WHYS IN SOCIAL-POLITICAL LIFE

Current Why’s

Why do we have homelessness? **A national problem**
Why do we have Illegal immigration? **An international problem**
Why did/do women suffer injustices? **A world problem**
WHY DO WE HAVE HOMELESSNESS?
Homeless People - Jan. 2017 data

Definition (McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, 1987): "Individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence."

USA - 553,742 (↓ 14.4%). Mostly sheltered;
Single men = 66%;
30 states reported decreases; 20 states reported increases.

Veterans - 40,056 (↓ 34%);

Children - 1.5 Mil. (↑ 14%); 42% LGBT.

Highest numbers: California, Texas, Florida;
New York City (2015) - 60,000;
Los Angeles County - 58,000; Orange County - 58,000.
HOMELESSNESS
Lessons from History (1)

18th century - Vagabonds and convicts sent by UK to the American colonies;

After the Civil War - homeless men - “hobohemian”;

1870s - Homelessness a national problem. Rescue missions. New York City tenements;

19th century - Increase number of homeless people.

1930s - Great Depression ➢ Poverty, hunger, homelessness;

2 Mil. homeless in US. Shantytowns “Hoovervilles.”
Homelessness
Lessons from History (2)

1960 - 75% of homeless > 45 y.o. 87% were white;

1963 - Community Mental Health act - Psychiatric patients were released and were homeless; 1970s - Deinstitutionalization;

1980s - 200,000 - 500,000 homeless; several initiatives but no homeless-related programs;

1980-1991 - Economic distress ➨ ↑ homelessness;

HUD’s budget ➔ $74 Mil. to $19 Mil.
Low-cost rental units ➔ and Homeless ↑

Homelessness - 2009

643,000 homeless; 2/3 sheltered; 1/3 on the street;

Demographic features of the sheltered:

- 70-85% are males,
- older than 31, alone,
- 38% white, non-Hispanic. Minority groups,
- More than 40% had disabilities,
- 20% children.
44% of homeless are employed (!)

Homelessness increased after the recession.

Seattle City Councilman: “Economically we have zero unemployment and thousands of homeless who are working and just cannot afford housing.”
Homeless Children in the U.S.
Causes of Homelessness

2004 - U.S. Council of Mayors:

1. Lack of affordable housing
2. Mental illness
3. Substance abuse
4. Low-paying jobs
5. Unemployment
6. Domestic violence
7. Poverty
8. Divorce
Major Causes of Homelessness (1)

1. Failure of urban housing projects - affordable housing for the poor;
2. Lack of resources to prevent homelessness timely;
3. Gentrification of low-income areas declared blighted and demolished. Replaced by higher property taxes projects;
Major Causes of Homelessness (2)

4. Foreclosures of homes and apartments,
5. Evictions from rental properties,
6. Deinstitutionalization of mental health patients,
7. Failure of the VA - mental health & job training of veterans,
8. Help to foster children when released from foster care,
9. Teenagers thrown out by parents b/o of sexual orientation,
10. Domestic violence,
11. People hiding to evade law enforcement,
12. Prisoners reentry after having served time in prison.
Assisting the Homeless

Housing problems:
- Lack of affordable housing
- Too low income
- No income

Housing programs: Permanent (52%), Emergency (32%), and Transitional.

Organizations:
- HUD-VASH (VA Supported Housing)
- “Housing First” - Takes homeless to community-based apartments
- National Low-Income Housing Coalition
- Many non-profit organizations.
What Could be the Remedy to Homelessness?

1. **Cities to build low-income housing.** The tents under the bridges and the construction cranes are two sides of the same problem. Gov. Newsom’s “Marshall Plan” for affordable housing. 3.5 million new homes by 2025.

