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In the article, “The Paradox of the New Elite”, the author uses the viewpoints of some professors and scholars who talk about the economical and social standard of the United States. The middle class is slowly devouring, and it is affecting our system. To support his case, the writer compares America to other countries such as Britain and Germany where their society is also unstable but in a different aspect. The way America runs gives the immigrants a chance to come through, and take advantage of the country’s benefits. On the contrary, countries in Europe are not so “open to minorities”. They do not share the wealth or benefits of their countries to the immigrants. Does this mean that the reason for our country’s problems is because we distribute the nation’s income and benefits among immigrants? Its like the author mentions, “I think if you are a German worker you are better off than your American equivalent, but if you are an immigrant, you are better off in the U.S.” The more ethnicities there are, the more people to share money and jobs with; the less money there is to go around. The problem does not stop there. The author also writes about how the rich hold the elite power; so does everyone really have an equal opportunity to strike it rich here?

The main theme of the article is how in this country, there is social equality but no equality economically. The nation is broken in half. It has become more inclusive, but at the same time more elitist. America has become more understanding in the aspect of race and gender. Women, blacks and Hispanics all have the same rights and privileges. They all have an equal chance to become wealthy. But how much of a chance do they have? As stated in the article, our presidents come from prestige families who have graduated from Ivy League schools; Obama is the only exception. So how does society expect for a Hispanic, graduating from a simple university, make it to become a president or a world-class leader? The economic barriers block middle class and minorities from making it big. If you are not born into a rich family, mobility is even harder on a person.

I agree with the author’s statements. When the economy was in a healthier state, the middle class was both producing and consuming on income that was manageable and easy to spend back into the economy. But now it seems that the richer keep getting richer, and the middle class is slowly blending in with the poor. Yes there is social equality. Discrimination is still seen but not as before. There are laws to protect minorities. On the other hand, not everyone has the same opportunities as others. Not all parents have the money to put their child through Harvard or Princeton. A college student from Pace can have a successful future, but might not have the same leverage as a student from Harvard where their parents are wealthy and have close ties to the white house. That is where our nation is divided. Social equality cannot obliterate the economic instability.