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American Studies

U.S. History

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Has America Lived Up to the Core Values of Equality and Change?

Lots of benefits are included in the American Dream. So many advantages are promised in the life of an American citizen. So much so that there is a list of all of America's core values. Things Americans take pride in and a guide for an outsider to look at the American life. However, what tells us that these core values are solidified in our country? The answer is they are not. Here are two of America's core values that have not been lived up to. America is not living up to the core values of equality and change because lately our country has been lacking it's equality that we claimed we were trying to change from our previous racism issues throughout history.

One example of an American value that has not been lived up to is equality because as much as our country has tried to fix our ongoing trend of prejudice, our cruelty towards certain people never change. Throughout history, America was promised to be a land of equality. The American Dream included wealth, jobs, and equality. However, equality is something we have failed to live up to as a value. The people of our country are all very different. The problem is the fact that many of those people don't accept the differences of others, breaking our country's promise. In an article by Monica Anderson, statistics show that "8 in 10 Black adults with at least some college experience report having experienced racial discrimination, at least from time to time, including 1 in 6 who say this happens regularly." This shows how overall, there is so

much inequality in so many aspects. Whether it's racial inequality, or gender inequality, there are so many examples and forms of inequality in our country. In this statistic, we see how common racial inequality specifically is throughout the US. Almost every student, adult, and child of the black race will and has experienced some form of inequality throughout their life. This is so wrong. Our country claims to be about "All men created equal" however where is that when different races and genders are not treated the same. America fails to live up to the equality value. Our whole country knows that we do a bad job of treating everyone equally, and people need to understand that many races, cultures, religions, and genders have been oppressed. That will be difficult to understand as an outsider, therefore the way you treat someone should not be based on their appearance or belief system. America lacks equality and is not improving from our history of racism and discrimination.

Another Core Value that has not been lived up to in America is change because no matter how hard we have tried to change our habits as a country, we have always fallen back to violence and unacceptance between our people. "Make America Great Again" was a great foreplay to our country's downfall. The leader of a country can make many things good, and many things bad. In our case, our current leader has shown us that our country was improving and changing until the 2016 election. Since then we've been on a lasting trend of old habits such as prioritizing certain people over race, wealth, and gender. In the article, Are Americans Better Off Than They Were a Decade or Two Ago, by Ben S. Bernanke and Peter Olson, the rate of change and statistics in our country economically speaking show that "the rate of improvement has slowed noticeably in recent years, consistent with the growing sense of dissatisfaction evident in polls and politics." Not only economically, but looking at our timeline of events due to controversy, we have not

improved. This evidence shows how as much as the leadership in our country tries to promote change in our wrong doings, we have only gone through short term improvement that never lasts. American history shows racism, sexism, violence, rioting and discrimination. Obviously we have had slight improvements but looking at it overall, what of that list has changed looking at our current state? None of it. Whatever got better in the past decade or two, has become worse in an ounce of time. Now focus on what has changed. Our leadership. This shows how much one person can negatively influence change in an entire country. Overall, America has failed to live up to change as a core value because every issue that drastically harmed America's reputation, has not improved. Recent events and violence show the ignorance of our leadership and the lack of acceptance in our people.

In conclusion, America has done a poor job in living up to its core value of equality and change. The idea is for America to set an example for equality. "Every man created equal" is something our country has promised, however how has that promise been kept when not everyone has been treated equally? Our country has failed to act upon prioritizing change in what we have done wrong and the way we allow people to treat others. Equality and change are so important for our country. We can't talk about how every man is created equal, or how everyone is free to be who they want, when we have done a poor job of fully allowing equality throughout our people. Nobody will ever be the same which is why we need to change the way we go about our issues. So much change is necessary for our country to actually improve and it starts with good leadership, which is something we also don't have right now. Not much will happen when our equality is being the opposite of prioritized. People need to understand that with our system of government, it is normal for everyone to believe different things. Everything

is a controversial topic when there are two main sides of the aisle. Obviously there will be competition, and disagreement when we are all allowed to think what we want. This is a good thing. It is something America is good for. However when it comes down to being a decent human being, you can still treat people equally even if you don't agree with them or even like them for who they are. It's called being mature and staying in your lane. If people can't adapt to the fact that times are different now, they are setting a bad example of our country and this is something our leader has failed to represent. Overall, equality and change are needed for our country to improve and as of now, those core values have not been lived up to.

First source of evidence

<https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2019/05/02/for-black-americans-experiences-of-racial-discrimination-vary-by-education-level-gender/>

Second source of evidence

<https://www.brookings.edu/blog/ben-bernanke/2016/10/19/are-americans-better-off-than-they-were-a-decade-or-two-ago/>

