

America's Decline and How It Could Affect Us in the Long Run

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POLSC 220: Comparative Politics

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April 28, 2025

Abstract

On July 4, 1776, a brand-new country was born, this country was named “The United States of America”. The founding fathers who were led by George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, James Madison and John Jay proposed that the United States of America would be the land of the free and the land of opportunity. At the end of George Washington’s second term, Washington warned the American people that Political Parties would divide the country. Over 200 years later it can be proven that Washington was right. In recent years, America has become divided by political parties, as citizens nationwide take to the street to protest. As each day in America passes, the US government has become more and more volatile. The biased media, police brutality, political corruption and the two-party system will eventually lead to America’s decline before the year 2075.

America's Decline and How It Could Affect Us in the Long Run

One of the biggest keys to America's downfall are the two political parties currently running the American government. In recent years, the two major political parties in the United States, the Democratic and Republican parties, have become more polarizing on social and economic issues. For example, the Democratic party supports abortion, healthcare, education, gun control and climate change. Republicans on the other hand support immigration reform, second amendment rights, a stronger military and opposing abortion rights. These issues have been polarizing to many Americans who believe that the two political parties are ruining America and their ways of living. According to a recent article, the author states that American politicians are ideologically polarized and that they vote based on their party preference or policies that they support. In her research, Kleinfeld says that parties and candidates believe that the more polarizing they are, the more likely they would win elections, Kleinfeld also said that voters that are exposed to more polarizing rhetoric that share their own partisan identity that may alter preferences, based on what group they identify as in their own political party. However, she also says that among American voters in election years, 20% of American voters would vote in primaries and 41% of voters identify themselves as independents, meaning that these are voters who don't affiliate with the Democratic or Republican parties. At one point in her research, Kleinfeld noted that many Americans don't believe that they are ideologically polarized, but rather emotionally polarized. Kleinfeld claimed that Americans harbor a strong dislike of their own members of the political party that they are affiliated with, social media was also blamed for such issues as it affects polarization which grew all over the internet (Kleinfeld, 2023).

In Kleinfeld's research, she also brings up the fact that political violence is not just caused directly but can happen depending on the environment which allows politicians and

opinion leaders to be targeted by men, women and other minorities in a violent manner. According to Kleinfeld, in 2016, up until the election between Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump, political violence was at an all-time high. For example, the 1960s was also a time of polarization in the United States, during that time, political parties were divided on social change due to civil rights of African Americans in the United States, this issue still present in the current world because there is still division in both political parties because Democrats and Republicans can't agree on issues and social unrest is happening to people of color, trans people and abortion rights. There wasn't much political violence since the 1964 & 1968 elections, where in those years, the KKK, assassinations and political party switch was becoming common. For example, in 1964, the Republican candidate Barry Goldwater opposed Civil Rights, had members of the KKK support his presidential campaign and made dark jokes about using nuclear weapons against the Soviet Union and getting more aggressive in Vietnam. Goldwater would lose to President Lyndon Johnson in a landslide, preventing further aggression in Vietnam and protecting Civil Rights (Reagan Library, 2022).

By 1968, the United States was divided on Civil Rights, American involvement in Vietnam, important people getting assassinated and politicians changing political parties. Examples of violence and division in 1968 include the following, Southern Democrats such as Alabama Governor George Wallace who opposed Civil Rights and supported segregation in the South, Americans protested on the streets saying that the Vietnam war was pointless and the US & South Vietnam was losing, Martin Luther King Jr was assassinated in a motel in Tennessee trying to preach at a church which caused protests on the street, two months later, this was followed by Robert F. Kennedy (John F. Kennedy's brother) getting assassinated while campaigning for President in 1968 as a Democrat. Lastly, politicians who switched political

parties were mostly Southern Democrats who became Republicans and overtime, the South became heavily Republican unlike the last hundred years where Democrats consistently won the South. All this led to Former Vice President Richard Nixon being elected as the 37th US President.

