

*Photo from Military.com*

### The Captured State:

### Selected Statistics Show Harms of Wealth Concentration to American Life

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*Boston Tea Party | Facts, Summary, & Significance | Britannica*

### **Prequel: A Declaration [Rant?]**

Now listen up, all you American Billionaires and CEO's:

Enough.....

You have taken most of what we have.

It is enough for you. We want some of it back. We are coming for you. <sup>i</sup>

You take our wages and cross too many lines.

You control the law making system and you, and only you, can fix the country. Without you letting loose some control, our laws cannot fix our problems today. If you choose to help us, we can fix America together. <sup>ii</sup>

You cannot escape your responsibility for our plight: with your great wealth comes your greater responsibility. You cannot avoid acting because doing nothing is making a choice to continue as we are today.

We CAN change with your help. Without you, the end-result will be violence against you.

You want to install a Dictator who works for Vladimir Putin. If you succeed, then he will steal all our liberty and our property, yours and mine. You will not escape him. <sup>iii</sup>

You call it 'competitive advantage' when you find loopholes in the laws to steal our incomes.. <sup>iv</sup>

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You threaten our National Security by creating disastrous extremes of income and wealth.

About 10% to 20% of us live in hunger and fear. Some among the rest of us have little peace or rest.

You poison our air and our water and you kill the planet we call home.

You shoot to 'kill/death' thousands of us every year.

*'In 2021, the most recent year for which complete data is available, 48,830 people died from gun-related injuries in the U.S., according to the CDC' <sup>v</sup>*

You won. Congratulations.

Now, look around: many Americans suffer privation and desperation. They may resort to violence against you as happened to the Russian Romanovs, Saddam Hussein, French nobility and a long list of murdered tyrants. Our Deal can save you.

You can choose your legacy: You can be a modern Alfred Nobel or Rockefeller. Or, you will be an evil tyrant like industrialist Henry Clay Frick or Germany's Quandt family, who own BMW.<sup>vi</sup>

We want to make a deal. Understand that we will come for you even if there is no deal. We will not be happy if we must come when there is no deal.

The deal: You agree to pay higher income taxes sufficient to balance our budget, retire the national debt over time and fix our social policies. Just tell your Congressional minions it is OK to raise our income taxes and expand social programs.

In return, let you live and keep your assets, just like the New Deal of FDR from 1930. It is what we want today.

With you, we can balance the Federal budget and pay down the debt by raising tax revenues instead of simply cutting benefit expenditures.

*Eisenhower explained it this way: 'The super rich could avoid the high taxes by investing their money in things that make America stronger. If they wanted to avoid high taxes, he said they could invest in business expansions and higher employee wages. They could give a million or two to tax-exempt non-profits that feed, house and clothe poor people of America, among other things. They did some of that, but the Eisenhower years generated enough taxes to launch and complete the labyrinth of interstate highways, the largest road project America had ever seen and is needed again.' Dave Peyton, AP news <sup>vii</sup>*

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However, instead you choose to maximize your wealth. You tell your Senators and Representatives, or even a SCOTUS judge: 'Kill any proposed laws or regulations which might benefit working people, then approve any laws which reduce income and wealth taxes.'

*CNBC says: 63% of American workers are unable to pay a \$500 emergency expense. <sup>viii</sup>*

You know a storm is coming: you see MAGA violence in the political process. Mob thugs have not come for you ... yet.

You became very rich when you ordered lower income taxes. The US Treasury borrows more money to pay our bills, instead of using income tax revenue from you to pay. We borrow so that you do not have to pay income taxes. That steals from my grandchildren and future, unborn generations; it must stop.



*Copyright: Askoldsb | Dreamstime.com. Photo above shows life on USA street today.*

### **A. The Worry of Today: Political Violence**





*Photo shows political violence. From NPR: Pro-Trump protesters gather in front of the U.S. Capitol Building on Jan. 6, 2021, after President Donald Trump told a rally: "We're going to walk down to the Capitol."*

Despite our violent past, we also have a history of peaceful power transfers. Our American electoral history shows a continuous stream of peaceful transitions of power with no violence. Candidates who lose elections congratulate the victor and go about their business. It is our achievement.

Our American Revolution in 1776 was a violent terrorist action, which history makes it easy for demagogues to incite actions.

After the Revolution in 1776, America had a democratic republic with high living standards and political freedom. Other countries saw our model and installed it in their country successfully. Countries where people have the freedom to vote also have high living standards and comfortable lives. Canada, Norway, Sweden and Denmark present examples of high living standards and comfortable lives for their respective populations.

America is different today. Recent violent attacks on our democratic processes co-exist with violent race based incidents and mass shootings. The United States has seen an increase in political violence; according to the GAO '...over the last 10 years, domestic terrorism-related investigations have grown by 357%...There were 231 incidents (meaning attacks or plots) that met the definition of domestic terrorism between 2010 and 2021. <sup>ix</sup>

Today's Republican Party [GOP] has accepted political violence as a legitimate tool in Congress. <sup>x</sup>

Human history suggests that Kings and other thugs rule most tribes and nations. We see countries today governed by thugs who stay in power with violence against their own people.

Most populations who suffer Kings and Tyrants have lower living standards than countries with the American model. Their Greedy Autocrat/Tyrants want to take for themselves all the country's assets; when the Autocrat/Tyrants are free from restraints, there is no limit to their power to control other citizens' property and behavior. In Russia today Vladimir Putin presents an extreme example of a tyrant who murders anyone who might reign in his behavior. [Putin's People, loc. cit.]

We continue to borrow money to pay for current expenses in the Federal Budget. Tax revenues do not cover our annual spending. We can balance the Federal budget and pay down the debt by raising tax revenues instead of simply cutting benefit expenditures. You will argue vociferously against the idea.<sup>xi</sup> But, our solution is that you American Oligarchs allow your Congressional minions to pass some Democrat laws.

### Economy and National Security

A sound and fair economy prevents political violence from desperate people. That supports the National Security infrastructure but does not replace it. We need both. Weak and unfair economies created by Greedy Autocrat/Tyrants are insecure countries, which can experience political violence as populations seek change.

The American people try to ensure fairness for all: we vote for laws and regulations for businesses to ensure fairness for all the people: employees, owners, customers and tax-paying neighbors. However, horrific extremes of too much income for the few and too little income for the many provide opportunities for rich powerful Autocrat/Tyrants to weaken the laws and regulations so they can accumulate more money. Even though we vote for Congress, rich folks eviscerate for their own purpose the laws and regulations we create. That successful effort of weakening the laws and regulations damages the National Security of the United States by concentrating power into fewer hands and ensuring that most people suffer.

*'Originally conceived as protection against military attack, national security is widely understood to include also non-military dimensions, such as the security from terrorism, minimization of crime, economic security, energy security, environmental security, food security, and cyber-security.'*<sup>xii</sup>

*"[National and international security] may be understood as shared freedom from fear and want, and the freedom to live in dignity. It implies social and ecological health rather than the absence of risk... [and is] a common right."*<sup>xiii</sup>

### Internal Threats

The United States faces today two internal domestic threats that can harm National Security: extreme poverty amidst extreme wealth, and political violence.

The United States ranks poorly compared to other countries on the economic impacts of a variety of specific measurable indicators as seen below in the table in Chapter C: International

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Differences in Social Welfare Spending. We do not have an economic indicator that focuses solely on National Security; however, we do have several indicators of peace and security.

We track and then compare American performance in each of several conditions to other nations' performance using:

Homelessness. Number of Homeless people shows level of failure to provide minimum standards.

Inequality. High levels of inequality can lead to political violence.

Food Insecurity. Also indicates society's failure to provide minimum standards.

Political Instability. Indicate the likelihood of an insurrection.

Corruption Perceptions. Measures trust in government

Suicide. Measures levels of despair and mental health services

Life Expectancy and Homicide. Measures level of violence

Those conditions show progress toward Hope and Security or descent into Political Violence. Countries performing well in these indicators also have sound security for their citizens.

Readers will understand the scores more clearly by focusing on the relative comparisons instead of the raw scores. For example, while the number of homeless people in the USA on a given night in January 2022 was 582,462, more importantly, the numbers of homeless people increased each year since 2014 across several major American cities, with 40 percent increases noted in 2017 and in 2019. We conclude that Homelessness in the United States affects more people each year. From that, we conclude that the conditions surrounding homeless people grow worse every year. We confirm that with news reports and personal observation of the ever-larger homeless camps in major cities. See Chapter D: Homeless.

GINI scores between countries show which countries have less stable levels of income concentration, measured by higher GINI scores and which have lower and thus more stable GINI scores. Tracking year-to-year GINI changes shows increasing income and wealth concentrations, especially in the United States. See Chapter E: Economic Inequality.

Several countries with better social welfare programs and less inequality [as measured by lower GINI scores of inequality, see below] than ours have more stability and better living conditions than we do. Today, the United States' GINI score is higher than some countries suffering with an active civil war. Lower GINI scores correlate with more stable societies.

Americans understand it: 7 of 10 parents in California, think their children will be worse off than they are now; that ratio jumped from only 5 of 10 just five years ago.<sup>xiv</sup>



## Alt-Right Violence Threat

Some people who identify as Evangelical white Christian Republicans in the Alt-Right support violent rhetoric.<sup>xv</sup>

This group adopted some conspiratorial theories to explain their economic condition. Regardless of the truth or falsity of those theories, authoritarian politicians duped some of the Alt-Right into thinking that Democrats caused their problems. Today the Alt-Right directs their anger, hatred and frustration toward Democrats instead of the more likely authors of their despair: Billionaires and corporate CEO's.

