Mandatory Service in America

A Review
A House Divided
Against Itself Cannot Stand

Abraham Lincoln
16th President of the United States
A House Dividing

Polarized Society

Polarization

Polarized Representatives

Dysfunction

Dysfunctional Government

Cloture Motions Filed
65th Congress – 116th Congress

Number of Cloture Motions Filed

65th 79th 85th 95th 105th 115th

BROOKINGS
Why Should You Care?

1. Politicization caused Inharmonious Governmental Action [MZ15]
2. Misinformation [PD4]
3. Difference in Action → STALLED RECOVERY

Polarization ↓ Wealth Inequality ↓ Residential Segregation ↓ Racial Polarization ↓ Racial Wealth Gap ↓ Economic Polarization

Figure 2. Real Median Household Income by Race and Hispanic Origin: 1967 to 2019
(Households as of March of the following year)

2019 CPI-U-RS adjusted dollars

Recession

$98,174
$76,057
$68,703
$56,113
$45,438

110,000
100,000
90,000
80,000
70,000
60,000
50,000
40,000
30,000
20,000
10,000
0

Asian
White, not Hispanic
All races
Hispanic (any race)
Black
Polarization IS a CRISIS. But America Has Been Here Before Right?
HOW LONG DO WE WAIT BEFORE VOLUNTEERING IS THE ONLY OPTION?
What Is Our Plan?

1. **WHO?**: 18-30 year olds
2. **WHAT?**: CHOICE between MILITARY or CIVIL SERVICE
3. **HOW?**: Ranked Choice + HETEROGENOUS Group
4. **HOW LONG?**: 6 months
5. **HOW MANY?**: Estimated 5 million Americans turning 18 per year → GAP YEAR
6. **MONEY?**: Stipend provided to ALL.
7. **IF NOT?**: Financial Penalties (Social Security Reduction, etc)

**TAKE BOLD ACTION WHILE THE PROBLEM IS MANAGEABLE**
Model

- Adopt & **EXPAND** the AmeriCorp Model
- **Local:** Determines Areas of **PUBLIC NEED**
- **State:** **REVIEWS** Proposal
- **Federal:** **SETS GUIDELINES & PROVIDES** FUNDING
- **Organizations:** Apply with a plan **OBEYING** GUIDELINES THAT IMPLEMENT CONTACT THEORY
Contact Theory

- Create SUPERORDINATE IDENTITY
- To Serve TOGETHER is to be American
- SALIENT DUAL IDENTITY [MW12 & 14]

- Allport Conditions:
  - **EQUAL** Status
  - **COMMON** Goal
  - **COOPERATION**
  - Institutional **FACILITATION**
What Does the Science Say?

A Review of Our Position
Domain Review

Sociology: Increase ENGAGEMENT through BENEFICIAL PUBLIC ACTION

Political Sci: EXPOSURE to other cultures DECREASES THREAT PERCEPTION

Health: BENEFITS & ACCESS TO PHYSICAL & MENTAL HEALTH CARE

Education: HARD & SOFT SKILLS GAINED. Designed to be MEANINGFUL

Economics: IMPROVED INCOME POST-SERVICE. Better for COMMUNITY
How Do We Know Its Working?

Measurables
Outcomes

- Participants will be evaluated and facilitated by supervisors throughout.
- Perform a mandatory entry & exit survey.
- Study on comparison between pre- & post-service.
- Peer reviewed by independent scientists.
- Analyze results to determine if statistically significant.
- Program will be reviewed by Congress by end of decade.
Your Reservations

Freedoms

- Freedom is **NOT ABSOLUTE**. Underscored by **SOCIAL CONTRACT**
  - Can’t cry fire in a theater
  - Government CAN conscript in times of war [Supreme Court, 1918]
  - [Fauci, Oct 2020] A mask mandate could save 130,000 lives

- **WELL-STRUCTURED PROGRAM, WITH A GOAL, FOCUSING ON FULFILLING PUBLIC NEED CAN MITIGATE BACKLASH** [JL3]

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- WE ALL PAY TAXES
- WE ALL GET A BASIC EDUCATION
- WE HAVE TO WEAR SEAT BELTS
- CANNOT DISCRIMINATE BASED ON PROTECTED CHARACTERISTICS
- BECAUSE THEY SERVE A SOCIAL GOOD THAT BENEFITS ALL
Your Reservations

Economic Cost

- Does this mean more taxes? Increasing the debt ceiling?
- Historical precedent has justified excessive economic cost (WW2)

Eisenhower’s Interstate

Health care cost related to obesity: $190 Billion [Harvard]

10.5% poverty level [CDC]

- Large labor will result in fulfillment of public needs, economic activity in many towns

2018-2019 government shutdown cost $11 Billion [CBO]

$530 Billion (in 2019 dollars)
What's the Alternative?

A Deconstruction
The Best-Case Con Proposal

- Choice...with Incentives
- Flexibility
- In Your Backyard
- Backlash to Mandatory
- Future Volunteering
- Private Sector Innovation

- Self Selection
- Incentives Target at Same Group
- Community Volunteering Possible
- Well-structured Program [JL3]
- Relevance towards Polarization
- What Innovation in Nonprofits?
Ask not what your country can do for you but what you can do for your country

John F. Kennedy
35th President of the United States
Key Takeaways

1. We face a LARGE problem
2. Ensure HETEROGENEOUS interactions
3. Promote YOUTH development. Benefits not MUTUALLY EXCLUSIVE
4. Cost will be HIGH, but the economic, social and political impacts are evident
5. REDUCED Polarization ≠ Homogenized society
6. Restore COMMONALITY to recreate a FUNCTIONAL society
Works Cited


**All other works are cited based on the Science Team’s references**