

The Evolving Societal Divisions in America

Schismogenesis is a Greek term that directly translates to “creation of division.” Division, or Schismogenesis, is very apparent in present day America through racial, gender, and class oppression. When was this division born? Schismogenesis was introduced to America when European colonization began in the late 1400s, and the separation it brought has persisted ever since. As a result of the expansion of Schismogenesis, a new social class was formed— the Power Elite. The Power Elite consists of CEOs, think-tank analysts, and jet setters. This tightly-knit group dictates the progression of the country by holding authority over government officials. The synthesis of Schismogenesis and the Power Elite theory illuminates the social and cultural division in past, present, and future America.

Schismogenesis is an old, yet accurate term to describe the current condition of the United States. The population is divided by gender, race, ethnicity, class, religion, education, and political affiliation. Though some aspects of Schismogenesis are long-standing, such as race and gender, many new aspects are only just beginning to emerge. Division by political affiliation is a less-discussed example of Schismogenesis, but nevertheless, very alive. The two popular political parties we know today are the Republican Party and the Democratic Party. Most Americans have strong opinions of both political parties. People allow their relationships to be dictated by political affiliation, and limit themselves by doing so. It is fitting that the two colors represented by the parties are red and blue because they are highly contrasting colors, just as the two political parties they represent have developed in contrast to one another.

Another emerging aspect of Schismogenesis is division by education. Throughout history, there has been a clear pattern that wealthy people receive an education, and poor people do not. Society is beginning to turn away from this pattern. First generation college students are now celebrated, lower-class students are given aid, and institutions are popping up

regardless of class. Class and education are no longer viewed as indicative of one another. This separation has potential to reflect poorly on those who do not choose to receive an education. Schismogenesis is now evident in yet another aspect; The educated versus the uneducated. Class has always been a primary means of societal division, but because of the flourishing Power Elite, class gaps are booming like never before.

The Power Elite are the puppets of society and government officials are their puppets. The Power Elite shaped the political parties we know today, in which they created with the sole intent to benefit themselves. Working class Americans frequently express discontentment with the amount of power they have. They do not have the money to construct a viable political party that prioritizes the majority of the population, therefore, they must settle for what the Power Elite has already decided for them. America is a Democracy, but to what extent? More than half of Americans are not represented by their parties. Because the government is designed for the Power Elite by the Power Elite, the top financial 1% of the population is getting richer than ever. The distribution of wealth has far surpassed the statistical term “skewed.” The top 5% hold more than half the country’s wealth, and the top 1% holds more than a quarter of it. The gap between classes is becoming more drastic by the day. Schismogenesis led to the formation of the Power Elite, and now, the Power Elite is dictating schismogenesis.

A pertinent-example of Schismogenesis and the Power Elite is the United States healthcare system. The U.S. healthcare system demonstrates profound differences in quality, accessibility, and affordability of care, all of which are dependent upon social standing and power. Affluent areas have access to comprehensive health care while marginalized areas do not, drawing a dark societal line. This division is not a result of individual choices. Instead, it is rooted in systematic factors inflicted by the Power Elite in the healthcare industry. For example, pharmaceutical companies have significant influence over healthcare policy through lobbying

pharmaceutical executives, lobbyists, and policymakers creates a healthcare system that prioritizes profitability over equitable and affordable access.

Synthesising Schismogenesis and the Power Elite theory reveals the persistent societal divisions in America, spanning from European colonization to current-day manifestations of racial, gender, and class oppression. These divisions are a product of the concentrated power dynamics in the Power Elite, which dictate the progression of the country and strengthen emerging aspects of Schismogenesis such as political affiliation and education. As the Power Elite continues to influence the government, society will continue to divide, and the gap between social classes will widen. You are either part of the Power Elite, or no one at all, which continues to shape the societal trajectory in America.