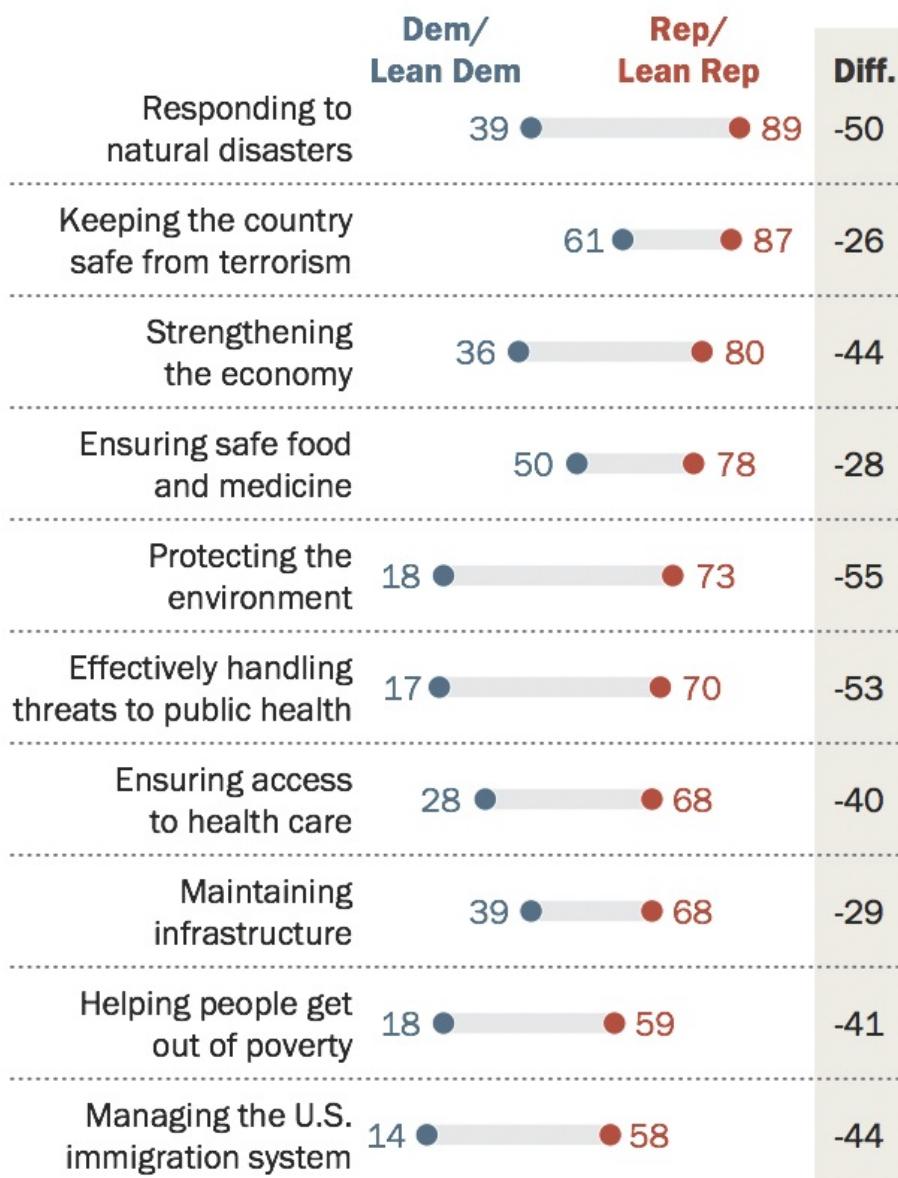
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Majorities of adults say the federal government should play a major role in 10 issue areas included on the survey, including protecting the environment, maintaining infrastructure and helping people get out of poverty. And yet the shares who say the federal government is doing a good job on each of these issues are consistently much lower than the shares who want it to play a major role.

This gap is largest when it comes to managing the U.S. immigration system. About eight-in-ten adults (81%) say the federal government should play a major role in managing the U.S. immigration system, though about one-third (34%) who say it is doing a good job of this. And nearly eight-in-ten (78%) say the federal government should play a major role in handling threats to public health, while 42% who say it is doing a good job.

Largest partisan gaps in views of government performance on handling public health, disasters, environment

% who say the federal government is doing a very/somewhat good job



Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted July 23-Aug. 4, 2020.

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More than three years into the Trump administration, the partisan divides over assessments of the federal government's performance in a number of issue areas have grown, with Republicans much more likely than Democrats to provide a positive assessment of the job the federal government is doing.

Republicans are especially positive in their assessments of the government's performance in responding to natural disasters, with nearly nine-in-ten Republicans (89%) saying the government is doing a very or somewhat good job of this. Large majorities of Republicans also say the government is doing a very or somewhat good job of keeping the country safe from terrorism (87%) and strengthening the economy (80%).

