

Is there such a thing as a social structure that constrains individual action, or is society nothing more than a figment of our imaginations?

GOAL: I will expand upon this question and find answers that pertain to my opinion and how I am able to comfort myself.

THESIS: If the population is so consumed on societal factors and complexity of human compatibility, then social structure must be a figment that we have inherently created in order to classify and label ourselves until we are so removed and unbothered that we begin to deteriorate our thoughts of how we view society until our spawn brings these questions back to life.

This question plagues me. It confuses me, but interests me. Our brains are not fully able to comprehend the idea that we are figments and people; we have been grown through generations only to create our own imagination, yet we provide so much conflict. Why do we try to conform, and why do we try to break free? Are we natural born hypocrites?

Social structures exist between our lives and the people who live around us. We constantly make decisions inherently knowing how it will affect the social structure. The way I compare it is I think about a child who grew with privilege, usually white, and with this privilege they shielded all the gray areas. They were enforced upon early on that they are supposed to live a certain way. More often than not, the child inherently chooses the path handed to them...because it just makes sense. The opposite would be a child who grew from trauma, they had parents who struggled with substance abuse and allowed the child to experience sexuality and drugs from a young age. This child grew with one path handed to them, one of sadness, poverty, and complexity. More often than not, that child follows that path. Two extremes. From these two extremes we create a society. We have those who grow up in a bubble, and those who grow up walking around bubbles. Next we have those who fill the in between; the dreamers, per say, have other ideas from their young age of who they want to be. This fills the majority of our society. Now we have stereotypes being formed and several classes in which people naturally conform to. Of course, all of it is based on economic wealth, color of skin, attractiveness, and intelligence. Next, we have people with personality disorders who distract the curve and create a vision of imperfection. This is when people decide they need to step up and tell others what to do; they create laws and status quos that guide the sheep into the pen. Those who escape are eaten for dinner. Now that there are people who decide that they get to tell the rest how to live, we have protesters rise who fight back against those guidelines. These protesters think their opinions are just as important, if not more, and decide that they need to be heard. Rumors are created as to why these opinions are not being considered, maybe it is because the leaders truly believe they are of higher intelligence, or maybe they are robots! Those on the bottom want to be on top, because it is a completely different culture they think. They are so bored with how things are going for them and now they begin to wonder. The whole society starts to wonder: Who are you and why are you like this?

Media is a sort of propaganda. We see people on TV, they are so beautiful but we are not. How does that work? We see people on social media, they have millions of followers but we do not. We read about people in books, they are important enough to write about, we are not. We read about concepts in the news, but it seems unbelievable because we are not seeing it ourselves (aka. Cognitive dissonance). “We, the people” do not get to see any of this for ourselves. Those who do are seemingly different and we all want to be different like them in which we are all somehow conforming. We always want something more, and those who say they don’t are lying. There is always something we crave but do not have that causes legitimate wars. How come we are never happy? Maybe it is because we drown ourselves in information that is not about us. Maybe it is because we have created thin lines to walk on and it is too easy to fall off. Media gives us a chance to see who we want to be, it gives us a chance to look into our social structure, but somehow we always end up coming short. It is a war we will never win.

We spend most of our day thinking about other people. We think about how our actions affect other people, where we went wrong and right, and how we seem to others. Most importantly, we label ourselves in order to create comfort. We label ourselves in emotions, “I had a bad day because I was feeling pessimistic”, or “I made a friend today that likes me and I feel lucky”. Reassurance is what we live off of to convince ourselves that we fit in or that we don’t need all the answers. The best type of reassurance comes from others we care about, and when it is positive, our worries quickly calm, our dopamine rises, and a sense of warmth falls over us. When someone reassures me that my hair looks fine and not messy, I suddenly make a decision: either I completely agree in order to relax my worries and move on, or I change because I think that I know better. Once I know how I feel, I immediately label my emotion and then I add it to my list. When I am going through a phase of certain emotions, I label it as a phase and that helps me to move on and then to reminisce. When I feel indecisive, I label that emotion into convincing myself that I am an indecisive person by nature. When someone tells me I seem outgoing, I label myself quickly and then I move on. We never stop to think about how we have suddenly created an image of ourselves based off of what we have seen, heard, and thought. WHY DO WE LABEL OURSELVES? Because that's what everyone else seems to be doing. That's what my leaders are doing. That's what the society is doing. They label me and I label myself.

Once we get to a certain age where we can reminisce on the life we have lived so far, we begin to find things that do not make sense which give us questions. Why did I do that? Why did I feel like I had to do that? Because everyone else was doing it. Why did I need to conform like that? Why did I do that when I could have done this? Questions fill our brains and lead us to question the way things work. We suddenly come back to blame. We see what our society has done to us and we blame it. We ask questions as to why the society is so persuasive. We feel a certain way towards the structure we live in. This is how we begin to understand what a society is, and why

we have it. We biologically create a system in which we have to be apart, and each generation solidifies more and more on where we fit in this system.

YES, our structure was created by us, and YES we convince ourselves that we have no individual action within this system we forced upon each other. We can comfort ourselves by saying we are creative and different from one another and this is how a society grows, but we all inherently stay in our class and we move on. Suddenly, the mass majority does not care about where they stand in society, they just want their civil rights and liberties that belong to only them. We destruct and distract until we are so far removed that we don't care anymore; it doesn't bother us as much as specific people and things do. We lose generality and we consume ourselves in what we have created around us, and that is how we sleep at night.