

## Candidate 1 evidence

ADVANCED HIGHER MODERN STUDIES DISSERTATION – LAW AND ORDER

# ‘Capital Punishment in the USA is Justifiable Retribution’

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WORD COUNT – 5,400

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***AIMS AND METHODS******Hypothesis:***

***'Capital Punishment in the USA is Justifiable Retribution'***

***AIMS AND METHODS:***

- 1. My first aim is to find out whether or not capital punishment offers effective justifiable retribution.** I will look at the main arguments and points for both the advantages and disadvantages of capital punishment and whether the current crimes that can result in the death penalty are worthy of such prosecution. I will use official statistics from online websites and also online articles from sources such as newspapers and news outlets. I will be using official capital punishment data and use the opinions of high profile American politicians. I will also be looking at human rights problems surrounding capital punishment. I will also be looking at whether or not capital punishment is acting as a deterrent to US citizens and will be reviewing them by comparing them with crime statistics across the US. I will also be looking at the financial implications to tax payers that capital punishment brings. In this I aim to prove that capital punishment is not justifiable retribution and this ended with the conclusion I was expecting.
- 2. My second aim is to research whether or not life imprisonment is a more effective method than capital punishment.** I will be looking at what current crimes are punished with life imprisonments and how these crimes compare with the death penalty. I will be comparing the different length of life sentences in the USA and the UK and examining if these sentences are the correct amount. I will also be looking at the high financial implications of keeping a prisoner and how this compares to the sum of imposing capital punishment. I will be using official opinion polls to see whether or not citizens of both the UK and the USA see life

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imprisonment as a more appropriate alternative than capital punishment and also polls to see whether not current life imprisonment sentences should be extended or reduced for justifiable retribution. I will be looking at the opinions of university professors and also current law officials in both the US and UK. I will attempt to establish whether life imprisonment could replace capital punishment in the future

- 3. My final aim is to research capital punishment in Norway, UK and Saudi Arabia to see whether alternative methods are working better than current US laws and compare each country.** I will look at how high end criminals have got differential sentences in all 3 countries and review whether or not the current penal systems in the countries are working effectively. For this I will be using sources from news outlets, government statistics such as YouGov and the office for national statistics and also US newspapers. I will be furthering my research in human rights and ethical issues into Saudi Arabia to see whether capital punishment in this country meets the correct standards. Throughout I will be looking to prove that capital punishment does not successfully stop crime and other methods are more effective in dealing with high end criminality.

WORD COUNT 503

## **Introduction**

At the present day, the death penalty is the most extreme punishment for crime. Taking a human person's life because of a crime they have committed violates current human right laws throughout the world, however despite this capital punishment is still in use in a number of countries across the world.<sup>1</sup> 55 countries still use the death penalty as punishment for crime, including one European

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<sup>1</sup> N/A. (2017). Capital Punishment By Country . Available: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Capital\\_punishment\\_by\\_country](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Capital_punishment_by_country). Last accessed 20th Oct 2017

country - Belarus. EU laws prohibited capital punishment which is why many European countries have abolished capital punishment. In 2017, execution per continent and country are as followed :

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Africa (2 countries): Egypt (16), Somalia (24 [Puntland 12, Federal Government of Somalia 12])</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Americas (1 country): United States (23)</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Asia-Pacific (18 countries): Afghanistan (5), Bahrain (3), Bangladesh (6), China (1,551+), Iran (525+), Iraq (111+), Japan (4), Jordan (15), Kuwait (7), Malaysia (4), North Korea (5+), Pakistan (65+), State of Palestine (6 [Hamis authorities, Gaza]), Saudi Arabia (130+), Singapore (3), Syria (NA) United Arab Emirates (1), Yemen (2+)</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Europe (1 country): Belarus (2)</li> </ul>

<sup>2</sup> The Justice Centre of the University of Alaska at Anchorage highlights the following in capital punishment -

"Death penalty advocates justify capital punishment under the principle of lex talionis, or 'an eye for an eye' - the belief that punishment should fit the crime. In particular, people who favour capital punishment argue that murderers should be executed in retribution for their crimes and that such retribution serves justice for murder victims and their survivors. Death penalty opponents emphasize the sacredness of life, arguing that killing is always wrong whether by individual or by the state and that justice is best served through reconciliation." This supports the use for the death penalty to be imposed as a form of punishment for severe crime. The death penalty is most commonly used for crimes such as pre meditated murder, mass murder, terrorism, acts against the state and rape resulting in death. However there are many crimes which currently receive capital punishment in certain nations which are condemned by many world leaders. Some of these crimes include homosexuality, Witchcraft, robbery and opposing the state.

<sup>2</sup> Newburn, T. (2013) Criminology [2nd Edition]

The support and opposition for capital punishment in America and the UK is split very evenly. The US is currently experiencing the biggest surge in opposition to the death penalty in recent times, with 60% of Americans say they are in favour of the death penalty for persons convicted of murder. This figure is similar to the 61% average since 2011 but down from 66% support between 2000 and 2010 and the all-time high of 80% in 1994.<sup>3</sup> However UK polls suggest that there is higher support for the death penalty than those who oppose it with YouGov poll in September 2010 found 51% supported the death penalty for murder, 37% opposed. A MORI poll in July 2010 found 51% supported the death penalty for adult murder. This suggests that there is a difference and a split of opinion in those who support and oppose it.

In order to fully evaluate whether capital punishment is justifiable retribution, we must look at different aspects that answer the question. It must be looked at in 3 ways - whether capital punishment is effective justifiable retribution, whether there are better alternatives to capital punishment, and whether it acts as a deterrent in Saudi Arabia, Norway and the UK.

**WORD COUNT 588**

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<sup>3</sup> Anthony Wells. (2011). Public Opinion On The Death Penalty. Available: <http://ukpollingreport.co.uk/blog/archives/3802>. Last accessed 25th Oct 2017.

## Dissertation –Is Capital Punishment in the USA Justifiable Retribution?

### CHAPTER 1-IS CAPITAL PUNISHMENT JUSTIFIABLE RETRIBUTION?

Many people argue that the death penalty is justifiable in certain cases of serious crime. Crimes such as murder merit capital punishment as it is argued that ‘the punishment fits the crime.’ Murder means that someone is being deprived of their life therefore some people argue that the same should happen to the perpetrator. In relation to the execution of Dhananjoy Chatterjee in India who murdered and raped a 14 year old school girl and remains the only person to be executed not related to terror charges in India, judges of the India supreme court A.S. Anand and N.P. Singh said <sup>4</sup>“The measure of punishment in a given case must depend upon the atrocity of the crime, the conduct of the criminal and the defenceless and unprotected state of the victim. Capital punishment is the only appropriate punishment in which the courts respond to the society’s cry for justice against the criminals. Justice demands that courts should impose punishment befitting the crime so that the courts reflect public abhorrence of the crime” supporting the argument that the crime of murder is befitting of the death penalty.

