

PHI M2

brandon j. torres

W1

With the idea that the state is the subordinate to the people, cherished that like of an artifact. Liberalism's origins traces back to John Locke and Thomas Hobbs. Challenging the idea of what makes a government legitimate. With oppression of a government is essential for the nature of a state to be able to do as we wish. Locke argued a limited government was better suited for the chances of complete anarchy to not take place. People have basic rights and freedom through governments actions – which are only justified if they're ideals are to protect the rights of the unified group. As independence speaks in the name of the “one” people who are dissolving a political band – also relates to the notion of solidarity. As time progresses, we look to who is the ultimate law giver, who are the unified groups, and who we give our sovereignty towards. George Bancroft suggests, “The best government rests on the people, and not on the few, on persons and not on property, on the free development of public opinion and not on authority.” We must look at the culture of the people as the best possible way of examining progress. The common culture and the people. Art is required for healthy politics, Emerson seems to think that, “History is an impertinence and an injury; our religion we have not chosen, but a society has chosen for us. “He points out that getting rid of the past, religion, and social forms, each person can clearly find out what they were natured to do. Surrendering to our characteristics – what makes you unique / what makes you, you.

We get 3 ideas from this, 1. Is things matter, some more than others – individualism. Individuals only care about ideas that care for them back. We should care for others, but people have non-derivative moral status. 2. Our relationship – with ourselves as well as our understanding. Our freedom to do was we wish as long as we don't interfere with others. 3. Our responsibility for the whole thing – equality is treating everyone the same. We have freedom of thought and reason, government should justify to that reasoning based on common reason and logic, that is agreed and understandable. The criteria (self-reliance) undeniability we decide what is right. If national identity defies by attitudes taken up past and present, what is vital and creative as well as accessible to the people in this moment is what will be sided upon. Our spontaneity, magnetism, intuition/ instinct, understanding without reflection- along with self-organizing, being active and present is what makes for an optimal “you”.

W2

With treating the constitution as a binding commitment with the majority as well as its rulers, Lincoln sought that it is essential to justify the law of the land through the consent of the people. With his speech, "Oh perpetuation of political institutions" – the succession generation can't live up to the founders, that we should enjoy and preserve/ not create. The dangers expressed in this way of straying away from leads to a mob mentality that would seek to destroy the constitution, thus inhibiting our freedom. How are we to protect our sovereign freedom with binding laws in place generations ago, yet have the ability to maintain freedom of speech and challenge political institutions' ideals. Lincoln was ready to portray the "enemy" that advantageous politics require. We are then reminded a crucial interpretation of what Lincoln advocates for, that of which our founding fathers would have wanted us to pursue through our prior promise. There will be two sides that which whom when war rages it becomes political. Slavery was a moral stain on American regime, a pre-existing condition. In a speech in Illinois, he provoked the topic of an on-going idea of having slavery around, as to whether we like it – do we want it to spread? "We had slaves among us since the time of our founding, we could not get our constitution unless we let them remain in slavery. We could not secure the good we did secure, if we did not grasp for more. And having by necessity submitted to that much, did not destroy that principle that is the charter of our liberties let that remain in our standard." Though for something that is difficult to get rid of right away, that does not mean we must overlook that it is bad. We must look at our matters carefully. Our ideas, and how we can learn from numerous interpretations of our constitution, that it is fluid, and with that we have an importance to strive for what is morally right and in an ordinarily peaceful process of the law and courts. Protests and demonstrations should be done in a non-violent way, exercising self-restraint, that same restraint that we feel by institutions.

W3

With the idea that we won't repeat what founders did – we can learn from what they left behind and interpret the documents and their priorities. The Gettysburg Address was dedicated to 1776 – a proposition about equality, that truths are self-evident, which could be challenged as some propositions that can't be proven. The role of a political speech is to speak plainly so the people can embrace. The understanding as to what is right could be seen as what is moral, legal, customarily, and traditionally. With these ideas, we have a right to do what you have no duty not to do. Rights confer claims – independent of entering a contract. The Gov. owes us not to do things. With the Rhetoric of Declaration, a proclamation of equality as a human universal. We have the freedom to express ourselves in public – not controlled by others. That we exist as individuals, and individual choosers – what matters at the

bottom of conception of moral authentic of life. Individuals get attached to the particular and cultural practices they inherit.

W4

Expanding on American exceptionalism, the idea that American life to be fulfilled not merely by a maximum amount of economic freedom. American recapitulated the developmental stages of civilization. America had a different trajectory, the fact that we are still young compared to the other states of Europe. Seymour Martin Lipset, refers to America as "The First New Nation". Believing that our trajectory in his words, "The American nation presents two faces to the world. The first is that of a virile and progressive society offering increasing abundance and opportunity to all. The second is that of a society infected with a corrupt affluence, with an increasing laxity of morals and vulgarity of taste, and with an ever-widening gulf between its privileged and under-privileged members."

Given these ideas focus, this vision of American distinctiveness, an outgrowth of that would mean its views would be in a position of superiority. Dick and Liz Cheney's book, "Exceptional". An exponent of this idea would be, "The United States is "the most powerful, good, and honorable nation in the history of mankind, the exceptional nation... We are, as Lincoln said, 'the last, best hope of earth'... The US is not one more indistinguishable entity on the world stage. It has been essential to the preservation and progress of freedom, and those who lead us in the years ahead must remind us, as Roosevelt, Kennedy, and Reagan did, of the special role we play. We are, in fact, exceptional." Through our pop-culture and politics we project to the rest of the world that we are superior. Surveys of "Is the US one of the greatest countries on earth" research shows the decline over the last decade as individuals believe that we are equal to rather than the best. 1/4 believe that we are, while 1/4 believe that we're not. 2/4 believe we are equal. Our exception is what do the outside world eyes view America? Are we immune or exempt from the international system?

Stephen Walt writes, "Although the United States possesses certain unique qualities from high levels of religiosity to a political culture that privileges individual freedom the conduct of U.S. foreign policy has been determined primarily by its relative power and by the inherently competitive nature of international politics. By focusing on their supposedly exceptional qualities, Americans blind themselves to the ways that they are a lot like everyone else."

Through our ideological spectrum – pursuing equality, liberty and tradition. We find ourselves in a set of labels. The aim of government is to defend individual liberty – theory of natural rights, to be that of a

classical liberal. To advocate state of power to free people from social traditions, the idea of individuals regulating their own affairs. To be a classical Liberal. And the things in life that are through inheritances – things be preserved by ancestors – passed and preserved for descendants. To be literate in knowing how – to generate skills and attitudes that are necessary for stable human interaction. To be a conservative.