According to Kleinfeld's research, she suggests that affective polarization is quite symmetrical across all political parties whether they agree on an issue or not, some believe that political violence is the answer, but it's mostly supported by right wing politicians who believe in the "America First" movement. Kleinfeld also states that many scholars found that affective polarization is not correlated to violence or political violence, although some studies by other scholars said that there was some correlation from groups between the "Strong Republican" & "Make Great America Great Again" Republicans as these groups support violence while the same would not hold for a group called the "Strong Democrats". Kleinfeld said that people who often commit political violence tend to have aggressive personalities, many who commit political violence that does not involve rallies and hate crimes also have problems with drinking large quantities on Alcohol. Kleinfeld also noted that some of these traits that people who have committed political violence tend to be the ones who have low self-control which includes teenage boys who do underage drinking, have aggressive personalities when they get angry at groups of people that they are not familiar with, and these people also believe that the violence that they committed won't result in them getting any form of punishment or legal consequences.

For example, back in 2024, a man named Justin Mohn murdered his father, he then posted a 14-minute Youtube video with the title "Mohn's Militia - Call to arms for American Patriots" (CNN, 2024). In the video, Mohn goes on a politically charged rant about how President Joe Biden's presidency is a disaster, how immigrants are taking over the United States

and how the LGBTQ and Black Lives Matter are extremist groups, eventually, Mohn displayed his father's decapitated head on camera and claimed that his father is "Now in hell for eternity as a traitor to his country" because his father was a federal employee for 20 years, shortly after this, Mohn then went on another rant and encouraged people across the United States to kill federal employees, this included members of the FBI, IRS, Border Patrol and federal judges to be captured and publicly executed, including then-President Biden.

While Kleinfeld's research goes through a lot of details on polarization and political violence in the United States, she's not the only person to discuss such topics and issues in the United States and it's not the first time the United States was divided by issues and political parties. One Youtube video discusses how the founding fathers believed that political parties were "evil" and by having them in the country, it would tear the nation apart. In the video, the narrator stated that in America's 200 years of history, America's political scene has been dramatically different, and it still continues to this day. The video also states that back in 1788, George Washington became America's first president, Thomas Jefferson was the Secretary of State and Alexander Hamilton was the treasury secretary, both Hamilton and Jefferson had their own ideas and vision for America, so they both split to form the very first political parties, the Federalists, led by Hamilton and Democratic-Republicans, led by Jefferson and James Madison. In the Federalist party, Hamilton wanted a strong central government, close ties with England despite defeating them in the American Revolution a few years earlier and a developed industrial economy.

However, in the Democratic-Republican party, Jefferson and Madison wanted a limited Federal Government, favored rights in the States and stronger ties with France. At that time, this was the beginning of America's two-party system and many believed that this would break

America apart. Over the years, following the collapse of the Federalist and Democratic-Republican parties, new political parties would form in the United States, those parties would be the Democratic party, the Whig party and the Republican party, the Whig party would collapse and today the two political parties in the United States are the Democratic and Republican parties which over the last few centuries has dominated American politics and the Government. One of the biggest times when the United States was divided was between the 1840s and 1860s, when the country was debating the topic of slavery, the Democrats at the time supported it while the Whigs and Republicans opposed it, the final straw to when the United States was divided was following the election of Abraham Lincoln in 1860, where he promised we would end slavery, Southern US states succeeded from the United States and formed the Confederate States of America and the American Civil War began, the war would end with the South's defeat and Slavery was abolished in the United States.

By the late 1800s, the rise of industrialization happened, and the Republicans had their ideas for industry in the United States, the Republicans wanted higher tariffs and very little regulations on industry, they targeted the very rich voters of the country, like businessmen and industrialists, Democrats on the other hand had other ideas. The Democrats wanted to realign themselves as a populist force, meaning they supported working class Americans across the nation such as farmers. This also appealed to voters who they felt were left behind in the industrial economy, while this did not help the Democrats in most elections, it did raise what the Democratic cause was, but things would take a different turn in the coming decades ahead of them. By the Great Depression, the Democrats launched reform policies called "The New Deal" led by President Franklin Roosevelt, where he acted for a more active Federal Government, a Government that could regulate the economy and expand the rights of workers. These factors led