This is many people’s main argument for supporting the use of the death penalty. Without Capital Punishment this would represent unfairness on the victim’s family who without the death penalty as an option, would have to live with the fact that the victim’s killer is still alive. Many families, who have suffered from murdered relatives in countries where capital punishment does not exist, feel

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<sup>4</sup> N/A. (2014). Arguments in favour of capital punishment. Available: [http://www.bbc.co.uk/ethics/capitalpunishment/for\\_1.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/ethics/capitalpunishment/for_1.shtml). Last accessed 1st Nov 2017.

'uneasy' about the fact that the murderer is still alive. In the USA a poll was conducted to see whether or not Americans still see the death penalty as a justifiable punishment.<sup>5</sup> 60% of Americans still agree with the death penalty; however this is the lowest support for the death penalty since 1972, showing that the support for the death penalty has vastly dropped in recent years.

<sup>6</sup>Capital punishment also helps 'wipe out' hardened criminals from society. Without these criminals being present in society, it creates a safer environment free from people who have the capacity to kill.

Many people argue against the death penalty being justifiable. Some arguments for this is that the death penalty is 'inhumane' as ending a person's life is matching the criminal's act. The act of killing is perceived as being deviant and is regarded as a sin, and therefore the death penalty is criticised by many.<sup>7</sup> The support for the death penalty in Britain dropped below 50% for the first time in 2015. The NatCen British Social Attitudes Report found 48% of the 2,878 people it surveyed were in favour of capital punishment, a drop from previous years showing that Britain now have a majority in favour of retaining no capital punishment in the UK.<sup>8</sup> The topic was last debated in parliament in 1998 under Tony Blair's Labour government where a provision of the Act outlawing capital punishment for murder except "in times of war or imminent threat of war" was backed by 294 votes to 136. These figures back the fact that the UK's decision not to use capital punishment is firmly supported across the country, with the last execution held in the UK being in 1965. The brutality of some of the methods of execution in the USA is also often criticised.<sup>9</sup> Many people regard the use of lethal injection as being a safe and relatively painless method of execution. However many disagree

<sup>5</sup>N/A. (2013). Poll: 60 Percent Of Americans Favor Death Penalty. Available: <http://washington.cbslocal.com/2013/10/30/poll-60-percent-of-americans-favor-death-penalty/>. Last accessed 1st Nov 2017.

<sup>6</sup>IBID

<sup>7</sup>N/A. (2015). Support for death penalty drops below 50% for the first time. Available: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-32061822>. Last accessed 2nd Nov 2017

<sup>8</sup>N/A. (N/A). Bound Volume Hansard - Debate. Available: <https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm199798/cmhansrd/vo980520/debtext/80520-37.htm>. Last accessed 20th Nov 2017.

<sup>9</sup>Larry Greenemeier. (2010). Cruel and Usual?: Is Capital Punishment by Lethal Injection Quick and Painless?. Available: <https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/capital-punishment-by-lethal-injection/>. Last accessed 1st Dec 2017

with this as potassium chloride is extremely painful and causes the human to be unable to breathe and paralysis's them. Prisoners on death row often have the choice of which way they wish to be executed.<sup>10</sup> Other least common methods include the electric chair which is the oldest execution method in the US and was deemed unconstitutional in February 2008 by the US Supreme Court.

Other methods include the gas chamber and a firing squad.

The death penalty is also active as many US government officials claim it is a deterrent against people to committing violent crimes. However there has been no proof that the death penalty acts as a deterrent in the US public. Murder rates in the US have been on the increase since 2014, when there were <sup>11</sup>14,164 murders. This figure increased further in 2015 when there were 15,883 murders and in 2016, murder rates reached an all-time high in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century with a murder toll of 17,250 which works out an estimated 47 murders a day. This therefore proves that capital punishment does not in any way act as a deterrent in US Society.<sup>12</sup> California Senator Gloria Romero of Los Angeles recently called for a review of the death penalty as Romero raised specific concerns about racial and geographic disparities in the imposition of the death penalty.<sup>13</sup> She also argued that it violates human rights Articles 5 and Article 1, which state Freedom from Inhumane Treatment and Right to Equality, which are further arguments against capital punishment. Capital Punishment is violation of human rights which is why many countries do not participate in capital punishment.

The death penalty also takes the chance away for reformation of a criminal. By imposing capital punishment on a criminal, the criminal does not have the chance change their ways by taking part in counselling and other methods of rehabilitating the criminal.

In a survey in which I conducted, I asked 4 questions 'do you think the death penalty should be introduced to the UK for crimes such as murder and terrorism?', 'Do you think that capital

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<sup>10</sup> Smith A. (2011). Methods of Execution. Available: <https://deathpenaltyinfo.org/methods-execution>. Last accessed 3rd Dec 2017

<sup>11</sup> N/A. (2016). United States Crime Rates 1960 - 2016. Available: <http://www.disastercenter.com/crime/uscrime.htm>. Last accessed 15 Dec 2017.

<sup>12</sup> <https://deathpenaltyinfo.org/new-voices-political-leaders>

<sup>13</sup> <https://www.buzzle.com/articles/list-of-human-rights.html>

punishment justifiable retribution and why?' 'Are methods of execution in the US Unethical?' and 'In your opinion, what crimes warrant capital punishment?' . For my first question my 10 respondents gave a 50% each way vote, showing that there is a split opinion on whether or not it is justifiable retribution. My next question was a clear answer, 9 out of 10 people believed that the death penalty should not be re-introduced in the UK for crimes such as murder. For my third question 75% believed they were unethical and that they should find methods which involve less pain. For my final question, crimes that were mentioned that warrant capital punishment included murder, rape, child abuse and terror offences.<sup>14</sup>

In conclusion, the death penalty is justifiable retribution for criminals that have taken the lives of other. The crime of taking away someone's right to live deserves to be punished with the victims own life being taken away from them. The argument about the methods of execution and how they are too brutal is something in which I agree with, Finding less brutal ways of execution would help solve this as current methods are inhumane.

WORD COUNT 1250

*CHAPTER TWO – IS LIFE IMPRISONMENT A BETTER ALTERNATIVE TO CAPITAL PUNISHMENT?*

If the death penalty was abolished in the USA, a suitable retribution to serious crime would need to be established by the US Government. Crimes which are worthy of the death penalty in America such as murder and second counts of child rape under the age of 14<sup>15</sup> would need to be punished in a similar method but avoiding the unethical act of death in order to deter Americans committing these offences .