2. **Increase the minimum wage.** ➢ We should pay no more than 25% of our income for housing.
Remedy to Homelessness (cont’d)

New York Times June 15, 2018: “Tough news in housing: There's not a single state, county or metro area in the US where a full-time worker earning the federal minimum wage ($7.25 an hour) can afford a modest two-bedroom apartment.”
House rent and Homelessness
Seattle’s King County

Rent increases in Seattle’s King County show a strong correlation with homelessness.

Number of homeless, point-in-time count

Rent, $ for studio unit

Increase in area’s real GDP

$14.9 billion

$17.1 billion

Fair-market rent (FMR) and homeless population in King County

Source: Fair-market rents and point-in-time (PIT) count from US Department of Housing and Urban Development; King County 2017 PIT count administered by All Home; US Federal Reserve Economic Data

1Real GDP for January 1 of each year, measured in 2009 dollars, not seasonally adjusted.
What does not help
Los Angeles Times Oct. 20, 2019

Outside the tent, a flash and a boom
String of violent arson attacks rattles L.A.’s homeless community

BY JAMES QUEALLY

Curling up in bed, with his two cats nearby, Freddie was reading a paperback novel and drifting toward sleep late on a Sunday night when someone blew a hole in the side of his home.

The last two sounds Freddie says he heard were the roar of a car engine followed by a resounding boom that left him dazed and dizzy, enveloped in smoke.

2,500
Fires involving the Los Angeles homeless community in 2018, roughly double the number in 2017.

2,320
Fires in the homeless community through September of this year.

While his ears rang, Freddie doesn’t think anyone was trying to hurt him specifically. But he’s certain his tent, under the Sunset Boulevard overpass in Echo Park, was the target of the explosion, which was set off by what police described as a firecracker.

“I know it’s not directed toward me as an individual,” he said. “But it is directed toward me as a homeless person.”

The Oct. 6 incident was the latest in a string of unsettling attacks involving fire or incendiary devices that since late August have in some cases left homeless people dead or injured and entire encampments scorched across the Los Angeles area. In at least eight different incidents, flammable liquids or makeshift explosives have been lobbed at homeless people or their tents, highlighting the dangers faced by the city’s most [See Attacks, A8]

Move inquiry:�Stifling witnesses from testifying while labeling the probe “illegitimate.”

Plan A began crumbling this week as witnesses paraded to a secure bunker under the Capitol visitors center, where House investigators questioned them for hours.

By week’s end, no clear Plan B had emerged.

Trump’s acting chief of staff, Mick Mulvaney, went off script in a rare news conference Thursday, seemingly admitting Democrats’ core charge that Trump had demanded a political quid pro quo from Ukraine — an investigation of his opponents in return for unfreezing nearly $400 million in aid.

“Get over it,” Mulvaney said.

The White House and Trump’s legal team scrambled to repair the damage, issuing separate statements from Mulvaney and Trump’s personal lawyer disavowing what the acting chief of staff had said.

“I think he clarified it,” Mulvaney said. [See Impeachment, A8]
WHY ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION?

and

Why Imprison Immigrants?

and

Why Separate Families?
Homo sapiens Conquers the World

FROM: Y. N. HARARI “SAPIENS - A BRIEF HISTORY OF HUMANKIND”
IMMIGRATION - EMIGRATION

People moving to foreign countries.
Oldest peaceful displacement of people.

**Legal** or **illegal**.

Oldest passport - Nehemiah (450 BCE) on going from Persia to Judea.

Medieval Europe: “*passe la porte*” (*Fr. Pass through the gate of the town*) → passport.

King Henry V of England, 1414 - First passport.

Europe mid 18th cent. Rapid expansion of railway and travel.

After World War I - passport requirements for security reasons.

Illegal Immigration

"Undocumented," “Unauthorized immigrants”; “Illegal alien.”

**Definition:** Illegal entry across the country’s border, violating the country’s laws with the intention to remain in the country.