You rich folks are relatively safe for the time being - until a pastor or priest, somewhere successfully directs Christian opprobrium toward those whom Jesus castigated.

After all, Jesus said 'How hard it is for the rich to enter the kingdom of heaven! Indeed, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of heaven.' [Gospel of Matthew] Eventually some Evangelicals will begin to follow Jesus, and that can change the political landscape. A recent poll found this:

*Today though, 'White Christian evangelical Republicans were outsized supporters of both political violence and the Q-Anon conspiracy, which claims that Democratic politicians and Hollywood elites are pedophiles who (aided by mask mandates that hinder identification) traffic children and harvest their blood.' American Perspectives Survey<sup>xvi</sup>*

Other polls found that 47% of the Alt-Right and 59% of Republicans believe the Q-anon nonsense. Basically '..Democrats and cultural elites are often portrayed as Satanic forces arrayed against Christianity and seeking to harm Christian children..' (loc cit)

While some evangelical priests actively work to debunk the Q-anon nonsense, some leaders of the Republican Party pander to it and cling to that belief as an easy explanation for their conditions.

## Social Welfare Conditions Identify Violence Potential in States to State Comparisons

Measuring average performance of either the United States or any State cannot identify which specific actor may become violent. Much political violence in the United States results from a single, isolated individual or small group.

However, those measurements can help law enforcement decide where to place resources. We compare each state to the United States national average of Evangelical population and a higher than national average trump vote margin in 2016

Some obvious social conditions show little state-to-state variation. The national rate of unemployment correlates with the State-by-State unemployment rate. A higher unemployment

rate suggests higher levels of economic woe that we can measure for country-to-country comparisons. But, the rate is constant in the United States across all states.

Two conditions may help track locations of potential violence. We track and mark in red the States with a higher than United States average Evangelical population and a higher than average trump vote to see where political violence may be likely. That logic assumes a tendency toward hatred and violent rhetoric in White Christian evangelical Republicans can combine with favorable votes for trump to indicate violence possibilities. States marked in **red color** combine higher than average trump votes and higher than average Evangelical populations.

**Potential Violence** <sup>xvii</sup>

States with higher than average evangelical %  
AND 2016 trump vote

**Equals higher than US**

State	% Evangelicals	2016 trump %
USA base to compare	25%	46%
Alabama	49%	62
Alaska	22%	51
Arizona	26%	48
Arkansas	46%	61
California	20%	32
Colorado	26%	43
Connecticut	13%	41
Delaware	15%	42
District of Columbia	8%	4
Florida	24%	49
Georgia	38%	50
Hawaii	25%	30
Idaho	21%	59
Illinois	20%	38
Indiana	31%	57
Iowa	28%	51
Kansas	31%	56
Kentucky	49%	63
Louisiana	27%	58
Maine	14%	45
Maryland	18%	34

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Massachusetts	9%	33
Michigan	25%	47
Minnesota	19%	45
Mississippi	41%	58
Missouri	36%	56
Montana	28%	56
Nebraska	25%	59
Nevada	20%	46
New Hampshire	13%	47
New Jersey	13%	41
New Mexico	23%	40
New York	10%	37
North Carolina	35%	50
North Dakota	22%	63
Ohio	29%	51
Oklahoma	47%	65
Oregon	29%	39
Pennsylvania	19%	48
Rhode Island	14%	39
South Carolina	35%	55
South Dakota	25%	62
Tennessee	52%	61
Texas	31%	52
Utah	7%	45
Vermont	11%	30
Virginia	30%	44
Washington	25%	37
West Virginia	39%	68
Wisconsin	22%	47
Wyoming	27%	68

The States shown in red represent States in which Social conditions combine to create a fertile ground for political violence. Nothing predicts that violence will happen in those states but simply compares Social tendencies that may encourage violent responses.



*Russian Riot Squad, Getty I Stock, reproduced without permission.*

### B. State by State Differences in Other Welfare Measurements

We also track state-by-state differences in economic conditions to find any conditions that coincide with political violence in the United States.

For example, high GINI scores denote higher levels of inequality; however, there does not appear to be a relationship between inequality levels and violence. However, the data suggest that higher than average GINI scores may threaten our future social stability.

The United States will be more secure when our scores approach lower levels as in several European countries. Our United States average GINI score of 48 is well above countries like Norway, Sweden and Denmark.

In a sample of states chosen for higher than average trump votes in 2016, we see four states with higher than USA average suicide rates, a different four states have higher than USA average homicide rates and three have greater than USA average Food Insecurity.

Selected States Measurable Social Conditions and trump Victory Margins <sup>xviii</sup>

STATE	trump Margin	SUICIDE Rate/100k	HOMICIDE2021 rate/100k	FOOD INSECURE mill	GINI %%
OK	33.1	22.1	8.9	1.6	13.8

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AR	27.6	20.6	11.7	1.3	15.0	48
ID	30.8	20.5	2.2	1.3	7.0	46
WV	38.9	20.6	6.9	2.5	9.9	49
AL	25.5	15.6	15.9	2.0	13.1	48
USA	0	16.1	5.0	34.1	10.2	48
Worse than USA Average						

Perhaps we can reduce the likelihood of political violence by raising our performance on the economic conditions above to European standards.<sup>xix</sup>

Continuing with the effort to track differences among the several States, we use the Expected Life Span to see states with markedly better or worse economic conditions. For example, the life expectancy for the United States is 77.3 years; but life expectancy in Alabama is 73.2 years. This data suggest that living conditions in Alabama are more difficult than the United States averages. Life expectancy in Hawaii is 80.7 years, which suggests that life in Hawaii is better than the US average.

The table below compares life expectancy for states that have all three conditions:

1. Higher than average population share of Evangelicals,
2. Higher than average trump vote share in 2016
3. Lower than average Life span.

State	Years
Life Expectancy <sup>xx</sup>	
USA	77.3 yrs
Alabama	73.2
Alaska	76.6
Arizona	76.3
Arkansas	73.8
California	79.0
Colorado	78.3
Connecticut	78.4
Delaware	76.7
Florida	77.5
Georgia	75.6
Hawaii	80.7
Idaho	78.4
Illinois	76.8
Indiana	75.0
Iowa	77.5
Kansas	76.4
Kentucky	73.5
Louisiana	73.1
Maine	77.8
Maryland	76.8
Massachusetts	79.0

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<a href="#">Michigan</a>	76.0	<a href="#">Oklahoma</a>	74.1
<a href="#">Minnesota</a>	79.1	<a href="#">Oregon</a>	78.8
<a href="#">Mississippi</a>	71.9	<a href="#">Pennsylvania</a>	76.8
<a href="#">Missouri</a>	75.1	<a href="#">Rhode Island</a>	78.2
<a href="#">Montana</a>	76.8	<a href="#">South Carolina</a>	74.8
<a href="#">Nebraska</a>	77.7	<a href="#">South Dakota</a>	76.7
<a href="#">Nevada</a>	76.3	<a href="#">Tennessee</a>	73.8
<a href="#">New Hampshire</a>	79.0	<a href="#">Texas</a>	76.5
<a href="#">New Jersey</a>	77.5	<a href="#">Utah</a>	78.6
<a href="#">New Mexico</a>	74.5	<a href="#">Vermont</a>	78.8
<a href="#">New York</a>	77.7	<a href="#">Virginia</a>	77.6
<a href="#">North Carolina</a>	76.1	<a href="#">Washington</a>	79.2
<a href="#">North Dakota</a>	76.9	<a href="#">West Virginia</a>	72.8
<a href="#">Ohio</a>	75.3	<a href="#">Wisconsin</a>	77.7
		<a href="#">Wyoming</a>	76.3

### C. International Differences in Social Welfare Spending

We see how social welfare conditions may contribute to political violence in the United States. Here is a follow up question: Do other countries have less violence because of their social policies?



*Old People Having Fun Images, FreePik*



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The question arises: can we spend our way out of our current political hatred and violence by making a more costly safety net for disadvantaged Americans?

We may find other countries with better safety nets and less political violence than the United States. We might learn from them. A corollary assumption is that countries with better safety nets spend more money on them than we do. However, the facts show that more spending, by itself, **does not** make things better.

We already spend as much per capita as most countries with better social welfare results. We spend enough money, we just don't spend it right. Chapter Z. Alternate Solutions to Social Welfare Problems on page 28 discusses different spending methods to improve our performance

Here is a Table Showing Total Social Welfare Spending in a few countries:

### PER CAPITA SOCIAL WELFARE SPENDING BY COUNTRY

COUNTRY	POPULATION millions	COSTS billion local	COSTS Billion US \$	PER CAPITA Thousand US \$
JAPAN	123.3	690.0	690.0	5.6
SWEDEN	10.6	608.0	52.4	4.9
DENMARK	5.9	782.3	112.2	19.0
CANADA	38.8	261.0	193.1	5.0
USA	339.0	3900.0	3900.0	11.5

DATA SOURCES <sup>xxi</sup>

While Denmark spends more per capita than the United States, other countries spend less than the United States and actually create better real world results than we create. Here are some real conditions:

### International Measurable Social Conditions <sup>xxii</sup>

Color equals Better than US

COUNTRY	GINI Higher bad	HUNGRY Millions Higher bad	STABILITY Higher good	CORRUPTION Higher good	SUICIDE Rate Higher bad	HOMICIDE Rate Higher bad

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USA	48.0	34.3	0.48	69.0	16.1	4.96
SWEDEN	30.1	0.1	0.91	83.0	14.7	1.08
DENMARK	28.2	0.1	0.96	80.0	10.7	1.01
CANADA	33.3	5.8	N.A.	74.0	11.8	1.76
NORWAY	27.6	0.1	1.15	84.0	11.8	0.47
RUSSIA	37.5	0.5	(0.50)	28.0	25.1	8.21

Overall, the United States performs more poorly than most countries in the social conditions measured here. Our GINI score is higher than all other countries shown; it tells us we are more unequal than many. Our food insecure population is about 10% of our population, worse than the others except for Canada's of about 13%. The other countries except for Russia score better than the USA for Political Stability, Perception of Corruption, Suicide rate and Homicide rate.

