

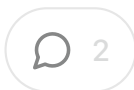
Entitled Society

We've Arrived.



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OCT 18, 2026



Over time since the inception of Lyndon Baines Johnson's "Great Society" we eliminated the stigma of receiving assistance completely. And we have raised generations who see "free" as an entitlement, and not as a temporary stop-gap provide for them in those tough times when a tragedy befalls in the loss of employment, loss of the family bread-winner, or circumstances that intrude to extreme need.

Three things have happened today that have dramatically impacted the rise in entitlement benefit programs we are paying out nationally.

First, there is no stigma in the general population anymore about taking a free out. At one time personal pride would intrude. A man felt more like a man who provided for his own. A man felt worthy, and worthwhile when he provided for himself, his family, and took care of his responsibilities.

We all watched the movie "Cinderella Man" where the protagonist stands in the welfare line after winning a big fight and payday. Getting to the front of the line repaying his debt to our government. The idea that, yes, at one time he was "on dole" and had need, but that now that he was flush, standing on two feet, and could provide, it became incumbent upon him to pay back the government for their help.

Such a scene would never, not ever, be filmed in 2026 America.

We have declined in the idea of self-responsibility to the extent that the foolish are those that aren't "getting in" on the available government payment.

We have declined from the mentality that you find someone's wallet, with cash and then work to find the owner and give him back both the wallet, and all of its contents, to a world where the fool isn't the one who lost the wallet, but the one who doesn't pocket all the cash, and throw the wallet away. We've declined so much that a given segment of our present day society believes further, that if you don't take cash, and try to use all the credit cards until they begin to decline, you are a fool.

Yes, America, that is how far down we've sunk on our level of morality, and sense of personal responsibility.

The second thing contributing to the increases in our entitlement system is that we have raised four generations now to think that entitlements are like sick days, you just use them the same as you would a vacation day. Doesn't matter if you are sick, or if you want a day off, you just call in sick and use those days.

Entitlements are there for the taking. So apply and take. The cost is borne "out of the ether", disconnected from our reality, sure someone pays, but they are a nameless, faceless entity known as "government", where there is a failure and disconnection between taxation and payments. Those seeking the entitlement are usually at the bottom end of the earnings chart, and therefore don't pay taxes. The bottom fourth percent of working Americans pay no Federal tax. So they do not see, feel, or experience the pain of paying high rates. They consider entitlements "free money" dropping out of the ether. No connection to our tax system.

And here is the rub, those with this mindset are now sitting in the entitlement system and approving the payment structure. They do not hold our "old world values"

determination for approval. They do not agree with the approval process at all

During the Obama administration our Federal Government took out ads on tv promoting the idea that you needed the entitlements such as the SNAP program therefore you should absolutely avail yourself of the money available in the program as if some birthright. As if already something earned.

We changed the system, from having to appear and prove you needed the benefits revolving door open system whereby “everybody gets a check”. The usual metrics to determine eligibility completely gone.

A new mentality has taken the system by storm. Everyone gets an approval.

And third, which has accelerated the increase in our entitlement benefits programs that we began to give illegals access to our benefits programs. And I mean in a big way. We have groups funded by our government through NGO's, mostly “Catholic Charities”, whose job it became to bring illegals into our country, and then assist in collecting benefits from all angles. Which has ballooned costs in our entitlement programs dramatically.

There has been a sea change in attitude in America.

We truly have defined deviancy down.

The new attitude is “get yours”, there is no more sense of personal pride or responsibility for your own welfare.

Government is the provider.

Money, being fungible, can now shift duties. A rent subsidy, a welfare check, SNAP benefits, “free” healthcare through the Obama portal, all contributes to a “save” our real earnings. Or our small welfare stipend.

The running joke today, or mean, old, conservatives gripe, that used to be about “Cadillac Welfare Queens”, is now that we taxpayers are funding all the nail salons since we paid the grocery bill through SNAP this month, the money earned either above board or black market on the side is still in the wallet and available to be used on getting our nails done, or our hair done.

For those who consider me a “true racist” please note in that last sentence I did not say “getting our nails done”, which would imply that only a certain racial segment of our nation is “cheating” the system in this way.

Make no mistake, as money is fungible we are indeed funding all manner of expenses that used to be “the poor”. As today “the poor” are gaming all systems to the hilt, they have phones, computers, game stations, games, premium cable channels, streaming services, and are using food delivery services at the same level as the rest of the public.

Where our poor are concerned in this day, and age, “poor” is a relative term. Compared to the average world lifestyle our poor are some of the most advantaged people alive, or to have ever lived. They enjoy a climate controlled environment, access to a home, healthcare, food, and almost all of the accoutrements of our society. They have a dishwasher, washer and dryer, televisions, earbuds.

Entitlement program spending, which does include Social Security for some, runs close to 75% of the tax money provided to the Federal Government, when you include the interest payment on our debt. Leaving only 25% of the money sent in taxes to actually run the government.

Personally, I see a difference in a social security payment as opposed to a SNAP benefit, or welfare stipend. Taxpayers send money into the social security system as a mandated expense, and intended to benefit us in retirement one day.

Now, I realize that the system isn't set up properly, and that our personal contribution does not go into a fund to pay us in old age as a retirement investment account does not. Present day workers pay for future retirees. So the money I paid into the system went to pay retirees all throughout my working lifetime. That money was held in some "lock box" specifically for my own retirement. And when I decided Social Security, that money will be paid to me from present day workers. Who is funding my retirement, not their own, eventual, retirement.