The only area in which a majority of Democrats say the federal government is doing a very or somewhat good job is in keeping the country safe from terrorism, with 61% of Democrats saying this. Half of Democrats also say the government is doing a good job of ensuring safe food and medicine.

Amid national concerns over the coronavirus outbreak, 70% of Republicans say the federal government is doing a very or somewhat good job of effectively handling threats to public health, compared with just 17% of Democrats.

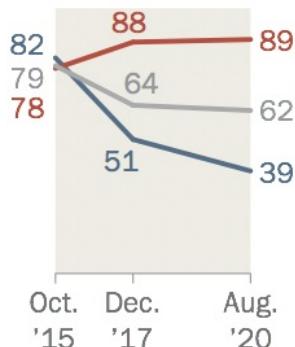
Republicans and Democrats are similarly divided in their assessments of the job the federal government is doing in protecting the environment and in responding to natural disasters.

Since Trump's election, Republicans are far more positive about government, Democrats more negative

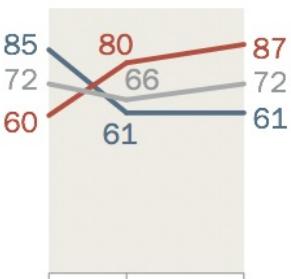
% who say the federal government is doing a very/somewhat good job

— Total — Rep/Lean Rep — Dem/Lean Dem

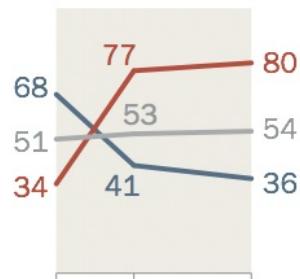
Responding to natural disasters



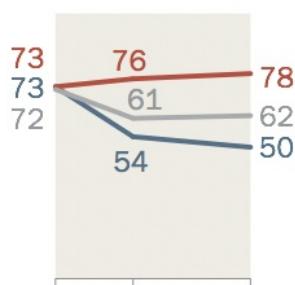
Keeping the country safe from terrorism



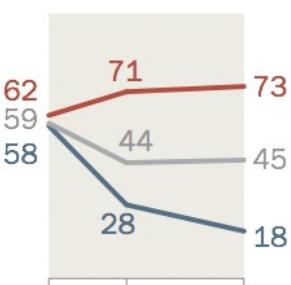
Strengthening the economy



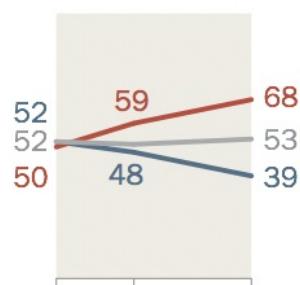
Ensuring safe food and medicine



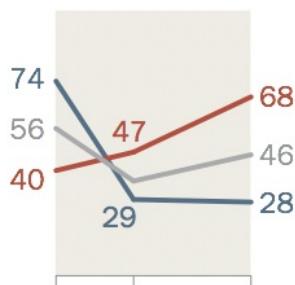
Protecting the environment



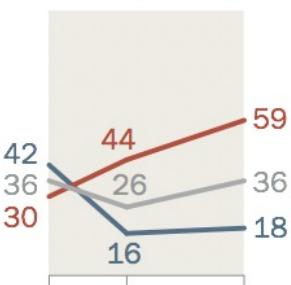
Maintaining infrastructure



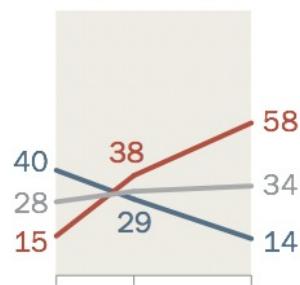
Ensuring access to health care



Helping people get out of poverty



Managing the U.S. immigration system



Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted July 23-Aug. 4, 2020.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

Republicans are at least 50 percentage points more likely than Democrats to say the government is doing a good job in each case.

On several issues, the gap between Republicans' and Democrats assessments of the federal government's performance has increased since December 2017, shortly after Donald Trump's election as president.

And the differences have increased even more since 2015, when Barack Obama was president.

On protecting the environment, for example, comparable shares of Republicans (62%) and Democrats (58%) said the government was doing a good job in 2015.

In 2017, more than twice as many Republicans (71%) as Democrats (28%) gave the government positive ratings. Today, the gap is even wider (73% of Republicans, 18% of Democrats).