### D. Specific Social Conditions: Homelessness

Homelessness merits attention. We cannot compare homeless rates between countries due to differing definitions and measurements. Regardless, homelessness is a personal tragedy to the un-housed and, also, a damning failure of the United States' Social Services system.



Creator: MattGush Credit: Getty Images/iStockphoto

“Under the most diverse conditions and disparate circumstances, we watch the development of the same phenomena—homelessness on an unprecedented scale, rootlessness to an unprecedented depth.” – Hannah Arendt, *The Origins of Totalitarianism*<sup>xxiii</sup>

Finland presents an example of social policies that actually give formerly homeless people hope and real progress toward getting an education and a good job. We discuss this national model of successful homeless amelioration in Section Z. Alternate Solutions to Social Welfare Problems.

In the United States today, housing shortages and wage inequality combine to force many Americans out of their homes and into the streets where they co-exist with addicted and mentally ill people. This happens even in a robust economy. While the percentages are small, the numbers add up to a sizable population; we lament our failure to include more of us in the American Dream.

According to the OECD, statistics on the number of homeless people by country are difficult to compare since each country defines 'homeless' differently. One country may consider that a person spending a night at a friend's house is homeless while another country may classify that person as not homeless.

#### USA Homeless Count

'In the United States, the number of homeless people on a given night in January 2022 was 582,462 according to the Department of Housing and Urban Development. Annual federal HUD reports contradict private state and local reports where homelessness is shown to have increased each year since 2014 across several major American cities, with 40 percent increases noted in 2017 and in 2019.'<sup>xxiv</sup>

Sonoma County has partnered with some private foundations to house chronically homeless in leased homes. This SHARE<sup>xxv</sup> program might be a model for other places in the United States. A news story describes successfully housing some formerly long-term homeless.<sup>xxvi</sup>

To read how Finland has successfully managed their homeless people, see 'Homeless in Finland - A success story and possible solution' described by the OECD below<sup>xxvii</sup>

### **E. Specific Social Conditions: Economic Inequality**



Two legs showing the difference between rich and poor stock photo - Getty

Economists and the CIA use the GINI coefficient to measure levels of inequality. High levels of income inequality indicate a society managed for the benefit of the rich at the expense of the poor.<sup>xxviii</sup>

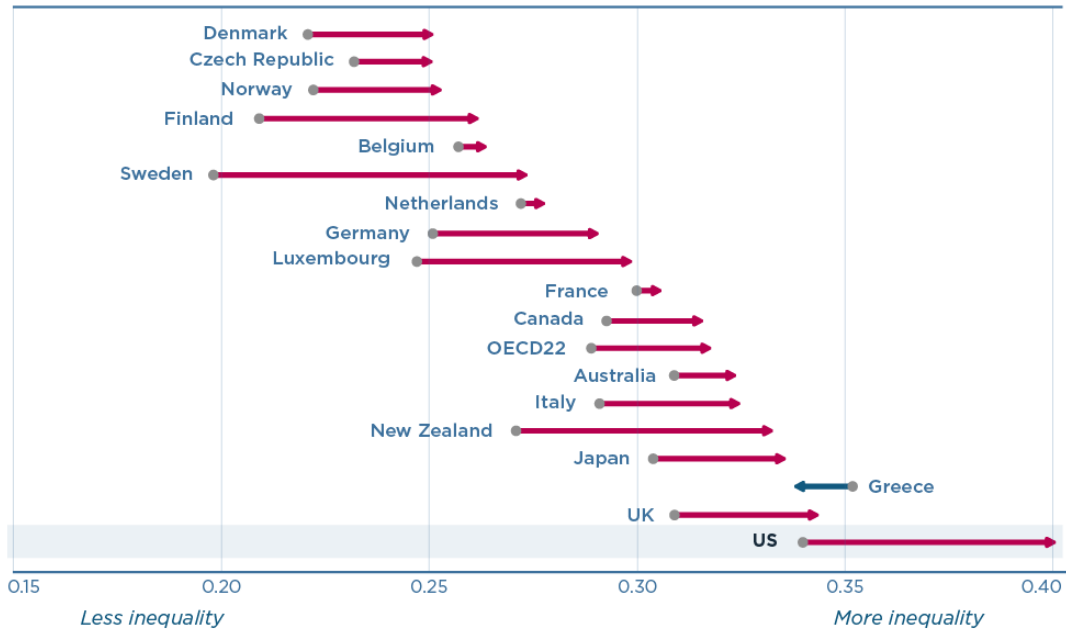
Many writers recognize the importance of inequality: Bertrand Russell said this about rich and unscrupulous financiers:

*“A modern community is not likely to be prosperous if its financial affairs are conducted solely with a view to the interests of rich and unscrupulous financiers, without regard to the effect upon the rest of the population. Needless to say, it is unwise to leave these financiers to the unfettered pursuit of their private profit. One might as well run an art museum for the sole profit of the curator, leaving him at liberty and whim to sell the contents whenever he happened to be offered a good price.”<sup>xxix</sup>*

A high GINI score represents highly unequal distributions of income and wealth while a low GINI score represents more equal distributions. It is very unlikely that any country will achieve either a zero GINI, which would mean that everyone has the same amounts, or a GINI of 100% [1.0] which would mean that a single person controls all the wealth and incomes. We compare countries’ GINI to determine levels of inequality. As seen below in 2014 the USA has a GINI of 41.4 while more equal Norway scores 27.6. More recent GINI scores for the USA are 48, reflecting the movement toward more inequality.

As noted by the Petersen Institute<sup>xxx</sup>, worldwide GINI scores are increasing over time and showing more wealth concentrations and less equality:

Figure 1: Change in Gini coefficient, 1985 to 2013

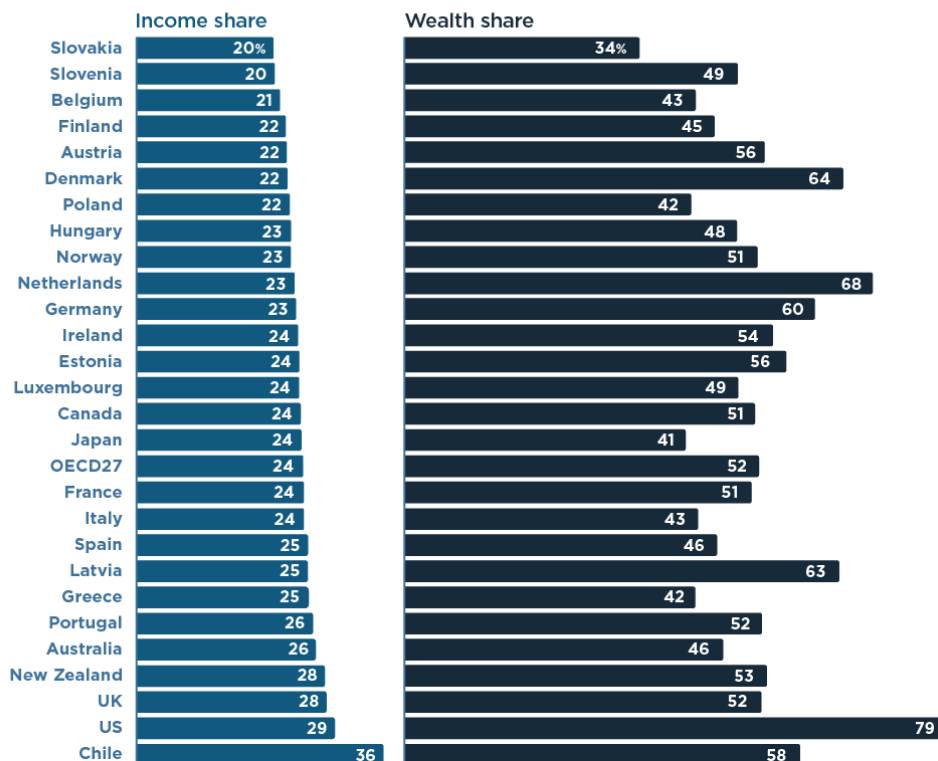


**Note:** 1985 data refer to 1985 or closest available year. 2013 data refer to 2013 or nearest available year. The Gini coefficient measures how equally income is distributed across a population, from 0 (perfectly equal) to 1 (all income to one person).

**Source:** Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), "In It Together: Why Less Inequality Benefits All."

Data shows (below) that in the United States the top 10% of income earners take 29% of all the incomes and that 79% of all the wealth is owned by the top 10% (Petersen Institute, loc cit.)

Figure 5: Share of total household disposable income and total household net wealth held by the top 10 percent, 2015 (or latest available)



Note: The OECD average is the simple country average. Data refer to the share held by the richest 10% of households in the case of wealth; and by the richest 10% of individuals in the case of Income. Numbers shown on bars are rounded.

Source: Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), "Society at a Glance 2019: OECD Social Indicators."

Corrado Gini developed his GINI coefficient in order to create a more useful method of measuring economic inequality than economics offered at the time.