<sup>16</sup>The obvious alternative to the death penalty is life imprisonment without parole. <sup>17</sup>Currently 44% of Americans would prefer this alternative to the death penalty, higher than the 42% who prefer the

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<sup>14</sup> Survey conducted in Advanced higher modern class on the 11<sup>th</sup> November 2017

<sup>15</sup> <https://deathpenaltyinfo.org/death-penalty-offenses-other-murder>

<sup>16</sup> <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/magazine-22912075>

death penalty. Of those who supported it, 58% cited the danger of innocent people being executed, 45% because they believed racism was a factor in people receiving the death penalty, 46% because of high costs and 42% because they thought this method was not acting as a deterrent<sup>18</sup>. Life sentences without parole currently exists in the US with their currently being 40,000 prisoners sentenced to life without parole, including 2,500 under the age of 18<sup>19</sup>. Life sentences in other countries such as the United Kingdom very rarely mean life, with only 50 people in the whole of the UK being sentenced for life<sup>20</sup>. The life sentence is decided by a judge in the UK however it is usually 25 years. Current crimes that meant a life sentence without parole in the US include the act of murder (non pre meditated), rape with assault, attempted murder causing serious bodily harm, kidnapping, acid attacks causing grievous bodily harm and mass armed robbery<sup>21</sup>. This method will also mean the costs for the US taxpayer will drop as it costs less for life imprisonment than keeping someone on Death Row. <sup>22</sup>The cost of imprisoning an inmate for a year in America is \$24,248 a year. This means that life sentences for<sup>23</sup> everyone on Death Row which currently stands at 2843 as of April the 1<sup>st</sup> 2017 would amount to approximately \$72 million for US taxpayers.<sup>24</sup> The current estimated overall cost for keeping an inmate on death row per year is \$49,380, meaning US taxpayers overall currently pay \$148 million, more than double the cost than it takes to give them life sentences.

A report was released stating whether or not Americans wanted alternatives to the death penalty.<sup>25</sup> The new national poll found a result which demonstrates that Americans are willing to give up the death penalty if certain stringent sanctions are enforced. This poll, and similar state opinion polls, confirms that abstract support for the death penalty drops significantly when

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<sup>17</sup> <https://deathpenaltyinfo.org/sentencing-life-americans-embrace-alternatives-death-penalty>

<sup>18</sup> IBID

<sup>19</sup> IBID

<sup>20</sup> IBID

<sup>21</sup> IBID

<sup>22</sup> <http://thelawdictionary.org/article/what-is-the-average-cost-to-house-inmates-in-prison/>

<sup>23</sup> <https://deathpenaltyinfo.org/death-row-inmates-state-and-size-death-row-year>

<sup>24</sup> <https://www.forbes.com/sites/kellyphillipsrb/2014/05/01/considering-the-death-penalty-your-tax-dollars-at-work/#222294da664b>

<sup>25</sup> <https://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/Photocopy/142881NCJRS.pdf>

respondents are given a choice between capital punishment and sentences which assure lengthy incarceration and compensation for the family of the victim.<sup>26</sup> Only 41% of the population would choose the death penalty over a sentence of life without parole coupled with restitution to the victim's family<sup>27</sup>. This backs up the view that the death penalty should be abolished and replaced with life sentences without parole with additional compensation granted to the victim's family would be an effective system.

However many people believe that even with life sentences without parole there are ethical issues behind the punishment.<sup>28</sup> Dirk van Zyl Smit, a professor at Nottingham University said "No human being should be regarded as beyond improvement and should therefore always have the prospect of being released". He believes that every prisoner no matter what crime they have committed should have the prospect of being released after counselling and rehabilitation. No parole also gives no incentive for good behaviour or rehabilitation. This may link to high rates of violence in prisons. However rehabilitation programmes have proven unsuccessful in the US with reoffending rates being at <sup>29</sup>30%, proving more has to be done to improve rehabilitation programmes with current standards being insufficient to successfully rehabilitate prisoners. Ways to fix this include larger investment and new prisons to avoid overcrowding meaning the programmes could reach out to a larger number of people.

There are many government officials who oppose using life sentences as an alternative to capital punishment.<sup>30</sup> Current US President Donald Trump stated his support for the death penalty on several occasions in the past, stating on Twitter that Jared Lee Loughner, who shot former Rep. Gabrielle Gifford's and killed a half dozen others in 2011, "should be given the death penalty, not his

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<sup>26</sup> <https://deathpenaltyinfo.org/documents/TwoPercentReport.pdf>

<sup>27</sup> IBID

<sup>28</sup> [https://www.penalreform.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/PRI\\_Alternatives\\_to\\_death\\_penalty\\_info\\_pack\\_WEB.pdf](https://www.penalreform.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/PRI_Alternatives_to_death_penalty_info_pack_WEB.pdf)

<sup>29</sup> 'baby's behind bars documentary

<sup>30</sup> <http://edition.cnn.com/2017/11/03/politics/death-penalty-trump/index.html>

plea bargained life in prison -- which will cost the taxpayers many millions of dollars". He has also made additional comments on the matter, mocking people who opposed the death penalty

"It's like these guys that commit murder, right? They commit murder. They kill someone. ... They go to jail. 'We don't want the death penalty. It's a cruel and unusual punishment,'" he said. "And then you have another case when they get the death penalty, want to give them drugs to put them to sleep quietly and this. Look, we're in a fight for our lives."

<sup>31</sup>There is also been support from other US Government officials. Former, Georgia Supreme Court Judge Charles Weltner stated everybody believes that a person sentenced to life for murder will be 'walking the streets in seven years'. With high government officials stating that life sentences are ineffective, this helps back up the claim that the death penalty is a more effective option than life sentences without parole.

<sup>32</sup>Judge Charles Weltner however is opposed by the Governor of New York Mario Cuomo who stated in an interview "There is an effective alternative to burning the life out of human beings in the name of public safety. That alternative is just as permanent, at least as great a deterrent and--for those who are so inclined--far less expensive than the exhaustive legal appeals required in capital cases. That alternative is life imprisonment without the possibility of parole". This shows backing towards using Life Sentences without parole instead of the death penalty

In conclusion, after researching the alternatives to the death penalty the most obvious method would be a life sentence without parole with additional compensation awarded to the victim's family due to the effects of the crime. This would work to a greater effect than the death penalty and is also a cheaper method to US Tax payers. The most important aspect of this method is to compensate the victim's family even though financial payments will never replace the loss of a loved one. This system is currently not in place and would be highly beneficial to the victim's family.

