

THE CLIMB TO PRESIDENCY ON THE LADDER OF SOCIAL INEQUALITY

Heckman claims that 20% is the new 1% of elitists in The United States of America.

James J. Heckman, a decorated Nobel Laureate - Wearing a button up shirt and his hair neatly parted, sparingly gave his time from the comfort of a limousine on route to an airport in Switzerland from the Lindau Nobel Laureates Meeting to discuss the inequality of society – and is probably aware of the irony of that.

Heckerman, renowned for his development of theories and methods for selective sampling analysis in year 2000, specializing in human capital theory, examining the social inequality of society. Heckman discusses the ins-and-outs of factors contributing to social inequality and affect it has had on shaping political outcomes in The United States of America. Where 80% of the population in America is not considered to be elite based on Heckman's analysis which helped Donald Trump and his rise to presidency.

In a social system based on economic return, Heckman's who received his Nobel prize in economics, now focusing his work on human capitalist theory is the basis for inequality in U.S society. The Chicago based economist mentioned that skills are costly to acquire and is paid off over a longer period of time. *"It's capital"*, he says. When a person invests money into building a bridge or railway it is expected to provide a service for a period of time. This is human capital. The U.S. essentially invests money into the people, with the expectation their skills will bring an economic return to the country. Unfortunately, due to class disparity and inequality, there are individuals who've had less time and money invested in their own development of education, personal skills and job training. The result of this has led to a greater social class disparity.

Inequality is a multidimensional concept. The Nobel Laureate draws on numerous issues that contribute to inequality across the U.S. He continues to explain that inequality means different thing to different people. *"Most people only think of inequality thinking and wage rates, hourly wage payments, or in terms of incomes earned or in terms of total income received."* Inequality can be determined by the immediate decisions of the individual, for instance whether a person decides to attend school or doesn't attempt to find work. There are instances where inequality is out of the person's control or when people can be born into inequality – without realization, without the power to do anything about it. Heckman states *"parents may live in a bad situation, the children, the fate of the children is not tied so closely to the fate of the parents."* However, those who are born at the bottom of the society, begin to believe that is where they belong.

"Trump is a different sort of elite"

Aforementioned, Heckman explained 'the elites' of today aren't the 1% of the population. He identifies the elites of the U.S. population as the top 20%. Those who are highly educated, intact families, investment in their children and resources essential for structure and opportunity in society. In relation to the rest of the population who haven't received the same opportunity in society may feel they have been left in the shadows of political discourse. Heckman later discussed how the population's perception of presidential candidates from the past and present campaign may have affected the outcome of the voter's decisions.

Heckman's understanding of Trump how used inequality to his advantage with his campaign. Heckman takes a subjective stance from the voter's perspective of what Trump stands for. *"Trump is anti-elite or so it would appear, although he is elite. He is just a different kind of elite."* The irony that a large number of people feel that Trump speaks for them, despite the obvious social inequality between them. Trump has managed to portray himself as a victim to industrialization, globalization and changing economic conditions. Trump, portraying himself as the 'everyday person' who has been negatively affected by the social and economic change allowed Trump to be a symbol to those who felt personally affected by the same changes.

Trump succeeded, where Clinton didn't

Prior to the Donald Trump-Hillary Clinton rivalry, Heckerman noted that during the Barack Obama's presidency, a diverse group of people thought he would solve the rising inequality and racial issues present at the time. When Obama failed to address the issues, according to 73-year-old economist, *"the feeling, we're all in it together was lost."* Heckerman continues to describe Obama's personality as somewhat aloof. He continues to describe Obama's political correctness ties to the elites. In relation to the Clinton-Trump campaign Heckerman made reference to Clinton possessing similar qualities to that of Obama, to which Heckerman said *"Many, and certainly most of the Trump voters hated."* Perhaps, a vote for Trump was a response to boycott Clinton and her elitism. Clinton's various deals, concealment of e-mails created a sense of uncertainty and distrust in the candidate as pointed out by Heckerman.

The power social inequality has to influence political outcomes in the U.S. campaigns says a lot about what people want from candidates. Being able to connect with your voters on a level that where they feel their voices are being heard and not drowned out by the those of the elite. This is what Trump managed to achieve what Clinton failed to, which was voice the struggles of the other 80% of the population. Trump managed to take an empathetic stance of the affect globalization and economic change had on the majority of the. The irony of the election is that Trump, although being viewed as a non-elitist, despite being wealthy, if not wealthier than Clinton, he was able to portray himself as less of an elitist than Clinton. As

Heckman left the limousine to return to U.S., a country that would appear to be in political chaos since Trump claimed to be the savior of the 80%, he left with his final thoughts on the recent election. *“It was a very peculiar election but it was symbolic of what is happening in the country or not happening.”*

,