

Concours Blanc 2018

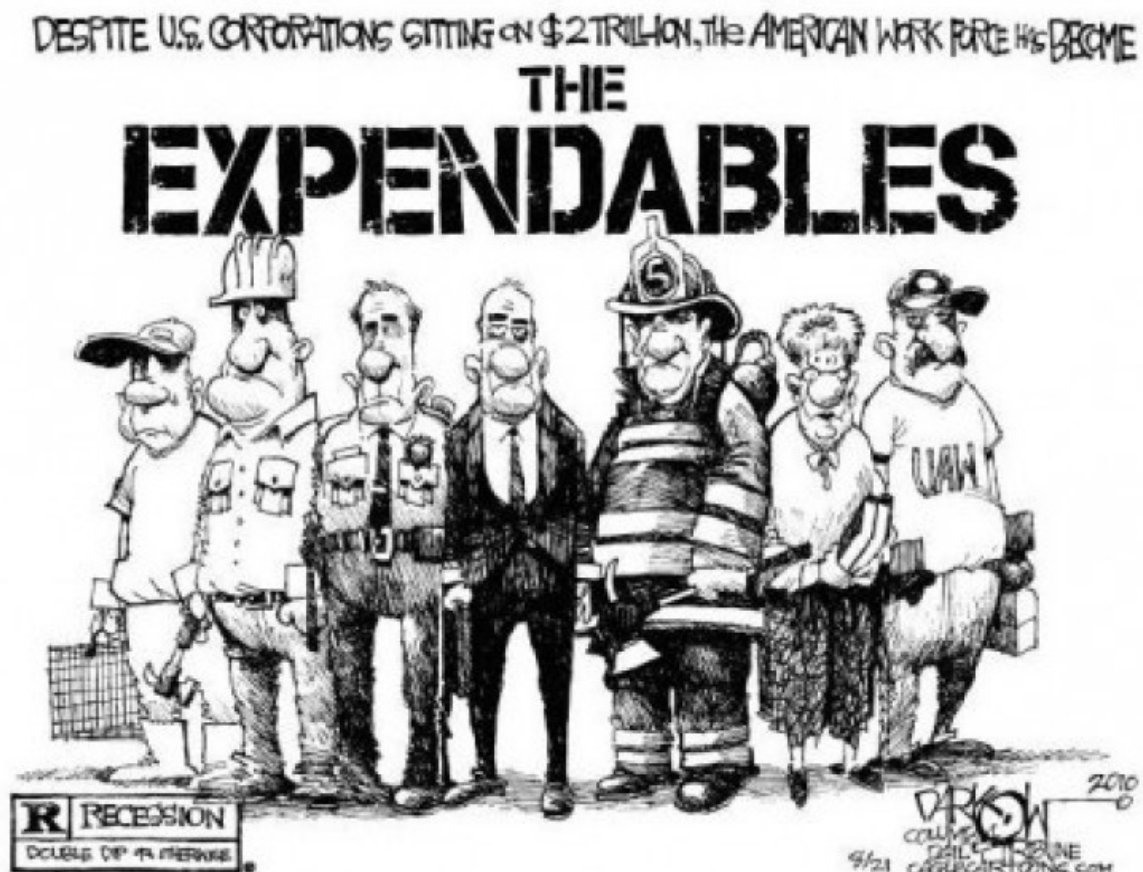
LVA – 3h

En vous appuyant *uniquement* sur les documents du dossier thématique qui vous est proposé, vous rédigerez une synthèse répondant à la question suivante :

Where do modern social ills come from ?

Votre synthèse comportera entre 450 et 500 mots et sera précédée d'un titre. Le nombre de mots rédigés devra être indiqué à la fin de votre copie.

