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Film Analysis

The Rich in America: Power, Control, Wealth and  
the Elite Upper Class in the United States

1. What are the main themes of the film?

The major theme of this film is wealth, more income, best-educated is the ruling class, I must say everyone would like to have the same privileges to earn a better income and have a choice of where to educate their children with the best education. Unfortunately, not everyone is privileged enough to have the luxury of choosing the educational institution for his or her children. The other factor was the politicians are influenced by the wealthy to fund and donate to their campaigning to get in office. Even though this is a liberated society the rich get richer and they set policies that will allow them to maximize their full advantage. It is also based on wealthy individuals and their associated circle. Ultimately America is run or controlled by the wealthiest and they minimized their social network. Primarily wealth is the predominant factor in this film and the large power structure in large corporations. It was emphasized that there is a large income wealth gap vastly because the wealthy are educated and can change careers to gain more wealth. This film highlighted the fact of the inequality of wealth distribution in the United States.

2. How does the producer construct his/her arguments?

The producer Gibney was disgruntled to see how wealth is distributed around the world and how the wealthy invest their wealth. He constructed his arguments on

investors, corporations, political power, and wealth. The American's liberation, power, and ideology, it is all high society wealth.

3. Does the producer have a moral, political, and or economic posture? Is it made explicit or implicit?

The producer did not display any moral-political or economic posture that I observed. In my observation, he made it implicit. Even though seemed to discuss the iniquities of capitalism among the wealthiest.

4. What assumptions does the producer have about American society? Is the portrayal accurate?

The producer stated that power in the United States is a continuity of the power structure. The power structure is consists of two key elements the large corporation and the federal government in Washington. The wealthy congregate and discuss their business for success and upward mobility. They discuss with all academic experts to ensure their success and for greater wealth. The truth of the matter is capitalism offers a great promise. It is the institutional setting that produces the power structure. The owners of large corporations and managers of banks are interconnected. They share information such as hiring the same manager and accountant. They all have the same in common. The wealthy in the American society business, institution or corporations have the same value and interest of which is accurate of upward mobility and capital gain.

5. What assumptions does the producer have about the world? Is the portrayal accurate?

The assumption the producer has brought about of the world is that people use their wealth to become business owners or enter politics. Even though the power structure is constantly challenged by the wealthy and the liberal politician the power of wealth always wins. Interestingly, the other point was expressed that we have a pluralistic society but we do not have an economic and political structure. In other words, the government has no control over privately companies

6. What concepts/principles from the course and especially the course textbook relate to the themes covered in the video? You may have to refer to the Macionis textbook or other videos in the course.

The concept/principles this course's textbook has certainly related to the theme of this video is that the distribution of wealth inequality is unevenly distributed in the United States. The wealthiest individuals have the power, control, and the greatest influences on society and it is just like an epidemic. There is a significant correlation between the video and Charon's textbook when it comes to the superclass they both referred to the fact that "1 to 2 percent are of superclass" and they control the power. "In short, inequality is perpetuated through social power, and those who have power are those who benefit from the system of inequality" (Charon Pg.79). The social club they joined includes members of all professionals' aspects and academic leaders who influence corporate America. The vast majority of their wealth is in financial assets and business equity, Astonishingly I found it profound to discover their social network is very limited to only the very wealthiest. Therefore, these wealthy individuals or groups will always gain more power and success distributed among them. They earn the rights to their

wealth because they are educated and invested in the best stocks and real estate. However, they have more opportunities than the average middle class because of their status plus they are privileged in society and their inner circle and associates. The wealthy corporation influences the lobbies so they can in turn receive massive tax breaks and maintain their wealth so less tax more wealth. Don't get me wrong I no issue with the wealthy who earn their wealth using an honest method they are entitled to their wealth. But I do not understand why the wealthy should pay less tax and the lower class pays more taxes. Therefore, the wealthier they become is the more benefits they will receive.

7. What concepts/principles from the film relate to the contemporary United States political-economic situation?

One of Charon's chapters best described the film he says, "power is a complex matter; those with the most power do not usually want basic change in society" (Pg. 195). Wealthy is unequally divided into the United States. However, as Charon inferred as well in the film the superclass which is wealth is the ruling force in the economy that is considered power. This determines that the wealthy control employment opportunities and subsequently economic success. After examining the film and book it explain why there is a large disparity that exists between the superclass and lower class in society. The wealthy and elite have more access to resources and control various sectors in society while the lower class will only exist

In conclusion, it does not matter how it is viewed in film or documentation the reality of the matter is wealth is power and the wealthy individuals encompass in comparison to the

lower class. Wealth and power will consistently control the United States because they are business and politics.

## Work Cited

Charon, J. M. (1998). *Ten questions: A sociological perspective*. Belmont, CA:

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Gibney. A. (June 9, 2012). *The Rich in America: Power, Control, Wealth and the Elite Upper Class in the United States*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cdxFmvuZnrI>