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Constitution Essay

The Constitution of the United States of America is the world's oldest surviving written order of government. A longstanding and important document, it guarantees us, as Americans, inalienable rights and places the government in the hands of the people. I believe the Constitution preserves freedom in this country. This is important to me because as Americans, we tend to pride ourselves and our country on its principles of liberty and emphasis thereof. The American people widely regard the First Amendment as the most important Amendment. This states that all Americans have the right to free speech, religion, and the press. I believe this amendment guarantees us the most freedom of all the other amendments.

The First Amendment states that we have the right to free speech, meaning that as the American people, we have the right to voice our opinions and speak out against people or establishments that we disagree with. This is extremely important to the preservation of our freedom. Governments in history and even today have prohibited people from speaking freely, to prevent their regimes from being exposed or opposed. As seen in Nazi Germany, opposition to the Nazi Government was made illegal, and books, newspapers, etc. were censored to promote pro-nazi ideas. Those who wanted to speak out, especially the Jews, were prevented from doing so, due to the absence of free speech.

Another guaranteed freedom under the First Amendment is freedom of religion. A vast spectrum of religions is practiced in our country, the largest one being Christianity (about 63%). But religions such as Islam, Judaism, Buddhism, and many others practice freely in the United States, because of their First Amendment freedom. An example of a state with no freedom of

religion would be The People's Republic of China under the rule of Mao Zedong. Mao was strongly opposed to all religions. Such beliefs became a target of his regime, and were categorized with the "four olds." Churches, Mosques, and other religious buildings were seized by the government and were used for secular purposes. This movement was created and put into play to preserve and boost communist ideals and policies in the country. And many religious Chinese citizens were tortured, jailed, or killed, simply because of their beliefs (Nadeem, 2023).

Another example of a country with limited religious freedom is Myanmar. The government has refused since the late 1940s to recognize Rohingya Islam as a religion, they have refused to grant any people who practice as Rohingya Muslim citizenship. In the 1990s the government allowed some of these people to have "white cards." These cards allowed limited rights to the Rohingya population but did not grant them citizenship. Governmental policies have been implemented to restrict marriages, education, and family planning. In 2017 a sharp rise in violence against the practitioners of the religion incited a large-scale immigration from Myanmar. The lack of religious freedoms in the country allowed this to happen to the Rohingya Muslim community (Elanor, et al, 2020).

A third freedom secured by the First Amendment of the US Constitution is the freedom of the press. This has been exercised in many incidents in the history of our country, most notably in the Watergate Scandal. During the investigation, the press from the *Washington Post* was a large reporting base in the scandal, and through their investigative reporting practices, such as inside sources, leaks, and public records. One main job of a journalist or the press is to keep the American people informed and to expose organizations and groups to us. Due to the existence of freedom of the press in our country, Watergate coverage sparked widespread public

interest, and ultimately the media exposed former President Nixon and his involvement in the case. (Tullis, 2017).

The Constitution of the United States is currently the longest-standing written form of government in the world. Our country is unique because we were founded on principles, not territory or ethnic views. If we as a united country stand strong on the principles our great nation was founded on, and ensure those in governmental offices also uphold those principles, our Constitution will continue to stand protected. This time-honored and significant document guarantees all Americans certain unalienable rights and gives government to the people. The Constitution is crucial to the preservation of freedom in this country. It is extremely important to me because part of our “identity” as Americans and something we pride ourselves on highly, is the freedom available to us every day. Widely regarded as the most important amendment, the First Amendment of the Constitution states that all in this country have the right to free speech, freedom of religion, and freedom of the press.

Works Cited

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