Document 1

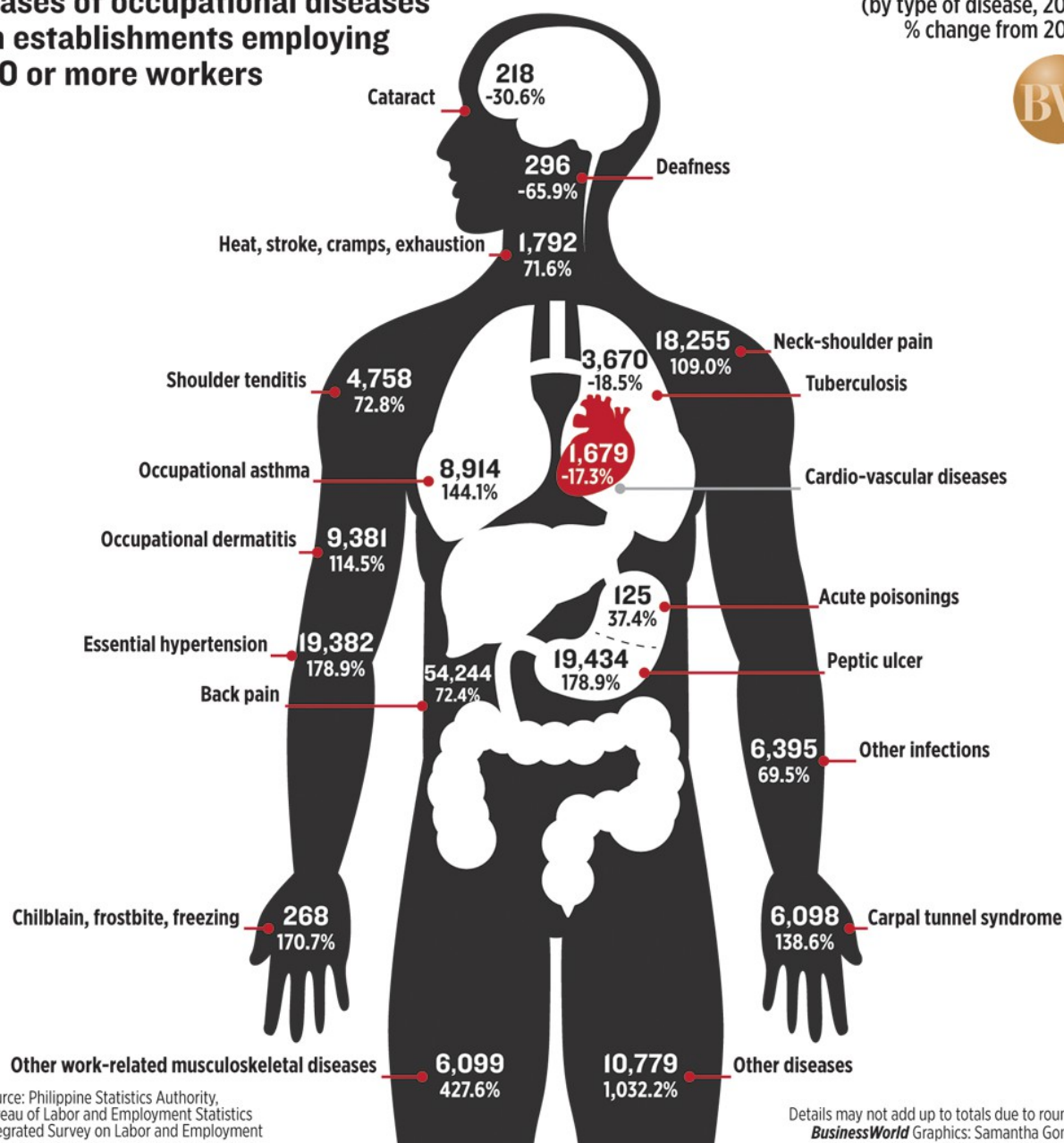


Theweek.com / John Darkow / 2010

Document 2

Cases of occupational diseases in establishments employing 20 or more workers

(by type of disease, 2013,
% change from 2011)



