Elitism AC

**Content warning: Colorism/racism**

I stand in affirmation of the resolution: **The appropriation of outer space by private entities is unjust.**

The sole standard for today’s debate will be Rejecting Elitism. The term elitism may be used to describe a situation in which power is concentrated in the hands of a small, limited number of people.

Les **Levidow 18** [Chomsky paradox: responsibility of intellectuals revisited, Sept 6, 2018 https://www.opendemocracy.net/en/chomsky-paradox-responsibility-of-intellectuals-revisited/]

From “**Chomsky**’s 1967 essay: He further argued: ‘**If it is the responsibility of the intellectual to insist upon the truth**, it is also his duty to see events in their historical perspective’, as a crucial basis for distinguishing truth from deception**.  Intellectuals must analyze how elite ideology justifies oppression by variously appealing to moral superiority, expertise, modernization, etc.**

Elitism destroys democracy. The guise of elections is used to allow the ruling class to stay in control.

Noam **Chomsky** in ’**93** [Old Wine, New Bottles, University of Virginia, Feb. 10, 1993 http://webarchive.loc.gov/all/20010916112914/http://www.zmag.org/chomsky/talks/9302-uva.html]

“**Periodically, the rabble are permitted to**, as he put it**, ‘lend their weight’ behind one or another** member of the respectable men**; that's what's called an election** [laughter]**. You** be our leader **or you be our leader, and then they're supposed to go home** and do something else **and not meddle any longer**. And **any form of participation in public affairs other than that would be unacceptable**.”

It is our duty to understand that elitism justifies oppression and our main goal is to reject it. Prefer this for 2 reasons:

1. Elitism is a root of hierarchy and injustice

**Dorling 15** [https://www.newstatesman.com/uncategorized/2015/06/growing-injustice-six-myths-about-inequality]

**We live in an increasingly hierarchical society. We talk about some people being way above and others way below other people. And yet we are not that different from each other. This sham hierarchy has been created by elitism, exclusion, prejudice, and greed. The end result is increasing amounts of despair, not only among the poor, but also among groups like the children of aspirational parents. If we want a content and happy society, we are currently going in the wrong direction.**

1. Lowering the status of elites benefits the whole of society

**Lowrey 19** [https://www.theatlantic.com/ideas/archive/2019/10/cancel-billionaires/599587/]

**[T]here are far more urgent reasons than poverty to get rid of billionaires** and reverse the trend of economic polarization**.** **A growing body of economic and political-science research demonstrates that Gilded Age–type inequality does not just mean having too many with too little. It is** warping the very social fabric of the country, **stifling mobility, innovation, investment, and growth, and putting the country at political risk. Dramatic inequality in wealth means dramatic inequality in terms of political power means a political system unresponsive to what most people want. Wealth inequality, in other words, is an anti-democratic force.**

Bind argument: NEG has to prove case benefits primarily the least advantaged. Any benefit to elites will cause only gain for them, even when shared with the least advantaged.

# C1: Space Elitism

All arguments for perceived gains in any fashion for appropriating space only create benefits for rich investors and elites looking for more gain. No appropriation will benefit the poor, homeless, and oppressed.

Andrew **Griffin** in **17** [Elon Musk SpaceX shows how the elitist space race descended, Feb 28, 2017 https://www.independent.co.uk/voices/elon-musk-spacex-nasa-moon-travel-only-if-you-can-afford-it-a7603486.html]

“**Space travel and exploration has** always **been a hybrid project between the public and private sector.** Over decades**NASA and other space agencies have created stunning innovations – only to have these discoveries taken by private companies and turned into profit.”**

Jacob **Silverman** in **21** [Billionaire Space Race is a Tragically Wasteful Ego Contest, July 9, 2021 https://newrepublic.com/article/162928/richard-branson-jeff-bezos-space-blue-origin]

