

Abortion

A lot of this essay will be my thoughts, not exactly ignorant, but not researched, and talking about abortion in the current US climate. These will be just be thoughts and opinions, but I'm also going to include some facts and figures if you're lucky.

Let's start: think about birth. I certainly do. None of us ask to be born, do we? We do not influence our parents to conceive us, and being born isn't something we ask for, since we cannot ask, influence or do anything. One doesn't exist before their birth. Have you ever wondered why this happens? Why do humans feel the urge and the need to procreate, and not just humans of course, all other animals- even plants- oh, even bacteria! They technically do not procreate, but bacteria multiply in a simplistic manner, which is their reproduction. Now, abortion. As I understand, a medical procedure where the fetus (or whatever it's called at that stage) is "aborted" or "terminated", removed from the mother's body. Since this is obviously before the 9 months (we know its around 9 months) it takes for a baby to full develop and birth healthy, wet and crying, it does not mature and the mother survives. I wonder how long abortion has been a practice? The medical profession is very sophisticated now, but how about a century ago? Or even longer.....

Anyway, now that we're primed, let me also say that this is kind of an opinion piece, at least based on the current opinions of this topic, in september of 2023. I believe women should have full autonomy over their bodies. Ah but the issue with abortion is, it isn't their body is it? It is someone else's..... And they deserve full autonomy over theirs.

Psych! Women of course should have full autonomy over their bodies. Including the decision to abort their would-be child if they have to, at all times- and if they want to, at most times. It seems to me that this topic is one where the medical community should weigh in most heavily, not evangelists, other religious people, and to some extent, the general public. Take me for example- I'm a male at the end of my twenties, and I'll never have an abortion. People in and around my life will, people I care about and people I don't. Actually, women, not people. A factor that seems obvious to me is a pregnancy test. I'm sure at some point you simply cannot ignore the bodily and health changes that result from pregnancy, but without easy, cheap and ideally free or limited free access to pregnancy tests, you can't even say that in such an advanced age, we can know about a pregnancy very soon after it happens. If you're carrying a baby in your womb for 6 months, you know you want to keep the child and have a child; I think I read that in NY, if you wish to abort a baby after 6 months, there must be a relevant medical reason that puts yours or the baby's life in danger. That seems reasonable to me from the outset- but imagine, if we let the public decide what "relevant medical reason" means? I can almost hear someone shouting " If there's a 15% chance you both survive, how can you not take it THAT IS MURDER!!!" and that's why while public opinion matters so much(unfortunately), informed public opinion should matter substantially more, if not infinitely more.

How about a no questions asked abortion? Not really, but an abortion more routine, and less of

a doctor's call, and much more your own; you simply don't/ can't want an eventual child right now. This will be a full-ass human being; you have to raise them and alter your entire life and others insanely do have this child grow up. I'm honestly of the opinion that a lot of parts of this world have too few people, some have too many. Some areas of the world are very habitable and more of us should live there, and some are inhospitable and less of us should have to live there; you can if you like. But alas, we have countries instead.

I went off topic. For a NQA abortion, I feel like 11-13 weeks could be a good line to draw, since about three months should be plenty of time to make that decision. Circumstances and lives change, and this is perhaps the most major decision one can take, and it involves medical and huge financial consequences and considerations. Additionally, I wonder, even if one loosened abortion laws- apparently something Republicans care unbelievably greatly about, and I have some more to say on that- how many more women would "take advantage" of that, and abort their babies? There's no money in it. There is cost, financial cost. There is pain and time spent, physical pain and I can't begin to understand any emotional and hormonal toil that accompanies such a procedure. What are 'pro-life' individuals expecting will happen? I encourage anyone forming opinions about anything to think about such topics with a lens you'll intuitively grasp and respect, even though it'll take a few seconds to sink in. Here goes: There are many, many and different people in the world, and in one country. You know how employees at McKinsey, marketing firms etc see us all, as "demographics" and "people to sell targeted ads to". Demographic simply refers to "group of people sharing a or many particular traits", and depending on who you are, you define these traits. So soccer fans? That's a demographic. How is that useful? A jersey or sports company will target their ads to engage with these people more, as opposed to people who never search or interact with soccer content online.

Now consider, what demographic (for example, (political)Republican. Or, (age+race) Young hispanic. Or, (job)construction workers, etc) will enjoy abortion? Or misuse better access and infrastructure to it? As a counter hypothetical, think about the incredible number of people that misuse and exploit so many things like- pandemic PPP loans, tax breaks etc..... obvious motives exist there, and yet the number of gaping holes in the financial systems that benefit wealth and power worldwide aren't railed against by Republicans and Iranian clerics. Here's the other part- I believe, in the USA, abortion is one of the non-issues that republicans have been forced to incorporate as part of their identity. There is only so much targeting and propaganda one can take before things subconsciously sink in- you may have heard of unconscious bias. This is something I consider very similar and possibly more insidious. The media, and the political figures have made abortion such a big ticket issue, one of many, since it looks simple on its face, and explosively divisive and bitter. It has made both political sides, democrats and republicans, dumber and more focused on non-issues increasingly over the years. I mean, can you believe that even now, members of Congress can literally trade individual stocks and options? They draft legislation and are privy to information; they are public servants and representatives, and are allowed to make profits off the stock market. We're finally maybe going to see some change there, but stil..... how has the American public been okay and happy with this? They haven't; it's just that it isn't publicized, no one really knows or cares. There is too

much information in this world, way too much, and our attention is directed places by institutional forces. Abortion is one such case- If you are someone that is against abortion, you can advise you close ones against it and rail against it on social media, join a religious institution , or what have you- but beyond that, there isn't a need to interfere, and this next bit is for the people who do really believe this is an extremely important issue for them: Ask yourself in your quiet and calm moments, why do you advocate so hard for these unborn children? I understand somewhat- you see yourself in them a little bit. You must, right? Because there are millions- I kid you not, millions of kids in countries (you know the ones, and if not, challenge yourself to find them) that don't have access to education, sanitation and the amazing comforts you and I enjoy. They're already born; the poor people, the asylum seekers, the orphans and drug addicts and debt ridden people(due to accidents, medical expenses, disasters) all need help. Some are in the USA, some aren't, but there's plenty in the USA. You could channel your efforts there, but you defend the right of this fetus to be born, over the right of the woman in whose body this child incubates, who will be the mother-the mother! Finally, I'd like to say that women getting abortions is not a challenge to your faith. Every single leftist belief and push isn't a challenge to the Christian faith, and hence the separation of Church and state. Noone can invalidate and make unreal a religion by granting women the autonomy to their bodies they always should've had; but sometimes, in this political climate, and targeted by right-wing ads that I'd wager 90% of liberals never see, I understand a bit of why this issue has become political identity for the right, and as a reaction, for the left too.

This isn't a challenge to anybody's faith, it isn't murder, and it isn't a complex subject of motives, or smuggling babies, or whatever else we're often led to believe its about; it is a simple issue of balancing medicine, available medical professionals, and intensely personal family decisions. Our politicians deserve far harder jobs than they currently hold, and its partly because of our stupidity that issues like this one are so contentious in 2023. It also isn't our fault, partly, since we have limited control over who we even have a choice to elect, nearly no say in what content we want to watch organically, and an increasingly lesser say in deciding what issues are important to us.