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<sup>31</sup> <https://deathpenaltyinfo.org/sentencing-life-americans-embrace-alternatives-death-penalty>

<sup>32</sup> IBID

However with this alternative put in place, the inmate who has received imprisonment for life would not be allowed to gain parole under any circumstances as they are high danger criminals. They would also have to be detained in the highest security prisons to avoid escape and lenient behaviour against them.

WORD COUNT 1164

*CHAPTER 3 – CAPITAL PUNISHMENT IN NORWAY, SAUDI ARABIA AND THE UK*

The laws in relation to capital punishment in Norway, Saudi Arabia and the UK differ to those in America. In Norway capital punishment has been abolished for a number of years, and they appears to have found successful alternatives. Norway have been praised by countries all over the world for their efforts in tackling serious crime. The Norwegian penal system is on in which has been successful at tackling all the main aims of prison – Rehabilitation, and Protecting the public. The punishment aspect has been criticised due to its lack of discipline and its lenient approach to prisoners, where high end criminals have access to kitchen utensils such as knives and live in a good standard of accommodation. The figures and statistics speak for themselves.<sup>33</sup>In Norway, fewer than 4,000 of the country's 5 million people were behind bars as of August 2014. That makes Norway's incarceration rate just 75 per 100,000 people, compared to 707 people for every 100,000 people in the US. In addition to that, when prisoners are released from prison reoffending rates are considerably lower than that of the USA.<sup>34</sup> Norway has one of the lowest recidivism rates in the world at 20%. The US has one of the highest: 76.6% of prisoners are re-arrested within five years. Crime in general is also considerably lower than that of America.<sup>35</sup>In 2014, Norway had a murder rate of 0.56 per 100,000 populations, compared to USA's 4.5 per 100,000 in the same year. This shows that capital punishment isn't acting as a deterrent in the US and Norway on the other hand has used alternative methods which can be seen as 'a luxury prison service'. However despite its

<sup>33</sup> <http://uk.businessinsider.com/why-norways-prison-system-is-so-successful-2014-12?r=US&IR=T>

<sup>34</sup> IBID

<sup>35</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Crime\\_in\\_Norway](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Crime_in_Norway)

soft methods, the Norwegian penal system is one in which is effective at both repelling crime and helping both short term prisoners and long term prisoners obtain the rehabilitation that they need – all this is done without the use of a capital punishment sentence in place, with the highest maximum sentence which can be enforced in Norway being 21 years, with only a small percentage serving more than 14 years. Even the most dangerous prisoners serve this time.<sup>36</sup> Norwegian terrorist Anders Breivik got given the maximum penalty of 21 years imprisonment meaning he is serving just<sup>37</sup> 101 days per victim. However in the USA he would of inevitably would have received capital punishment for his actions.<sup>38</sup> Abraham D. Sofaer, a former federal judge in the US sees the 21-year cap as "absurdly inadequate" for this type of heinous crime, stating "I'm sure it's well-intentioned. Maybe it works in most cases," he added. "But then you get these cases, where one would think almost anyone would agree that 21 years is an insult."<sup>39</sup> A washing post columnist attacked Norway for not bringing back capital punishment for the specific reason to execute Anders Breivik. However in a poll conducted across Norway showed that the majority of Norwegians where satisfied in the verdict of the trial.<sup>40</sup> Tore Sinding Bekkedal, a survivor of Breivik's attack on Utoya Island who heard dozens of his friends murdered as he hid inside a toilet, says: "I am relieved to see this verdict", showing that many people in Norway where happy with his 21 year sentence.

In comparison to Norway's ban on capital punishment, Saudi Arabia is at the exact opposite end of the scale.<sup>41</sup> The Saudi Arabia government conducted 154 executions in 2017, all of which are performed in public.<sup>42</sup> The law is based on Sharia Islamic laws, and citizens of Saudi Arabia can be executed for a number of crimes in Saudi. These include acts such as atheism, homosexuality and burglary, things in which we would never imagine would be worthy of receiving the death penalty.

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<sup>36</sup> <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2012/aug/24/anders-behring-breivik-verdict-norway-utoya>

<sup>37</sup> [http://www.rasmussenreports.com/public\\_content/political\\_commentary/commentary\\_by\\_debra\\_j\\_saunde/rs/norwegian\\_crime\\_and\\_punishment](http://www.rasmussenreports.com/public_content/political_commentary/commentary_by_debra_j_saunde/rs/norwegian_crime_and_punishment)

<sup>38</sup> IBID

<sup>39</sup> Hammel, A. (2012), 'Norway's Breivik judgement shows that Europe's ban on the death penalty is now irreversible' The London School of Economics and Political Science

<sup>40</sup> <http://world.time.com/2012/08/27/why-norway-is-satisfied-with-breiviks-sentence/>

<sup>41</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Capital\\_punishment\\_in\\_Saudi\\_Arabia#Capital\\_offences](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Capital_punishment_in_Saudi_Arabia#Capital_offences)

<sup>42</sup> IBID

The capital punishment system has been criticised across the world because of its extreme nature.<sup>43</sup> The strict regime ruling the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is consistently ranked among the "worst of the worst" in Freedom House's annual survey of political and civil rights, showing that capital punishment is used for crimes which wouldn't even be considered crimes in developed countries.

Public executions is also a brutal procedure that should be eradicated, as killing someone in front of an audience which is described as the only form of 'entertainment' apart from football matches, is morally incompetent and behind the times.<sup>44</sup> A United Nations special rapporteur has said trials leading to the death penalty in Saudi Arabia are 'grossly unfair'. Saudi Arabia practices the death penalty in a way which should not be tolerated as it breaches human rights and unfair acquittal.