**Causes:** Poverty, Gangs’ operations, Wars, Kidnapping and ransom, Slavery, Rape, Injury and illness.
Problems Faced by Illegal Immigrants

Large numbers of unskilled workers competing with locals
Exploitation of labor
Poverty
Prostitution

Family reunification in the new country

Asylum: - Granted refugee status $\rightarrow$ right to stay
  - If not granted refugee status, they have to leave or stay as illegal immigrants
  - 70-80% are asylum seekers. Proof (?)
Effects of Illegal Immigration

70% of immigrants from Mexico and Central America lack a high-school degree. They take jobs that no one else wants. Penalties for employers of illegal immigrants ($2,000-$10,000 - not enforced)

Approx. 11 Mil. illegal immigrants, mostly from Mexico. Approx. 4.5 Mil. children born in U.S. who are citizens.

What will be the outcome of DACA - “700,000 Dreamers”

Effects on economy:

Legalization $\rightarrow$ US GDP $\uparrow$ $1.4$ trillion/10 years or $20\%$ of private-sector GDP.
European Migrant Crisis

Worldwide forcibly displaced people = 60 million.

**European Migrant Crisis** started in 2015. European Union (EU) received over 1.2 million first-time asylum applications in 2015.

2008 - 2017 Total asylum applications = 5,033,545

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Total Applications</th>
<th>Ethnicity</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>1,789,965</td>
<td>Syrian</td>
<td>47%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td>551,965</td>
<td>Afghan</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>542,025</td>
<td>Iraqi</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sweden</td>
<td>481,005</td>
<td>Islamic State (?)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Hungary</td>
<td>282,015</td>
<td>Males 58%</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Minors 25%</td>
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</table>
Operation Triton
IMMIGRATION DETENTION

Earliest - 1890s at Ellis Island.

Nov.18, 1991 - Return of 538 Haitians to Haiti.

Later, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba for prescreening for asylum.

1996 - **Mandatory detention** - Bill Clinton. 2 laws:

- Antiterrorism and Effective Penalty Act,
- Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act.

1996 - 2008 – 8,500 → 16,000 → 30,000 detained immigrants.
September 11, 2001 attacks changed our lifestyle.


2007 - **961 sites**: Detention centers, privatized facilities, State and local jails, Juvenile detention centers, Shelters.

ICE OPERATIONS

“Zero Tolerance” Criminal prosecution rather than civil deportation for illegal immigration.

2007 - “Secure Communities” program.

2008-2011 - 140,396 convicted criminal aliens
72,445 deportations.


Immigration judges
- Pres. Trump: “Thousands and thousands of judges.”
- In fact: 355 + 100 immigration judges.
# The Detention of Asylum Seekers in Europe


Multiple rules by European Union.

High proportion of:
- Asylum seekers
- Economic migrants
- Hostile agents (ISIS) disguised

Asylum seekers vs. total number of persons in detention:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>UK</th>
<th>Greece</th>
<th>Spain</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>46%</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>10%</td>
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Why imprison immigrants at all?

By Christina Fialho

The Trump administration, shamed by the national outcry over separating children from their asylum-seeking parents at the border, has capitulated. The president Wednesday signed an executive order to end that brutal practice — and instead could implicate the list of crimes that made any non-U.S. citizen, including many legal permanent residents, vulnerable to civil incarceration and deportation. Then the George W. Bush administration launched Operation Streamline, which authorized the criminal prosecution — rather than civil deportation — of those apprehended at the border; that’s the program the Trump administration used
Illegal Immigration and Family Separation


Former First Lady Laura Bush called for: “A kinder, more compassionate and moral answer.”

A national outcry against this brutal practice.

Airlines asked Fed. Govt. to stop separation of children.

June 13, 2018 - President Trump rescinded the separation of children from their parents.

A major mess in reunifying the asylum-seeker families.