*‘Developed by Italian statistician Corrado Gini in 1912, the Gini coefficient ranges from 0 to 1, but is often written as a percentage. To offer two hypothetical examples, if a nation were to have absolute income equality, with every person earning the same amount, its Gini score would be 0 (0%). On the other hand, if one person earned all the income in a nation and the rest earned zero, the Gini coefficient would be 1 (100%). Mathematically, the Gini coefficient is defined based on the Lorenz curve. The Lorenz curve plots the percentiles of the population on the graph’s horizontal axis according to income or wealth, whichever is being measured. The cumulative income or wealth of the population is plotted on the vertical axis.’*

Today’s Current GINI Indices <sup>xxx</sup>i

USA: 2018, World Bank 41.4; CIA 41.1 2023 now 48.0



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Norway - 2018 World Bank 27.6; CIA 27.0

Sweden - 2018 World Bank 30; CIA 28.8

Denmark - 2018 World Bank 28.2; CIA 28.7

Russia - 2018 World Bank 37.5; CIA 37.5

Sudan - 2014, World Bank 34.2; CIA 34.2

Brazil - 2019 World Bank 53.4; CIA 53.9

UK - 2017, World Bank 35.1; CIA 34.8

Peru - 2019 World Bank 41.5; CIA 42.8

The United States scores a highly unequal 41.4 while Norway scores more equal 27.6 and Brazil scores an even more unequal of 53.4.

The USA GINI coefficient suggests a possible danger of more conflict. Sudan scores 34.2 and is in the middle of a civil war.

To see a discussion of methods to improve the United States GINI score, read this paper below: Z. Alternate Solutions to Social Welfare Problems; 5. Inequality [GINI Index] Solutions for United States.

### F. Specific Social Conditions: Millions of Severely Food Insecure



*National Geographic: Bronx, New York, PHOTOGRAPHS BY STEPHANIE SINCLAIR, Urban neighborhoods with pervasive unemployment and poverty are home to the hungriest. The South Bronx*

## The Captured State: Selected Statistics Show Harms of Wealth Concentration to American Life

*has the highest rate of food insecurity in the country, 37 percent, compared with 16.6 for New York City as a whole.*

Providing food to people is a basic requirement of any political and economic system. Hungry people suggest hopelessness and division.

Millions of Food Insecure People <sup>xxxii</sup>

United States: 34.3

Russia 0.5

Sweden 0.1

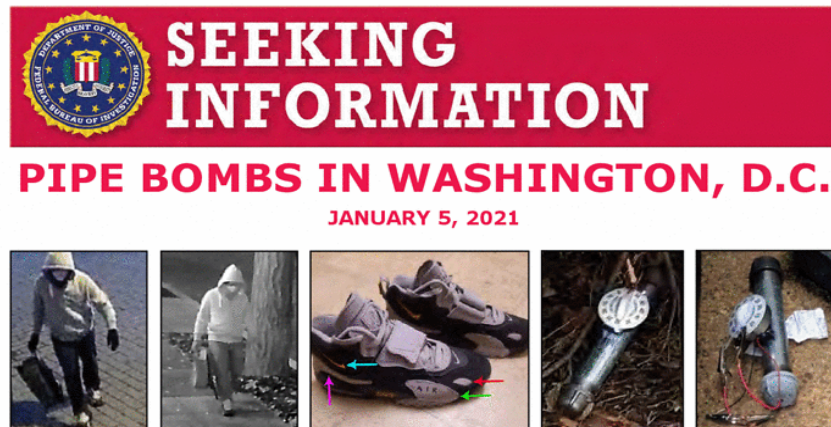
Denmark 0.0

Norway 0.1

Comparing this number to the total population would be cruel and pointless.

The United States does not provide food security for 34 million people.

### G. Specific Social Conditions: Political Instability and Absence of Violence Index



#### REWARD

The FBI and ATF are offering a combined reward of up to \$490,000 for information leading to the location, arrest, and conviction of the person(s) responsible for the placement of pipe bombs in Washington, D.C., on January 5, 2021. The Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) of Washington, DC, is also offering a reward of up to \$10,000. The reward offered by MPD is solely governed by their terms and conditions. The total reward amount is now up to \$500,000.

#### DETAILS

Between 7:30 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. Eastern Standard Time (EST) on January 5, 2021, an unknown individual placed two pipe bombs in the Capitol Hill neighborhood of Washington, D.C. One pipe bomb was placed in an alley behind the headquarters of the Republican National Committee (RNC), located at 310 First Street Southeast, and the other was placed next to a park bench near the headquarters of the Democratic National Committee (DNC), located at 430 South Capitol Street Southeast #3.

The unknown individual wore a face mask, glasses, gloves, a grey hooded sweatshirt, and black and light grey Nike Air Max Speed Turf shoes with a yellow logo. The individual carried a backpack. Some of the components of the devices include: 1x8-inch threaded galvanized pipes, end caps, kitchen timers, wires, metal clips and homemade black powder.

If you have any information concerning these incidents, please contact the FBI's toll-free tip line at 1-800-CALL-FBI (1-800-225-5324), or submit tips online at [tips.fbi.gov](https://tips.fbi.gov).

**You may also contact your local FBI office or the nearest American Embassy or Consulate. Tips may remain anonymous.**

**Field Office:** Washington D.C.

[www.fbi.gov](https://www.fbi.gov)

The Worldwide Governance Indicators includes this indicator. Political stability and absence of violence measures perceptions of the likelihood that the government will be destabilized or overthrown by unconstitutional or violent means, including politically-motivated violence and terrorism.

The United States ranks poorly on this metric compared to Norway and Sweden and about at the same levels as Russia. Sudan ranks poorly and coincidentally has a live civil war at this writing Oct 2, 2023



*Russian police in body armor and helmets respond to corruption protesters  
Uploaded: Mar 26, 2017*

*The Post's Moscow bureau chief, David Filipov, recorded cellphone videos of the atmosphere in Russia's capital on March 26 as tens of thousands of protesters rally against corruption.*

### Absence of Violence/Terrorism Index <sup>xxxiii</sup>

USA 0.477461 25-50th

Russia (0.503721) 10-25th percentile

Sweden 0.91368 75-90th

Denmark 0.959067 75-90 th

Norway 1.1538 90-100th

Libya [2.44139] 0-10th

Sudan [1.83587] 0-10th

Data source endnote x, loc cit

### **H. Specific Social Conditions: Perception of Corruption Index**



*President Richard M. Nixon and Vice President Spiro Agnew in 1970. (AP) (AP) There is a precedent for Trump's indictment: Spiro Agnew - Spiro Agnew was the progenitor of Trump's politics. He also resigned from office and accepted a plea deal to avoid jail time. Perspective by Zach Messitte, Charles Holden and Jerald Podair. Washington Post*

A high score in this metric suggests less trust in all institutions and a lack of common national purpose.

Higher score means less corruption.<sup>xxxiv</sup>

USA 69

Russia 28

Sweden 83

Norway 84

Denmark 90

Canada 74



## The Captured State: Selected Statistics Show Harms of Wealth Concentration to American Life

While the United States' score of 69 is higher than Russia's 28, our score is lower than Sweden, Norway or Denmark.

People who expect a lot of corruption make fewer investments and start fewer businesses. Higher corruption indexes show a weak National Security situation.

### I. Specific Social Conditions: Suicide



*Homeless man drug and alcohol addict sitting alone and depressed on the street feeling anxious and lonely, social documentary concept black and white stock photo*

Country comparisons 2023 suicide rate per 100,000<sup>xxxv</sup>

Japan	15.3
Sweden	14.7
Denmark	10.7
Canada	11.8
USA	16.1
Russia	25.1



### J. Specific Social Conditions: Violent Crimes



*Grisly crime scene pictures of murder victims from 1930s NYC | Daily Mail Online. Credit: © Frederic Duriez / mediadrumworld.com*

We look at the rate of homicide per 100,000 people by country as an indication of violence overall.<sup>xxxvi</sup>

Country Homicide rate per 100,000

Japan 0.26

Sweden	1.08
Denmark	1.01
Canada	1.76
USA	4.96
Russia	8.21

## **Z. Alternate Solutions to Social Welfare Problems**

Expectations help determine the outcomes of social welfare programs as they do in educational institutions. The United States uses one set of expectations and shows poor social policy results. Some Nordic countries use a very different set of expectations and show better social policy results.

### **1. High Expectations in Social Welfare Programs** <sup>xxxvii</sup>

Educational experiments show that students perform better when teachers have high expectations of them. Conversely, students do poorly when teachers have low expectations for them.

'The students of high expectation teachers show larger achievement gains, while the students of low expectation teachers make smaller or negative gains. The positive attitudes and equitable teaching practices of high expectation teachers also lead to higher levels of engagement, motivation and self-efficacy in students.'

United States social welfare programs appear to demonstrate low expectations of the recipients. Some programs may be modeled on the Southern Strategy to delay racial integration. 'The Southern strategy [to integration] was one of holding out, of being so difficult, so painful to deal with that, hoping that the North would then do what it had done during Reconstruction, get disheartened and then leave.' <sup>xxxviii</sup>

Contrarily, welfare programs in other countries take the opposite approach of expediting that welfare recipients are family members who have fallen on hard times. The welfare program supports people as they move toward better circumstances.

### **2. United States' Expectations**

In our effort to reduce the inequality gap by transferring income and assets to the less fortunate among us, we make it hard to qualify for the programs and then we make it hard to prove your qualification.

Some people who need the assistance do not receive the aid available to them; and, in many cases, they fail to apply or complete the application.

Most ‘means tested’ welfare programs in the USA fail to deliver because many qualified recipients of the aid do not apply.