<sup>45</sup>In the UK, capital punishment has been abolished since 1967, with the last execution taking place in 1964 by hanging. Calls have been made from far right political parties to bring it back, such as Britain first.<sup>46</sup> In a recent YouGov poll results showed in 2010 that 51% of people supported the death penalty and 37% of people opposed it, with the remaining 12% being unsure, despite support dropping in 2014 to 45% supporting it and 39% opposing it, *this shows that the British public would favour reintroducing the death penalty*. Polls also showed that people in the UK believe that capital punishment would act as a deterrent, with 45% saying it would and 41% saying it wouldn't.<sup>47</sup> UKIP leader Nigel Farage recently stated in an interview that 'he does not personally support the death penalty, but would be happy to see the UK debate whether to reintroduce it'. He also stated that the people of Britain should decide, calling for a referendum on the matter. This shows that Britain may be open to reintroducing the death penalty in the future. However other party leaders have stated their strong opposition in relation to the death penalty being reintroduced.<sup>48</sup> Labour leader

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<sup>43</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Human\\_rights\\_in\\_Saudi\\_Arabia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Human_rights_in_Saudi_Arabia)

<sup>44</sup> <https://www.mirror.co.uk/news/world-news/saudi-arabia-execution-horror-video-5006175>

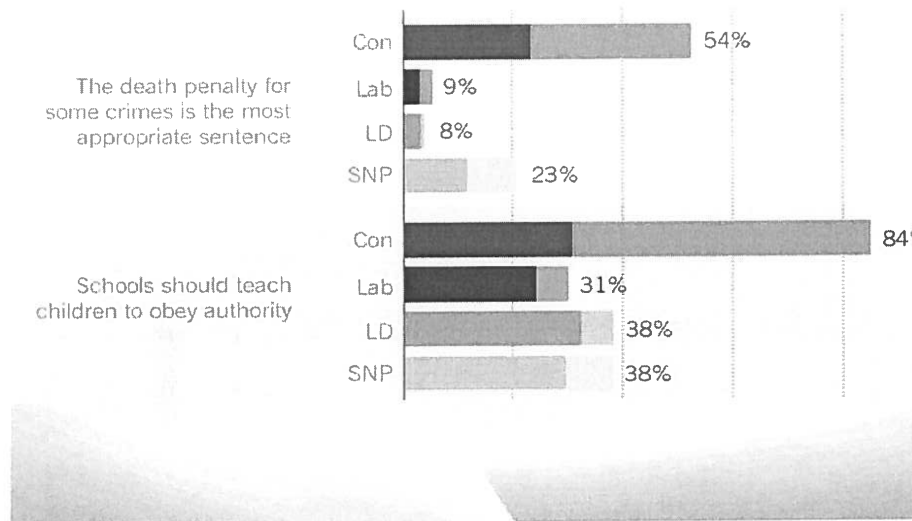
<sup>45</sup> <http://www.capitalpunishmentuk.org/abolish.html>

<sup>46</sup> <https://yougov.co.uk/news/2014/08/13/capital-punishment-50-years-favoured/>

<sup>47</sup> <http://www.breitbart.com/london/2014/08/15/farage-i-do-not-support-the-death-penalty-but-britain-should-debate-the-issue/>

<sup>48</sup> <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3216437/Labour-leadership-favourite-Jeremy-Corbyn-said-assassination-9-11-mastermind-Osama-Bin-Laden-tragedy.html>

Jeremy Corbyn is strongly against the death penalty, and even stated that Bin Laden shouldn't have received the death penalty in a report from the Daily Mail.<sup>49</sup> Despite Theresa Mays objection to the death penalty, many Conservative supporters and party members support it. Conservatives also would like to see schools teach children to obey authority as shown in the diagram below.



Overall, the death penalty is unlikely to be reintroduced at the present time, but due to some support for reintroducing it, legislation involving reintroducing it cannot be ruled out in the future.

**WORD COUNT 1,107**

## **Conclusion**

**'CAPITAL PUNISHMENT DOES NOT OFFER JUSTIFIABLE RETRIBUTION'**

<sup>49</sup> <https://news.sky.com/story/most-conservatives-support-death-penalty-poll-reveals-11194549> graph

Overall, the hypothesis of my dissertation is proven false as Capital Punishment in the USA does not offer Justifiable Retribution due to it not meeting enough standards in order for it to be justifiable

The first aim of my dissertation was to find out whether or not capital punishment offers effective justifiable retribution. I can say accordingly that capital punishment does not offer justifiable

retribution for a number of different reasons. The main reason is that it doesn't act as a deterrent for stopping homicide in the US. This is proven by murder rates rising year on in the US, meaning that the threat of the death penalty isn't stopping people committing serious crime. It can also be said that capital punishment offers the perpetrator the easy way out rather than staying in detention and giving back to society. Many criminals accept the death penalty as they do not want to stay in prison their whole lives up until death. Capital punishment also costs the tax payer more than keeping prisoners per year, meaning higher financial implications are imposed. The death penalty also violates human rights issues, and therefore proceeding with it offends against many ethical issues, something which many Christians are uncomfortable with.

My second aim was to research whether or not life imprisonment is a more effective method than capital punishment. After researching this, I believe life imprisonment is a more effective method than execution. One of the reasons why this is the case is because life imprisonment in my opinion is more of a punishment than the death penalty. This is because being kept in detention for the rest of their life keeps them away from society and lets them reflect on the crime they have committed. The only downfall to this is it is still costing the tax payer thousands of pounds per year however it is still cheaper than the cost of execution meaning that life imprisonment is better for all involved. To add to this solution, the victim's family should be entitled to financial compensation. Although this wouldn't bring back their loved ones, it would certainly mean the state would offer some form of condolence to the family involved.

To conclude on my final aim - to research capital punishment in Norway, UK and Saudi Arabia to see whether alternative methods are working better than current US laws. After reviewing this It is clear

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that Norway leads by example with their penal system being one the best – if not the best in the world. Despite its leniency and short sentences for violent and extremist crimes, rehabilitation is the key aspect of their penal system and this seems to work. Most importantly – their penal system forbids the use of capital punishment, showing that a penal system is more effective without capital punishment being in place. With the UK, there are signs of the British public wanting capital punishment reinstated however there have been no recent debates on bringing it back. The highest punishment given in UK courts is life without the chance of release however this sentence is very rarely used with the next highest sentence being life imprisonment however this usually is 20-25 years. This is scrutinised highly by the British public as high end dangerous criminals will usually be free once again, becoming a threat to society. Saudi Arabia's method of capital punishment and their penal system in general is one of the poorest in the world, with their methods breaching human rights with executions for acts that aren't even worthy of being labelled crimes such as homosexuality, freedom of speech and adultery. The constant use of capital punishment means it no longer even acts as a deterrent. It is clear that out of those countries researched, Norway therefore has an extremely successful prison system without capital punishment, for example<sup>50</sup> Norway's incarceration rate just 75 per 100,000 people, compared to 707 people for every 100,000 people in the US, thus highlighting how effective the system is in dealing with crime.

To conclude overall it is apparent that capital punishment does not offer justifiable retribution, it is not effective as working as a deterrent and is becoming less accepted in the modern day world. Abandoning the death penalty and working on other aspects of prisons such as rehabilitation is the key to a healthy society rather than just ending people's lives. Eradicating capital punishment would favour society in all countries involved, as shown in Norway.