to the Republicans losing steam and having no success in the White House for twenty years as their voter base shifted. At the time, the Republicans attracted more rural and religious voters, those who live in the Mountain states, these voters opposed Federal control. Between 1954 - 1968, Civil Rights became a big issue in the United States with Democrats supporting Civil Rights while Republicans opposed it, though some Southern Democrats opposed Civil Rights. Democrats who supported Civil Rights under Presidents John F. Kennedy and Lyndon B. Johnson were both Presidents who advocated for Civil Rights for African Americans. On the other hand, Republicans, led by Former Vice President Richard Nixon began to attract Southern white voters, the voter base in the South would shift and the once Democratic South, slowly became Republican. African American voters, who were once Republicans, became a key voter base for Democrats and have remained that way ever since (Firstpost, 2024).

By 1980, Ronald Reagan embraced a more conservative agenda for the United States and Democrats would struggle to win the White House for twelve years, by the 1990s, Democrats changed their voter base, they moved to a more centrist position, these Democrats would be led by Arkansas Governor Bill Clinton who would later become the 42nd President of the United States. In the current century and now, the differences between the Democrats and Republicans are night & day. The Republicans have since then embraced conservatism which supports populists, opposes immigration and wants to control women's reproductive freedom, this was evident under Donald Trump's first Presidency. On the other hand, the Democrats want to promote Social Justice for all Americans like the minority groups such as the people of color and LGTB people, expand Healthcare for all Americans as seen by Obamacare and embrace social welfare (Firstpost, 2024). Even with the two parties currently running the United States, history has shown how far the two-party system has come.

While the two political parties running the United States have been causing America's decline. This is not the only thing that is causing America to fall apart. The next piece in the puzzle is America's Media.

The Biased Media

In recent years, social media, news stations and newspapers have been posting and making stories that make Americans think one side is telling the truth and the other is lying. As a result of social media feeds and online echo chambers, people have been divided on what the truth is or what is a lie.

In an article by Pew Research Center (PRC), Americans nationwide don't just use social media for entertainment, but they also use it to get news, updates from their favorite politicians and post their opinions on politics. For example, one poll shows that out of four social media platforms, between X (Twitter), TikTok, Facebook and Instagram, 59% of users on X (Twitter) use it to keep up with politics, while TikTok users use it to keep up with politics 39% of the time and 26% for Facebook and Instagram. According to the PRC, people who use social media for political updates tend to come across around 10,000 posts every single day, not just one person, but the entire political algorithm according to a survey that was conducted in March 2024 (PRC, 2024). PRC also notes that X users who are Republicans have changed drastically mostly because of their views on the economy after Joe Biden became President back in 2021. However, users other than X, such as Instagram, TikTok and Facebook all have common views that there was no impact on Democracy. This poll that was conducted showed that 49% of Instagram users and 43% of Facebook users say that there was no impact on democracy. When it comes to sharing and seeing politics on social media, X is where most users go so that they can access political information, whether it's their own party or opposing party (PRC, 2024).

According to a survey also done by PRC, 74% of X users tune in to check out recent or current news in the world of politics such as issues that affect their everyday lives like inflation, international relations with other countries, crime and abortion. All social media services have been accused of bias, for example, in recent years during the Trump era, political bias and censorship has been widespread, many Social Media users who use these platforms to get their news, tend to see some form of bias, depending on what platform or account they follow. PRC states that on all four platforms, there are many users that don't have political leaning on one side or the other. For example, on Instagram, Facebook and TikTok, a majority of users say that they see more posts that seem Liberal, but on X, it's more even with 19% Liberals and 18% Conservatives. PRC also states that on social media, most of its users who are political tend to have party differences depending on what platform, for example, Republicans tend to use Facebook more than Democrats according to a poll done showing 29% Conservative Facebook users and 16% Liberal Facebook users, on the other hand, X users are mixed between Democrats and Republicans, but most users who talk about political views tend to not have any political leaning, but on Instagram and TikTok, most users are Liberals (PRC, 2024).

While social media is a big proponent to political division, social media isn't the only source of political bias on the internet.