*‘...avoidable and unavoidable costs, states' distorted incentives, and social norms are the major sources of impediments to benefits and that most of these impediments are embedded in or result from certain legal mechanisms of the welfare system. Law and Inequality: A Journal<sup>xxxix</sup>*

Many highly disadvantaged people do not apply for substantial benefits for which they are eligible by their circumstances.

*‘An estimated 46 million Americans live below the poverty line. But millions aren't covered by any of the welfare programs. Records show that 72% of people living in poverty received help from at least one welfare program. Among those living in deep poverty - an income that falls 50% below the poverty threshold - 70% received assistance, while the remaining 5.5 million people did not. At least 13 million people live in poverty and don't receive any benefits from welfare programs.’ Urban Institute<sup>xl</sup>*

*‘Complaints of mistreatment in navigating the welfare state are commonplace, with most unpleasant encounters arising from interactions between welfare recipients and social workers. The dominant approach to social work was casework which emphasized the personal characteristics or moral deficiencies of the recipient rather than social reform. In some cases the said deficiency was grounds for denying assistance. Casework fostered a paternalistic and demeaning relationship between social workers and clients. Caseworkers are the persons who have the most opportunity for showing respect or described not as much in terms of what they receive in their checks but rather in terms of the relationship that they have with their caseworker; a study found that the way in which a client was shown respect was often more important to the client than what the provider in the situation did to solve the client's problems.’ Nadasen, Premilla (June 17, 2014). Welfare Warriors:<sup>xli</sup>*

Most ‘means tested’ welfare programs in the USA fail to deliver because many qualified recipients of the aid do not apply. ‘...avoidable and unavoidable costs, states' distorted incentives, and social norms are the major sources of impediments to benefits and that most of these impediments are embedded in or result from certain legal mechanisms of the welfare system.’<sup>xlii</sup> Many highly disadvantaged people do not apply for substantial benefits for which they are eligible by their circumstances.

### **3. Alternative Expectations Models: Norway**

Norway approaches Social Welfare differently by not requiring ‘means testing’ but by focusing on the personal well being of its citizens.

‘In Norway, in general we try to have universal benefits without means testing.’<sup>xliii</sup>  
“Our goal is to make people’s everyday life a little better.”<sup>xliv</sup>

The Norway Budget explicitly states that the Country will take care of its people.<sup>xlv</sup> We present the budget statement here:

‘In the revised budget, the government will prioritise crucial public services such as healthcare, the police and refugees. Providers of public services and benefit recipients will receive compensation for wage growth and inflation. The government will also increase support for Ukraine through the Nansen Support Programme for Ukraine.

In uncertain times with high inflation, the Norwegian economy is performing well compared to other European economies. Unemployment is still low and economic activity high, although growth has started to decelerate. At the same time, high inflation and the consequences of the war in Ukraine have led to a necessary increase in budget spending.

“Our goal is to make people’s everyday life a little better. We will ensure that the municipalities and those that run essential welfare services such as care for the elderly, schools, police and hospitals will be compensated for the increase in prices. Some social security benefits will also be adjusted. The government also intends to contribute to the stability and security of Europe by increasing support for Ukraine, and by receiving and integrating Ukrainian refugees to Norway. This is a responsible budget that will contribute to security during a difficult time”, says Minister of Finance Trygve Slagsvold Vedum (Centre Party).

Last year, employment rose by 110,000 jobs. Activity, profitability, and willingness to invest in Norwegian businesses are high. Economic growth is expected to be somewhat lower in 2023, after a strong recovery after the pandemic. Growth is expected to pick up again in 2024. Consumer price growth is projected to decelerate gradually throughout the year, without a large increase in unemployment.

“The government will continue to strengthen incentives to work. In this budget, we intend to make everyday life a little easier for a number of employed people. We aim to facilitate job security, and that more people find employment. That is one of the most important things we can do. We must also support those who are not able to participate in the labour market”, says Minister of Finance Trygve Slagsvold Vedum (Sp).

Priorities in the budget:

- The government proposes to compensate providers of public services and others who receive money from the national budget for high growth in wages and prices.
- To contribute to security and stability in Europe, support to Ukraine has been increased through the Nansen Support Programme for Ukraine (as decided by Parliament in March).
- The government proposes an increase in allocations to Norwegian municipalities, so that they are better able to host Ukrainian refugees.

## The Captured State: Selected Statistics Show Harms of Wealth Concentration to American Life

- The government proposes increased spending on hospitals, the police and Norwegian municipalities, in addition to the announced compensation for high wage and price growth.
- With the government's proposal, low-income pensioners will receive a tax break of NOK 1.4 billion. The tax relief will reduce tax by up to around NOK 4,500 for those with a low pension.
- The government proposes to increase the non-taxable allowance for board (food) for commuters in portacabin accommodation, as well as long-distance drivers.
- The government will continue the temporary expansion to housing allowance in 2023, increase spending on labour market measures and increase support for energy saving measures in municipal housing.

The structural non-oil deficit will increase by NOK 56 billion. This corresponds to a withdrawal of 3.0 per cent from the Government Pension Fund Global. The increased use of petroleum revenue is mainly due to:

- Compensation for high wage and price growth. The wage and price growth mean that the budget presented by the government last autumn would have been much tighter than intended at the time. This is now being rectified and will result in increased expenditure of around NOK 27 billion, including close to an additional NOK 11 billion in social security and pension expenditure.
- A decline in revenues from electricity is now estimated to weaken the budget by around NOK 22 billion. The Government's income is reduced by more than savings made in the energy subsidy scheme.
- Support for Ukraine through the Nansen Programme for Ukraine. The government has launched the Nansen Programme for Ukraine and increased aid to developing countries that have been severely affected by the war, with a total of over NOK 16 billion. A large majority in parliament supports the programme.
- Increased refugee-related expenditure. Norway will receive far more refugees in 2023 than was expected last autumn, leading to an expenditure increase of roughly NOK 6 billion. The Government aims to receive and integrate Ukrainian refugees effectively, including that as many as possible find employment.

The war in Ukraine is projected to lead to expenditure of over NOK 40 billion this year, and roughly the same amount next year. As such it will be necessary to postpone other initiatives outlined in the government's political platform.

“Norwegian support for Ukraine can help ensure the stability of Europe and to aid the Ukrainian people. It is also crucial for our own security that Russia is not successful in its wars of aggression. Norway's Nansen Programme for Ukraine enjoys broad political support in Norway. We will stand up for the Ukrainians as long as necessary”, says Minister of Finance Vedum.

Pensions will increase considerably this year, both because wage and price growth will be high this year and because adjustments take into account that wage and price growth last year was higher than expected. As a result, pensions will increase significantly more than projected wage growth this year. Other social security benefits will also increase by more than wage growth.

“Pensioners are likely to receive an unprecedented increase in income through this year's pension adjustment. With the government's proposal, low-income pensioners will receive a tax break of NOK 1.4 billion. The tax relief will reduce tax by up to around NOK 4,500 for those with a low pension”, says Vedum.

The government believes it would be irresponsible to plan for large expenditure cuts in the revised budget to cover these expenses, as this would affect public services in an unacceptable way or lead to strong and unforeseen increases in taxes and duties.'

#### **4. Finland Approach to Homeless**

Homeless in Finland - A success story and possible solution <sup>xlvi</sup>:

While California makes a good start on the question, Governor Newsom's new plan to spend billions for shelters is just a first step. Finland has a better approach.

Excerpt:

*‘Finland’s success is not a matter of luck or the outcome of “quick fixes.” Rather, it is the result of a sustained, well-resourced national strategy, driven by a “Housing First” approach, which provides people experiencing homelessness with immediate, independent, permanent housing, rather than temporary accommodation (OECD, 2020). A key pillar of this effort has been to combine emergency assistance with the supply of rentals to host previously homeless people, either by converting some existing shelters into residential buildings with independent apartments (Kaakinen, 2019) or by building new flats by a government agency (ARA, 2021).’<sup>xlvii</sup>*

‘Following a period when homelessness rose in many countries, the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic prompted governments across the OECD area to provide unprecedented public support – including to the homeless. In the United Kingdom, for instance, people who had been living on the streets or in shelters were housed in individual accommodations in a matter of days. And in cities and towns across the OECD, public authorities worked closely with service providers and other partners to provide support to the homeless that had previously been considered impossible.

