

American Studies

U.S. History

7 September 2020

One Step At A Time

America is living up to its core values of equality and individualism because we have had a jump in Black Lives Matter activity and we have come a long way from earlier America with slavery and injustice. And individualism boosted our economy that fulfills our democracy. And it gives us an everyday choice to do what we want during rough times in 2020.

In the 21st century we have had some ups and downs in the core value of equality. But since the declaration and independence we have had an uprising in civil rights. We have made the year 2020 to focus on the BLM act and improving this core value.

Equality is thriving in other areas too. The first state to legalize same sex marriage was Massachusetts in 2004, since then 36 states have followed and making it legal and society has accepted people who are LGBTQ. Slavery passed congress on January 31st in 1865. That might seem like a long time but historically that's not a lot of time and I believe this decade we have accepted more people for who they are.

“Equality is treating everyone the same. But equity is taking differences into account, so everyone has a chance to succeed.” — Jodi Picoult, *Small Great Things*

I chose this quote because the declaration of independence was signed in 1776 that gave everyone the equal chance to succeed. But slavery wasn't banned until 1865, Now in 2020 we

have accepted same gender marriage and we have a BLM movement with peaceful protests.

In 2020 it might not think that everyone is fair and not everything is equal but if you look at it from a historical timeline we are on the right path.

Individualism rests at the foundation of American political and social life. Since the American Revolution, Americans have believed in and generally lived up to the ideal of individualism. Having bundled together a foundational political freedom with social autonomy, economic mobility, and cultural self-sufficiency.

When you support yourself financially and do not depend on anyone else for your needs, this is an example of individualism. When the government allows citizens to be responsible for their own retirement instead of relying on social security, this is an example of individualism.

Individualism has built a personable foundation for people to build off of them. One example of individualism in today's America is about wearing masks in public to slow down the rising cases of COVID-19. "Refusing to Wear a Mask Is a Uniquely American Pathology" and others from COVID-19 and That don't believe in the virus has turned it into a political divide. "A vocal activist wing of conservatism that has enormous influence on social media and Fox News, has been far more willing to attack the various infringements on where people can go and what they have to wear." As a result, Lizza and Lippman conclude, "the mask has become the ultimate symbol of this new cultural and political divide." I chose this quote because individualism lies in every part of Americans' daily basis and it is an individual choice to take part or not.

Through the roughs and downs in the economy we can always depend on individualism to bring us back up because we have people that think of different things and they have the right to make

mistakes and rebuild on them to make themselves and America successful.

The United States of America is living up to its core values because we have had a breakthrough in equality even if you don't think America hasn't changed since 1865. If we aren't following this value of equality we are for sure on the right path because slavery historically was just a little while back. And Individualism has carried the economy to be stable and maintain balance for The United States. Don't get me wrong there is still more room to improve on the core value of equality. I think the best thing America is good at is that even if you made a mistake or understand you did something that's not right there's always time to change and make the world a better place. Since the constitution in 1776 and in 1865 when we abolished slavery, equality and the chance for everyone to succeed has only improved

I believe In this time In America we are living and learning to live up to its core values of equality and individualism. It's a really hard time to live in this time with social media and politics, But America is always good at coming together and getting through economic crashes or civil rights problems because America always does the right thing.

