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English 101

15 June 2022

## A Modern Phenomenon: Cancel Culture

The cancel culture is a modern phenomenon made possible by the digitalization of our lives. It allows the masses to effectively destroy someone's career or even livelihood using the wonders of the world wide web. This is an extremely powerful tool that can do a lot of good in the right hands. But, the question here is whether the court of public opinion can be trusted with dispensing justice. Does it bring more harm than good? Should we avoid it whenever possible? Let's investigate it.

What is the difference between the public's cancel culture lynch mob and a conventional court? In most cases, it's the reliability of the information available. A court investigation goes through a painstaking process of separating truths from fabrication. This can take months or even years and still not be enough to protect the innocent from false imprisonment. Corruption and personal bias can also negatively affect the outcome of a trial. Still, the chances of passing the wrong judgment are considerably lower when compared to the practices of the cancel culture.

The cancel culture, on the other hand, tends to be fueled by emotional outrage rather than cold logic. Without due process, wild accusations may pass for credible information. Once the pain train starts rolling, it's virtually impossible to stop it. Moreover, those responsible for falsely accusing an innocent in a court of public opinion are rarely held to it. As such, there are many cases of the cancel culture being used maliciously or for personal gain. A single careless post can





permanently tarnish someone's reputation. In some cases, the damage lasts even after a proper investigation reveals they were innocent all along. With people getting more tech-savvy and critical of the information they consume, the impact of the cancel culture can be reduced. However, it remains a powerful and lethal weapon that can be used by virtually anyone. And that's what makes it dangerous and unpredictable.

It is obvious that both approaches have their pros and cons. That said, we cannot choose one or the other. They already coexist. The deep institutionalized nature of one and the widespread and chaotic nature of the other make it virtually impossible to refuse either one altogether. However, we should always strive to work on and improve our ways. And when it comes to the cancel culture (and consumption of public information in general) it becomes imperative in the modern age to learn how to separate reliable data from speculation or misinformation.