

Major Written Response #2

"A moment's reflection shows that Liberalism is entirely negative. It is not a formative force, but always and only a disintegrating force."

-F.P Yockey

Some may feel liberalism has had a negative impact on people. The evolution of liberalism to what is has become today has led to some skepticism regarding its overall formative force within society. However there are those who believe through liberalism, nations have prospered politically as a result of supporting the collective rather than just the individual. This source presents a neo-conservative outlook on liberalism. It demonstrates an individualistic ideology bashing a collective ideology calling it a 'disintegrating force' on a nation. A neo-conservative would immediately oppose the ideas regarding modern liberalism stating that excessive government involvement only breaks up society rather than unite it. Neo-conservatism ^{is embraced} ~~was created~~ by former liberals who believed that the liberal policies had failed. As a result, these supporters disagree with liberal practices since they witnessed this ideology's flaws when they once abided by them.

In order to maintain adequate rights and freedoms for the citizens, at times it is necessary for governments to embrace liberal practices in order to achieve those goals. It is my position that at times liberalism has its devastating flaws for a society as the source suggests. However, there have been positive forces presented through history due to liberalism. Liberalism is still evolving and meeting challenges that it must face. Some nations fail to adequately handle these situations regarding more government intervention and, therefore,

display the disintegrating aspect of this ideology. Yet, there are nations who have benefitted from liberal ideas being practiced. A very negative impact due to following the liberal perspective is when the government abuses its power when intervening in the lives of its citizens and suspending their rights and freedoms. This causes distrust between the citizens towards their government and could cause societal breakdown. If a government's authority is not justly used it could cause discrimination against a minority in that society causing that society to disperse rather than unite as a whole nation. Suspension of civil liberties towards a targeted group will eventually affect society as a whole. Despite this, there are governments that can utilize their authority correctly through supporting their citizens with rights to certain public services which then opposes the stated opinion of the source.

One example where liberalism has had a disintegrating force upon a nation was the enactment of the Indian Act in 1876 in Canada. At this time, this nation was functioning through classical liberalism where individualistic perspectives were encouraged. Regardless of those individual rights and freedoms the Aboriginals of Canada deserved together with the rest of citizens of Canada, the Canadian government had an explicit goal in assimilating this group of people in order for them to become full-fledged members of Canadian society. The government first began the process of assimilating the Aboriginals before the enactment of the Indian Act by invoking voluntary enfranchisement. It involved First Nations males abandoning their official Indian status and receiving land and share in treaty settlements. Despite these gifts presented by the government, the process of enfranchisement was not successful as only one First Nations man officially became enfranchised. This led to the creation of the Indian Act where traditional Indian ceremonies such as their Potlatch and Sun Dance were officially ~~inhibited~~ ^{prohibited} and

the people were encouraged to abandon their Aboriginal status and identity. Involuntary enfranchisement was introduced to Aboriginals who received higher education and obtained sophisticated careers, to Aboriginal women who married a non-Aboriginal man, anyone who wished to vote in federal elections or desired to join the Armed Forces but was of First Nations background. The government used its power to severely restrict the individual rights and freedoms of the First Nations in order to benefit the whole nation. They also targeted the Aboriginal youth, sending them to residential schools where they were forced to live within the Western culture and traditions and, as a result, became outsiders to their original culture. These assimilating practices continued through the 20th century even when Canada became a modern liberalistic nation looking after the collective. The Aboriginals were targeted due to their distinctness and opposing beliefs within the Canadian nation. For this reason, the government restricted their individual rights and freedoms in order to abolish their unique status that held them from integrating into Canadian society. By forcing this change upon this group of minorities, it demonstrates the disintegrating force of liberalism on a nation through demanding assimilation while restricting individual rights and freedoms.

However, an example indicating liberalism as a positive aspect in society can be seen through the idea of universal health care. Each person has an individual right to receive health care no matter what circumstance they are in. They should also possess the freedom to use health care services as needed. Tommy Douglas introduced to Saskatchewan and then on to ^{grammar} the rest of Canada the first universal health program. He was named "the father to Canadian Health Care" after establishing a socialized, government-sponsored health care system available to everyone in the 1960s. Having the government affiliated in providing a service that

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is considered a 'need' to its citizens protects the individual rights bestowed on that citizen. In modern day, Obama's Health Care Reform is attempting to establish universal healthcare within the liberal democratic nation of USA. This president is trying to turn a capitalist health care system that was based on insurance companies trying to make a profit rather than help citizens, to socialized health care system where everyone receives equal healthcare benefits. A goal for this Reform includes dissolving the abuses of the insurance industry by providing consumer protections and keeping that industry accountable in keeping their premiums low and preventing denial of coverage or care even with pre-existing conditions. The American government at this time is making sure each insurance company abides the rule of law making sure those companies do not take advantage of their power in health care as they did before the Health Care Reform was put in place. Also, the government is promoting individual rights and freedoms regarding universal access to healthcare. It can be seen that even as liberalism evolves common positive aspects, as providing in universal health care, are seen to be evident in these societies. By the government utilizing its power to provide these services to its people it allows liberalism to take on a formative force, shaping and strengthening that society.

Some agree that liberalism has done nothing but tear a society apart with too much government interference. These individuals exhibit a neo-conservative perspective. I believe, however, in certain instances within the evolution of liberalism it has had its flaws but in others it has benefitted the nation and its citizens. A threat is imposed on a nation when a government abuses its power in attempt to assimilate a targeted group of citizens by restricting their individual rights and freedoms. This threat can cause internal conflict leading to degenerative effect of societal uproar. Despite this, increased government intervention does possess the

ability to use its powers wisely and provide well-needed services to its people. These needs that are supplied by the government strengthen the individual rights and freedoms those citizens hold. Depending on the government and how they handle their authority will in the end determine whether liberalism in that society will be a formative force or a disintegrating force.

