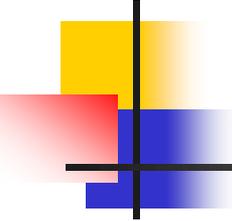


Putting It All Together

*Creating a Just
America*



New Disclaimers

- **EVERYTHING DISCUSSED WILL BE TESTED;
EVERYTHING!**
- Detailed notes can be provided
- Mr. Busby is still blameless



These Past 5 Months

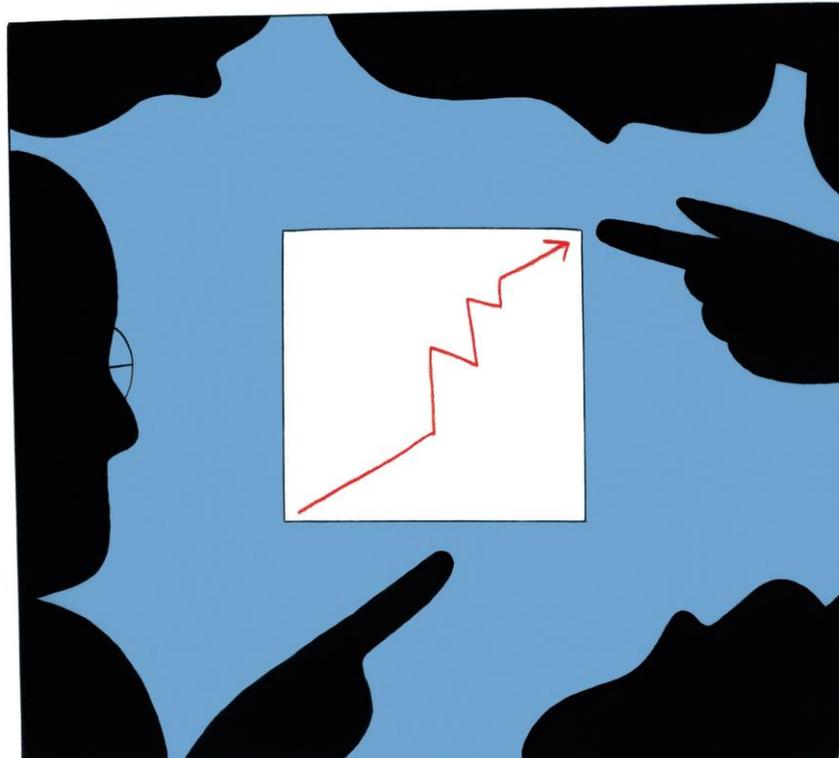
- You and Mr. Busby
- Our Prior Sessions
 - #1—Liberal democratic regime
 - #2—U. S. strengths and weaknesses
 - #3—Achieving change through advocacy
- Today
 - #4--Putting it all together



3 Statements

- The U.S. is in bad shape
- Life in U.S. is now much better than it was
- It can be much better than it is

Objectively, life is better today



Signal Hill, 1941



Oil rigs, Signal Hill, Los Angeles, 1941.

Signal Hill, Today



But, life was also

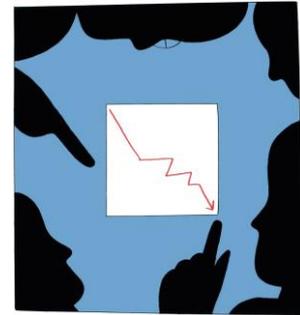
Simpler

More true to form

More spiritual

With greater interaction, reliance, and trust in each other

With more confidence in the future





A Disappointment

“Critics say that America is a lie because its reality falls so short of its ideals. They are wrong. America is not a lie; it is a disappointment. But it can be a disappointment only because it is also a hope,” for Americans and for others around the world.

--Samuel Huntington

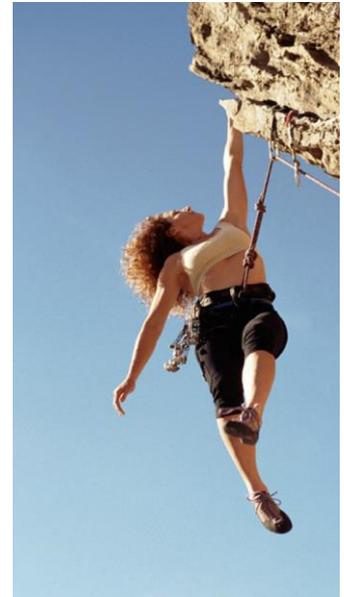


Pessimism or Hope?

