

## L.A. 2022



by John Tunick

Political Science 130

The year is 2022 and it is early September. I am still living in Los Angeles, the place I was born and raised. I am nearly fifty years old. I have been teaching high school since I was twenty five and in a few days I will begin my new administrative job at the school I graduated from over thirty years ago, Santa Monica High School. It's not that I don't enjoy interacting with the students anymore, it is just time for a change. Besides, I'll be making a little bit more money at this job. If I don't like this new job, I can get rehired at the old school because I was well liked by both students and my co-workers.

It is morning and I am just lying in bed reflecting on how different the world was way back when I was in school. How inconvenient it was just to be alive. For example, if I wanted to eat food and the refrigerator was empty, I had to get in my car and drive to a supermarket or restaurant. If there was a lot of traffic, I had to sit and wait. If there was no parking in the parking lot, I had to circle around the lot countless times, or park in the handicap space and risk a \$330 ticket. Now, all I have to do is turn on the computer, select where I want my food from, click the mouse on the item(s) I want, and within the hour the food is here. No cash is involved and no signature is required.

When the delivery person comes to my door, I just speak into the little machine he carries in his pocket, and the money is automatically withdrawn from my account. I can even give him a tip this way. The computer recognizes my voice, and all I have to say is "debit" and then the amount. In fact, I don't carry identification, credit cards, or keys anymore. All you need to do is speak into the sensory box and the computer recognizes your voice, if you are authorized. Taxes are automatically debited from your account by the government. This way is a lot better than the old method of placing your thumb on the sensory pad. They did away with the thumb method almost immediately. But not soon enough. Many lost their thumbs because criminals would go around chopping off people's thumbs and using them to gain access to their accounts.

The United States, now almost 250 years old, has been divided into four different civilian classes. There are the wealthy who live in huge gated estates. I don't know too much about them because they don't interact with anyone except other wealthy people. These people aren't considered part of the United States. They live within its borders, but none of them pay taxes and they are not subject to the same laws as everybody else. These wealthy bought most of the debt the government owed back near the turn of the century. So in a way, these people own the country. Elections are still held to determine who will "run" the country, but I suspect the wealthy pull all the strings, and that our elected officials are merely puppets. I would estimate that the wealthy make up roughly 2 -3 percent of the population, but this estimate could be a bit high.

The second civilian class is also quite wealthy, but not nearly to the same degree as the first wealthy people I described. I will refer to them as the upper class. They live their everyday lives amongst the rest of us. The upper class is comprised mainly of entertainers (athletes, actors, musicians, producers), entrepreneurs, some very skilled doctors such as plastic surgeons, business executives, and politicians. This group makes up maybe 10 percent of the population.

The third civilian class is what we might consider the middle class. I fall into this class. This group includes doctors, lawyers, teachers, bankers, business persons, computer technicians, and programmers, and other professional jobs that require a good deal of schooling as a prerequisite. I would estimate that these people make up maybe at most 30-35 percent of the population. Many of these people don't need to go to work in an office more than a couple times a month. They work at home on their computer. An accountant friend of mine doesn't even have an office. He works strictly out of his home. Of course, he has an office in his home, but if he ever needs to meet with a client, he just takes them out to lunch or to a ball game or something. Ever since developments in technology made it possible for people to communicate using a computer, there has not been a great need for people to "go to work" everyday.

I am not so fortunate, but I don't mind because I like going to work. I think I might go crazy if I only interacted with a computer all day. I like to talk to people, not machines. Because not every American has a computer, but all are entitled to an education, class is held in a classroom, not at home by computer. Once in class, a bulk of work is done on computers provided by the school for the students. The most important things students gain from going to school is through the process known as socialization. Socialization of kids is the main reason why school is held in classrooms. There are a few Universities I have read about where students participate by computer and modem. Even some private high schools have this, but they are very expensive, and only the wealthy children "attend" these schools.

The fourth civilian class makes up the bulk of the population. This group is roughly 40 to 50 percent of the population. It is known as the working poor. Some of these people are service oriented workers, housekeepers, maids, bartenders, prison guards, etc. These working people have very little, if any, schooling at all. They are very poor and frequently live in tiny run down shacks on the outskirts of town. Many times, several families may inhabit one shack that is barely big enough for more than one small family to live in comfortably. Everyone just sleeps on the floor. The shack is just to block the wind or rain at night. These people feel quite fortunate to have even a shack to share with others. A bed is a luxury.

After the fourth class there are the non-working poor -- the criminal class. They are career criminals and are the biggest threat to the rest of the United States. Life is very grim for these people, and drugs, weapons, and stolen goods are very widespread. Yes, drugs are still illegal and I don't understand why. The government could raise a huge amount of money if by controlling the drug trade.

The criminal class are the only people that I know of who still use cash. They are not skilled enough to use a computer, and even if they were, they could not afford to own one. Most of the criminals live in clans. They stay in parks, alleys, or at the beach, places where nobody would want to go because of the ghastly sights and putrid smells. Because the government did away with welfare checks and food stamps, these people cannot afford to pay rent, and have homes. Their children do not go to school. The government still provides soup kitchens to serve food to the poor. If it weren't for these soup kitchens, these people would probably cease to exist.

