

The Puppet Masters

Today's society is controlled by those we call the “power elites.” These people work above us to create a world where normal people truly have little say in the way the world works. These elites tried to make sure the public did not find out how much power they had. Overtime articles like *Class in America* written by Gregory Mantsios and *Power in America* written by G. William Domhoff have come out to highlight the significant difference in class we all have. This essay will display the difference between classes and how the power elite has contributed to these standpoints from the viewpoint of these articles.

When thinking about these articles written by Mantsios and Domhoff, one major similarity is that they both talk about how one class has all the power, so they influence society. When you think about it, they are correct that the highest class of that 1% greatly influences how society is run. Most people believe that the elites include politicians, but the elites are people who run the corporate world. That is something both authors briefly highlight in their articles. Now the main difference between the two articles is the viewpoints they look at it from. Mantsios tries to highlight each class to explain what the differences between them could be. For example, there are diverse types of middle classes that could be categorized as upper, middle, or lower middle class. In contrast, Domhoff tones in on more of the elite classes, specifically how they try to take control of everything they touch. The articles tie so well into each other because both authors want to uncover how unjust the class system is.

Thinking about this system may make you realize how you might have experienced similar situations. Take the real world for example, most corporate bosses are a part of that elite

people could be doing everything for the company, but the boss gets all the credit because they are considered superior. Now imagine doing all of that, and your boss gets a huge bonus, and you get nothing because they decided to give you no credit. So now for a holiday break, they get to go to Europe, and you may now be stuck just at home because you are considered middle class, and your boss is considered a part of the 1%. This system is in place because your bosses uphold it to put you in that middle-class area. These situations are why Domhoff and Mantsios authored their articles so they can uncover the truth behind why the class systems are the way they are.

While most people agree that it is great to know about these different situations and how the class system works, these articles have some positives and negatives. For reference, a lot of people agree that it is good to know why the class system is the way it is and how it works. Look at today's society; you see a lot of middle and lower-class people starting to advocate for themselves. This is a good thing because it starts to break down the social norms that have been put in place where only the 1% can have a good life. By breaking down these barriers, more people can push for better pay and recognition so they can live the life they enjoy. Mantsios and Domhoff's articles were perfect for helping push these positives, but they can also be the cause of the negatives associated with them. When people start to read these articles and understand the things associated with them, it can start to cause even more separation within society. Learning about all the distinct aspects of the class system can lead to people pointing it out more and creating a huge divide between themselves and the others they surround themselves with. This can start to play into the 1% favor because it means that most people will not stand together as a united front to address issues if they think they are upper middle class compared to lower middle

influence the way you treat others.

The class system is something that will never go away and will always be something that causes a divide. Mantsios and Domhoff did an excellent job of describing how and why it is an issue. Society can take these lessons and start to advocate for themselves in the workplace or other situations. Mantsios and Domhoff agree that pushing these standards can help slowly take away the power of the elites and put some of it back in the hands of the “lower classes.”