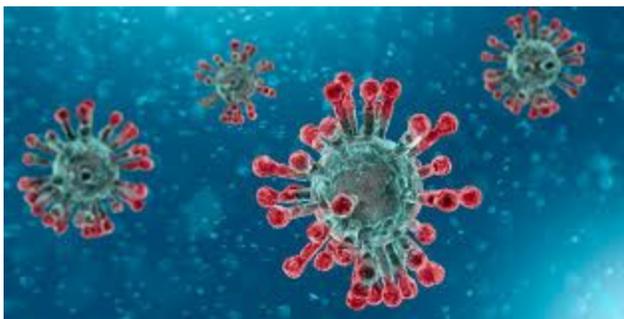Matt Wiggins

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History, Then and Now

During this semester I've come to realize that the cheesy statement "History always repeats itself" is very accurate. Not so much carbon copy events but events that resemble similar characteristics. I've recognized that all large events revolve around the relationship between regular people and the government. Throughout history the government intervenes with its people and the people push back the government intervention. It is a back and forth battle that has happened since 1776.

This is a picture taken during a Black Lives Matter (BLM) protest that took place in response to an event that happened between George Floyd and the Minneapolis Police Department that resulted in Mr. Floyd losing his life. This movement is motivated by the historical systemic racism that the U.S has allegedly fostered. The corresponding event that

relates to this is the event of slavery. A long time ago in the U.S it was legal for people to own others. This would consider human beings property of other human beings. The white property owners were the ones who owned other humans. They had their slaves work on their farms. The slaves were primarily African Americans who came across the ocean from Africa. The living conditions the slaves had weren't up to the standards that we hold today. But at that time it was socially accepted. There is an argument that this ideology is still seen in 2020. That the African American population is still feeling affects from slavery. The events of police brutality and high poverty rates in the African American community is a result of systemic racism against the African Americans. In my opinion using this as a justification for bad events is preposterous. In today's society we have such a high living standard that making this connection just isn't accurate at all. Pointing blame to a government that abolished slavery a long time ago and has sculpted an ideology where it is known to be wrong is a weak premise. So much change has occurred and the idea of connecting slavery to what is happening in the U.S this year is absurd in my opinion. Yes this event that occurred was awful. No one should've lost their life but to try and say this is connected to the systemic racism of the government isn't a fair argument. The government of the U.S didn't condone this action and justice was taken for the death of George Floyd. There is always room for improvement in society but this event didn't happen because of systemic racism relating to the time of slavery.

The COVID-19 Pandemic is something that has changed the way life is lived in 2020. It is a highly contagious virus that has taken the lives of many Americans. The government has put in quarantine laws as well as making it mandatory for people to wear a mask in public places. This has raised issues with the citizens. The implementation of these precautions have caused issues with people and their freedom rights. There have been protests that the U.S government is encroaching on peoples individuals rights. This is connected to the British's implementation of tax on its colonies.. The crown introduced this tax to raise more funds so it could expand and fund its colonies. Also fund the military to protect its colonies from possible invasion. This was done in the best interest of the empire to preserve and provide for their people. As well as a way to make a lot of money. The implementation of these taxes and precautions are done in the best interest for everyone. This argument is valid. Government's job is to act in the best interest for everyone. Even if the way to benefit everyone is to put on a mask or pay a tax it is in an effort to protect the people under its rule.

This past year's election where Joe Biden won the race had a lot of controversy involved with it. The two political parties really went at it. Slander, investigations, and fraud were all events that allegedly occurred during this election. The two political parties were as divided as they could be. Some say it is the most divided the parties have been in history. With the event of the pandemic and the social unrest it made this year a unique one. Some say there has been

another time where the country was as divided as this. Fueled by the same fire. The issue of racism was a driving factor for both of these events. One resulted in a civil war which didn't happen in this election. The civil war which started in 1861 was over the issue of slavery. The event that divided the country in 2020 was the BLM movement and the events that started that movement. Both deal with the issue of Race. The argument in question is the accusations of Donald Trump being a racist who condones racism and is comparing to the political party that didn't want to abolish slavery. The racial tension in the two events were palpable.

These three events all have one thing in common. It is the relationship between the government and the people. Throughout history ever since the birth of the government the people and the government have held each other in check. The people hold the government accountable while the government tries to act in the best interest of everyone. The U.S has been around for a very brief time in human history and during this time life has changed tremendously. This course allowed me to build a foundation of knowledge about what happened and how it sparked change and got us to where we are today. If there's one thing I've gotten out of this course it's that History never lies and has a funny way of repeating itself every so often.