- Pessimism—a bias that doesn't lead to action or positive outcomes
- Hope—can, and usually does

Plan for the Day

- You will decide:
 - Values on which U.S. should be based
 - Kind of state and society you want us to become
- To do so, first need to address 4 concepts





The 4 Concepts

- Individual
 1. Good vs. Right
 2. What Is a Just Individual?
- Society
 3. Good vs. Right
 4. What Is a Just Society?



1. Individual Good vs. Right

- The good:
 - Improves our life; has real benefits
 - Ask, “Good for what?”
- The right:
 - Matches religious teachings or a moral maxim/imperative
 - Ask, “According to what maxim?”



Going through life

- Often the good and the right align
- Moral dilemma--when they don't
 - “Be right or be successful?”

A good practice: ask yourself, “Is this good, right, or both?”



Examples

- When they align
 - Helping a stranger
 - Keeping commitments to yourself

- When they don't
 - Finding \$1,000 bill
 - Seeing test answer



2. What Is a Just Individual?

- Lives by the moral virtues
 - Honesty, integrity, honor, ...
- Has prudence
 - Self-discipline thru practical wisdom and responsible decision making
- Is of high character





Moral Virtues

“Only a virtuous people are capable of freedom.”

--Franklin, Madison, Adams



3. Societal Good vs. Right

- The good: what improves lives (the common interest)

**THE
GOOD**

- The right: what is fair or our duty to others



Examples

- When they align
 - Runaway trolley, Part I
 - Basic utilities: water, power, etc.
- When they don't
 - Runaway trolley, Part II
 - Heart transplant case





4. What Is a Just Society?

- Has aspirational set of core values as to the good and the right
- Is dedicated to acting consistent with those values



Foundational Docs

- Declaration of Independence
 - “all men are created equal”
 - “endowed...with certain unalienable rights,” including “life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.”
- Constitution
 - “to establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense...and secure the blessings of liberty”



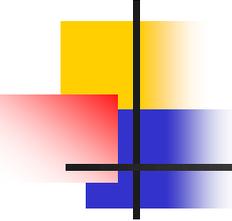
Foundational Docs (cont.)

- Bill of Rights

- Freedom of speech, press, assembly, and to petition
- Rights not denied if not enumerated

- Gettysburg Address

- “a new nation, conceived in liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal”
- “a new birth of freedom—and that government of the people, by the people, for the people...”



Foundational Docs (cont.)

- 14th Amendment
 - “due process of law”
 - “equal protection of the laws”
 - [one person, one vote]
- [Pledge of Allegiance]
 - “with liberty and justice for all”



