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World Civilizations 1

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Chapter 13 Research and Writing Assignment

For my first disruption to be discussed, I will talk about the Covid pandemic and how America responded in its frame values according to its cultural screen. The Covid pandemic started in Wuhan China and spread across the globe within a matter of months. The response to this was to shut down travel coming out of China but it wasn't effective. Measures were taken by the government to halt the spread but it was not received positively by a lot of the population. The measures taken involved quarantine of individuals known to have the virus and mandated vaccination both of which, caused many people to lose employment either due to their not being at work and their employers letting them go, or them refusing to take the vaccine out of coercion. There was quite a lot of conflict in the public sphere between those who trusted the vaccine and chose to get it as opposed to those who didn't and opted against taking it. The term, "anti-vaxxers" became commonplace on social media and in public spaces. This was exacerbated by public officials touting the effectiveness of the quarantine measures being imposed as well as the vaccine mandate who were then found breaking those same rules by dining out in public areas and not wearing the masks espoused to be effective against the vaccine. Some people chose to rebel against this by quitting jobs that threatened them with termination of their employment. From this event, we can see the frame values of rebellion against unjust measures imposed by the government and the methods used to protest them. This reflects the cultural screen of fighting

authority seen in the first British colonies that came to America to have religious freedom as well as fighting the British power despite them being outmatched and not having much military training. In essence, the frame value espoused here is fighting for freedom against unjust rule or rules.

For my second cultural disruption, I will discuss the social media platform Twitter. The topic I'm talking about in my second portion arguably didn't have as much of an impact on society as Covid did but it still did have an impact. In the past 6 months, the owner of Twitter has changed hands to Elon Musk. Elon Musk purchased Twitter with the goal of true free speech which he said was not being properly managed on the platform with the previous owner. This led to division among Americans namely those who identified with either the Conservative political Aisle and those who identified with the Democrat political aisle. The Conservative side said that they were very happy with the change in leadership due to unfair practices being followed by Twitter such as shadow banning of those belonging to a certain political party and censorship of accounts that spoke opinions of the people in charge of Twitter or rather, the ones monitoring Twitter did not agree with. In case you did not know what shadow banning is, shadow banning is the practice of hiding someone's account in the news feed or limiting the interaction they have with their followers so their posts do not reach as many people. For a platform like Twitter where your followers can determine the value of your account and in some cases, your net worth, this is quite egregious. The Democrat party opposed the change in leadership because they did not believe Elon to be as pro-free speech as he claimed. They said this would simply allow him to censor the voices he chose and it was simply a matter of a new person coming in to do the same policies. The frame value I saw during this story was free speech. Both sides of the political aisle seemed to desire true free speech on Twitter but they didn't agree on whether or not the new

leadership would espouse this value or not. Only time will tell whether or not the new leadership of Twitter will be positive or negative.