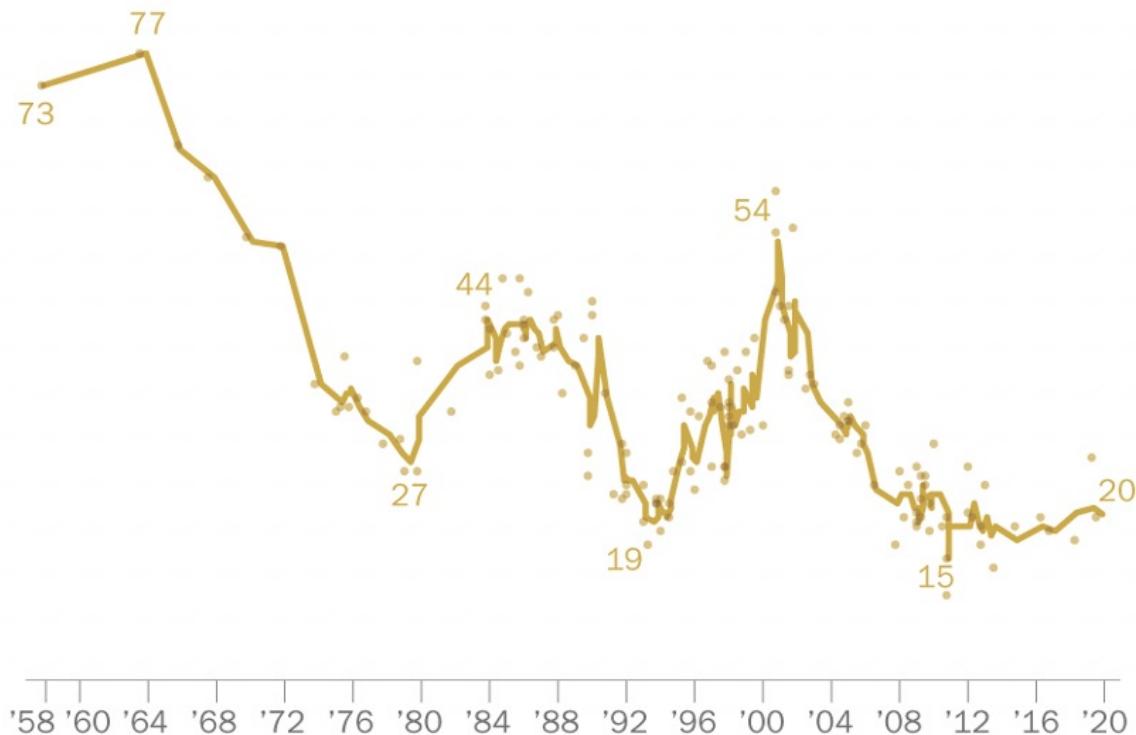
Similarly, five years ago majorities of Democrats (82%) and Republicans (78%) said the federal government did a good job responding to natural disasters. The share of Democrats who express positive views of the government's handling of natural disasters declined to 51% in 2017 and 39% today. Republicans have remained overwhelmingly positive (89% currently).

The partisan gap in the government's handling of immigration has increased markedly after Trump's election. The share of Republicans saying the government is doing a good job of this has increased from 38% to 58% since 2017, while the share of Democrats saying the government is doing a good job has decreased from 29% to 14%.

Public trust in government remains low

Public trust in the federal government has been low for more than a decade

% who say they trust the federal government to do what is right just about always/most of the time



Note: From 1976-2020 the trend line represents a three-survey moving average.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted July 27-Aug. 2, 2020.

Trend sources: Pew Research Center's American Trends Panel (2020), Pew Research Center phone surveys (2019 and earlier), National Election Studies, Gallup, ABC/Washington Post, CBS/New York Times, and CNN polls. See appendix for details.