Priority Values for Society

The Good/Flourishing

Order: public safety

Greatest good for the
greatest number

Cost-effective

The Right/Just

Social order

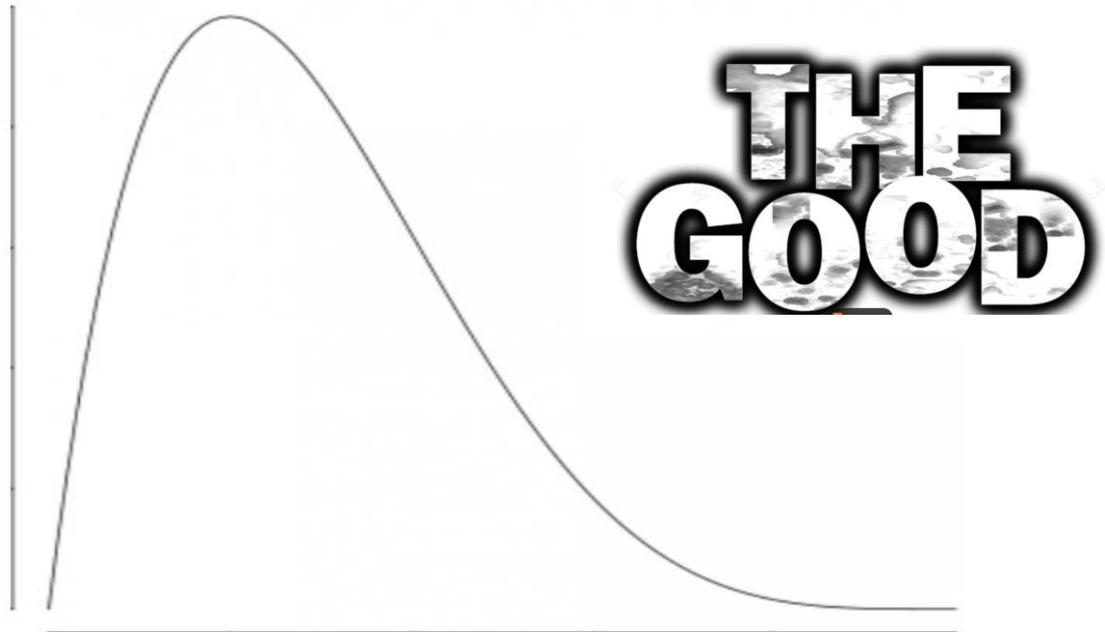
Equality/fairness

Liberty



Focusing on the Good

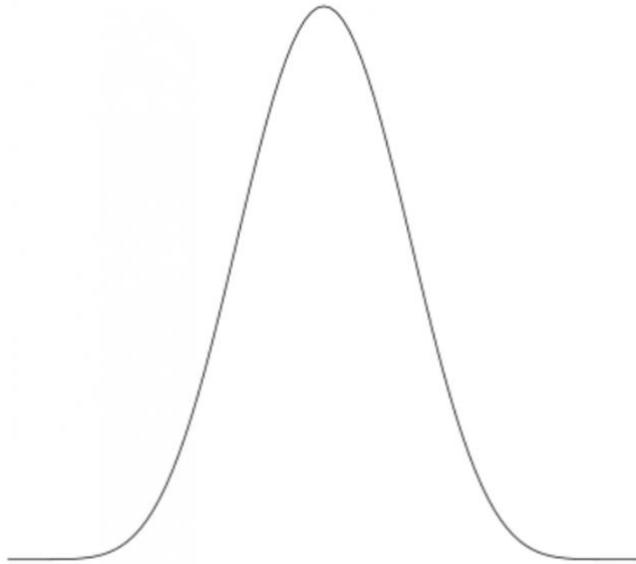
Creates a higher upside, but leaves many behind

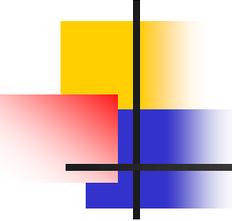




Focusing on the Right

Creates a more fair society, but limits objective benefits





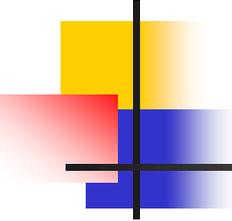
#1: Good vs. Right

- Ground rules and roles
- Questions to address
 - In general, which is more important: the good or the right? Why?
 - In the U.S. right now, which should be the focus? Why?
 - Who would agree with you? Disagree?

Social Order

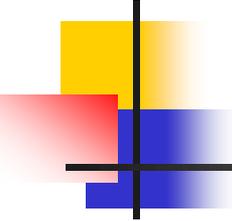
- Two aspects:
 - Structures and institutions function fairly
 - Interpersonal cooperation and harmony
- As contrasted with anarchism and disorder





Issues re: Order

- State vs. Society's responsibilities?
- Can multi-pluralism work?
- Does Madison's large republic still work?