August 14, 2018” - UPDATE FROM CNN: Ex-ICE head: “Some parents may not see kids again”
Central American Asylum Seekers
A Two-year-old Honduran Girl Cries as Her Mother is Searched and Detained Near the U.S.-Mexico Border. June 12, 2018, McAllen, TX.
“Keep Families Together”
Long Beach, June 30, 2018
“We don’t need an American Gestapo”
Long Beach, June 30, 2018
Illegal Immigration - Where Are We Now?

In USA:

2015 - The Lutheran Immigration & Refugee Service + ICE:

- It cost $50/day for housing and services.
- It cost $798/day to imprison a family.

President Trump: “We cannot allow all these people to invade our country.” He advised immediate deportation.

Solutions:

1. Congress to revise our Immigration Laws.
2. Allow asylum-seekers to await hearings in decent housing.
3. 18 AGs filed a lawsuit - “Family separation is irrationally discriminatory.”
4. Refuse entry of persons with criminal record.
Illegal Immigration - Where Are We Now? (cont’d)

At the country of origin:

Flight of people from countries with corrupt governments will continue.

Solution: United Nations must intervene in these countries.
“People will make all the mistakes they can before doing the correct thing that was always apparent but ignored…”

John Maynard Keynes
(1883 - 1946)
WHY DID/DO WOMEN SUFFER INJUSTICES, VIOLENCE and ABUSE?
We are a Recordless Human Society

A Lot of What Happened in the Past Was

Not Understanding Why or Where We Were

We are a Recordless Human Society
WOMEN’s RIGHTS

Voting rights,
Public office,
Legal contracts,
Equal Pay for Equal Work,
Owning Property,
Education,
Bodily integrity and autonomy,
Freedom of sexual violence and abuse,
Reproductive rights.
WOMEN’S RIGHTS

Women’s Rights Movement - 19th cent.
Feminist Movement - 20th cent.
In some countries these rights are the accepted custom, they are in the national behavior, they are institutionalized.
In other countries these rights are ignored and suppressed.
Women’s Rights - History (1)

Sumer: Full human rights. Female deity Inanna.
  Akkadian poetess Enheduanna, daughter of Sargon, priestess of Inanna.
  Babylonian and Assyrian laws: Women had the same right to divorce as men.

Egypt: Same rights as of men.

India: Equal status with men. Free to select husband.
Pharaon Hatshepsut
The second female pharaoh
1507-1458 BCE, 18th dynasty
Women’s Rights - History (2)

**Greece:** No political and equal rights, but owned land.

Excluded from politics, arts. Man mentor = kyrios.

“*Lysistrata*” - Aristophanes’ play against war (411 BCE)

Cynics philosophers: “**Marriage is a moral companionship.**”

Stoic philosophers: “**Sexual inequality is contrary to the laws of nature.**”

**Rome:** Laws were created by men in favor of men.

Childbearing encouraged. Women had a “Guardian.”

Husband - no right to abuse wife.

**Rape was a crime.** “An attack on woman’s family.”
“Lysistrata,” Aristophanes’ play (411 BCE)
Sex boycott against the Peloponnesian war.
Roman Marriage
“Brennus and his Share of the Spoils, 390 BCE” (Paint by Paul Jamin, 1893)
Women’s Rights - History (3)

**Byzantine Empire:** Same restrictions as under Rome. Priest benediction necessary in marriage.

**China:** Women considered inferior by Confucian law. Three obediences: Daughters to fathers, Wives to husbands, Widows to sons. No rights. Foot binding. Bought and sold into slavery.

**1949 - Revolution of Mao Zedong:** Men = Women.
Women and Religions

The Bible: Some rights. Man polygamy ➢ divorce.

Qur’an (7th cent.): Rights of women in marriage.

English Church (Middle Ages): “Women are weak and irrational.” “Punishment of the Original sin.”

Women are properties of men.

Women are inferior to men in legal rights.

Swedish law protected women, but a woman got only half of her brother’s inheritance.
**Europe 15th - 17th Cent.**

15th cent. “Witchcraft” from Roman mythical night creatures Strix ➢ transformed women (!)