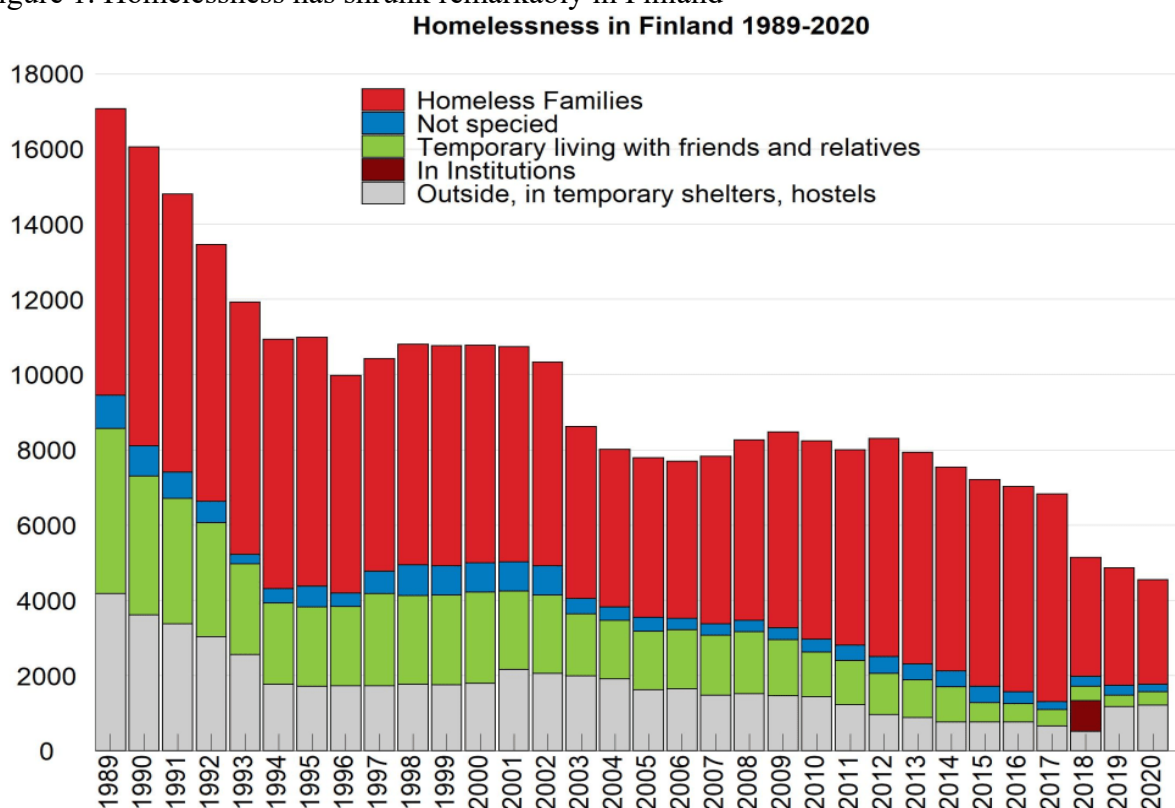
How can countries build on this momentum and ensure more durable outcomes? The experience of Finland over the past several decades – during which the country has nearly eradicated



homelessness – provides a glimpse of what can be possible with a sustained national strategy and enduring political will.

The number of homeless people in Finland has continuously decreased over the past three decades from over 16 000 in 1989 to around 4 000, or 0.08% of the population (Figure 1). This is a very low number, especially considering that Finland uses a relatively broad definition of homelessness, whereby in particular it includes people temporarily living with friends and relatives in its official homelessness count. In 2020, practically no-one was sleeping rough on a given night in Finland.

Figure 1. Homelessness has shrunk remarkably in Finland



Source: Report 2021: Homelessness in Finland 2020, The Housing Finance and Development Centre of Finland (ARA).

This is undoubtedly a remarkable success, even if comparing homelessness statistics across countries is fraught with difficulties (OECD, 2020). Many homeless people live precariously, with the implication that statistical tools such as household surveys typically fail to accurately measure their living conditions. Furthermore, countries define homelessness very differently, for instance counting people who temporarily live with friends or relatives as homeless (as Finland does) or excluding them from homelessness statistics. While there is no OECD-wide average against which to compare Finland’s homeless rate of 0.08%, other countries with similarly broad definitions of homelessness provide points of reference, such as neighbouring Sweden (0.33%) or the Netherlands (0.23%).<sup>1</sup>

Finland's success is not a matter of luck or the outcome of "quick fixes." Rather, it is the result of a sustained, well-resourced national strategy, driven by a "Housing First" approach, which provides people experiencing homelessness with immediate, independent, permanent housing, rather than temporary accommodation (OECD, 2020). A key pillar of this effort has been to combine emergency assistance with the supply of rentals to host previously homeless people, either by converting some existing shelters into residential buildings with independent apartments (Kaakinen, 2019) or by building new flats by a government agency (ARA, 2021). Building flats is key: otherwise, especially if housing supply is particularly rigid, the funding of rentals can risk driving up rents (OECD, 2021a), thus reducing the "bang for the buck" of public spending.

The Finnish experience demonstrates the effectiveness of tackling homelessness through a combination of financial assistance, integrated and targeted support services and more supply: using just one of these levers is unlikely to work. Financial assistance comes from the social benefits systems, which includes a housing allowance for low-income people (mostly jobless persons with no or low unemployment benefits) covering about 80% of housing costs (Kangas and Kalliomaa-Puha, 2019). Emergency social assistance funding can complement the housing allowance if it is insufficient. Social services provide housing before other interventions that are targeted to beneficiaries' needs (such as, to pick one example, providing health services to help overcome substance abuse). These efforts require dwellings: investment grants by Finland's Housing Finance and Development Centre financed the construction of 2 200 flats over 2016-19 for long-term homeless people (ARA, 2021). Indeed, investing in housing development should be a priority for OECD governments as they navigate the recovery from the crisis: over the past two decades, public investment in housing development has dropped to just 0.06% of GDP across the OECD on average (OECD, 2021b).

Another important driver of Finland's success is the integration of efforts to fight homelessness with other parts of the social safety net. When a housing need is identified in any part of the social service system, housing is provided first, to provide a solid basis for employment, long-term health and/or family assistance (OECD, 2020). This integrated approach avoids the pitfalls that can arise, for instance, when benefits are preconditioned on having an address, or when obtaining a flat requires a minimum income. There are indications that, by facilitating the integration of previously homeless people in society, the upfront Finnish investment that provides people with housing first, pays off by reducing subsequent costs incurred by social services. Evaluations point to annual savings in public expenditure in the range of EUR 9 600-15 000 per person who had previously experienced homelessness (Y-Foundation, 2017; Ministry of the Environment, 2011).

Overall, Finland's achievements illustrate the benefits of integration, balance and continuity in policies to tackle homelessness: integration across housing and social assistance programmes, balance between demand and supply, and political continuity over time have helped to maximise the results of the country's investment to end homelessness. Not only has this approach resulted in a steady decline in homelessness, but it has also made the system more resilient to shocks, including the COVID-19 crisis. Indeed, the pandemic was less of a strain to Finland's homeless

support system compared to other countries, given that many vulnerable people were already housed and supported in individual flats (Fondation Abbé Pierre – FEANTSA, 2021).

These lessons can be transposed to other OECD countries as they look to build on the momentum and lessons learned from the COVID crisis.

## 5. Inequality [GINI Index] Solutions for United States

A careful reading of the relatively high GINI scores in several of the United States shows an apparent correlation with trump voters in a sample of five States. It implies that the likelihood of political violence is greater when the GINI scores are high. Or, it can suggest the United States might experience fewer cases of domestic terror if we had lower GINI scores. Several other countries show both lower GINI scores and greater political stability, especially the Nordic countries Sweden, Norway and Denmark.

Changing government policies from current positions and moving the United States toward equality as measured by a lower GINI index and away from higher GINI scores requires specific actions that Billionaires and CEO's have not liked for the past several years.

In the event, however, that the rich change their attitude about higher taxes and greater income equality we may see more justice and tranquility. But, we can expect greater discontent and political violence if we cannot change the policy direction of the United States.

Current economic policies in the United States create more wealth concentration in fewer hands; the proper name for that is 'exploitation,' or denying adequate reward to workers and supporting unequal rewards to capital.

*'As a theory of poverty, "exploitation" elicits a muddled response, causing us to think of course and but, no in the same instant....The United States offers some of the lowest wages in the industrialized world. A larger share of workers in the United States make "low pay" — earning less than two-thirds of median wages — than in any other country belonging to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development. According to the group, nearly 23 percent of American workers labor in low-paying jobs, compared with roughly 17 percent in Britain, 11 percent in Japan and 5 percent in Italy. Poverty wages have swollen the ranks of the American working poor, most of whom are 35 or older.'*<sup>xlviii</sup>

If we are able to create a positive attitude change in the rich, then, the normal political process will move to improve our equality. In other words, the rich don't have to do anything except let the process work as the Constitution requires. They can make it happen by telling their lobbyists, Senators and Representatives to stop blocking Democratic initiatives toward higher income taxes and higher wages.

Democrats want to enact a wide variety of specific governmental programs, regulations and enforcements. Even the Encyclopedia Britannica suggests some actions we can take to lower our GINI score.

*Britannica identifies two categories of remedies to inequality of wealth and income.*

*Indirect policies like taxation, health care, education, debt forgiveness, subsidized child care and other policies lower the GINI score by including more people in fully paid programs of social welfare.*

*Policies that directly reduce income inequality - Income inequality can be reduced directly by decreasing the incomes of the richest or by increasing the incomes of the poorest. Policies focusing on the latter include increasing employment or wages and transferring income with encouragement and support for labor unions, negative income tax and a guaranteed income for all.<sup>xlix</sup>*

In today's climate when aggrieved parties challenge the legality of the specific policies that create exploitation our current Justice system in recent years tends to favor the interests of capital over the interests of labor.

The Supreme Court has the last word on the legality of those policies. Their recent rulings display favoritism toward the interests of capital.

*A review of the Supreme Court's jurisprudence during the recent Roberts Era reveals that in the most controversial and salient civil cases – those decided by bare 5-4 or 5-3 majorities – when the right wing of the Court has voted en bloc to form the majority, they do so to advance far-right and corporate interests a striking 92% of the time. In those cases, the “Roberts Five” – Chief Justice John Roberts, Justice Samuel Alito, Justice Clarence Thomas, Justice Anthony Kennedy, and Justice Antonin Scalia (replaced last year by Justice Neil Gorsuch) – have reliably voted in lockstep to help Republicans win elections, to protect corporations from liability, to take away civil rights, and to advance the far right social agenda.<sup>1</sup>*

## **Monopoly Regulation Can Improve GINI Score**

Businesses don't like competition because it brings lower prices and new products - both of which make life harder. Business owners diligently work to find ways to limit competition so they can raise prices and relax.

The ultimate zero competition market means one company has 100 % of all the supply. Ideally, the product would be something everybody needs and/or uses daily.

