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## The Importance and Impact of Freedom

First of all, absolute freedom doesn't exist anywhere in the world, and never has. In fact, absolute freedom doesn't even exist in anarchy. In anarchy everyone's freedom cuts back on the freedom of others. However, I am not promoting absolute freedom, I am promoting what most people think of when they hear the word freedom. Absolute freedom is being able to do whatever a person wants, whenever they want, no matter what. The freedom that I'm promoting is a limited freedom where people can do most of the things they want unless it violates the rights of others. This kind of freedom is extremely rare if not non-existent. Many people have tried to corrupt or even completely destroy freedom throughout history, right up to the present day. Friedrich Hayek, illustrated this point well in his work called 'Freedom and Coercion'

The use of 'liberty' to describe the physical 'ability to do what I want', the power to satisfy our wishes, or the extent of the choice of alternatives open to us... has been deliberately fostered as part of the socialist argument... Once this identification of freedom with power is admitted, there is no limit to the sophisms by which the attractions of the word 'liberty' can be used to support measures which destroy individual liberty, no end to the tricks by which people can be exhorted in the name of liberty to give up their liberty. It has been with the help of this equivocation that the notion of collective power over circumstances has been substituted for that of individual liberty and that in totalitarian states liberty has

been suppressed in the name of liberty (qtd. Wikipedia, Political freedom sec. 3).

Another aspect of freedom that I believe in, is the freedom to choose leaders. In a monarchy, leaders are typically the son of the previous leader whether or not they are the most capable. On the other hand, in a republic the people can decide who they want ruling over them. However, maintaining freedom takes a lot of work. When France became a republic for the first time in 1789 it lasted for a very short time before a General took over and crowned himself emperor. Later, in 1848 France became a republic again, but it only lasted 4 years! In 1851 the president rewrote the French constitution, and giving most of the power to himself and the next year crowned himself emperor. Finally, in 1870 France became a republic for the third time and stayed that way. Even though freedom is hard to get and hard to keep, it is well worth it. Without freedom many of the simple things we take for granted would be gone. For instance, how would you feel if you went to the grocery store and couldn't buy all the food that you needed because there was a purchase limit? Or what if secret police were spying on everyone and would execute those who said something that they didn't like? It would be horrible to be living in constant fear.

The United States of America has been the country with the most freedom. But because the leaders have abused their power, and the people who elected them did not stop them, America is losing it's freedoms one by one. Government officials have used fear created by disasters to gain more power and limit freedom. For instance, during the great depression the government convinced the people to go along with what they were doing in the name of economic security. Benjamin Franklin once said, "Any man who would give up a little liberty to gain a little security will deserve neither and loose both" (Civilization IV).

In order for freedom to last it **must** be based on Christian values and principles. Article 3

of the Northwest Ordinance says, “Religion, morality, and knowledge being necessary to good government and the happiness of mankind, schools and the means of education shall forever be encouraged” (The 5,000 Year Leap, pp. 75-76). Furthermore, George Washington said, “It is impossible to rightly govern the world without God and the Bible” (America’s God and Country p. 660). America was founded on a belief in God and the Bible and it is one of the few republics that has stood the test of time. If we turn back to God and refuse to allow the government to continue to grab more power, then maybe we can renew our freedom to what the founding fathers intended.

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