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Class in America

Reading the book, *21 Lessons for the 21st Century* by Yuval Noah Harari, I noticed that on the topic of class in America he tended to focus on the “what ifs” of the future. He mentions the idea of Artificial Intelligence taking over jobs creating no need for a class system because there will be no way to make money if there are no available jobs. Granted, the idea of having no class system does sound appealing, it does not sound realistic. What does sound realistic is focusing on what is going on in today's world and in today's society.

Although personally I am a middle class caucasian female in America who has the opportunity to embark on a journey of higher education, I can still visibly see the struggles different classes in America face everyday. It doesn't take much to see that there are problems within each class level in America. Each consists of their own different problems, some more than others. As a middle class woman I do not have to worry about where my next meal is coming from, or not having to worry about seeing my parents next because they're working two different jobs to be able to afford to put a roof over my head.

dollar, and I know the value of hardwork. I may have been spoiled by my parents growing up, but that does not make me entitled. Growing up my parents made sure we had everything. Everything my two sisters and I ever needed and wanted. However, it did come at a price. Growing up my dad could never be home because he was always working. At no fault to him, I remember days when I was little where I would go a few days without actually seeing my dad. He would work from sun up to sun down, he left before I would wake up for school, and some days I'd be in bed asleep before he got home. It was the end of my junior year of high school before I even realized how much time I lost with my dad, and around that time he realized I was actually smart. He is a very hardworking man and I am grateful for the sacrifices he made to ensure an easy and carefree life for me and my sister. While that was just my experience growing up in the middle class in America, I assume most other experiences were the same.

There are many families in the United States that struggle every day with constant anxieties about things that come naturally to my family. Granted my parents worked incredibly hard for the longest time to spoil me and my sisters, and that's not to say that less fortunate families don't work hard for what they have, they just aren't as fortunate as mine.

The class system in America is screwed up to say the least. There are people in the world who could do things that are deemed illegal, yet because they have money they can hire a good enough lawyer to get them out of trouble. However, if a less fortunate person were to do something of the same stature or less than, they don't have the money to get a

leaving their wives/husbands and children to struggle more than they were.

Why should money determine where you stand within this world? The class system, in my opinion, is rooted by the seven deadly sins. Pride, greed, lust, envy, gluttony, wrath, and sloth. There is no escaping it. The upper class in America thrive off of wealth and pride. As I entered college I began to see it more and more. I feel as though every time I look at my E-bill there are more and more random charges I have no idea what they're for. College in itself is expensive, especially as an out-of-state student. I would venture to imagine universities to be considered as the upper class. Feeding off of those who need it. You need a college degree in order to be able to get a decent paying job or even a career to provide for your future, but while attempting to achieve that standard you're in constant debt. Where is the logic? Where does it make sense? It's a never ending cycle of wealth and debt. One minute it's there and another it's gone.

The reasoning behind the separation of classes dates back many years and the reasoning is beyond me. The only reason that I can fathom to think of behind the separation would be to knock down the will-power and emotional stature of those without rank. If you are considered to be upper-class you are considered to have everything. If you are blue collar or lower class you are to have nothing and work for everything you own. Money has and can be passed down for generations. The example of old money in the south comes to mind for me every time I think of generational wealth. It could be because I live in the south, or it could be because some of my favorite movies are based on southern generational wealth (*The Notebook* by Nicholas Sparks is a prime example).

will hardly ever have to work for anything in their lives. As teens they are portrayed as arrogant and selfish while never having to learn hard work. Blue collar working people are as stated in the movies to be “trash” when in reality this is not true. They are just the same as the upper class, however in my opinion, they are more humble and gracious because they know the value of a dollar and the value of hardwork. This is just stereotypes based off of movies, but it is and can be most of the time true. The government's reasoning behind the separation in the classes is unknown to me, and unknown to most. I understand that it is something that goes back for millennia and was created by the high ups to make themselves feel better about themselves and justify their actions with money.

While I have never actually met someone with generational wealth, I have met and had to be around people, teenagers, of the upper class. I could just be them, or where I am from, but they were some of the most entitled people I have ever met because they have always had everything handed to them for their whole lives. When I am around blue collar working class people, however, I feel right at home. They have always been the most humble people and they're a joy to be around.

Where I grew up was full of diversity with the class system. I grew up in Lexington, South Carolina, I went to the newest middle school and high school in the area at the time. We were considered to be “daddy's money” because we were new and perceived to be rich. While it was true for most in my area, it was not true for all. I knew and hung out with a lot of people who lived below their means, amazing people they are.

threw it away as if it were worthless. Regardless, they were still amazing people.

Your social class in America does not define who you are as a person, you define who you are as a person. That is something that the government, people, and this world needs to realize. Just because you come from nothing or have everything does not mean you are nothing or deserve any more or any less than another person. The government has a real problem with using their power to benefit those who don't need the benefits while also negatively labeling those who need justice usually more than others. The government is doing nothing to help those who need it, while it may seem as though the political powers are trying to help, all they are teaching is how to get by without trying. By providing opportunities for those who need it rather than taking it away and giving people money they don't deserve because they didn't earn it, they are creating more entitled people who feel as though because they are "poor" they deserve to be given money rather than earning it through hard work.

The problems within America have more explanations than just race. It is more than that. The class system is a real problem within the United States, and more so just the reaction of people towards other classes that creates separation and injustice.