“**The** best **argument against the billionaire space race is how little impact it will have on the lives of most of Earth’s inhabitants.** It will inaugurate a new era of ultra-expensive stunt tourism, perhaps, but **it will do nothing for the common good, especially when companies like SpaceX and Blue Origin are competing to crowd low-earth orbit with thousands of small satellites**. Vast and unearned fortunes have been spent on what are essentially private entertainments: Bezos has said that he sells $1 billion in Amazon stock each year to fund Blue Origin. **It’s** also **no coincidence that the** planet’s **two richest men are pursuing these efforts after seeing their fortunes rise by tens of billions during the pandemic.** They simply have too much money. At a time **when our earthly inequities could not be more clear, it is obscene to allow moguls to pour their untaxed billions**, earned on the backs of precarious workers, **into private ventures divorced from everyday concern or accountability.”**

We become robbed of the shared purpose and interest of space exploration done by public entities for public gain and achievement. The private entity race crowds out this public sentiment and further demonstrates how elites control everything.

Jacob **Silverman 21** [Billionaire Space Race is a Tragically Wasteful Ego Contest, July 9, 2021 [https://newrepublic.com/article/162928/richard-branson-jeff-bezos-space-blue-origin](https://fortimail.mpsomaha.org/fmlurlsvc/?fewReq=:B:JVg8NzM0PCBwOzQoNiBvYjs2Nzw2NyB1b2FoZ3JzdGM7YjVjPzRiMzVgN2RgYzE+YzJnYjMxMT8/YjQ/NTMzPjVgZTU+Y2I1MSByOzcwMjQ2Nj42NzIgd29iOzQ2RU5NQ2peNjQ/MT8zKzQ2RU5NQ2pcNjQ/MT8zIHRldnI7fGFnYWM/PzJGa29qamd0YnZ1KGl0YSBlOzUwIG5iajs2&url=https%3a%2f%2fnewrepublic.com%2farticle%2f162928%2frichard-branson-jeff-bezos-space-blue-origin)]  
“That leads us to the basic dissonance **at the heart of this new space race** [is] **the vast gap between the lives of its leaders and the rest of us, condemned to be earthly spectators.** (The launches will be streamed live across various media.) With **the Cold War–era space race**, however flawed and militarized, **at least** it **represented a collective effort**, ostensibly **divorced from the profit motive or egos of private citizens. Normal people went to space, not billionaires** treating the cosmos as their personal plaything. The space race existed to marshal a sense of shared purpose (and, well, to make better ICBMs and spy satellites). It was subsumed by jingoism and nationalism, yes, but it gestured toward higher values that are nowhere to be found in a glitzy Virgin Galactic production.”

Elitism will grow – as a metaphor, space is larger than our minds can comprehend. If elitists can appropriate space, their power in what they control will grow. The access and participation are not intended for any other than those with the ability to afford. As the rich demand to be amongst the privileged few of billionaires having been to outer space, they will continue to abuse the masses of people on Earth

Since elitism is increased by the appropriation of space by private entities, growth of injustice will follow

# C2: Injustice is a direct result of Elite programs

Robert **Woodson 21** [Equality of opportunity, not elitism, should be the goal, Oct 11, 2021 https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/restoring-america/equality-not-elitism/in-the-fight-for-racial-justice-equality-of-opportunity-not-elitism-should-be-the-goal]

“At the beginning of the civil rights movement, we fought to open doors that had been closed to us by law. We wanted to end the systematic legal and political restrictions on black opportunity; we wanted black people to be evaluated for our character and capability, not our skin color or assumptions people made about us because of it. Somewhere along the way, our vision for racial justice got hijacked by bureaucrats, academics, and activists who understood civil rights to mean something entirely different. For these interlopers, racial justice didn’t mean equality of opportunity; it meant the fantasy of equality of outcomes. And **racial justice advocates** now **insist on redefining the Black American struggle as a quest to trust our lives to elites who promise to make sure we all get the same amount of stuff. What began as a grassroots movement for equality has become an elitist project, one that’s more about power than it is about real justice.** The elitist condescension toward Black Americans is nothing new, though it’s grown particularly virulent lately. Part of the current black experience in America is to be viewed by both progressives and conservatives through the lens of pathology instead of potential. **Many elites of all political** and ideological **stripes have long pathologized black people** by treating us **as problems to be solved**, rips in the social fabric that need to be mended by well-meaning, though often seriously misguided, public policy interventions. Now, we’re **often viewed as nothing more than helpless victims awaiting rescue from our privileged white oppressors**.”