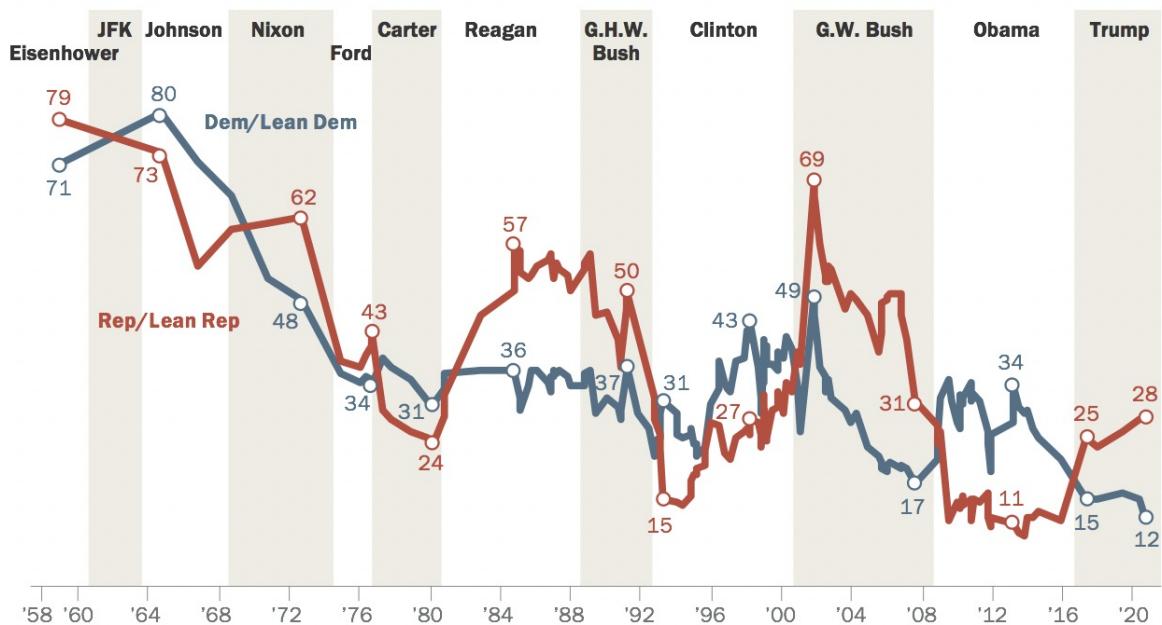
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Since the onset of the Great Recession in 2007, the share of Americans who say they trust the federal government to do what is right either just about always or most of the time has hovered near 20%. This remains true today, with 2% saying they trust the government just about always and 18% saying they trust the government most of the time. Nearly eight-in-ten (79%) say they trust the federal government to do what is right either some of the time (65%) or never (14%).

Among Republicans, trust in the federal government has increased since the end of Barack Obama's presidency. A within-administration moving average places the average share of Republicans who trusted the federal government just about always or most of the time at 11% shortly before the 2016 presidential election. The average share of Republicans expressing trust in the federal government increased to 25% in April 2017 and currently stands at 28%.

Republicans' trust in the federal government has increased since the beginning of Trump's term in office

% who say they trust the federal government to do what is right just about always/most of the time



Note: From 1976-2020 the trend line represents a three-survey moving average within each administration.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted July 27-Aug. 2, 2020.

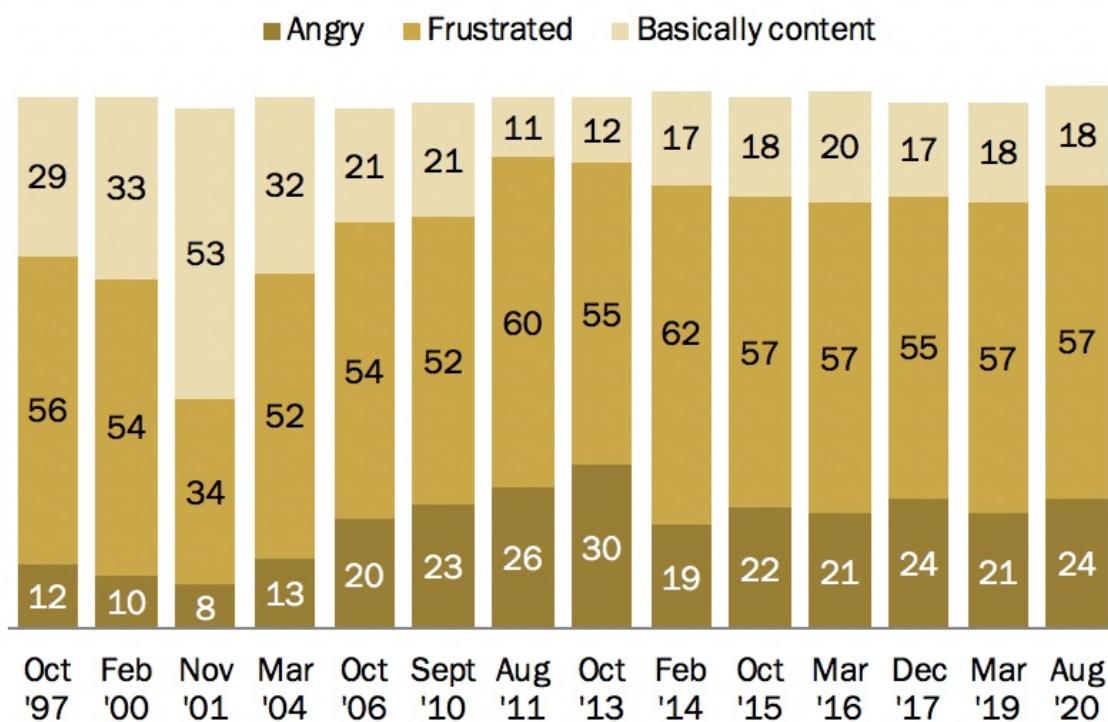
Trend sources: Pew Research Center's American Trends Panel (2020), Pew Research Center phone surveys (2019 and earlier), National Election Studies, Gallup, ABC/Washington Post, CBS/New York Times, and CNN polls.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