In a research paper conducted by Kathy Ensor in 2018, she goes over the political bias in national news networks in the United States. Throughout the paper, Ensor goes into how the news is biased towards one political party to the other, for example, CNN tends to favor Democrats and criticize Republicans, including then-president Donald Trump, Fox News on the other hand favors Republicans and criticize Democrats, even then-president Joe Biden. Ensor would start the paper asking a question on what impact political affiliation has when national

news is delivered nationwide, Ensor states that the bias in the news is an issue for Democracy and Americans could miss the full story on what is really going on in the world of politics. Ensor also states that for both major news networks and newspaper organizations across the United States, they would instead focus on the parties running Congress, the news network would make a story about a accomplishment one party did, such as a president signing a law or Congress getting a bill passed, this leaves the American citizens in the dark on what's going on (Ensor, 2018). Ensor discusses that there are different methods of delivering news, but when the news is delivered, they lack proper analysis and delivery.

Ensor also states that they did a proper investigation on the two major news networks in the United States, CNN & Fox News, between these two networks, Ensor finds that CNN is more critical of President Trump while Fox News always praises him. Ensor mentions how CNN would have guests from political parties which adds to the political conversation, Fox News on the other hand only interviews Republicans which gives the viewer a limited picture and insight on what's going on in the Political World in the United States and its viewers nationwide. Ensor stated also that Politics can be a controversial topic, depending on the atmosphere, topics and agreements, Ensor also states that a person's political party affiliation becomes more and more characteristic within the last new decades in American history. Ensor stated that with technology becoming more advanced as politics in America becomes more polarized, this created a bigger gap of division within the United States, two components is also the divide between Liberals (Democrats) & Conservatives (Republicans) when they disagree on issues. Ensor's research also states the Liberals tend to support issues such as legalizing marijuana and same-sex marriage while Conservatives would support Tax cuts on the rich and wealthy in the United States and but also allow equality separation within minorities in the United States, Markus Kemmelmerier, a

professor of Social Psychology at the University of Reno-Nevada states that in the United States, Conservatism are the causes of uncertainty and complexity, while Liberals are the exact opposite, people who affiliate as Liberals embrace the idea of Change in the United States which he believes resonates with many Americans nationwide.

Ensor explains that in the current society, a person's political beliefs are influenced through certain levels of exposure, certain environments, cultures and locations. These divisions are based on political locations, age and socioeconomic status; children typically grow up around parents who had similar political beliefs and were part of similar groups.

The author explained how these political views date back to when conservative's beliefs required less cognitive activity as many are resistant to change. There was also a study that was conducted with college students and their political affiliation. Examples include their SAT and ACT scores; the results found a negative linear relationship between conservatism and cognitive abilities than those who are in the middle of the political spectrum. She also takes note that the study was also conducted using the top 25 Universities in the United States.

Therefore, by studying these Universities, this adds variety between the socioeconomic status and adds more among the studies on Political beliefs. In Ensor's studies, she also states that many college students, especially the college elites and universities tend to be more politically involved than the average American, this results in massive turnout rates to suppress the national average among voters across America. She also describes in her studies that among the divide is that in today's world, the Democrats and Republicans disagreements on the media's role is huge, mostly is due to the national news networks whether it is criticisms or praise, these are usually done by CNN or Fox News, and these two news networks tend to be biased one way or another (Ensor, 2018).

According to another finding by Ensor, she discusses how a Pew study that was conducted in 2017, says that there was a 47%-point gap between people who identify themselves as Democrats or Republicans. Another survey that Ensor found among the Pew poll shows that in 2016 (The year Donald Trump got elected), Democrats and Republicans at that time were almost equal in a supportive role, the poll shows 74% and 77% respectively. The author says that this poll is significant, as in the past, Democrats were more likely to support watchdog candidates during the role of a Republican Presidency, this explains how the drastic change and support directly correlated to the election and first inauguration of President Donald Trump who changed the presidency back to Republican after eight years of Democrat Barack Obama (Ensor, 2018).