16th - 17th cent. Witch trials - thousands of women burned at stake or hanged.

**John Locke** (1632-1704) advocated marital equality.

British laws changed only at the end of the 19th century.
"Le Stryge" (Stryx) Chimera Overlooks Paris from Atop Notre Dame of Paris
England, 1655 - Hanging Suspected Witches
Burning Witches, with Others Held in Stocks
Middle Ages Europe - Women working
Europe - Middle Ages. Royal Women’s Activities
Chilean Woman Being Kidnapped During a Mallòn (1802-1858).
“Who Loves Well, Punishes Well” (France, 1845)
Acid Attack Victim in Cambodia (sulfuric, nitric, hydrochloric acid)
Female Genital Mutilation

**Definition:** Partial or total ritual removal of the external female genitalia for non-medical reasons. Practiced in Africa, Indonesia, Yemen, and Iraq - Kurdistan. 2016 - 200 million women in 27 countries had female genital mutilation (FGM).
Inequity between men and women started in the Greek society ~ 5th cent. BCE.

Man’s aggressiveness + possessiveness.

**Men made laws for men.**

Property laws in men’s favor.

Church: “*Women are properties of men.*”

   “*Women are inferior to men in legal rights.*”

**Women did not fight back until the 19th Cent.**

In spite of liberal constitutions, much bias prevailed.
Europe 18\textsuperscript{th} - 19th Cent.

The Age of Enlightenment - Human rights:

- Rights for Women
- Freedom of Religion
- Abolition of Slavery
- Rights for the Poor
- Universal Suffrage

Olympe de Gouges - “Declaration of the Rights of Woman and the Female Citizen,” - 1791

Mary Wollstonecraft - “A Vindication of the Rights of Woman,”

“Justice!” - 1792

John Stuart Mill - “The Subjection of Women” - 1869. \( F = M \)

The first article of Declaration of Female Citizen stated: "Woman is born free and remains equal to man in rights. Social distinctions may only be based on common utility".

"All citizens, including women, are equally admissible to all public dignities, offices and employments, according to their capacity, and with no other distinction than that of their virtues and talents".
Mary Wollstonecraft (1759 – 1797)
British writer, philosopher, and women rights advocate
Annie Kenney and Christabel Pankhurst, Suffragettes, United Kingdom, 1905
Alice Paul, suffragette, U.S. 1919
Amendment 19 - Voting Rights for Men and Women  
(Ratified August 18, 1920)

The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex.

Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.
Finally, Voting Rights for Women!

- New Zealand – 1893
- Australia – 1902
- Finland – 1906
- Norway – 1913
- Denmark and Iceland - 1915
- The Netherlands – 1917
- Austria – 1917
- Britain – 1918
- Azerbaijan – 1918
- Canada – 1917 - 1919
- Czechoslovakia – 1918
- Georgia – 1918
- Poland – 1918
- Sweden – 1918
- Germany – 1919
- Luxembourg - 1919
- United States – 1920
- Ecuador – 1920
- Brazil – 1932
- India - 1935
- El Salvador - 1939
- Quebec – 1940
- Dominican Republic – 1942
- France - 1944
- Japan - 1945
- Argentina – 1946
- China - 1947
- Greece – 1952
- Indonesia - 1955
- Guatemala - 1956
- San Marino - 1959
- Monaco - 1962
- Andorra – 1970
- Switzerland - 1971
- Portugal - 1976
- Liechtenstein - 1984
Violence against Women (VAW) = Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV).

1993 - UN Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women: “VAW is one of the crucial social mechanisms by which women are forced into a subordinate position compared with men.”

2006 - UN: VAW - Pandemic proportions: 1:3 women had suffered VAW.
Violence against Women (2)

Perpetrated by individuals: rape, domestic violence, sexual harassment, reproductive coercion, prenatal sex selection, obstetric violence.

