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Patriotism: Then and Now

Thomas Jefferson once said, “My God! How little do my countrymen know what precious blessings they are in possession of, and which no other people on earth enjoy!” Even though this quote was spoken many decades ago, it depicts how many Americans live their lives today. During the time after the American Revolution patriotism toward America was strong, but over time it has altered and the once intense love has slowly diminished.

The Merriam-Webster definition for patriotism is, “Love for or devotion to one’s country.” An ideal example of patriotism is the love the founding fathers had toward America. They believed in American independence, and the constitution. George Washington’s devotion to America was shown through his leadership in the American Revolution and his presidency term. There is rarely as strong as an adoration to the United States today, as there was in the past. Many people tend to focus on the flaws of America, rather than focusing on the extraordinary aspects of their country. An example of this would be the fact that our founding fathers fought for America’s freedom from Great Britain; which many people take for granted. If the founding fathers had not fought, chances are that America could still be apart of the United Kingdom. The majority of U.S citizens today don’t realize how marvelous the country they live in is.

Another aspect of American greatness, many Americans tend to overlook, is the Declaration of Independence. The Declaration of Independence is the symbol of American liberty, yet it is rarely admired. The declaration's purpose when it was first drafted was to persuade colonists to support the separation from Great Britain. The writers of the declaration, including Thomas Jefferson, had the best interest of Americans in mind while writing it. Today many people do not realize that Thomas Jefferson, along with the other writers, thought of Americans while writing it. Without the Declaration of Independence, Americans would not have their freedom or rights. One of these rights, which is constantly overlooked, is the freedom of religion. Many people do not apprehend that religion is the one of the leading reasons for prosecution in other countries. The writers knew this, and so they added the freedom of religion in the Declaration of Independence. They did this in order to prevent unnecessary deaths or violent acts against religious groups. If more people comprehended the value of this right, they would understand the greatness of the Declaration of Independence.

Not only is the Declaration of Independence overlooked, but the Constitution is as well. The constitution is rarely thought of in everyday lives. Very few people realize that the founding fathers not only fought for American liberty, but they also contributed to the establishment of the Constitution. The Constitution prevents the government from becoming too powerful, and protects the United States people from a dictating government. The founding fathers freed the U.S from a monarchy government, as well as they prevented the U.S government from becoming one in future years.

Very few people understand the advantages they receive from the founding fathers, the Declaration of Independence, and the Constitution. The importance of these

items should be stressed in schools and everyday lives, in order for people to realize the impact that these things. If more people knew about the significance that these items had on their lives the patriotism toward America would once again intensify.