Today, just 12% of Democrats trust the federal government to do what is right – an historic low. Prior to Trump’s inauguration, the lowest average share of Democrats saying they trusted the government always or most of the time over the more than 60 years since the question was first asked, was 17%, towards the end of George W. Bush’s administration (and prior to the 2008 election) in 2008. More Democrats now say they never trust the federal government to do what is right (17%) than say they can trust it always or most of the time.

Overall feelings toward the federal government have been steady in recent years

Feeling toward the federal government (%)



Note: No answer responses not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted July 27-Aug. 2, 2020.

Trend sources: Pew Research Center's American Trends Panel (2020), Pew Research Center phone surveys (2019 and earlier).

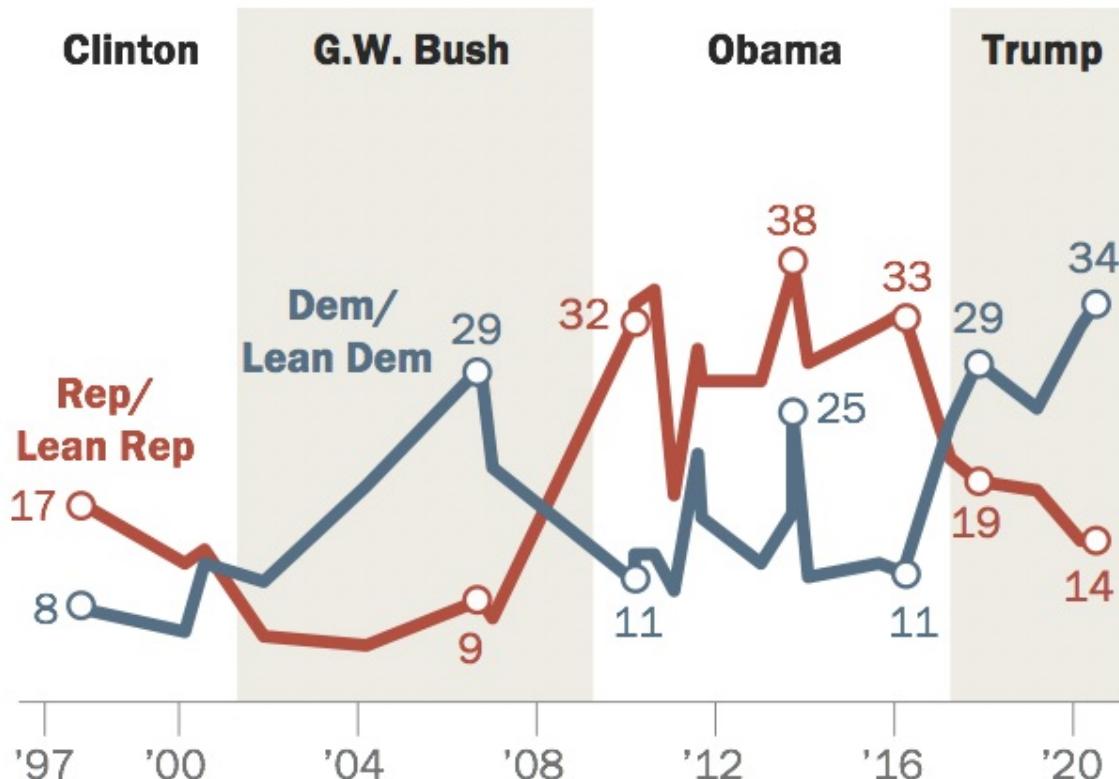
PEW RESEARCH CENTER

Overall feelings about the federal government are little different than they were in March 2019. About a quarter (24%) say they feel angry toward the federal government today (21% said this in March 2019). A 57% majority reports frustration, while 18% say they are basically content.

Overall feelings toward the federal government have been remarkably stable over the past five years. The shares who say they are angry (24%), frustrated (57%) and content (18%) with the government are each identical or nearly identical to October 2015.

About a third of Democrats now say they feel angry toward the government

% who say they feel ‘angry’ toward the federal government



Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted July 27-Aug. 2, 2020.
Trend sources: Pew Research Center's American Trends Panel (2020), Pew Research Center phone surveys (2019 and earlier).