She also says that within the political parties in America, the Democrats and Republicans have been more and more polarizing on voicing one's political opinion or when one person simply affiliates themselves as one party or the other. These often lead to arguments among friends and family, who say that they do not want to be friends or family anymore, as one person in their family or friends' group do not share the same opinion as the other or their choice on which candidate they vote for in a US Presidential Election, US Senate or Governor. Those beliefs are among those that one person would be better than the other (Ensor, 2018).

While the mainstream media in the United States continues to make news and divide the American people on the truth, politics and other politicians, this is not the only thing that is dividing the United States of America.

Racism and Police brutality

In America in recent years, the police have been enforcing the Law in America to make the city streets safe, so that citizens can live and prosper. However, the police have become

destructive, brutal towards African Americans and making false arrests towards those who are completely innocent.

In a recent article, the police and its brutality has become more evident as Americans have taken to the streets to protest Police brutality. People who live in the big cities believe that the Police and Law Enforcement has caused more harm than good for American citizens (Lyn, 2024).

In another article, it goes over how in 1963, after many people got arrested several times all because African Americans partook in Civil Right protests, the person states that “I walked down the Constitution Avenue, past what were then known as the Old Navy buildings, now long gone, on the warm Wednesday afternoon on the 28th of August 1963, I thought we had reached the turning point. I and thousands of others were moving quietly and peacefully towards the Lincoln Memorial where we were going to hear the Reverend Martin Luther King give what history knows as the “I have a Dream” speech”. The author then talks about how on July 2, 1964, US President Lyndon B. Johnson would sign the Civil Rights Act of 1964. This bill officially prohibited discrimination in public schools, facilities and employment based on race. The writer then explains how the following year, in 1965, President Johnson signed the Voting Rights Act of 1965. This officially outlawed voting laws based on skin color, this also ended literacy polling tests and poll taxes. This took one hundred years to pass following the American Civil War. However, sixty years after these laws were passed, the murder of black men by white police officers still happens. This shows that the United States has not fully ended racial discrimination amongst blacks in America. Unfortunately, many white police officers have gotten away with murder, which has caused outrage among the American public (NLM, 2020).

The well-known example of a white police officer killing a black man is George Floyd in 2020. In this case, the police officer, Derek Chauvin was kneeling on Floyd's neck while being recorded for 8 minutes 46 seconds. The writer discussed how this event was not only historic and catalyzing for blacks across America. This resulted in many American demonstrators who were outraged by the death of George Floyd to take to the streets to protest. This happened across the United States for most of 2020 (NLM, 2020). According to a poll created by The Washington Post, a vast majority of the American population is White at 61%, the Black population on the other hand is 13% in the United States, the Hispanic population however is 18%. Though George Floyd's murder was a big deal back in 2020, this is not the first-time violence towards black people had happened. Back in 1992 in Los Angeles, California, a man named Rodney King was dragged out of his vehicle, he was then savagely beaten by LA police and recorded being beaten in the process. Following the beating, riots ensued in LA for six days, the result was sixty-three deaths, thousands of arrests and \$1 billion in damage. When one person at NLM asked the LA Deputy Chief of Police during the riots, the chief's response was "About 15% of the police are heroes, the very best you could ever ask for. Another 15% are thugs and bullies who became police because they think they can act without fear of punishment. The remaining 70% go with the flow. If they are with heroes, they behave heroically; if they are assigned to work with thugs, well bad things happen." Two years after the LA riots, Congress would pass the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994. This law provided funding for local and state law enforcement and State Attorney Generals to "Acquire data about the use of excessive force by law enforcement officers" across the country, this law did not go well as the law failed to publish reports on excessive force (NLM, 2020).

In a different article, it talks about policing in the United States between 2016 - 2019. The article explains how in 2019, 84% of blacks stated that they were treated less fairly compared to white people. The writer would also talk about how black adults are five times more likely to be treated unfairly compared to whites. The author also states that Black Americans are more likely to receive harsher treatment by the police, in a poll that was conducted, around 33% of black adults say that the police were “Doing their job” right compared to white who say that 75% say they are doing their jobs right. In another poll done in 2016, nearly 8,000 policemen and women when encountering a black man, at least 100 of these encounters ended in violence or a black person was dead (PRC, 2020).

