

## **Is America Today Our Forefather's Vision?**

The United States has grown from a measly 13 colonies to the famous 50 states and over a dozen territories, each contributing to a vital part of our history. Over time, many ideals and values in America have changed from what our forefathers once held. But is this new America what was envisioned by the founding fathers that created our great nation?

America was created with the ideals of democracy and freedom to ensure citizens held government power. Each citizen has civil rights that the government cannot infringe upon and civil liberties that the government must uphold to protect these freedoms. Our forefathers knew we would become a great nation with values that may change and be created, so the Constitution is a living document to represent that. This allowed us to change it with amendments as necessary, which we as a nation have done so 17 times since the inception of the Constitution. Additionally, the Bill of Rights is one of the most important parts of the Constitution, protecting citizens' rights and personal freedoms that America has represented for centuries now.

In the America of the modern age, our rights are still held in the highest priority. Many new laws or interpretations of the law protect any discrepancy between what the founding fathers wrote and what they meant. In the world of politics, the forefathers envisioned a representative democracy, where citizens would have a voice in shaping the nation's future. Today, America still follows this system with elected officials at local, state, and federal levels. However, political polarization and the influence of money in politics have led to concerns about the effectiveness of representation. The economy faces similar challenges, as the forefathers sought to establish a strong economy that would provide opportunities for all citizens. Although America has a market-driven economy that fosters innovation and entrepreneurship, wealth inequality and limited social mobility pose challenges to the forefathers' vision of equal opportunity. For

example, the top 10% of households in 2020 held 70% of the country's wealth, illustrating a significant wealth gap, according to data from the Federal Reserve.

The founding fathers would be pleased with America today and its countless opportunities to achieve the sought-after “American Dream.” The United States was made as a place to escape tyranny and a place where citizens of all stature and status have a say, and this has stayed the same for centuries. Freedom and equality are the most important values of America, and these values have never been stripped from its citizens. Politics have mostly remained the same, but money and bribery have become the root of corruption in modern politics, and this corruption has caused people to lose trust in the government in the past decades. This is the same with the economy, where average citizens may have the opportunity to pursue their dreams and make a living, but they will never be able to approach the multi-billion dollar corporations that make up most of the economy’s profit.

Considering the differences and similarities between America today and our forefathers' vision, it's crucial to recognize the implications they hold for our society. While areas of similarity demonstrate the resilience of our institutions and values, differences reveal the challenges we must address. To honor our forefathers' legacy and create a brighter future, we must all take an active role in shaping our nation. By engaging in civic duties, fostering inclusivity, and promoting equal opportunities, we can build a stronger America that upholds the forefathers' vision while addressing modern challenges.

In conclusion, as we reflect on the journey of our nation from its humble beginnings to the present day, it becomes clear that while America has evolved in many ways, the core values of freedom, democracy, and the pursuit of happiness have remained at the heart of our identity. Though we face new challenges that our forefathers could not have foreseen, their wisdom in

creating a living Constitution has allowed us to adapt and grow as a nation. In the ever-changing landscape of our country, let's demonstrate our commitment to the values that make America unique, and let's continue to embrace the spirit of innovation, resilience, and hope that has defined our nation for centuries. By doing so, we can ensure that America continues to shine as a beacon of liberty and opportunity for generations to come.