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

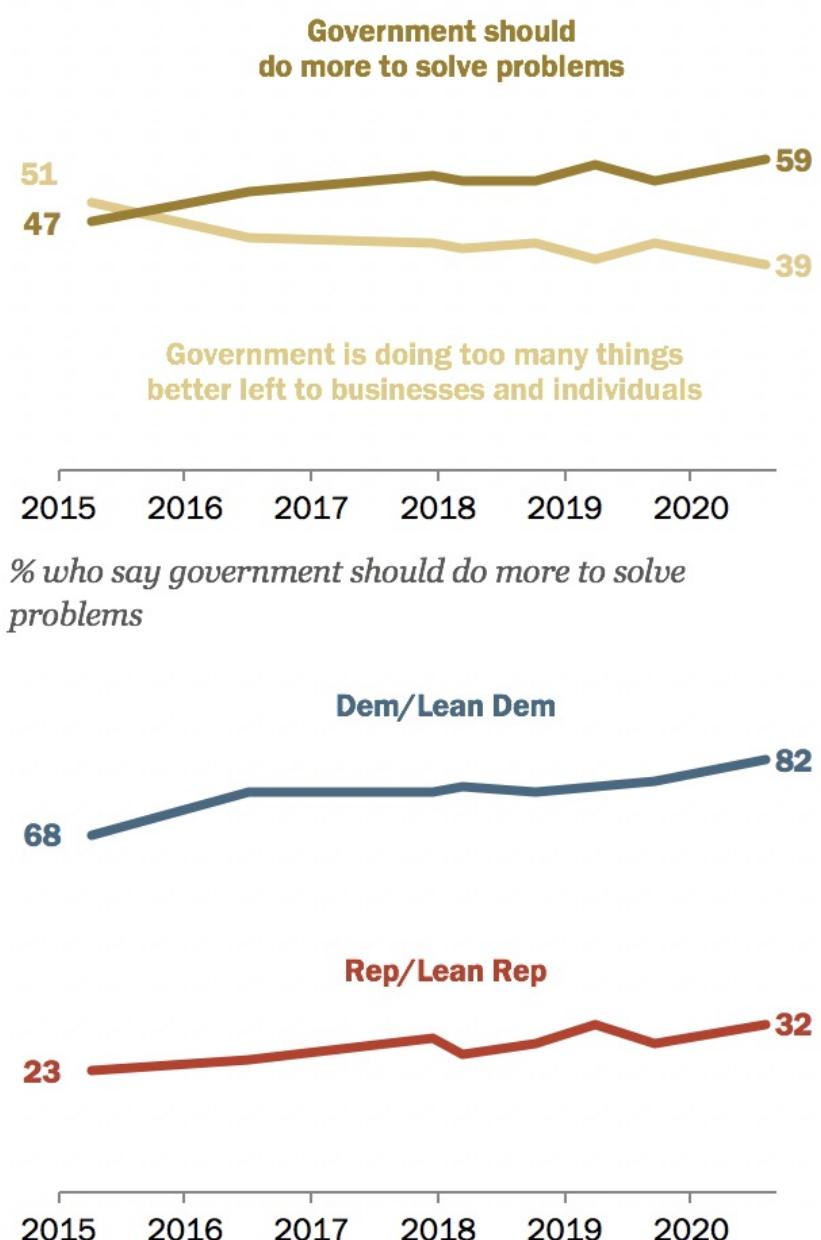
While the overall share who are angry is unchanged, Republicans and Democrats have moved in opposite directions since 2015. A year before the 2016 presidential election, one-third of Republicans said they were angry with the government, compared with about one-in-ten Democrats (11%). About a year

after Trump's inauguration, the share of Republicans saying they were angry had declined to 19%, while the share of Democrats saying this had increased to 29%. Today, about one-third of Democrats (34%) say they are angry, compared with just 14% of Republicans.

Partisan divisions persist over size, role of government

Nearly six-in-ten say government should do more to solve problems

% who say ...



Note: No answer responses not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted July 27-Aug. 2, 2020.

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Nearly six-in-ten U.S. adults (59%) say the government should do more to solve problems, compared with about four-in-ten (39%) who say government is doing too many things better left to businesses and individuals.

