

The Fatal Flaw of American Society

America, it seems, is constantly at the brink of a civil war. Democrats and Republicans interact more like two rivaling clans than simply political parties. Ideological clashes are exceedingly prevalent in American society. It's to the extent where [73% of Americans](#) believe Democrats and Republicans can't agree on basic facts.

Polarization is a poison seeping through America's veins, a true epidemic, raising cultural barriers and severing bonds between people socially and economically. The roots of America, the essence of patriotism, is repeatedly being disrespected by today's tense political and social climate. America was intended to be a symbol of unity, a haven for all to come together, the world's city on a hill. In spite of its legacy, America is polarizing at an alarming rate, even [faster than other countries](#).

Partisan media has caused American citizens to become extremely partisan to their side. So-called objective news sources serve a fountain spewing misinformation and pouring bias into every story. This causes Americans to be increasingly blinded by their bullheaded passion to their side of the story, and their complete and utter lack of knowledge for what the other side's beliefs are coming from. The harm in having misinformed, indiscriminately loyal citizens is significant. Studies show that Americans of one political party aren't just unhappy with the other party's standing, they consider the other party to be "[downright evil](#)."

As legislators and policy-makers work amidst the polarization, the extreme ideological split in America becomes normalized. Citizens are just expecting their representatives in government to vote party-line without a second thought. Congressional voting patterns are [sharply divided](#). Redistricting is rigged and deliberately benefits one party through careful gerrymandering. Studies show that division in government leads to [lower citizen trust](#) in lawmakers, which is clearly true given America is at an [all-time low](#) for trust in the government. America's polarization is also [limiting the freedom of its people](#), marring its global image as the land of liberty.

America's polarization is its ultimate weakness globally, as well. America's political enemies are utilizing our greatest shortcoming to harm us. Take the 2016 election: Russia used social media to fan the flames of gun violence and illegal immigration. This proves that America's division is, as former President Obama's national security adviser [Susan Rice said](#), "the most significant, long-term threat to our security."

Doubtlessly, polarization is the root cause of many of America's problems, and something that affects many people in today's society. Right now, America is at a record-high of polarization, though it may not yet have even approached its peak.

Polarization, however, and internal division, is unfortunately a disease common in democratic populations. It seems the Founding Fathers have predicted and warned of America's dismal future. [George Washington](#) cautioned against "founded jealousies and false alarms," believing it would "[kindle] the animosity of one part against another" and even lead to "riot and

insurrection,” which is almost prophetic of the January 6 insurrection. Washington also warned of “foreign influence and corruption,” which America is clearly subject to.

Unfortunately to us, America did not heed the warning of our Founding Fathers. America is more divided today than it has ever been before, stressing the very fabric of our society. The enmity and hostility fostered in America’s current political climate is [seeping into everyone’s lives](#) one way or another, making polarization the single most daunting crisis modern society is facing.

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