Past monopolies treated customers so poorly that Congress passed several anti-monopoly laws designed to keep prices lower and encourage new and better products that competition can bring.

Economic concentration includes monopoly [single provider] and oligopoly [few providers] as discussed above.

Regulations on monopolies and oligopolies have been systematically weakened through lack of prosecutions of law-breakers, partially due to underfunded regulation agencies and weakened Anti-Trust laws.

*We see some of the most dramatic evidence of concentration at the level of individual economic sectors. Nearly every marketplace in America is vastly more consolidated than a generation ago. Consider retail; today, a single corporation, Walmart, controls 72 percent of warehouse clubs and super centers in the entire United States. In close to 40 metropolitan areas across America, Walmart sells more than half of all groceries. Amazon, meanwhile, dominates e-commerce in general, and many specific lines of business. The corporation, for instance, sells 74 percent of all e-books and 64 percent of all print books sold online. The story's often the same for more specialized retail. In eyeglasses, one company, Luxxotica, dominates the manufacture and retail of glasses. In mattresses, two companies control 60 percent of the entire U.S. market. Institute for Local Self Reliance<sup>li</sup>*

The last few years have seen increasing concentrations; these concentrations may be the source of much of current Billionaires' wealth.

### **Federal Government Regulation of Labor Markets: the national Labor Relations Board [NLRB]**

FDR and Congress founded the NLRB in the 1930's to provide Federal protection to workers forming unions. It works to allow workers to come together without violence or interference from capital.

Recently, however, Congress has underfunded the NLRB and tied its hands.

*Here are some facts from a recent survey : 'In 91% of the union recognition petitions filed with the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) in the survey, a majority of workers indicated they wanted a union before the process began. In several cases, workers demonstrated more than 80% support. However, unions were victorious in only 31% of the campaign in which they filed a petition.'<sup>dii</sup>*

Reducing Federal enforcement of Labor Laws enables management to sidestep some worker protections Congress decided to protect.

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## **End Notes**

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### **Prequel: A Declaration [Rant?]**

<sup>i</sup> Robert Reich [<https://robertreich.substack.com/p/billionaires-dont-have-a-right-to>]

<sup>ii</sup> These Days, the Very Rich Are Very Selfish. It Could Get Ugly. By Guido Alfani, NYT Nov 19, 2023; Mr. Alfani is an economic history professor at Bocconi University in Milan.  
[<https://www.nytimes.com/2023/11/19/opinion/rich-billionaires-philanthropy-covid.html>]

<sup>iii</sup> PUTIN'S PEOPLE: HOW THE KGB TOOK BACK RUSSIA AND THEN TOOK ON THE WEST, Catherine Belton, 2020, Farrar, Strauss and Giroux, New York

<sup>iv</sup>

THE SCHEME: HOW THE RIGHT WING USED DARK MONEY TO CAPTURE THE SUPREME COURT, Senator Sheldon Whitehouse, Jennifer Mueller, 2022, The New Press, New York.

<sup>v</sup> Pew Research Center publishes gun deaths in the US:

[<https://www.pewresearch.org/short-reads/2023/04/26/what-the-data-says-about-gun-deaths-in-the-u-s/>]

<sup>vi</sup>

Rich People From History Who Committed Shady and Evil Deeds - Khalid Elhassan - April 12, 2022, History Collection

a. Henry Clay Frick.

In 1880, industrialist Henry Clay Frick and a group of rich Pittsburgh magnates bought the South Fork Dam, an earthen dam that formed an artificial Lake Conemaugh in Cambria County. ...because when the dam was built, it had a system of relief pipes and valves to lower water levels in an emergency. That system had been sold as scrap metal, and never replaced. Between that and the clogged spillway, there was no way to release water in case of an emergency. Such an emergency occurred on May 31st, 1889, and it killed thousands in what came to be known as the Johnstown Flood, after the chief town struck by the disaster.'

b. Quandt Family, BMW

BMW. Less known is that its major shareholders, the seriously rich Quandt family, were close friends and admirers of Hitler and the Nazis.

The study commissioned by the Quandt family resulted in a 1200-page report that concluded: “[t]he Quandts were linked inseparably with the crimes of the Nazis ... The family patriarch was part of the regime“. Among other things, the Quandts profited from the Nazis’ “Aryanization Program”, which stripped Jews of their property and turned it over to Germans approved by the new regime. BMW’s owners benefitted greatly from Aryanization: dozens of businesses were seized from rich Jews and handed over to the already rich Quandts.

[<https://historycollection.com/rich-people-from-history-who-committed-shady-and-evil-deeds/>]

<sup>vii</sup> BY DAVE PEYTON Published 10:28 PM PST, January 30, 2019

[<https://apnews.com/article/2184e9f18f6f4acca1ed007bdcdca818>]

<sup>viii</sup> CNBC Survey shows that many working Americans are a single expense away from homelessness.

[<https://www.cnbc.com/2023/08/31/63percent-of-workers-are-unable-to-pay-a-500-emergency-expense-survey.html#:~:text=To%20that%20point%2C%2063%25%20of,employers%20provide%20emergency%20savings%20benefits>]

### A. The Worry of Today: Political Violence

<sup>ix</sup> . US GAO: <https://www.gao.gov/blog/rising-threat-domestic-terrorism-u.s.-and-federal-efforts-combat-it#:~:text=Anti%2Dgovernment%20or%20anti%2Dauthority,violent%20extremists%2C%20among%20other%20motivations>

<sup>x</sup> Atlantic article documents it: <https://www.theatlantic.com/newsletters/archive/2023/10/republican-party-jordan-threats-violence/675742/>

<sup>xi</sup> For example: ‘Balancing the budget only from households making above \$250,000 would require a (still impossible) 90 percent top rate, but reducing deficits to 2.2 percent of GDP would require a 60 percent top rate and might be achievable. Expanding the universe to couples above \$150,000 would reduce the needed top rate to 56 percent and applying the increase to all tax brackets would require a top rate of 43 percent – only 3½ point higher than today’s top rate. ‘ The Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget [<https://www.crfb.org/blogs/can-we-fix-debt-solely-taxing-top-1-percent>]

<sup>xii</sup> The Peterson Institute for International Economics (PIIE) [<https://www.piie.com>] is an independent nonprofit, nonpartisan research organization dedicated to strengthening prosperity and human welfare in the global economy through expert analysis and practical policy solutions.

<sup>xiii</sup> National Security, Wikipedia [[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National\\_security](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_security)]

<sup>xiv</sup> Bloomberg, Seven in 10 Californians Say Kids Growing Up There Will Be Worse Off, Laura Curtis, Wed, November 8, 2023 at 9:00 PM PST  
'Just 50% of Californians held the same view five years ago.', [<https://news.yahoo.com/seven-10-californians-kids-growing-050000537.html>]

<sup>xv</sup> A new breed of extremist, By NED PARKER, PETER EISLER, and JOSEPH TANFANI, Reuters, 2023  
[<https://www.reuters.com/investigates/special-report/usa-politics-violence-far-right/>]

<sup>xvi</sup> January 2021 American Perspectives Survey as quoted in the Journal of Democracy here:  
[<https://www.journalofdemocracy.org/articles/the-rise-of-political-violence-in-the-united-states/>]

<sup>xvii</sup> A new breed of extremist, By NED PARKER, PETER EISLER, and JOSEPH TANFANI, Reuters, 2023  
[<https://www.reuters.com/investigates/special-report/usa-politics-violence-far-right/>]

## **B. State by State Differences in Other Welfare Measurements**

<sup>xviii</sup> Data Sources for table: Measurable Social Conditions and trump Victory Margins

GINI Index: World Population Review [ <https://worldpopulationreview.com/state-rankings/income-inequality-by-state>]

trump Margins by State: The Cook Political Review [ <https://www.cookpolitical.com/2020-national-popular-vote-tracker>]

Food Insecurity: USDA [ <https://www.ers.usda.gov/topics/food-nutrition-assistance/food-security-in-the-u-s/key-statistics-graphics/>]

Suicide rates: US Center For Disease Control (CDC) [ <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/pressroom/sosmap/suicide-mortality/suicide.htm>]

Violent Crimes : Wikipedia:  
[[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_U.S.\\_states\\_and\\_territories\\_by\\_intentional\\_homicide\\_rate](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_U.S._states_and_territories_by_intentional_homicide_rate)]

Unemployment Rates. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) [<https://www.bls.gov/web/laus/laumstrk.htm>]



<sup>xix</sup> There is not enough data in the sample or in the entire Nation to create a mathematically correct regression analysis correlation with margin of error calculations. But, we can expect that result to continue in other situations when we see a 100% measurement.

### C. International Differences in Social Welfare Spending

<sup>xx</sup> Life expectancy SOURCE: National Center for Health Statistics, National Vital Statistics System, 2018, 2019 and 2020 data. As comparisons from Worldometer [<https://www.worldometers.info/demographics/life-expectancy/>] United States 79.7, Hong Kong 85.8, Sweden 83.6, Norway 83.6, Chad 53.7, and Russia 74.6.