WORD COUNT 759

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<sup>50</sup> Sterbenz, C. (2014) 'Why Norway's Prison System is So Successful' <http://uk.businessinsider.com/why-norways-prison-system-is-so-successful-2014-12>

## Appendices

### APPENDIX 1 – BIBLIOGRAPHY

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## **APPENDIX 2 – REVIEW OF RESEARCH METHODS**

1. Websites – These were the easiest to access and gain information off. It was the most effective way to gain information and Government run and official statistics helped me gain vital information that was both reliable and linked with my hypothesis. However there was some websites which I was unsure if the content was reliable and correct, this therefore affected my research as it could contain information that was either false or bias towards a certain side. An example of this is the use of Wikipedia in which I used to obtain some statistics. Some information on this website could be false as anyone can edit it.
2. Surveys – Surveys helped me collect information from a wide range of people and can be seen as a quantitative method of research. It helped me gain vital information on certain areas I needed to research in order to gain opinions and suggestions, such as whether or not the death penalty should be brought back in the UK, whether or not capital punishment was effective as a deterrent and also if they thought there were ethical problems with it i.e. human rights issues. Creating a survey via Survey Monkey was fast and reliable, which helped speed up the research process therefore surveys are an effective way of gathering research.
3. Documentary 'Baby's Behind Bars' – the Baby's Behind Bars documentary helped give me information on reoffending rates in the US as compared to other countries, which then helped me find out whether or not rehabilitation in prisons in the US was working.
4. News articles – News articles helped give me information on different opinions from high end government officials, adding reliability to my chapters. I used articles from international newspapers such as the 'Aftenposten' in Norway, 'Washington Post' in the US and the Daily

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Telegraph in the UK, all in which are high end and respected newspapers. The news articles helped me gain a substantial amount of information.

### APPENDIX 3 – SURVEY QUESTIONS

*Question 1 – Do you think that capital punishment justifiable retribution and why?*

*Possible Answers*

*Yes*

*No*

*Comment box: please state why*

*Question 2 - do you think the death penalty should be introduced to the UK for crimes such as murder and terrorism?*

*Yes*

*No*

*Question 3 – Are methods of execution in the US Unethical?*

*Yes*

*No*

*Question 4 – In your opinion, what crimes warrant capital punishment?*

*Comment Box*

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# Candidate 2 evidence

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“Donald Trump’s First 100 Days In Office Were Successful. Discuss”

Word Count: 4699

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With Obama's presidency coming to a close after a long 8 years in office, there was the great campaign race from both the Democrats and the Republicans to see who would succeed him. A race unlike any that the people of the United States had ever seen. One, which ultimately led to the election of the Republican candidate. Donald Trump.

After a long and hard campaign by the multi-millionaire businessman filled with sexual harassment allegations, apparent fake news all backed up with the promise of a "great wall", (Krishnakumar, 2017) more jobs and of the course the clinching campaign slogan. *Make America Great Again*. Trump's nationalist stance and promise to the American people of making America great again is one that many will see as a beacon of hope after they felt failed by the Obama administration. The promise of returning America to its former self played at the hearts of many Americans in a country where patriotism is very prominent. With Trump having no background in politics and as a man who is no stranger to controversy, Donald Trump's first 100 days were of keen interest to many a political spectator.

The first 100 days of any president's term in office is a time that is eagerly watched and analysed, as it is the first glimpse of the new president. It is within this time that a president can set the ball rolling with their agenda and show their intent by what it is they do within these first 100 days. The reason it has become such a significant benchmark is largely due to Franklin D Roosevelt's first 100 days in 1933. In this time he had 76 bills passed into law in an attempt to reshape America following the depression after the end of the First World War

(Pruitt, 2017). It was through these actions that Roosevelt became famous for revamping the American economy setting it on the road to recovery. So it is from this that every president since then is judged on their performance within these days on not only their productivity with legislation and law making, but also their choice in appointments to the various government and other positions.

In order for me to determine if Donald Trump had a successful first 100 days in office, I will be looking at his main campaign promises and see which of these were kept. In chapter one I will look at his foreign policy by analysing his promise on the Paris climate agreement and also his withdrawal from the Trans Pacific Partnership. These are two high profile campaign promises and are ones, which have attracted a lot of attention. Then, in chapter two I will look at his domestic policies. It is within the domestic policies that Trumps main campaign promise lies which was the promise of a wall on the border with Mexico and it will also look at his promise to repeal Obama care. Finally in chapter 3 we will look at his economic policy with his promise to bring back jobs and also lifting restrictions on energy production. I will use these three areas in order to make an informed judgement and ultimately determine how successful Donald Trump's first 100 days were.

**To What Extent Has Trumps Foreign Policy Made Him Successful In His First 100 Days?**

Donald Trump is a businessman at heart, making him adept to recognising deals that can either benefit or hinder the biggest business that he has run to date. America. All throughout his campaign, Trump reiterated over and over how he would remove America from the Paris Climate Agreement. This agreement was set up in order to tackle climate change. Donald Trump promised to withdraw from the agreement and by day 56 he had already put a proposal in place to cease payments and also withdraw from the agreement altogether (Krishnakumar, 2017). This shows the first sign of success in his presidency as he had already kept one of his big campaign promises. By staying true to his word Trump managed assert his stance early on as well as help to show voters that they made the right choice. This is due to his quick action and how he had actually kept his promise, which makes him seem less like a self serving politician and more like a man who really does want to see America be great again. This follows onto how upon his first days in office he had redirected billions of dollars from the UN climate change programs to fix infrastructure in US. Donald Trump has been quoted saying that climate change was a 'hoax' (Baker, 2017) and that Paris regulations stifled America as it would put them at an 'economic disadvantage' (Sampathkumar, 2018). This means that he saw the requirements of this deal as a hindrance to the growth and stability of America. With the removal of America from this deal, it means they will also cease contributions to the UN green climate fund as well as reporting on carbon data. This means that money has been freed up allowing it to be used directly in

America in order to boost growth and achieve stability. Another example of his objection to the deal is how he said "I was elected to represent Pittsburgh not Paris." (Hunt, 2017) Therefore by choosing to emphasise his commitment to serving the United States, it can be argued that Donald Trump had made the correct decision, one of which that was well received due to keeping one of his main campaign promises and staying true to his word. Furthermore many people supported this move due to the 'all words, little action' (Novak, 2017) nature of the agreement as it means that countries will now be forced to put into practice the ideas of which they are proposing as America's withdrawal highlights how the remaining countries will now have to put the agreement into action for the whole world to see. Rather than it just being a signed piece of paper.