I think FDR should be dug up, hung, then buried again for creating this system as a Ponzi scheme, and not as a mandated retirement program. The government should have funded those early system retirees once they aged, with contributions going into a system to be paid back directly to the individual worker. My invested funds, my retirement. And yours, yours. And so on. We'd have spent billions to fund the retirees in the late 1930's and 1940's who hadn't paid into the system sufficient to cover their retirement. But by today they'd all have passed, and everyone contributing would be funding their own retirement. No need to worry about the number of retirees as measured against workers paying into the system. No worry about the "Baby Boomer" Pig-in-a-Python" lump of people draining the system from too-few workers underneath.

Each contribution would be one funding that individual's retirement fund. A direct payment connection.

If I had known some in Congress want to end Social Security payments then I would have funded a self-retirement program myself. Throughout my own history I paid into Social Security with the understanding that I would gain once retired. Should they decide to take away Social Security benefit as some are wanting to do these days, I think that's unfair, and I would have made a different funding decision forty-plus years ago to ensure some source of income in retirement.

Perhaps you don't see a difference in taking entitlements, versus taking a Social Security payment. I see one that we funded for years and deserve some payback another where you didn't contribute, but now wish to consume.

Personally I find it regrettable when able bodied people are receiving entitlements.

We have a duty to our nation to be contributing members of society. A net benefit, not a real cost.

Unfortunately, every day I'm alive I am falling into the minority holding that credit.

And I have yet to discuss the "black market" out there alive, and well, for game the entire entitlement system. Where shops have been specifically created to assist in taking all of your EBT funds under the guise of a food expense, but who instead cash the EBT entitlement just as cash into their own account, and who pay those stores the EBT card through their system forty-to-fifty cents on the dollar, and perhaps 10% depending upon re-fulfillment date. I've heard on the street that some are will "cash" their EBT money for a quarter on the dollar as the month expires and the renewal is still off in the near distance.

It becomes an excellent "racket" when you can just slide the EBT card through a card reader, the money deposits in the business account as pure cash, and then all they have to do is refund fifty percent of the sum that has hit the bank account to the recipient, earning 100% on the dollar instantly.

I've heard there are pop-up shops across every major municipality as "food stores" that have no purchases, no inventory, no food to actually purchase beyond a few random "show goods". They just operate as a "cash and carry" for gaming the EBT card. Slide a five-hundred dollar charge through the card reader, walk away with two hundred-fifty dollars in cash absent the stringent requirements of the EBT program. Suddenly that hot food at Popeye's is now an item for purchase, when they can't

the EBT card there. Cash always works, even and especially where an EBT card cannot.

Sometimes the idea of your own money “earned” being saved because you were given then entitlement benefit of a SNAP card, and therefore didn’t have to spend your own money earned on groceries, so now that money is still in the purse and available to have your nails done. And sometimes, slide the EBT card through the right machine at the right store location, and yes, the trade for “cash”, even in losing the fifty percent benefit, works to pay for the nail salon visit. In which case the EBT money is cash that is paying for getting your nails done.

I’ve been seeing videos of people “selling plates”, that is, making home made meals and then going to the street to sell these home made meals. And I wondered, why are we seeing such a dramatic rise in people trying to sell street food? Why are the poor attempting to open a “pop up restaurant”? And then it dawned on me, the food is paid for by SNAP. They are producing a product that costs only labor, not materials. Increasing the profit level of each “plate” sold. They have no real job, so they have plenty of time. Why not get all the “fixings” on the EBT for free, and sell finished meals where you have a zero cost to produce, and every dollar made is profit?

In the old days a man, a real man, a prideful man, would never take a hand-out before he goes hungry first.

Today that man is treated as a fool, a man without sense. A man who cannot recognize “free” when it is right there in front of him to take.

We’ve changed as a society, and not for the better. Not at all.

We are awash in entitlement spending.

The new normal is for California to spend twenty-four billion dollars to fight

“homeless problem”, only to see the problem increase.

Those grabbing up the dollars are on a separate and different “entitlement” program known as NGO’s, where money flows and then disappears into the pockets of donor class. Who are never stigmatized in the same way as the SNAP recipient.

But you can bet their wives and girlfriends are getting their nails done on our government dime.



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We need accountability. We need consequences. People should not free ride on the piggy bank or on the backs of the unborn. Our nation's spending must be sustainable, and not maxed out through the issuance of debt. Our wealth should not be given to aliens -- illegal and legal immigrants. Our incentives structure must support productivity and self-responsibility. The church uses its resources responsibly for assisting the needy. We should return to a world where more of that is the norm. A nation of taking, fraud, and selfishness will not be long for this world. On a specific matter, approaching retirement age, I am beyond upset that my mandated Social Security contributions combined with my employers' matching contributions, have been used to fund the living expenses of illegal aliens and millions of other people who have made paltry or no contributions and are gaming the system. I am also angered that my nonexistent "account" has been accruing interest at a below inflation rate for my entire life on account of the government suppressing Treasury yields and the Consumer Price Index in order to keep government borrowing costs cheap, with the main objective over and above any consideration of the welfare of the citizens who contributed to this "trust fund." I am not sure what the appropriate solution is. I was hopeful that having the government steward this program was a good idea as many people find it impossible to manage their money properly and having strict rules and governance of the matter "might" be a good idea. Would having the government investing in stock market indices be an improvement? Much of corporate profits since the 1970s have been on the backs of average workers with an increasing share of profits funneled into the pockets of shareholders at the expense of the workers and the country that gave rise to those corporations. Corporations are chartered to serve a public need and should not have maximizing profits for the owners of capital be their only or even primary goal. Whatever the case, we need change, and it will be for the better.

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