Grocery and liquor stores no longer accept cash, thus making it impossible for these people to purchase food. Even if stores did accept cash, the criminals could not gain entrance because the great majority of them do not have an account with the government that would give them authorization to enter a store. They are the John Does and Jane Does of the United States. The government has no record of them. They are not considered part of the population, but rather a subculture. For this reason, no accurate figure can be given as to the number who live within the boundaries of the United States.

I remember how people used to be concerned about the potential for overcrowding in the future. But overcrowding has never really been a problem. If anything, the increase in population has led to a much more convenient lifestyle for most of us, at least those of us who were determined enough or lucky enough to find a good job.

Because of the boom in the population, there are very few houses left in Los Angeles. Only the wealthy have homes, and these homes are huge gated estates far away from the rest of the population. The people of the upper and middle classes all live in huge sky-rise apartments. These buildings are very sturdy, and can withstand the mightiest earthquakes. You don't even really feel earthquakes anymore, even though we always know exactly when they are going to strike. My particular building is 75 stories high, but is considered one of the smaller ones. The building where my wife lives is over 200 stories high, and is considered average. My wife and I do not live together, but this is not unusual.

People are very concentrated in the city, but this makes things more convenient. There is at least one shopping mall within each building so the inhabitants can have access to everything they could possibly need: groceries, clothes, liquor, music, etc. Like I mentioned earlier, the stores will deliver to you if you don't feel like leaving your apartment. I can wake up, eat breakfast, go to the gym, go for a swim, eat lunch, get a tan, go shopping, see a movie, go to the shooting gallery, and meet my wife and friends for dinner without ever leaving my apartment building. There are so many people concentrated in my "neighborhood" that my teaching job was a half a block away. Our rival high school was only a block and a half away.

There has been an explosion in the number of schools and hospitals. I always knew there would be ignorant people who needed to become educated, that is why I got into teaching. My wife works in the medical field. She knew there would always be sick people, that is why she went into medicine. These two fields have really exploded as far as number of jobs available.

Now that I'll be working in Santa Monica, I'm going to have to take the bus to work. Virtually no one has a car nowadays. It is too risky. The only people who drive cars on a regular basis are taxicab drivers, bus drivers, police, and criminals. Civilians are afraid to drive in this city because car-jacking has become extremely widespread. Criminals will drive around the streets, and if they see a civilian driving a car, they will shoot one of the tires out. Then, when the civilian pulls to the side of the road, the criminal will shoot the civilian dead and take the car. Many criminals live in their cars or collect them as a sign of wealth.

I don't really like riding the bus if I can help it. I had to kill a guy just last month. I was coming home from a Dodger game with my wife and this young kid, about 20 or 21, was staring at me kind of funny. I suspected that he was up to something, because criminals don't usually ride the bus, they all have cars. These criminals have a lot of rage and frustration stored inside them and sometimes they like to just go out and kill people for no apparent reason. That's why my wife and I always wear our bullet-proof vests and carry a firearm when we go out in public. Anyway, I saw him stand up and start walking towards us. He was looking right at me when he reached in his pocket. I knew what he was reaching for, so I quickly grabbed my gun and unloaded it into his head and chest. In this day, there are only two types of people, the quick and the dead. At the next stop, the bus driver came back and asked my wife and I if we were okay. We said we were fine, and he helped us dispose of the body in one of the dumpsters on the side of the road.

It is not really a big deal to kill someone nowadays who doesn't pay taxes. In fact, the police don't care, unless you kill a taxpayer or a cop. In that case, they will hunt you down. You will go to prison for the rest of your life, but not before they torture you. Many people who have killed a cop have been permanently disabled or stripped of a limb. It's kind of an us against them mentality. Criminals versus everybody, and police versus criminals. The police don't bother you if you are a productive member of society registered with the government, but they won't help you either, they'll just ignore you. Cops only go after the criminals. Because criminals are not registered with the government, they are not considered citizens of the United States.

Therefore, they do not have to same rights as the rest of us. I once saw a group of cops unload on a gypsy camp at the beach one day. I hear it happens all the time.

The police work for the government, the government is controlled by the wealthy, and the wealthy do not like the criminal class. They view them as a threat to their existence. Therefore, the police spend their time locking up criminals or just killing them. The police get a small bonus for every unregistered person they lock up or kill. Police also like to bust drug dealers because they have a lot of money. From what I hear, the police won't even touch these drug dealers. They'll just take all the money and go on their way. Kind of like paying taxes. The police will come back and bust the same dealer every couple weeks. Being a big time drug dealer is a respected profession because it generates money for the police.

Although it may seem like a pretty frightening place to live, it's actually not that bad if you are a tax-paying citizen who is a registered member of the government. You just have to take certain precautions such as not going to places where you might interact with the non-working poor (criminals). Most of the places you would want to go require voice authorization, thus eliminating the threat of interaction with these people. Besides, the police patrol everywhere and are extremely visible. The police make up about 20 percent of the population. The police do their best to keep the criminals away from the rest of the population, because those registered with the government pay taxes. If tax-payers are killed then less taxes are collected by the wealthy. The wealthy control everything nowadays, but haven't they always?

[Home](#) \* [Back to Contents](#)