However his decision has caused immense backlash, which has resulted in it being held with some contempt. Many countries have expressed their disappointment at the decision, as the US is the second largest producer of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions after China. Furthermore Trump has been met with protests from members of the public as well as big businesses. For example, the leaders of many big businesses such as Google, Adobe, Apple, Facebook and many others sent a letter to Donald Trump outlining the benefits of staying in the deal (Bondarenko, 2017). Therefore Donald Trump can be seen as being successful in his first 100 days on the basis of keeping his promises which people voted for. Although it can also be seen to having limited success due to the unhappiness from many due to his decision, Trump has ultimately kept a big campaign promise, which shows his triumph in his first 100 days.

The promise of withdrawing from the Trans Pacific Partnership was again a key part of Trump's campaign, one of which caused uncertainty among businessmen in America. The prospect of withdrawal means that many businesses would no longer lose out to foreign businesses that were trying to grow. It was formed under Obama and was designed to be an equivalent of the EU single market. It was intended to boost economic ties and business opportunities. However Donald Trump has been calling the deal "the worst trade deal in the history of trade deals" (Staff, 2016) which subsequently led to his withdrawal. Furthermore the new agreement cost Americans jobs and also enables companies to sue the government more easily; therefore this is why on his first day in office he withdrew America from the deal. Therefore keeping his promise, which can be linked to success in his first 100 days as it means that Americans are getting exactly what they voted for. For example, reasons for withdrawing are that under the terms of the trade deals drug makers would lose out on protection for the drugs they make with it being dropped to 8 years rather than 12 years of protection. Also most of the money made from this trade agreement would go to workers earning over \$88,000 a year (Amadeo, 2017). This means that by withdrawing, Trump will help tackle the growing income inequality that is becoming increasingly large in America, which subsequently shows that Donald Trump is showing promise in his first 100 days as a result of the knock on benefits of keeping his promise.

However many businesses and other countries see this as being bad for them. This means that they see the US withdrawal as hindering their growth and economic possibilities for other Pacific nations. For example, Malaysia would lose out on the opportunity for a 6% growth in their economy as well as Vietnam losing out on potential 6% economy (Li, 2016). It is clear from these statistics that America's withdrawal from the partnership does not bode well for other Pacific nations. This means the success has been limited due to the repercussions of withdrawing and the impact on economic growth. Although these limitations are obvious the effect is mainly to countries other than US, which means that Trump is putting America first. This shows commitment to his promise and also the continuation of making America great again as instead of looking to develop other countries he is focussing on developing where it counts and where the people want the money to go to. Back into America. This shows that Donald Trump can be seen as being successful in his first 100 days as his promise has been fulfilled almost instantaneously to funnel money back into America and to try get a better deal for US economy.

**To What Extent Did Trump's Domestic Policies Contribute To His Success In  
His First 100 Days?**

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Donald Trump had made a multitude of promises but none of which come close in terms of controversy to the promise of building a wall on the border with Mexico. Throughout his campaign, Trump constantly reiterated the point of curbing the flow of all the illegal immigrants coming into the country with him stating "I will build a great wall — and nobody builds walls better than me, believe me — and I'll build them very inexpensively." (Krishnakumar, 2017) This is because Trump sees the flow of immigrants coming from Mexico- legal or not- as a threat to the citizens of the United States United States in respect to jobs and wages. Furthermore, he sees the wall as a way to tackle the drug smuggling crisis as illegal drug abuse costs Americans \$181 billion a year in healthcare costs (drug trafficking by the numbers). Donald Trump had promised the construction of the wall to begin within his first 100 days. However after day 56 his request for funding to build the wall was rejected by Congress (Krishnakumar, 2017). This can be seen as a setback for Trump as it means that his promise will struggle to be fulfilled. This is due to a lack of funding and an idea of how to actually pay for the wall following a report by the deputy director of the US Immigration Policy Programme who found that the cost of building he wall could be anywhere between \$15 billion and \$25 billion (Graham, 2017). This shows that Trump has undoubtedly struggled to make his dream of a wall a reality, as he now has to think of another way to create this wall. Moreover, Donald Trump was quoted during one of his speeches in which he states, "I will make Mexico

pay for that wall." (Graham, 2017). This again shows Trump's failure, as he was unable to get Mexico to pay for the wall. Therefore many people can argue that Donald Trump had been hindered due to not delivering on his promise.

However others have taken Trump's promise as a symbolic representation of his drive and promise to tackle illegal immigration. At a time where there were high tensions throughout America because of the election, immigration was turned into a serious topic as of the end of the 2017 fiscal year it was seen that there was a decline of 24% in arrests along the US-Mexico border, the symbolic effect of the wall was successfully portrayed as Donald Trump had clearly made an impact, as this means that it is has decreased to its lowest level in 46 years (Miroff, 2017). This also clearly shows Donald Trump successfully keeping his promise to restrict immigration as levels have dropped. Another example of his crackdown is that there had been a further 41,000 arrests made by the ICE. Therefore Donald Trump can be seen as having unprecedented gains in his crackdown on illegal immigration, although somewhat limited in his first 100 days success due to not fulfilling his promise of starting to build the wall.

Another prolific promise that Trump had made during his campaign was the promise to repeal the Affordable Care Act. He feels that Obama care is impractical and that it has negatively impacted businesses due to the legal requirements that came around as a result of this legislation being created. Business is where Trump has made a name for himself and amassed his fortune so it clear why he feels the need to somewhat reverse the damage he had seen to

be done by it. Also it had been seen as too complicated as it left too many people unsure on which insurance premiums their coverage actually involved as well as the impact it has had on businesses, its impracticality and also because it is seen as being too complicated. Staying true to his word, by day 64 he had put forward a bill therefore delivering on his promise, which instructed Congress to start the dismantling of Obama care (Krishnakumar, 2017). Trump also characterised the subsidies that insurers pay in order to help out poorer people as a "bailout" (Glenza, 2017) for those needing it. Donald Trump also signed two executive orders. The first executive order meant that health insurance companies were able to loosely regulate the insurance that they sold outside the marketplace. This means that there was an emphasis put on the "association health plans" (Glenza, 2017) that encouraged smaller businesses to join together in order to get better rates from insurers. The second executive order stopped funding for the subsidies that were provided to insurance companies by the government.