Source: Philippine Statistics Authority,
Bureau of Labor and Employment Statistics
Integrated Survey on Labor and Employment

Details may not add up to totals due to rounding.
BusinessWorld Graphics: Samantha Gonzales

Document 3

Parental burnout: It's really a thing

[...] My mom jokes that she can't keep up with how crazy our lives are, but I know I'm not alone. [A] recent New York magazine story [...] headlined "Just like Burnout at Work, It's Possible to Burn Out on Parenting," [...] talked about a recent survey of more than 2,000 parents, conducted by researchers in Belgium. They found that just as people can burn out from their professional jobs, mothers and fathers can burn out, too. The study [...] found that close to 13% of the parents surveyed [...] had what the researchers called "high burnout." That meant they felt exhausted, less productive and competent and emotionally withdrawn -- qualities that are similar to professional burnout -- at least once a week. [...]

Pressure to be a 'superhero in everything'

[...] [Our moms] certainly wouldn't say they were burning out as parents when they raised us, said Stern. "Today, so many moms have these high-powered jobs, and they have the kids, and we want to be the best at our jobs, and you want to be the best with your kids, and then you want to sometimes take time for yourself, and you feel guilty, but you can't feel guilty..."

The "modern mindset" that you have to essentially be a "superhero in everything you do" is part of the problem, said Vanina Nikolova, a mom of two boys, ages 2½ and 6, in San Jose, California. [...]

"You have to excel at work. You have to excel in your relationship. You have to excel in society. You have to be a great parent who feeds the kids with organic food, stimulates their brains while still in uterus, finds the right balance between protecting them and yet exposing them to the real world, shuttles them to sports, arts," and the list goes on and on, said Nikolova. "A supercomputer would go crazy. How about a simple human being!"

Parenting in social media age

Social media certainly hasn't helped, many parents said.

"Gone are the days of backyard birthday parties with a homemade cake, a peanut hunt and a game of 'drop a clothes pin in the bottle,' " said Shelby Rideout, founder of Bright Signs Learning, a children's educational company that uses sign language to teach early reading concepts. "Thanks to Pinterest, Facebook and Instagram, parents now get to feel 'less than' for throwing that kind of party. These exaggerations on social media become a measuring stick in which to gauge your success or failure as a parent," said Rideout, a parent of four, ranging in age from 21 months to 6 years.

Parents exhaust themselves trying to keep up with the false standard of perfection they see around them, she said. [...]

For working parents, there is the pressure to excel in your career and master the work/life balance, while giving your children everything you never had to ensure that they turn into well-rounded, happy and successful adults [...]. For stay-at-home parents [...], there are pressures too [...].

"There is the underlying need to feel valued and validated within society (a society which still places a higher value on what you provide to the job force)," she said. "Socializing with other adults can be difficult, the days long, the routine monotonous and the job, overall, relatively thankless." [...]

Adapted from CNN.com, May 9, 2007
Kelly Wallace

Document 4

Loneliness is a 'giant evil' of our time, says Jo Cox commission

One of the key architects of Britain's welfare state would have added loneliness as society's sixth "giant evil" if he were alive today, Rachel Reeves will say after completing a year-long study into the issue.

The Labour MP, who co-chaired the Jo Cox Commission on Loneliness after her friend and colleague was murdered last year, will argue that the weakening of trade union, church, local pub and workplace ties have left a disconnected society.

"When the culture and the communities that once connected us to one another disappear, we can be left feeling abandoned and cut off from society," she will say, describing the issue as a new social epidemic.

"In the last few decades, loneliness has escalated from personal misfortune into a social epidemic. More and more of us live alone. We work at home more. We spend a greater part of our day alone than we did 10 years ago. It sometimes feels like our best friend is the smartphone."