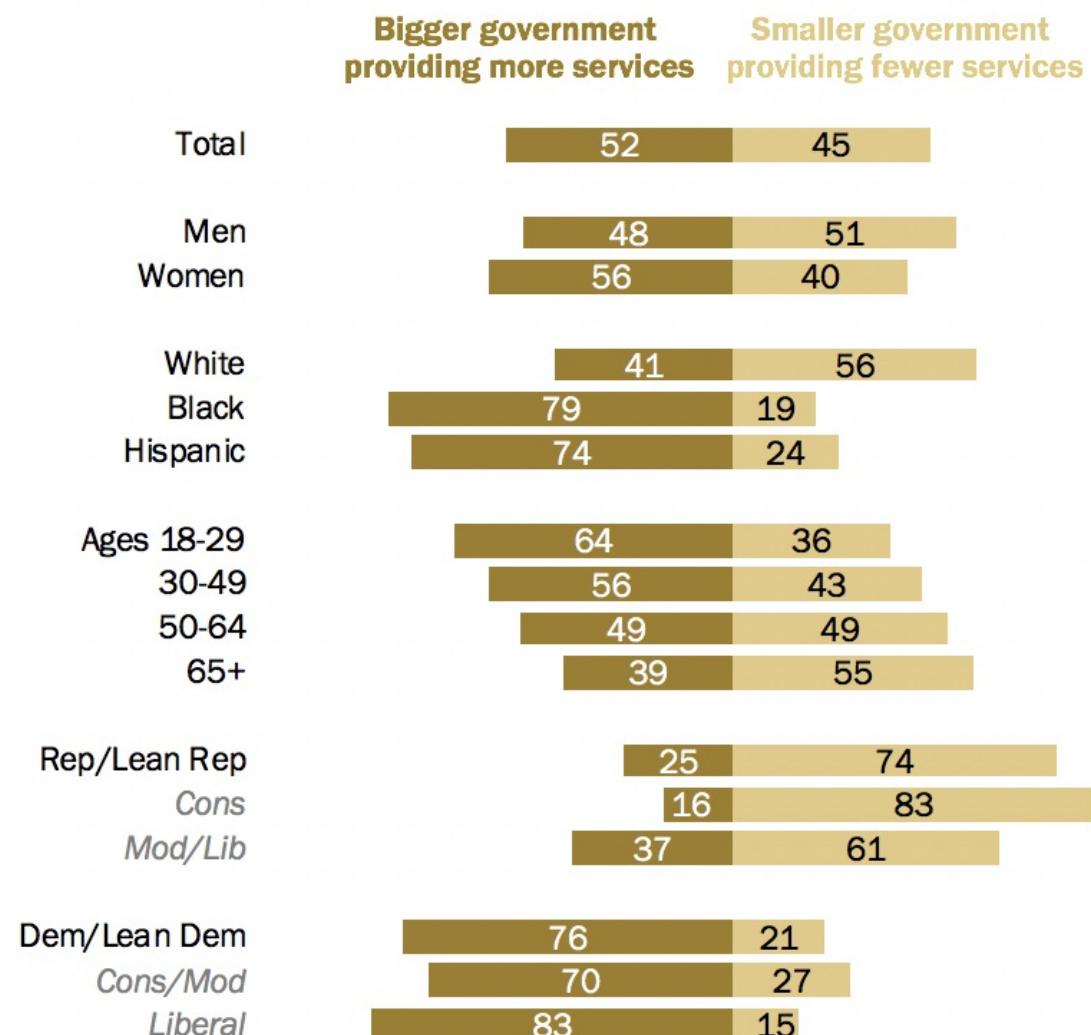
The share who say government should do more to solve problems has increased slightly, by 4 percentage points, since September 2019. The share who say this is 12 points higher than it was in April 2015.

While two-thirds of Republicans (66%) say that government is doing too many things better left to businesses and individuals, the share of Republicans and Republican leaners who say government should do more to solve problems has increased – from 23% to 32% – since 2015.

Among Democrats and Democratic leaners, the share who say government should do more to solve problems has increased from about two-thirds (68%) in 2015 to about eight-in-ten (82%) today.

Large partisan gap in views of size of government

% who say they would rather have a ...



Notes: White and Black adults include those who report being only one race and are not Hispanic. Hispanics are of any race. No answer responses not shown.
Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted July 27-Aug. 2, 2020.

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About half of Americans (52%) say they prefer a bigger government providing more services, while 45% say they prefer a smaller government providing fewer services.

(Americans' views on this question about the size of government have held relatively steady over the past four years. However, there are modest mode differences on this question. Therefore, caution should be used in comparing responses to this question from the current online American Trends Panel survey to the long-term phone trend. Please see the appendix for more details.)

Men are nearly evenly divided, with about half (51%) preferring a smaller government and a similar share (48%) preferring a larger government. Among women, a majority (56%) prefer a bigger government, while four-in-ten prefer a smaller government.

White adults are much more likely than Black or Hispanic adults to prefer a smaller government providing fewer services. There are notable differences among age groups, as well: More than six-in-ten adults ages 18 to 29 (64%) prefer a bigger government, as do a narrower majority of 30 to 49-year-olds (56%). Adults ages 50 to 64 are evenly divided, while those 65 and older are the only age group in which a majority (55%) prefer a smaller government.

