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Week 3 Reflection

While I am optimistic that President Biden will have more luck in reaching across the aisle and establishing better relations across party lines, I am not counting on it. I think a lot of different factors matter in this discussion. President Biden is a leader, however, congressional members are also leaders in a different branch of government. Through checks and balances, the power between the two is actually somewhat matched, despite many assuming the President has the most amount of power. Congress is arguably the more powerful branch of government. Regardless of the positions, however, Biden has a strength in diplomacy as a leader. Biden does this through using exceptional communication skills and “team smarts”, a trait listed by the New York Times as being a key aspect of a leader. Biden also resembles having a “simple mind set” and “passionate curiosity. As a leader, he uses these strengths to promote communication across the aisle.

While I do believe there is a large moral imperative that is motivating the conversations involving race in the U.S., I pessimistically believe that there is also the element of social pressure that is equally as large and influential. However, I do not believe this is a bad thing, but it may not be as pure of a social change as some may want, envision, or believe. I do believe that the moral imperative to address the issue is the strongest it has ever been which is heartening, and I believe that it will only get stronger with time.

The Me Too Movement and Black Lives Matter intersect both directly and indirectly. Directly, both movements are about discrimination and violence against a experienced minority population. Indirectly, the Black population in America, particularly Black women, experience increased levels of violence associated with the Me too Movement. Where these movements are similar is, in a sense, they are fighting the same monster. Both are addressing the social norms of society and pushing back against the barriers. They are also similar in that they experience similar forms of invalidation of oppression. Additionally, both movements focus on issues that happen to people everywhere, at any age, at any time. Where I believe they differ now is that Black Lives Matter has become more politicized than the Me Too Movement. I also feel that, as of this moment in time, this country is closer to unanimously agreeing that misogyny and violence against women is bad, but we are not as close to unanimously agreeing the black lives matter.

Writing that out was actually incredibly uncomfortable in the sense that these concepts seem obvious, but unfortunately they are not obvious to enough people. Yet, we continue on!