The accomplishment of this act was all down to a mere announcement as the subsidies had been ruled as illegal by a court just before the end of the Obama administration. Therefore it can be seen that Donald Trump has somewhat upheld his promise as. However his success has been limited due to the bill being forced to be withdrawn due to rejection over the lack of a clear alternative. After gaining the presidency after eight years the Republicans finally had a way to try and combat the Affordable Care Act they had so strongly campaigned against. Although, they could not agree on how to replace or repeal it. This means that Congress had repeatedly prevented anything being done by the Trump administration, as they could not put something in place with greater or equal

benefit, so removing Obama care would be damaging to the American public. For example if Obama care were removed then 19 million Americans would lose out on health insurance. There would also no longer be the option of Medicare due to the cuts made to existing programmes as well as the executive order further privatising the health care system in America. Furthermore after the introduction of Obama care, the number of uninsured Americans fell from 41.3 million to 28 million. The removal of Obama care would mean those numbers would rise with an extra 19 million on top of that becoming uninsured (Jacob, 2017). Therefore Donald Trump can be seen as successful in terms of trying to keep his promise but his decision has been unpopular to the majority that did however benefit from Obama care as well as the situation still being unresolved.

**To What Extent Has Trump's Economic policy Made His First 100 Days Successful?**

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Trump had made many bold promises and the one that may have had a significant impact in managing to rally the support of the America people is his promise to bring back more jobs to the United States. This means that Donald Trump wanted to boost the opportunities that the American people have in order to get into work and ultimately reduce unemployment. It can be seen that Donald Trump was filling his promise as by day 8 he had already announced a manufacturing jobs initiative to bring together business leaders to talk about job creation. This meant that businesses were invited to the White House in order to talk about moving warehouses and manufacturing plants back to America. This initiative was announced as part of his overall job creation plan with meetings to include companies such as The Dow Chemical Company, Ford Motor Company, Tesla and Under Armour (The White House, 2017). This clearly shows Donald Trump being successful in trying to keep his promises. For example due to the implementation of the initiative, during the first full month of the Trump administration, unemployment fell by 2 tenths of a point to the lowest point in nearly a decade (Chu, 2017). Furthermore it can be seen that Trump is fulfilling his promise as in the State of the Union address Trump stated that "Since the election, we have created 2.4 million new jobs, including 200,000 new jobs in manufacturing alone," (Bomey, State Of The Union Fact Check: Trump's US job growth claims generally accurate, 2018). Therefore this shows that Trump has

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been successful in delivering on his promises to bring more jobs to America as the evidence shows that there has been a decrease in unemployment levels as well as evidence to back up that the initiatives set in place by Trump have done their job to create more and more opportunities for the American public to get work.

However the success of this proposal has been limited due to the small area of impact on jobs. This means that only the areas where the companies bring their manufacturing warehouses will benefit as it is only select areas that businesses move that will see jobs being created for local people rather than increasing them for the nation as a whole resulting in areas that still have high unemployment levels. For example the new jobs created since Donald Trump became president was only 0.7% more in his first 100 days (Chu, 2017). This also means that the 2.4 million jobs that were created showed the lowest level of job gains since 2011 (Rupar, 2018). Also Trumps has been accused of over estimating the number of jobs he has created. He estimated that in his first 5 days 500,000 new jobs had been made. The reality however was that only 98,000 (Chu, 2017) were made. Therefore it can be seen that the promise has been upheld and is currently working well although it is quite evident that Trump could be doing more to improve these poor growth levels in order to better satisfy the American people that he is indeed fulfilling his promise.

In order to help boost the economy even further Donald Trump promised to lift restrictions that were put in place for the production of energy. The need to do so was driven by the ability for these companies to then increase their profits,

which ultimately leads to growth and expansion of their business but also the economy. Trump said "I will cancel job-killing restrictions on the production of American energy, including shale energy and clean coal, creating many millions of high-paying jobs." (Krishnakumar, 2017) This shows that Trump feels that

companies were being heavily restricted in what they can do when producing energy as a result of the policies put in place by the Obama administration.

Trump was seen to be fulfilling his promise as by day 68 he had already signed an executive order to dismantle Obama's climate change policies (Krishnakumar, 2017). This will result in companies not having to worry about their carbon emissions when producing energy as their emission levels will no longer be required to be included in reports. This is intended to make it more cost efficient for companies without having to funnel money into making sure they are not damaging the environment. According to Trump's administration, American wages can increase by over \$30 billion over the next 7 years as well as the ability to take advantage of an estimated \$50 trillion in untapped shale, oil and natural gasses (Garber, 2017). Therefore as well as being good for the economy this promise also works hand in hand with the promise to bring back more jobs which can see Donald Trump as having positive progress within his first 100 days as a result of keeping his promise.

However the success of Trump with this policy is one that again came under scrutiny. With the removal of all these restrictions, there were worries about the impact on the environment. This was because companies were no longer required to provide reports on methane emissions, no longer limiting the amount of carbon emissions that were allowed to be produced as well as no

longer having to worry about the environmental impact on surrounding wildlife (Popovich, 2017). On top of this there was no guarantee that jobs would come rushing back, especially in terms of coal and oil. This is because the use of natural gas is cleaner, cheaper and more available which makes it the energy of choice for many producers. This is also due to the fact that the contribution of coal energy to American electricity production fell by 29% in 2016 (Bomey, How Trump's energy order in march affects jobs, fuel prices, 2017). Therefore it can be seen that Donald Trump has successfully kept his promise to remove the restrictions on energy production to boost the economy, however he has been undermined by the potential disastrous consequences that it could have on the environment.

### **Conclusion**

In conclusion, I would say that Donald Trump has managed to do a great job in order to make attempts to pass legislation on all of the areas that were looked at in this essay. This decision is based on the criteria of promises kept. As was examined in the main body of this dissertation it is clear that in all of the mentioned promises Donald Trump had made the effort to try implement each of the main promises within his first 100 days. This means that it can clearly be seen that based on my criteria he has been successful. Although Donald Trump has had better luck with some parts more than others as there is still work to be done in order to fulfil the dream of repealing Obama care as work on that is still in progress. At a time when trust in politicians is low, having Donald Trump keep his promises that he made is what makes him stand out as well as veering away from the norm of many politicians that spout forth great ideas of change and progress they will bring once they are in office but instead end up doing nothing of the sort if they actually get there. It is that difference which could have had a major influence on voters. On top of the 6 promises I looked at Donald Trump has a further 9 in progress (Krishnakumar, 2017) which again shows that Trump is making a clear effort to keep his promises. Although some decisions did prove to be unpopular Trump still kept striving to implement what he was voted in for. Therefore, Donald trump has clearly kept his campaign promises, which from the evidence shows that fitting the criteria, Donald trumps first 100 days have been fairly successful as he is making the effort the to implement the change that he

promised and is working one step at a time to deliver on his slogan of “Make America Great Again”.

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