While police brutality and racist acts towards African Americans on the streets is a small chunk of the slow decline of America, this is just another small step that is slowly leading towards the slow and eventual collapse of the United States

Political Corruption

Recently, some local and national US politicians have faced corruption scandals. In the past, US politicians, ranging from Senators, Representatives and US Presidents have been corrupt based on their actions or a scandal behind the scenes away from the American people.

In this article, it discusses how American citizens believe that corruption is a serious issue in politics, and politicians do not take it seriously. The article talks about how members of congress and the president of the United States are a primary concern to people when they worry about corruption. The author states that many Americans view corruption as a serious issue in not just politics, but the media, law enforcement and corporate leadership in businesses. Americans' views on corruption widely vary, depending on political affiliations, as well as Supreme Court Justices and Journalists. One survey that was conducted showed that in terms of

corruption, 49% of Americans say members of Congress, 42% say Supreme Court Justices and 42% say that the President of the United States. The writer also says that Democrats would say that corruption in the Supreme Court is a serious issue, while Republicans would either dismiss the concern, or address it, Republicans however are more likely to address corruption among journalists (YG, 2025).

The author then talks about a survey that was conducted about who would take a bribe between Joe Biden and Donald Trump the survey said that 77% of Democrats say that Trump would take it while 73% of Republicans say that Biden would. This shows that both parties are divided based on who is more corrupt as a politician. In the article, when another survey was conducted, asking how serious corruption is amongst Democrats and Republicans, the poll suggests that both parties view corruption as a serious issue as 8 out of 10 say that this problem can vary or some say is a somewhat problem when it comes to the president or opposing party (YG, 2025).

In an analysis about the Supreme Court, it talks about the dangers of corruption following Donald Trump's victory in the 2024 election. The writer would talk about how in the summer of 2024, the Supreme Court granted Donald Trump absolute immunity during his 2024 campaign, and this caused a lot of concern for many in the United States. The author talked about how the Supreme Court and its rulings can leave the door open for corruption amongst US politicians, according to Georgetown Professor Josh Chafetz. The article goes on to state that following the victory of Donald Trump in the 2024 election, the courts across the United States will leave Trump's corruption within his presidency unchecked. A judge from a Virginia court would go on to say "people seeking to influence federal officials...may be willing to be more aggressive in how they seek to influence the administration", as they will tackle the corruption within the

second Trump administration. The writer then states that Presidential immunity, in addition with the president being able to grant unlimited pardons, can create a charter of blanche public corruption within the government. However, the writer talked about how it's possible to prosecute corrupt federal officials if their actions violate the law, but Trump himself is immune to these prosecutions, so therefore, it would be very difficult for the US Government to arrest a sitting US President for being corrupt, and his allies like Kash Patel try and use to FBI to investigate "Problems" within judges when the judges are doing their jobs trying to stop corruption within the White House (Levy, 2024).

With corruption being a major problem within the US federal and state governments, this is just one of many problems that was previously explained.

Conclusion

The United States of America when it comes to its two-party system, biased media, police brutality and racism and political corruption are all a combining factor that is slowly tearing America apart. The two-party system that is currently running the US government can almost never agree on a certain issue on say abortion, tariffs and gun control. When it comes to the biased media, the stories that are produced by CNN or Fox News would rather favor one party over the other and always make stories that appeal to their audience, rather than telling the truth on certain topics. In terms of police brutality and racism, police will always commit some form of racism towards blacks and minority groups within the US. This will result in people taking to the streets and protesting that the police do more harm than good. When it comes to political corruption, there's a trend in government officials that use corruption for personal gain rather than helping the people within the United States. If the Supreme Court is to continuously grant criminals total immunity, then that would be considered abuse of power as criminals who

have been charged are not to roam the streets of America any longer. By the year 2075, Americans nationwide will become more prone to violence, falling for lies based on the media's stories and corruption within government is making citizens more distrustful as people working in government use their power to commit crimes. If the people running the government and judges do not do something to combat the problems in the US Government or balance the political parties, the United States could fall apart and become a third world country, like the ones in Asia or fall into a dictatorship like what happened in Germany over 90 years ago.

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