

Security

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“We the people” is a statement that is immediately recognizable as the beginning of the preamble, an introductory and expressional statement that provides Americans the promise to “establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity.” Despite the fact the Preamble was written hundreds of years before I ever existed, I find it fascinating that it still has such an impact on me, my friends, and my family to this day.

As a senior in high school, I’m required to take a government class to graduate. Instantly, I found the principles of the Constitution and the preamble to be fascinating. Never before had I had an interest in our government and its obligations to me. I took opportunities during my free time to watch various YouTube videos about the Constitution’s obligations to the people of the United States. I can confidently say that the Constitution has shaped my life now and that I’m confident it will continue to shape my goals and future ahead of me. The beginning sentence “We the People” has always resonated very heavily with me. It highlights the importance of active participation and unity in our country's democratic process. Because of the preamble, I know I have a voice within this country. I’m able to freely voice my opinions which is something that so many citizens take for granted; myself included. In countries like China and North Korea, freedom of speech is strictly limited. Imagine not having a defense during a trial, or no preacher on the stage. Americans would never be able to cast their votes for the people who run our country and states. We would never be able to voice our beliefs surrounding women's rights or food and agriculture. The preamble gives me the blessing of security, as well as the ability to

engage in things I'm passionate about, such as music, literature, and participating in shooting sports through 4H.

The sixth and final goal of the preamble is to “secure the blessings of liberty for ourselves and our posterity”. This sentence resonates with me. By having a government focused solely on the common good of its citizens present and future, we’re able to be confident in our liberty and freedom. Blessings of liberty give us the right to vote, practice our religion freely, and speak freely. Syria on the other hand, is not granted these human rights. The 50th edition of Freedom in the World reports Syria to be the least free country in the world, with a ranking of 1/100. Many violations of human rights that would seem unthinkable in the United States are very common in Syria, including “killing, arbitrary arrest and enforced disappearance, forced displacement, seizure of lands and properties, and rampant security instability” (“SNHR's 12th Annual Report: Most Notable Human Rights Violations in Syria in 2022 [EN/AR] - Syrian Arab Republic”) In a country where the blessings of liberty are birthrights because of our Constitution, I take for granted my freedoms.

The preamble’s emphasis on forming a “more perfect union” is very significant in my life. It highlights the idea that we are all here for each other regardless of any differences we may have. This unity is something vital for a society that is thriving and inclusive, as well as a country that values diversity and embraces the unique input of every individual. The preamble encourages us to foster a mentality that's inviting, encouraging, and understanding, which is something that not many countries have the privilege of. On Oct 7, 2023, Palestinian militant groups controlled by Hamas launched a devastating surprise attack on Israel from the Gaza Strip killing several hundreds of innocent people. I’m so fortunate that because of the Preambles “provide for the common defense,” I can rest assured that my property, life, and peace of mind

are protected. Though our country may seem divided, we must remain grateful that we are all blanketed by the protection and unification of the Preamble.

The preamble is the introduction to the highest law of the land, which is aimed to create a society filled with peace, justice, defense, and liberty. It's an anchor of my freedom and a reminder of my individuality. The first three words, "We the People," are proof that the Constitution (as well as all laws in America) stems from the citizens rather than an individual state or individual. Our country's laws are put in place for the common good as well as our safety. We can exercise our birth-given rights and participate in things that aid our peace of mind, and for that, I am forever grateful.

Work Cited

“SNHR's 12th Annual Report: Most Notable Human Rights Violations in Syria in 2022 [EN/AR] - Syrian Arab Republic.” *ReliefWeb*, 24 January 2023, <https://reliefweb.int/report/syrian-arab-republic/snhrs-12th-annual-report-most-notable-human-rights-violations-syria-2022-enar>. Accessed 5 October 2023.