

Inequality

[T]hose who find themselves in the worst positions have the most pressures to find legitimacy in the social order. The alternative—believing that the system is unjust, unfair, or even random—is in fact painful and generates more stress.

Approving of the system therefore serves a “palliative function,” even though in practice it discourages seeking beneficial changes that might concretely redress existing inequalities.

Francesco Duina, *Broke and Patriotic*, summarizing social justification theory