

Annabelle F. Fraley

Advanced Speech

Mrs. C. Nelson

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Is America Today Our Forefather's Vision?

When our nation's forefathers laid the foundation of the United States, they envisioned a country rooted in freedom, justice, and equality. Their words were immortalized in documents like the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution. They spoke of a democratic society where citizens were empowered, where leaders acted with integrity, and where liberty was a guiding principle. But as we stand here today, we must ask ourselves: is America, in its current state, really the embodiment of that vision?

The answer is no. Let us first examine the state of our politics. Our forefathers imagined a government where checks and balances would prevent tyranny, where honest debate would shape the future, and where the public would remain informed and active participants in democracy. Today, our political system feels more complicated and polarized than ever. The simplicity of the democratic process they envisioned has been replaced by endless partisanship, corporate lobbying, and a media landscape that thrives on division. We no longer have debates on policy alone; we now wrestle with the very character of our leaders, our values, and our nation.

And speaking of leadership, I must ask: would our forefathers recognize the type of people running for office today? These were men who, though flawed in their own ways, believed in public service and honor. Today, we have politicians who are felons, people facing accusations of corruption, misconduct, and open misogyny. What has happened to the moral

compass of our leaders? When character is no longer a key criterion for public office, can we honestly say we are fulfilling the vision of those who wrote the Bill of Rights?

This brings us to the notion of equality. The forefathers' vision of "equality" was far from perfect; they excluded women, people native to Native America, and enslaved individuals. Over the centuries, we've made significant progress. We've expanded civil rights, empowered women, and fought for the inclusion of marginalized communities. Yet, even now, we face systemic inequalities. Racial disparities in wealth, education, and justice persist. Gender discrimination continues. Discrimination based on who people love still deeply exists as well. The ideals of equality may have evolved, but in practice, we still fall short of the promise.

Our forefathers could not have foreseen the challenges of our modern world. They could not have predicted a globalized economy, rapid technological advances such as cell phones or AI, or even the rise of social media. These developments have transformed our society in ways unimaginable to them. But while these innovations have connected us like never before, they have also introduced new dangers, like misinformation and the manipulation of political systems. The spread of misinformation online weakens the informed public that our forefathers relied on to maintain a healthy democracy.

So, what does all this mean? America today, in many ways, does not align with the vision our forefathers had. But here's the thing: their vision was never meant to be a static one. It was meant to evolve, to grow, and to change with the times. The core values of liberty, justice, and equality must remain our guideposts, but how we achieve them will look much different than it did in 1776.

It's up to us, the current citizens, to shape this country in a way that honors the best parts of their vision while adapting to our complex, modern world. We must demand leaders with

integrity. We must continue to fight for equality. And we must reclaim our political system from the forces that would divide us.

In closing, I ask you this: What would our forefathers say if they saw America today? I believe they would challenge us to do better, not to return to their time, but to forge a future that lives up to the promise of freedom and justice for all. Thank you.