<sup>xxi</sup>

GINI Index: World Population Review [<https://worldpopulationreview.com/state-rankings/income-inequality-by-state>]

trump Margins by State: The Cook Political Review [<https://www.cookpolitical.com/2020-national-popular-vote-tracker>]

Food Insecurity: USDA [<https://www.ers.usda.gov/topics/food-nutrition-assistance/food-security-in-the-u-s/key-statistics-graphics/>]

Suicide rates: US Center For Disease Control (CDC) [<https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/pressroom/sosmap/suicide-mortality/suicide.htm>]

Violent Crimes : Wikipedia:

[[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_U.S.\\_states\\_and\\_territories\\_by\\_intentional\\_homicide\\_rate](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_U.S._states_and_territories_by_intentional_homicide_rate)]

Unemployment Rates. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) [<https://www.bls.gov/web/laus/laumstrk.htm>]

<sup>xxii</sup> Food Insecurity: USDA [<https://www.ers.usda.gov/topics/food-nutrition-assistance/food-security-in-the-u-s/key-statistics-graphics/>]

Suicide rates: US Center For Disease Control (CDC) [<https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/pressroom/sosmap/suicide-mortality/suicide.htm>]

Violent Crimes : Wikipedia:

[[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_U.S.\\_states\\_and\\_territories\\_by\\_intentional\\_homicide\\_rate](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_U.S._states_and_territories_by_intentional_homicide_rate)]

### D. Specific Social Conditions: Homelessness

<sup>xxiii</sup> As quoted in course offering ‘Hannah Arendt: The Origins of Totalitarianism’ BROOKLYN INSTITUTE for SOCIAL RESEARCH

<sup>xxiv</sup> CDC Per Wikipedia : [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Homelessness\\_in\\_the\\_United\\_States#External\\_links](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Homelessness_in_the_United_States#External_links)

<sup>xxv</sup> The Share Program in Sonoma County uses a combination of government and private funding to provide long term housing; [<https://sharesonamacounty.org/>]

<sup>xxvi</sup> Santa Rosa Press Democrat story ‘Sonoma County nonprofit finds success renting shared homes to chronically homeless’; link here: [<https://www.pressdemocrat.com/article/news/growing-in-favor-sonoma-county-nonprofit-finds-success-renting-shared-home/>]

<sup>xxvii</sup> ‘Finland’s Zero Homeless Strategy: Lessons from a Success Story; December 13, 2021 By Laurence Boone, Boris Cournède, OECD Economics Department; and Marissa Plouin, OECD Directorate for Employment, Labour and Social Affairs.

## **E. Specific Social Conditions: Economic Inequality**

<sup>xxviii</sup>

GINI Index: World Population Review [<https://worldpopulationreview.com/state-rankings/income-inequality-by-state>]

<sup>xxix</sup> Bertrand Russell, In Praise of Idleness: And Other Essays (1935), Ch: IV, The Modern Midas (1932), p. 77

<sup>xxx</sup> Peterson Institute for International Economics: The Peterson Institute for International Economics (PIIE) [<https://www.piie.com>] is an independent nonprofit, nonpartisan research organization dedicated to strengthening prosperity and human welfare in the global economy through expert analysis and practical policy solutions.

## **F. Specific Social Conditions: Millions of Severely Food Insecure**

<sup>xxxi</sup> GINI Scores from World Population Review: [<https://worldpopulationreview.com/country-rankings/gini-coefficient-by-country>]

<sup>xxxii</sup> GINI Scores from World Population Review: [<https://worldpopulationreview.com/country-rankings/gini-coefficient-by-country>]

## **G. Specific Social Conditions: Political Instability and Absence of Violence/Terrorism Index**

<sup>xxxiii</sup> Political stability and absence of violence/terrorism (index)<https://landportal.org/taxonomy/term/8261>  
This indicator is part of the Worldwide Governance Indicators (<http://info.worldbank.org/governance/wgi/#home>(link is external)). Political stability and absence of violence measures perceptions of the likelihood that the government will be destabilized or overthrown by unconstitutional or violent means, including politically-motivated violence and terrorism.

The indicator is also part of the FAO Suite of Food Security Indicators -- Dimension: stability (<http://www.fao.org/economic/ess/ess-fs/ess-fadata/en/#.WTIX9BPtPU>(link is external)).

## **H. Specific Social Conditions: Perception of Corruption Index**

<sup>xxxiv</sup> . Perception of corruption index by Transparency International <https://www.transparency.org/en/cpi/2022>

## **I. Specific Social Conditions: Suicide**

<sup>xxxv</sup> CDC suicide rates: <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/pressroom/sosmap/suicide-mortality/suicide.htm>; Wikipedia

## J. Specific Social Conditions: Violent Crimes

<sup>xxxvi</sup> Rate of intentional homicide:

[[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_U.S.\\_states\\_and\\_territories\\_by\\_intentional\\_homicide\\_rate](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_U.S._states_and_territories_by_intentional_homicide_rate)]

### 1. High Expectations in Social Welfare Programs

<sup>xxxvii</sup> Effect of high expectations, Libretexts Social Sciences:

[[https://socialsci.libretexts.org/Bookshelves/Education\\_and\\_Professional\\_Development/Foundations\\_of\\_Education\\_and\\_Instructional\\_Assessment\\_\(Kidd\\_et\\_al.\)/10%3A\\_Effective\\_Teaching/10.06%3A\\_What\\_is\\_the\\_effect\\_of\\_having\\_high\\_expectations\\_for\\_students#:~:text=Pygmalion%20Effect%20and%20Self%2DFulfilling%20Prophecy&text=If%20the%20student%20feels%20that,5](https://socialsci.libretexts.org/Bookshelves/Education_and_Professional_Development/Foundations_of_Education_and_Instructional_Assessment_(Kidd_et_al.)/10%3A_Effective_Teaching/10.06%3A_What_is_the_effect_of_having_high_expectations_for_students#:~:text=Pygmalion%20Effect%20and%20Self%2DFulfilling%20Prophecy&text=If%20the%20student%20feels%20that,5)].]

<sup>xxxviii</sup> Daily Stoic, Sep 21, 2023

### 2. United States' Expectations

<sup>xxxix</sup> Source: Unwelcome Benefits: Why Welfare Beneficiaries Reject Government Aid?

Law and Inequality: A Journal of Theory and Practice, Vol. 24, No. 107, 2006

<sup>xl</sup> Five Things You May Not Know about the US Social Safety Net, Sarah Minton and Linda Giannarelli February 2019,

[[https://www.urban.org/sites/default/files/publication/99674/five\\_things\\_you\\_may\\_not\\_know\\_about\\_the\\_us\\_social\\_safety\\_net\\_1.pdf](https://www.urban.org/sites/default/files/publication/99674/five_things_you_may_not_know_about_the_us_social_safety_net_1.pdf)]

<sup>xli</sup> WIKIPEDIA, Nadasen, Premilla (June 17, 2014). Welfare Warriors: The Welfare Rights Movement in the United States. Routledge. ISBN 9781136743696.

<sup>xlii</sup> Source: Unwelcome Benefits: Why Welfare Beneficiaries Reject Government Aid?

Law and Inequality: A Journal of Theory and Practice, Vol. 24, No. 107, 2006

### 3. Alternative Expectations Models: Norway

<sup>xliii</sup> Private email from Karlsen Frode September 22, 2023

<sup>xliv</sup> Personal unofficial opinion of Karlsen Frode, Deputy Director Report to the Storting (white paper)

The National Budget 2023, Oslo September 19, 2023

<sup>xlv</sup> Norway Government Press Release Nov June 10, 2023 [<https://www.regjeringen.no/en/aktuelt/a-budget-to-safeguard-norwegian-households/id2997732/>]

Unofficial translation from Norwegian. For information only. Selected chapters only. Meld. St. 1, (2022–2023) Report to the Storting (white paper), The National Budget 2023. (<https://www.regjeringen.no/en/aktuelt/a-responsible-budget-that-provides-security-for-people-throughout-norway/id2976313/>)

### 4. Finland Approach to Homeless

<sup>xlvi</sup> 'Finland's Zero Homeless Strategy: Lessons from a Success Story; December 13, 2021

By Laurence Boone, Boris Cournède, OECD Economics Department; and Marissa Plouin, OECD Directorate for Employment, Labour and Social Affairs

<sup>xlvii</sup> 'Finland's Zero Homeless Strategy: Lessons from a Success Story; December 13, 2021; By Laurence Boone, Boris Cournède, OECD Economics Department; and Marissa Plouin, OECD Directorate for Employment, Labour and Social Affairs

## **5. Inequality [GINI Index] Solutions for United States**

<sup>xlviii</sup> 'Poverty, by America Hardcover, by Matthew Desmond, Mar 13, 2023, Crown

<sup>xlix</sup> 'Online Encyclopaedia Britannica; Inequality '

<sup>1</sup> [Senator Sheldon Whitehouse (D), Prepared Testimony in Senate Judiciary committee showing Roberts 5 Justices rule in favor of Corporate interests in 92% of rulings]

### **5.1 Mon**

#### **opoly Regulation**

<sup>li</sup> FIGHTING MONOPOLY POWER, Institute for Local Self Reliance; Stacy Mitchell and Susan R. Holmberg; \*STACY MITCHELL is a Co-Director of ILSR and directs our Independent Business Initiative; SUSAN R. HOLMBERG is Senior Editor and Researcher on the Independent Business team, as well as an economist.

Link:

[<https://storage.googleapis.com/production-bluehost-v1-0-4/014/1254014/D4kDjywu/7dfe8f1c87d74d869fe8ba246428e812?fileName=Monopoly%20%20Where%20are%20Monopolies.pdf>]

### **5.2 Federal Government Regulation of Labor Markets: the national Labor Relations Board [NLRB]**

<sup>lii</sup> The full report is here: <http://www.americanrightsatwork.org/publications/general/undermining-the-right-to-organize-employer-behavior-during-union-representation-campaigns.html>

'Danger-clearandpresent.blogspot.com/', Author Blog post, "Recovery : Union Busting" ; May 5, 2012, Mike P. McKeever; [<https://danger-clearandpresent.blogspot.com/>]

