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FAITH4ALL
Inclusive Times

Latest Edition:

This edition of the **Inclusive Times** will explore concepts of freedom and interdependence.

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Freedom and Interdependence in the USA Today

We try to publish the quarterly e-zine on the first Friday of each quarter. The publication date for this third quarter of 2025 will fall on Independence Day which means that I feel obligated to reflect on and write about the concept of freedom in this country, and how I feel that many citizens of this country take the implications of our freedom to an extreme that causes them to devalue the role of communities in our society. For this reason, this article will reflect on the individual freedom and interdependence of the people in the USA.

Francis Scott Key penned his poem "[The Star-Spangled Banner](#)" in 1814, after the British bombed Baltimore during the war which began in 1812, and this poem was set to music and later adopted as the national anthem in 1931. Today, many people in the USA echo this poem and claim to be residents of "the land of the free and the home of the brave". While many citizens of the USA mistakenly think that these words refer to the founding of this country after the Revolutionary War, and despite the fact that the harsh imposition of slavery was legal in our country for 89 years after its founding and the Voting Rights Act wasn't signed into law until 1965, 189 years after our founding, I think it reasonable that most citizens of this country understand themselves as having more freedom and independence than citizens of almost any other country on earth today.

Despite individual freedom being a long sought after goal in this country, an independence largely obtained by only *certain* people, the individual freedom from this society's conventions and expectations have often stood in contrast to the impositions of restraint by our government through laws and other regulations designed with hopes that their implementation would help lead to us all living peaceably with each other. However, at times, we citizens haven't played too well with each other in the sandbox of this country. To prove this point, we needn't mention the harsh treatment given native tribes, which were here first and which we massacred, a treatment which is now properly termed "genocide"; or the racist treatment African people as they were forced to relocate here as slaves, the legacy of which is still felt and operates even today!

I think, however, it is fair to say that a great many citizens of these United States consider themselves largely independent and free, distinct individuals that aren't especially reliant on others to subsist; however, this attitude stands in stark contrast to the fact that we humans are a communal species! No one reading this article has raised **all** of the food they will eat today; I seriously doubt that anyone reading this article was born outside of a hospital; in fact, we humans live as outgrowths of our local society as much as, or more than, we live as isolated, independent individuals. The fact of our existence as beings in a collective we call society should imply to us both **rights** we have as individuals and **responsibilities** we have as a member of a group!

While adult citizens of the USA should have the right to marry whoever with whom they are in committed partnership, they should also feel the responsibility to allow all others to do the same. While we all should have the right to eat a sandwich of our own choosing as we walk on the sidewalk to work, we also should all feel the responsibility of depositing our waste in a trash can when we've completed our meal. Let's take this idea further: while we presently have the right to pollute our air by driving individual cars; we **all** should collectively pay for the cleansing of our air so we don't require those who come after us to live in the waste of our own excesses! While we all have a right to work and trade for our own profit in a society of consumers, we should also be concerned for and feel obligated to improve our multifaceted society!

The positive feedback of the economy in the USA, a largely free market economy where investing wealth leads to further wealth, has allowed the income and wealth distribution of our society to be **exceedingly** unjust. The mathematical instability of a truly free market economy (if allowed to) will lead to the breakdown and collapse of society, demonstrates the shortsightedness of the architects of and major participants in today's economy. Sociologists have shown us that **EVERY** society with such drastic economic disparities as great as those in the USA today have collapsed. I believe that it is likely that we are in the midst of such a collapse now!

On this Independence Day and the celebration of a portion of the history of our nation, we all should be mindful that as human beings we have certain rights of our own; however, as humans and members of communities, we also have responsibilities to our community, others around us now, and to those who come after us.

We all need to learn to embrace the responsibilities afforded us in this nation!

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We hope you're enjoying our summer weather!

*Any questions or comments regarding this e-journal or this organization can be directed to kevin@Faith4All.org.

