

American Studies

U.S. History

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### American Values and How They're Under Strain

When one hears the word America, they tend to think of the land of freedom & unity, opportunity & hard work, and those stars and bars with Guns N' Roses playing in the background. Some people believe these values to be the American Dream, what one comes to America to achieve. These ideas have been set in by the Declaration of Independence and the American Revolution itself. But lately, some of these values have been under strain, while others have flourished. Unity has been primarily lost as of late, in the midst of protests, while in turn people have been working harder than ever to make up for it.

With the political flares lately, a core American value, Unity, has been lost. The 2020 election has caused a massive split in communities and ideals, and the rampage of protests nationwide have been wreaking havoc and created divisions in whole cities. One massive division, the Capitol Hill Autonomous Zone, or CHAZ, was instituted by force after the police left the area in an attempt at de-escalation. (Sun) This was done in light of the George Floyd protests and the belief that the American police force is corrupt and evil. Obviously, not everyone that lived in the area wanted this to happen. But the point is that people were so divided, they created a sovereign area within America, which was a massive flop that ended up being incredibly corrupt and filled with crime. (Rufo) The protests have caused us to become divided, and showed Americans have strayed from the core value of Unity.

However, due to this lack of Unity, Americans have demonstrated their core value of hard work by managing to scrape by and rebuilding after buildings were burned down during nationwide protests and riots. For example, the George Floyd protests caused a lot of buildings to get burned down, most of which were small businesses not part of the “problem” at all, but were rather burned down by nutcases on all parts of the political compass. However, Americans proved their resilience and have been rebuilding ever since. Close to immediately after the terrible protests, store owners began to rebuild and tried to gain support everywhere they could for money to rebuild. Despite a lot of these small businesses not having property insurance, they have already gained a load of support and money and have been rebuilding and helping each other as best as they could. (Meitrodt) Despite unity being lost with these protests, this still shows that Americans are incredibly hardworking and persevering individuals. Burning down their buildings will only make them work harder and harder in spite of those who wish to bring them down for no good reason. No matter how tall the mountain, no matter how far apart they may have made themselves, Americans will put in the effort to climb to the top and succeed.

All in all, Unity has been missing recently, in the midst of protests, and in return people have been working harder than ever to make up for its destruction. To bring light on how divided America has become, and how you must rectify that for the future. The protests aren’t going to solve anything if they are conducted the way they have been, and it only forces you to work harder to achieve your goals for the future. Stand united with each other, as protesting and dividing America is not the way to do it. Play devil’s advocate if you must to understand someone’s motivation and their background. But right now America is split due to ignorance on

all sides. Educate yourselves on what is going on around you and prevent these splits, and help make America whole again.



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