Society is made a more unjust place. The masses are pushed into new ways of being used as means for the end goals of elites.

Lena **Afridi 18** [Trickle down elitism does not help the working class, AlJazeera.com, Mar 20, 2018 - [https://www.aljazeera.com/opinions/2018/3/20/trickle-down-elitism-does-not-help-the-working-class](https://fortimail.mpsomaha.org/fmlurlsvc/?fewReq=:B:JVg8NzM0PCBwOzQoNiBvYjs2Nzw2NyB1b2FoZ3JzdGM7ZTViNWQ0ZDZlPmNkZGA0NWUwNmAzYDE3Zz8xYmBjNzBnZDY1YDFlMCByOzcwMjQ2Nj42NzIgd29iOzQ2RU5NQ2peNjQ/MT8zKzQ2RU5NQ2pcNjQ/MT8zIHRldnI7fGFnYWM/PzJGa29qamd0YnZ1KGl0YSBlOzUwIG5iajs2&url=https%3a%2f%2fwww.aljazeera.com%2fopinions%2f2018%2f3%2f20%2ftrickle-down-elitism-does-not-help-the-working-class)]  
“Moreover, **the working class is a carefully designed byproduct of policy and culture that creates and maintains the ruling class. To be “elite” relies on differentiating oneself from the masses. Wealth and socioeconomic mobility for the elite come at the expense of the working class**.”

Elites will often use people of color and other marginalized groups when it is most convenient for them, adding to discrimination.

**Trends 20** [Tokenism - Inclusion is an Illusion: Treating People Like Props- Diversity Gone Awry - Token Appearance](https://bizshifts-trends.com/tokenism-inclusion-is-an-illusion-treating-people-like-props-diversity-gone-awry-token-appearance/)

**Platform to perpetuate tokenism**

The effort of including a ‘token’– worker, manager or leaders (usually race, religion, sex…) in organization is intended to create illusion of diversity to deflect potential accusations of discrimination. **Tokenism and token representation is a misguided attempt at social diversity in order to deflect criticism and simply give the appearance of diversity without achieving it.** Think of an organization that tries to prove they are not racist by showing one black person in their advertisements. Or another business appoints a woman to Board of Directors. Or another business that thinks a lone gay person on staff gets them support from LGBTQ community…

**Forbes 09** [America's (Bad) Elitism (forbes.com)](https://www.forbes.com/2009/02/09/robert-rubin-elitism-bailout-opinions-contributors_0209_pablo_triana_portela.html?sh=7b741fc41079)

**At a time when regular Americans are losing their jobs**, homes and pensions, the sight of **Wall Streeters--many of whom now own a third mansion** by the sea precisely because of the compensation they received in recent years, which was tied to the positions that eventually caused dramatic losses—**being relieved of their** horrendously **bad bets by public officials is** certainly **not the best way to strengthen faith in the wholesomeness of the system.**

**The injustice is so sizable that one would not be surprised if an incurable sense of cynicism toward the free, capitalistic way of life develops and eats away at the popular support that sustains the entire structure.**

**A rescue plan** that stinks **of bad elitism goes against the spirit of the wonderful mode of social organization** that gave us the blessing of good elitism. **The wealthy speculators** who are **behind the** Average Joe's **current pain are going to be allowed to stay on top--not because of diligent work or creative genius, but because a group** of friendly bureaucrats **have decided to use** Joe's **hard-earned money to finance the preeminence of those who lost it.**

Link: You must affirm. If space appropriation grows the power of elites, and elitism is a root of injustice, the resolution ought not to be negated due to the word “unjust”.

Anything other than an affirmation of the resolution condemns the masses to a perception and reality in which outer space is reserved only for the elite rich.