In a speech at the Policy Exchange thinktank in London to mark the end of the commission, Reeves will say the "crisis of loneliness" would have made William Beveridge revise his list of "want, disease, squalor, ignorance and idleness" to adapt it to the 21st century. She will call for loneliness to be added to the list of immediate and urgent challenges to be overcome. [...]

"We need a new kind of welfare system that acts as a convenor, bringing people together to help them help themselves," she will say. [...]

Reeves and Kennedy have also published a pamphlet in which they warn loneliness is damaging people's physical and mental health and is more harmful than obesity or smoking 15 cigarettes a day. They also say it inflicts a £32bn cost on the British economy every year.

Prof Jane Cummings, the chief nursing officer for England, said: "I welcome the Jo Cox Foundation's work to raise awareness of and take action to alleviate loneliness. Social isolation can have a devastating impact not only on people's mental wellbeing, but evidence shows that it can also increase the risk of premature death by around a third."

Reeves will claim that teachers, social workers, probation officers and others who can help connect people have been turned into "cogs in a machine", focused on "meetings, testing, assessing, referring, auditing".

"They are good people who want to make a difference, but nothing changes. Beveridge would not only recognise the evil of loneliness, he would follow up on his belief in voluntary action and give more power and control to people," she will say.

Reeves will suggest that state intervention is not enough, and instead call for a plethora of smaller changes that can help bring people together.

Adapted from The Guardian, December 10, 2017
Anushka Asthana

Document 5

Happiness declining in U.S. due to 'social crisis'

[The World Happiness Report 2017] - released to coincide with the International Day of Happiness - has ranked the U.S. as number 14 out of 155 countries for happiness levels, dropping one place from last year.

According to Jeffrey D. Sachs, director of the Sustainable Development Solutions Network and co-author of the report, a decline in social support, a loss in the sense of personal freedom, and an increase in distrust of the government, are all key players in America's dwindling happiness.

"America's crisis is, in short, a social crisis, not an economic crisis," says Sachs.

The World Happiness Report is an annual report provided by the United Nations (UN) that ranks the levels of happiness across 155 countries.

The results are based on data from surveys that use six criteria to assess the happiness levels in each country: healthy life expectancy, GDP per capita, social support, perceptions of freedom to make life choices, generosity of donations, and perceptions of corruption.

Each country is allocated an average score between zero and 10, with 10 representing the highest levels of happiness. [...] An average score of 6.99 for happiness put the country in 14th place, ranking one place lower than in last year's report. [...]

In a section of the report titled "Restoring America's Happiness," Sachs looks back at the state of happiness in the U.S. over the past 10 years. He notes that while per capita GDP in the country is rising, happiness levels have mostly declined since 2007, suggesting that other factors are at play.

Looking at the individual happiness criteria for the U.S., Sachs identified a decline in four areas: social support, personal freedom, generosity, and perceived corruption - areas in which Nordic countries are thriving.

"In sum, the United States offers a vivid portrait of a country that is looking for happiness 'in all the wrong places.' The country is mired in a roiling social crisis that is getting worse. Yet the dominant political discourse is all about raising the rate of economic growth.

And the prescriptions for faster growth - mainly deregulation and tax cuts - are likely to exacerbate, not reduce social tensions."

Sachs points to a number of factors that may be to blame for such declines in the U.S. One he cites is the aftermath of 9/11. "America's reaction to these unprecedented terrorist attacks was to stoke fear rather than appeal to social solidarity," Sachs writes.[...]

Additionally, Sachs believes the "severe deterioration" of the educational system in the U.S. has played a role in the country's declining happiness, noting that the percentage of students in America achieving at least a university degree has become motionless. "This matters because the failure of America to educate its young people is a major force behind the rise in income inequality (condemning those with less than a bachelors degree to stagnant or falling incomes) and, it appears, to the fall of social capital as well," writes Sachs. "The U.S. political divide is increasingly a divide between those with a college degree and those without." [...]

Adapted from <https://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/316475.php>

Honor Whiteman, March 20, 2017