Republicans and Democrats are sharply divided in their views of the size of government. About three-quarters of Republicans (74%) say they prefer a smaller government providing fewer services. A nearly identical share of Democrats (76%) say they prefer a bigger government providing more services. Among conservative Republicans, more than eight-in-ten (83%) prefer a smaller government that provides fewer services; an identical share of liberal Democrats prefer a larger government that provides more services.

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Ruth Bader Ginsburg to be awarded this year's Liberty Medal

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(CNN) Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg has been selected as this year's recipient of the National Constitution Center's Liberty Medal.

The Philadelphia center said Wednesday that Ginsburg, 87, would be awarded the medal "for her efforts to advance liberty and equality for all." It plans to honor her through a video tribute September 17, Constitution Day.

It is unclear whether Ginsburg will be present to accept the award. The court did not immediately respond to a request for comment from CNN.

The center made its announcement on Women's Equality Day, which commemorates the hard-fought victory of the women's suffrage movement. August 26, 2020, was also the 100th anniversary of the ratification of the 19th Amendment, which guaranteed women the right to vote.

The center noted that this year's ceremony will be the "pinnacle" of its yearlong initiative to celebrate women's equality and leadership and the 100-year milestone.

Ginsburg has spent her life fiercely advocating for women's rights and gender equality, using her sharp arguments and notable dissents to fight back on issues surrounding gender discrimination, abortion and reproductive rights.

Ginsburg's age and medical history make her health the subject of widespread interest. She announced in July she was undergoing chemotherapy to treat a recurrence of cancer and that the treatment was yielding "positive results," adding that she remains "fully able" to continue serving on the court.

The Liberty Medal was established in 1988 and honors those "of courage and conviction who strive to secure the blessings of liberty to people around the globe," according to the center's website. Some of its recipients include former Presidents Bill Clinton and George H.W. Bush, Nelson Mandela and Malala Yousafzai.

Ginsburg isn't the first Supreme Court justice to receive the honor. Sandra Day O'Connor, the first woman to serve on the nation's highest court, received the Liberty Medal in 2003.

Another of Ginsburg's former colleagues, retired Supreme Court Justice Anthony Kennedy, was the 2019 Liberty Award recipient.

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Stop Trying to Make Fetch Happen: Social Theory for Shaken Routines

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It is hard to keep up habits these days. As the academic year starts up with remote teaching, hybrid teaching, and rapidly-changing plans amid the pandemic, many of us are thinking about how to design new ways to connect now that our old habits are disrupted. How do you make a new routine or make up for old rituals lost? How do we make them stick and feel meaningful?

Social science shows us how these things take time, and in a world where we would all very much like a quick solution to our current social problems, it can be tough to sort out exactly what new rules and routines can do for us.

For example, *The New York Times* recently profiled “spiritual consultants” in the workplace – teams that are tasked with creating a more meaningful and communal experience on the job. This is part of a larger social trend of companies and other organizations implementing things like mindfulness practices and meditation because they...keep workers happy? Foster a sense of community? Maybe just keep the workers just a little more productive in unsettled times?

It is hard to talk about the motives behind these programs without getting cynical, but that snark points us to an important sociological point. Some of our most meaningful and important institutions *emerge* from social behavior, and it is easy to forget how hard it is to design them into place.

This example reminded me of the classic Social Construction of Reality by Berger and Luckmann, who argue that some of our strongest and most established assumptions come from habit over time. Repeated interactions become habits, habits become routines, and suddenly those routines take on a



life of their own that becomes meaningful to the participants in a way that “just is.” Trust, authority, and collective solidarity fall into place when people lean on these established habits. In other words: on Wednesdays we wear pink.



The challenge with emergent social institutions is that they take time and repetition to form. You have to let them happen on their own, otherwise they don’t take on the same sense of meaning. Designing a new ritual often invites cringe, because it skips over the part where people buy into it through their collective routines. This is the difference between saying “on Wednesdays we wear pink” and saying

“Hey team, we have a great idea that’s going to build office solidarity and really reinforce the family dynamic we’ve got going on. We’re implementing: Pink. Wednesdays.”

All of our usual routines are disrupted right now, inviting fear, sadness, anger, frustration, and disappointment. People are trying to persist with the rituals closest to them, sometimes to the extreme detriment of public health (see: weddings, rallies, and ugh). I think there’s some good sociological advice for moving through these challenges for ourselves and our communities: recognize those emotions, trust in the routines and habits that you **can safely** establish for yourself and others, and know that they will take a long time to feel really meaningful again, but that doesn’t mean they aren’t working for you. In other words, stop trying to make fetch happen.

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