Equality

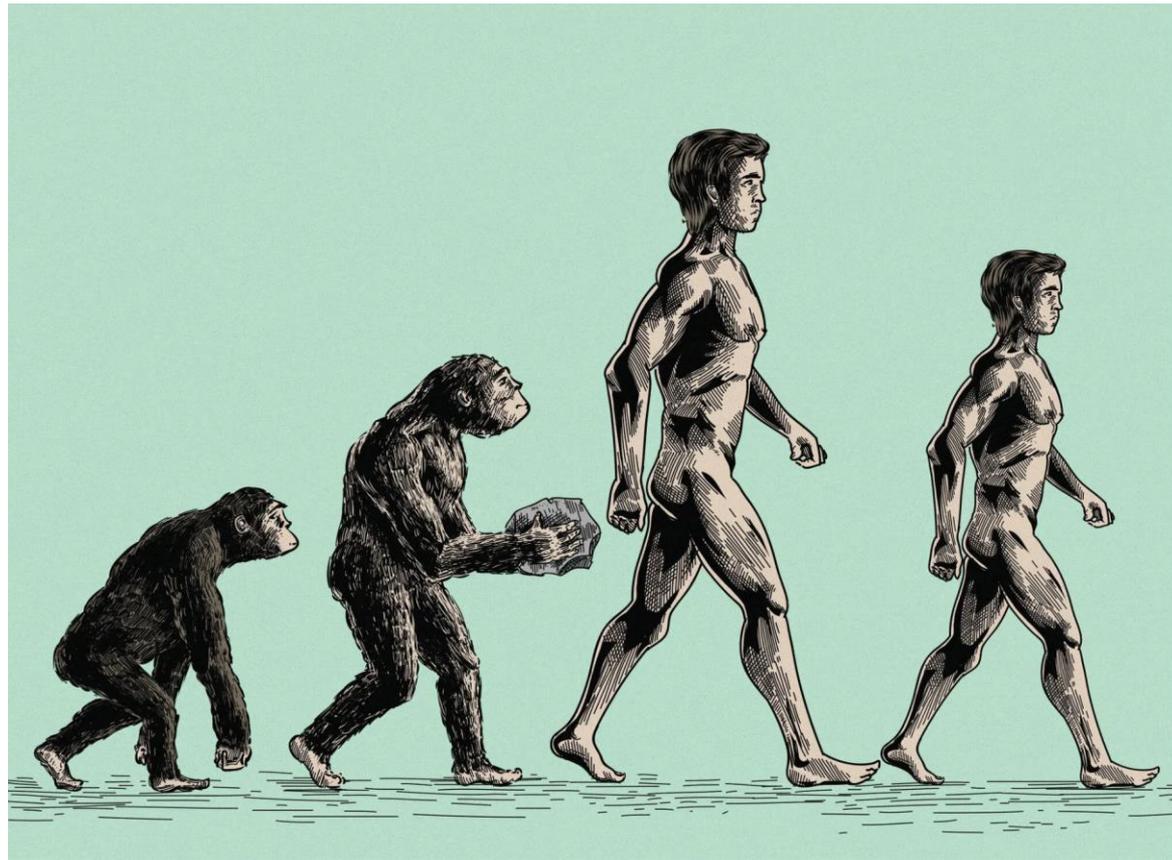
- What should be the focus?
 - Having the same rights?
 - Being treated the same way?
 - Having the same opportunities?
 - Having the same outcomes?
 - By group or by individual?
 - How much is enough?

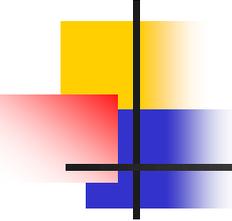


In the Obvious Ways, We Aren't Equal

- Physically
- Intellectually
- Emotionally
- Ethically
- Self interest vs. common interest
- The opportunities we pursue & outcomes we achieve

Height, for example





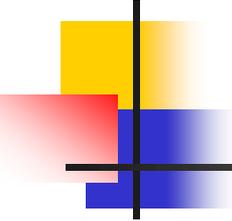
Key Ways We Are All Equal

- ❑ Human consciousness and capability for rationality; our unique human identity
- ❑ Rights and liberties
- ❑ Treatment under the law
- ❑ Deserving of the opportunity to achieve a fulfilling life

Equality: Arenas

- Legal
- Political
- Socio-economic



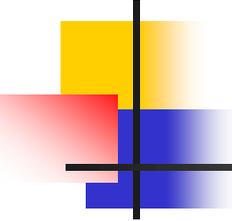


Liberty

Absence of constraints that would preclude or hinder you from doing something you believe is needed or desirable

Liberty, not license

An instrumental value



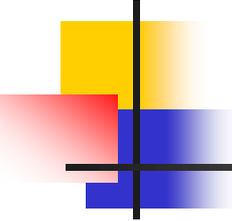
Liberty's Underpinnings

- Bestowed by God (St. Augustine)
- Based on “natural rights” (Locke)
- Acting consistent with what we would want as a universal law (Kant)
- Benefits society (Mill)

Liberty: Arenas

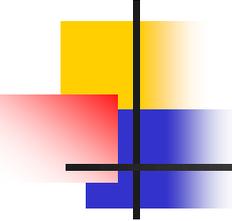
- National
- Political
- Individual





Evolving Constraints on Liberty

- Traditionally, the state exerted key control
 - E.g., miscegenation laws, forced sterilization
- Last 50 years: shift to society
 - E.g., cancel culture, control of women's bodies
- Now: Christian conservatives seeking to re-establish state control
 - E.g., abortions, LBGQT rights, same sex marriage, voting



Political Ideologies and Values

Socialists

Equality
Order

Liberty

Liberals

Equality
Liberty

Order

Conservatives

Order

Liberty

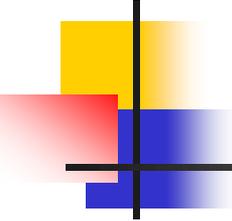
Equality

Libertarians

Liberty

Order

Equality



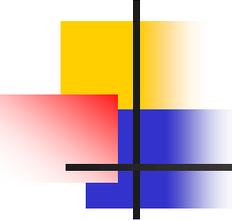
What Does the Constitution Prescribe?

