

Title: Efficiency vs Compassion: A Social-Conflict Analysis of the Prevalence of Capitalist Values in Response to Trends of Economic Alienation and Rationalization in the United States

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Given the current economic and social climate, it becomes important to examine whether there is a deviance from capitalist values due to perceived social and economic stratification.

Particularly amongst young people, Americans between 18-26, whose primary concern was income inequality (Luntz 5). Firstly, opinions of people regarding materialism, in the United States and other high-income countries, were examined and reveal that many, across different ages and socioeconomic backgrounds, attributed higher value to experiences rather than money. It was found that amongst young people values had changed; unlike their parents, young people regarded socialism as a much more compassionate system than capitalism and about nine percent even said communism (Luntz 4). Secondly, trends of young voters were examined and the types of policies most of them sought were examined under a social-conflict lens. Studies have shown that most young voters favor democrats over the GOP, attracted by their social justice initiatives (Loesche). Lastly, rising minimalist trends were examined and once again it was younger Americans who jumped onto these trends. A logical explanation for this points to changing values of this population. Millennials value experiences more than the accumulation of material goods. This study focused on the changing mentality of the average American. The existing research tends to support a change in values although in this case only among millennials. It was this group that showed a significant rejection of economic alienation and capitalism altogether.

Works Cited

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