Customary: Honor killing, dowry violence, **female genital mutilation**, forced marriage.

Perpetrated by the state: War rape, sexual slavery, police violence, stoning, flogging.
Violence Against Women (3)
United Nations Regulatory Rules Against VAW

1979 - Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW);
1980 - Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action;
1993 - UN General Assembly resolution on the Declaration on the Elimination of VAW - First int’l instrument to explicitly define VAW;
1994 - Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of VAW;
2016 - Council of Europe - Istanbul Convention.
Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), 1979
Equal Employment

In some countries, a married woman needed her husband’s consent to work.

Abolished: France - 1965;
Spain - 1975.

Maternity leave varies among countries.
No equal pay for same work.

1963 - United States Equal Pay Act
Equal Pay Act.
American Association of University Women and President John F. Kennedy, 1963
Married Women’s Property Acts

Background:
1. Upon marriage, the husband and wife became one person under the law, as the *property of the wife was surrendered to her husband.*
2. Woman’s legal identity ceased to exist.
3. Any **personal property** acquired by the wife during the marriage, unless specified that it was for her own separate use, went automatically to her husband.

**US** - the Act was enacted gradually 1820 - 1857.

**UK** - the Act was enacted in 1842
REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS

Reproductive rights are legal rights,
Right to control one’s reproductive functions,
Right to quality reproductive healthcare,
Freedom from coercion,
Freedom from violence,
Freedom from Female Genital mutilation (FGM),
Freedom from forced abortion,
Freedom from forced sterilization,
Education about contraception,
Education about sexually transmitted diseases.
Abortion


**Women’s reproductive rights includes the right to a safe abortion.**

1973 - **Roe v. Wade** - Supreme Court - state laws against abortions violated a woman's right to privacy under the 14th Amendment.

In some countries, abortion is permitted to save woman’s life or if resulted from rape or incest.

**Against abortion:** “**Unborn baby is deprived of his human rights to life.**”

May 26, 2018 - Irish voters in a landslide referendum chose to **legalize unrestricted abortions up to 12 weeks.**
Marie Stopes (1880 - 1958)
Paleobotanist and Pioneer of Family Planning.
Made Contraception Acceptable in Britain during the 1920s
Margaret Sanger, 1879 - 1966
American Birth Control Activist, Sex Educator, Writer, and Nurse
Birth Control

1914 - Term of Birth Control enters the English language. Explained the different functions of sexual intercourse.

Sexual intercourse without procreation.

“Control over our own bodies.” - Demand of women’s liberation.

1980s - Demand of rights to contraception and abortion.

20th cent. - Birth control - a highly controversial issue.

Conflict between liberal and conservative values.
Cover of the 1919 Birth Control Review, Published by Margaret Sanger in Relation to "How Shall We Change the Law?"
States poised to act if Roe vs. Wade is overturned

Several are ready to outlaw abortion if a more conservative Supreme Court tosses decision back to them.

BY EVAN HALPER

WASHINGTON — President Trump’s ability to reshape the Supreme Court with a conservative nominee could quickly send the nation back to a reality that had seemed far in the past: Abortion would be illegal in a large swath of America, subjecting doctors and perhaps pregnant women to criminal prosecution and potentially ending the possibility of abortion laws in the world.

Four justices are widely believed to favor reversing the 45-year-old ruling or severely restricting its reach. In replacing Justice Anthony M. Kennedy, who on Wednesday announced his retirement, Trump could supply the fifth vote for a majority.

Several antiabortion states have already laid the groundwork to move fast, providing potential test cases that could go before a more conservative court within a year or two.

Iowa, for example, recently passed a law that prohibits abortions after a fetal heartbeat can be detected, which often takes place around the sixth week of pregnancy, before many
World Views - June 30, 2018
“In the future, there will be no female leaders. There will be just leaders.”

Sheryl Sandberg

End of Session #6

End of this Course

Thank you 😊