- What provisions promote
 - Order?
 - Equality? Inequality?
 - Liberty?
- What conclusions do we draw?

#2: Priority of Values

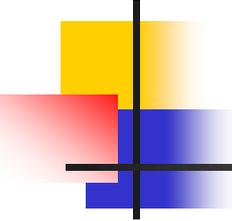
- In general, what should be the relationship of values, among: order, equality, liberty? Why?
- In U.S. right now, what should be our priorities of values? Why?
- Where do we fall short?





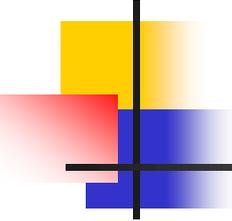
Tension between Order & Liberty

- The original tension in governing
 - Increasing order tends to decrease liberty
- Restricting everyone's liberty vs. liberty of a subset
 - E.g.: inheritance tax



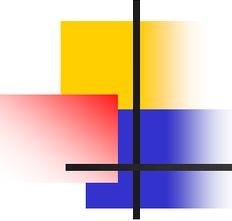
Large % of Laws Restrict Liberty

- Preventing Harm to Others
 - E.g., Licensing MDs, noise ordinances
 - Mill's "Harm Principle"
- Preventing Harm to Self
 - E.g., helmets, SSA
 - The "Nanny State"
- Both
 - E.g., insurance, vaccinations



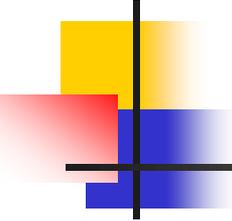
Options for Addressing

- Shift power between D.C. and the states or society
- Reduce limits to individual liberties—
e.g., gov't collection of personal data
- Enumerate additional rights
- ...



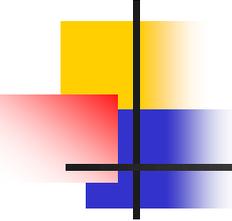
Tension between Equality & Liberty

- Equality is the foundation of liberty; rights are universal
- But, liberty widens inequality



Options for Addressing

- Manage political influence of the rich
 - Negate *Citizens United*
 - Publicly fund campaigns
 - Close the revolving door
- Decide level of economic inequality to accept
 - Limit bigness, foster entrepreneurship
 - Manage inheritance tax rate
 - Amend income tax code
 - Keep money out of other spheres of justice
- ...



Key Relevant U.S. Strengths and Weaknesses You Noted

Strengths

Civil rights

Free press

Strong military

↑ gender equality

Diversity

...

Weaknesses

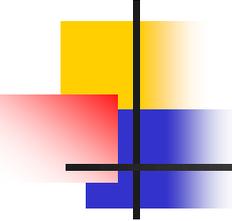
Violence/crime

Vastly unequal wealth

Discrimination

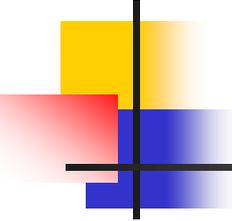
Drug offender
incarceration

...



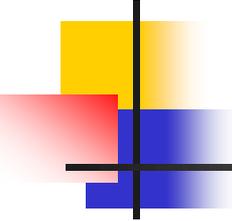
The Thought Experiment

- 2nd Constitutional Convention
- You are selected
- Veil of Ignorance



#3 Creating a More Just U.S.

- You've seen how what the Founders created has worked out.
- In order to create a more just U.S. society, what would you change?
- How would you convince a majority of Americans to go along?



Your Thoughts?

- Group Report Outs
- Reactions and Questions?
- Please pass the recorder's cumulative notes forward

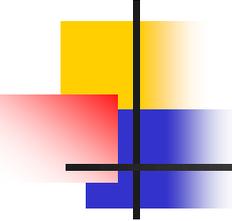
Final Reflections



- Appreciation







Tested Objective Measures of Progress in Wellbeing

Progress: A Testable Hypothesis

- Life
- Health
- Sustenance
- Prosperity
- Peace
- Freedom
- Safety
- Knowledge
- Leisure
- Happiness