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Questions about the United States

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The civil war happened in 1861 because of the significant differences between states concerning the national government authority to ban slavery in regions that were not yet States. Specifically, Abraham Lincoln won 1860 elections as a Republican, the party that planned to end slavery (Dew, 2017). The Deep South feared that slavery would end, and the North also feared that democracy would not be applied throughout the country. Several circumstances were building, leading to the outbreak of the war. As a result, economic differences between the North and the South were evident. Manufacturing, industrial sector, and agriculture thrived on the Northern side while the Southerners relied on large scale farming where Black slaves worked in the farms. Another factor was the developing slavery abolition debate, which would affect the South because they relied on slaves for their economic development.

Governments apply efforts to reverse economic downturns, which changes the fiscal landscape of average Americans. One of the measures is via the central bank's monetary policy to set interest rates that favor the economy. The action impacts the citizens as they access loans at reduced rates empowering them to invest and earn huge profits (Coskuner-Balli, 2020). When the interest rates are low, citizens are motivated to borrow loans, which benefits their investments. The government's other effort is through the fiscal policy in which the politicians determine how the revenue would be utilized. It also alters the peoples' operations as it depends on the politician's willingness to apply the ideas. For example, in the Great Recession, leaders cut spending before the economy recovered, which mainly affected their ability to grow and develop.

There is a link between suburbanization, school-funding, and segregation of schools and communities. Suburbanization occurs when people get tired of urban life due to the perception that the urban areas are overcrowded. Urban sprawl results, but the school funding

and segregation of some populations occur. Notably, the minority populations do not receive funds like the rest because they are segregated (Fuller et al., 2017). Therefore, the more people leave towns, the higher the chances of suffering because most of the good schools are only found in the urban. For that reason, it has affected intergenerational wealth, where the advantaged maintain while the social-economic of the minorities keep deteriorating.

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American Healthcare System (question 1)

The United States ¹ has the most expensive healthcare in the developed world, where structural and systematic factors contribute. The presence of many systems causes wastes, which increases administrative costs. According to data, the US uses 8% of the healthcare allocations on administrative costs compared to 3% in other nations (Rovner, 2019). It is the case because the system is complex since regulations are different, funding, and enrollment procedures. Another reason for high costs of healthcare in United States is drug costs. An average American pays four times higher than citizens in other regions like Europe. It occurs because the US market controls the drug costs, while in Europe, it is the government that regulates it. Moreover, the US private insurers could agree with the drug manufacturers on the prices to be allocated, while Medicare is not allowed to negotiate prices. It leads to more

costs because Medicare, the sector that knows the citizens' needs, is not involved in the decision making.

Healthcare professionals' salaries are high in the United States than the rest, making the costs higher. A US doctor is paid about \$218 000 every year, while other specialists earn more than \$316 000 yearly (Papanicolas et al. 2018). A nurse practitioner in the country is paid about \$74 240, while those in the Netherlands are paid \$60 250. Considering the government employs these practitioners in large numbers, and the high earnings, the sector's general costs are more. Apart from that, US hospitals are profit hubs where specific procedures' prices are way higher than others. Hence, 33% of the country's healthcare cost is consumed in providing care. According to Health Affairs data in 2019, both inpatient and outpatient prices between 2007 and 2014 increased heavily. A small angioplasty to rectify a blood vessel costs \$6300 in the Netherlands, but in the US, the cost is \$32 200(Rovner, 2019). As a result, the sector takes advantage of the high technology applied, making the citizens find the costs worth the services. However, the industry aims to make huge profits while taking care of the patients making it very expensive.

American High Incarceration Rates (Question 2)

Reliable data shows that United States got around 5% of total population in the world, yet 25% of world's prisoners (Sealy-Jefferson et al., 2020). Several factors contribute to the high incarceration rates. Unlike other countries, the United States depends on imprisonment as the leading way to punish criminals. It means people violating all kinds of rules are sent to jails. In other countries, another method such as caning and whipping, so most people are not sent to prisons. Also, the United States is a free society, whereby people are allowed to move quickly within and outside the country. For example, vehicles use is high, making criminals efficiently execute their plans. Notably, it is hard for one to commit a crime while walking as they would be easily caught by many vehicles along the streets; crimes are high. Besides,

freedom makes the American citizens carry weapons efficiently, assisting them to engage in harmful missions.

Technology has also played a role in the US's increased incarceration rates. It is giant in this sector, so criminals plan their missions faster. Communication information technology empowers them to engage in crime even when not physically in the places (Bagaric et al., 2018). On the other hand, criminal justice has also invested in technology, so most cases are discovered, and the criminals are sent to jail. The racial disparity has also played a considerable role in the increased imprisonment rates. The African Americans and other minorities are prejudiced, where the police officers send most of them to jails even when innocent. The minorities' population is the least in the country, but they comprise the highest percentage in the prisons. Therefore, the disparities have pushed many minorities to engage in crimes because they are accused of falsely even when they do not. Thus, the United States has high incarceration rates due to imprisonment as the primary punishment method, freedom, technology, and racial discrimination.

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