

Extra Credit (Optional): The Social Contract and "I Have a Dream" Questions

Published Edit

"The Fair Society: It's Time to Re-Write the Social Contract" (<https://canvas.colorado.edu/courses/93677/files/67036430?wrap=1>) [↓](https://canvas.colorado.edu/courses/93677/files/67036430/download?download_frd=1) (https://canvas.colorado.edu/courses/93677/files/67036430/download?download_frd=1)

1. According to the following criteria, what are some examples of the United States' shortcomings in delivering a just and fair society?

- a. Equality = "providing for the basic needs of everyone"

- b. Equity = "providing consistent economics rewards based on merit"

- c. Reciprocity = "obligation to contribute a proportionate share to the collective survival enterprise in return for the benefits we receive".

2. Corning says that society, according to his "biosocial contract" theory is a "collective enterprise" whose purpose is not "about achieving growth, wealth, material influence, power, or social equality, nor even about the pursuit of happiness."

- a. What, then, does Corning say is the "deep purpose of human society"? Why?

- b. What are the conditions that we should meet to enable this societal purpose?

3. How does Corning justify his suggestion that the US should look to Europe for examples of fairness reforms?

4. What do you see as the difference between equal and fair?

"I Have a Dream" (<https://canvas.colorado.edu/courses/93677/files/66931957?wrap=1>) [↓](https://canvas.colorado.edu/courses/93677/files/66931957/download?download_frd=1) (https://canvas.colorado.edu/courses/93677/files/66931957/download?download_frd=1)

1. What are some parallels you see between "The Hill We Climb" and "I have a Dream," e.g., theme, diction, and/or metaphors?

2. In what ways does Dr. King invoke the social contract in his speech?

3. King exclaims the "fierce urgency of now" for addressing racial injustice. This speech was given on August 28, 1963.

- What does our national sense of urgency for racial justice look like 60 years later?

- What progress have we made since 1963?

- What are our greatest remaining obstacles?

4. What do you think Dr. King means when he says, "You have been the veterans of creative suffering"?

Points 25

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