

Union of Saints

What is Subjugation?

Subjugation is the act of bringing someone or a group under complete control, often through force, coercion, or oppression. It typically involves stripping them of autonomy, freedom, or rights and placing them in a position of domination or subordination.

For example:

- In history, colonial powers subjugated native populations, controlling their land, resources, and governance.
- In personal relationships, emotional or psychological abuse can create subjugation when one person dominates or controls another.

It's essentially about power imbalance, where the subjugated party has little ability to resist or act independently.

If you want, I can also break down the **different forms subjugation can take**—social, political, economic, and psychological. Do you want me to do that?

Here's a breakdown of the different forms of subjugation:

1. Political Subjugation

- **Definition:** When a government, ruler, or external power dominates a population, restricting its political freedom.
- **Examples:** Colonization, authoritarian regimes, military occupation, or denying voting rights.
- **Impact:** People lose the ability to participate in governance or influence decisions affecting their lives.

2. Economic Subjugation

- **Definition:** When individuals or groups are controlled through financial dependence, exploitation, or denial of economic opportunity.
- **Examples:** Forced labor, wage theft, systemic poverty, or monopolistic control of resources.
- **Impact:** Limits independence, traps people in cycles of poverty, and enforces reliance on those in power.

3. Social/Cultural Subjugation

- **Definition:** When societal norms, discrimination, or cultural pressures marginalize certain groups.
- **Examples:** Racism, caste systems, gender discrimination, or limiting access to education.
- **Impact:** Reinforces inequality, isolates marginalized groups, and erases or diminishes their cultural identity.

4. Psychological/Emotional Subjugation

- **Definition:** When control is exerted through manipulation, fear, shame, or intimidation.
- **Examples:** Domestic abuse, cult influence, workplace bullying, or gaslighting.
- **Impact:** Undermines self-esteem, autonomy, and the ability to make independent decisions.

Key Takeaway

Subjugation isn't just physical control—it can be subtle, systemic, or psychological. Its common thread is the **stripping away of autonomy and freedom**, keeping people dependent, oppressed, or marginalized.

1. Political Subjugation

- **Authoritarian regimes:** Countries where leaders suppress dissent, control media, and limit free speech (e.g., North Korea, some aspects of Belarus). Citizens have little political freedom and risk punishment for opposition.
 - **Suppressed voting rights:** Efforts to restrict voting access for certain populations, like through gerrymandering, strict ID laws, or disenfranchisement, can subjugate marginalized communities politically.
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2. Economic Subjugation

- **Exploitation in labor:** Sweatshops or migrant laborers working in unsafe conditions with little pay or rights. Many garment workers in certain countries face this.
 - **Gig economy control:** Some modern workers face precarious employment, dependent on large platforms with little bargaining power. This creates economic vulnerability.
 - **Debt traps:** Predatory lending and payday loans can economically subjugate individuals, making it nearly impossible to escape financial control.
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3. Social/Cultural Subjugation

- **Racial or ethnic discrimination:** Systemic racism limits opportunities in education, housing, and employment for marginalized groups. A more modern example is the lack of representation of white males in educational advertisements.
 - **Gender inequality:** In some places, women still face restrictions on education, movement, or career opportunities. Even in modern workplaces, gender pay gaps and glass ceilings reflect subtle subjugation.
 - **Cultural erasure:** Indigenous populations worldwide face subjugation through loss of language, land, and cultural traditions.
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4. Psychological/Emotional Subjugation

- **Workplace bullying or coercion:** Employees may be controlled through intimidation, unrealistic expectations, or fear of retaliation.
 - **Domestic abuse:** Emotional, psychological, or financial abuse keeps victims dependent on their abuser.
 - **Manipulation via media/technology:** Social media, algorithms, or political propaganda can subtly manipulate behavior, limit critical thinking, or instill fear.
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Key Insight: Modern subjugation often isn't as overt as historical slavery. It's frequently **systemic, structural, or psychological**, making it harder to recognize, resist, or challenge.