

VOICE OF DEMOCRACY SPEECH
Is This the Country the Founders Envisioned?
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Quite frankly, no. When the founding fathers founded America in 1776, it was agreed upon that those in power would choose what is best for the people and not just for themselves. Fast forward to today's day and age, you turn on the news and the first thing you see is the rich advocating for the rich and the poor advocating for the poor. Our polarized political climate has become a joke to the rest of the world. America is now a "me"-centric society where it's all about me and YOUR opinion does not matter. And God forbid we support different political parties, friendships and relationships are broken and destroyed everyday because of this stupid ideology that if we don't agree on something, then we can't be friendly towards each other. Society has bred us to be so cutthroat while discussing issues to the point where it's not even beneficial to debate certain topics anymore. Everyone's political beliefs are set in stone and they believe it is beneath them to listen to someone else's viewpoint.

We now live in a country where candidates yelling at each other and cutting each other off during a Presidential Debate is normal. Where families being torn apart at the country's border is normalized and where a school shooting is just another statistic for the news to broadcast. Where people of color fear for their lives when a cop drives by or when they take their dog for a walk, fearing they may not make it back to their loving family alive and well. Where a women's rights to her own body are being taken away by old white men who know nothing about the struggles of being a woman in today's world. Where the LGBTQ community fears

that the government will take away their right to be who they want to be and to take away their right to be married to whom they want to be married to. Where those who practice different religions are threatened for their beliefs and their places of worship are attacked. And where fighting a deadly virus becomes a political statement. If the founder's saw what our country looked like today, they would be no less than horrified.

The founding fathers also had no clue how far technology would advance and how it could be used as a weapon to further divide our nation. No matter what your viewpoint is, you can find an article that supports your viewpoint with blatant disregard to whether it's fact or fiction. Going onto social media everyday, you see people belittling each other with fake news to prove their points and you see people being absolutely trashed for what they believe in. It's to the point where it's best to just keep your political affiliation to yourself, that way you don't need to constantly fear for your safety whenever you are out in public or even at school. You should be able to vocalize your opinions without fearing for your safety. Instead of unfollowing people online, there should be a mature and honest conversation to find a common ground and eliminate such a strong divide. Until we learn how to have this conversation and work together, our country will continue to spiral into a divide we cannot escape from. We MUST work towards the common good, for not only our country's sake but for our citizens' sake.

The founding fathers expected those ahead of them to work for the greater good of our country. They wanted us to support the general welfare of the American people instead of eliminating basic human rights. The founders envisioned us

working together to find a common ground and create solutions. America should be a country where ALL voices are heard and respected. They believed that those in power would choose what is best for the people as a whole, and not just for themselves. Our country should be like a mosaic. We all represent a part of this country and come from different parts of the world. Just like how each piece of glass shapes the character of a mosaic. Whether our descendants are from Europe, Asia, Africa, or South America, we all represent a piece of this country.

We need to put our differences aside and come together for the greater good and build a better country together, before it's too late. Time is ticking away, and we are almost out of time. We need to start listening to each other before it's too late.