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Research & Writing Assignment Week 12

In this week's research and writing assignment I will talk about two recent disruptions of society and have a closer look at these events.

The first event I chose is COVID-19 which is the most recent and also biggest disruption I would say. I think everyone knows about the COVID-19 pandemic which affected the entire world over the last 3.5 years. The pandemic is a global health crisis which started in late 2019 and spread across the entire world, affecting billions of people. COVID-19 changed our everyday lives with widespread lockdowns, an increased usage of protective equipment like masks, and social distancing. Another big negative effect from the pandemic is the high number of deaths worldwide and also the healthcare systems which were very overwhelmed. Because of the pandemic, a lot of the countries set up different measures to fight against COVID and slow the spreading down. Those measures included, lockdowns, vaccinations, mask mandates and also travel restrictions. These measures however faced some issues, because not everyone accepted these rules and it led to people protesting against these measures, which just made it more difficult for the governments to handle everything. When looking at the United States and how the pandemic had an impact here, there were a lot of different reactions across the country. A lot of people and groups rejected the scientific evidence about COVID-19 and conspiracy theories became more and more popular about the origins of the virus. This shows that the trust in institutions became less and less in the society and it also reflects the political polarization.

The second event I want to talk about and which had a huge impact on our society, are the September 11 attacks in 2001. These attacks were a series of terrorist attacks on the

United States and as a result, had nearly 3,000 deaths as a result. But not only were the big amount of deaths a result of these attacks, there was also widespread panic and fear, and also economic as well as political consequences as a result. After the terrorist attacks the United States showed a strong sense of national unity as well as big support towards the military and government. The US increased security measures around the entire country; they increased surveillance, changed their foreign policy and also launched the war against terror. But those were not the only affects from these terrible events, the responses also included increased discrimination, especially towards Muslim Americans and other minorities, which showed the biases in American society.

Overall I would say that both of these events have had big disruptions of society as a result, but they had different answers I think. The responses towards COVID-19 have been reflective of political and social situations and divisions, while the responses towards the September 11 attacks were characterized by a national unity. The responses also showed the cultural values and beliefs in society and underlined aspects such as; individualism, distrust in institutions and patriotism.