

America: Where Do We Go From Here?

The future has no definite answer. As Americans, we constantly encounter bigger challenges than the ones we have previously faced. These challenges affect every individual in more ways than one. "Most give some, some give all." Many lose faith in their country based on a single action, giving up on the place they call home. Some, however, have a loyalty that remains unwavering. They wake up each morning willing to give their lives protecting their home. These are the people we praise and thank daily. They are the people who shine hope on the fear that others hold within; the fear that they too hold, but are brave enough to overcome.

As Americans, we fear the future. We fear the recurrence of 9/11 or another attack on Pearl Harbor; that we might experience one of those horrendous days and be the newest lesson in history class. Not only do we fear, but we lose trust in our leaders. Calls of guilt are thrown at the faces of our nation, rather than its enemies. This fear and distrust are what hurt us most.

For the past year and a half, Covid-19 has presented a fear like no other. Nationwide, schools were shut down, working populations plummeted, and America was forced into a bubble. This bubble limited them from social interaction or seeing their family for the first or last time. It put people out of jobs and made normal life impossible. The people of our country shut down. Not just in the production of goods or job status, but in confidence and hope. Our once work devoted nation lost its strive to change and become better. America lost its individualism. Ronald Reagan once said, "Every accomplishment starts with the decision to try." This is how we must move forward as a nation. Rather than laying down and accepting the defeat we have faced, we must take a stand and begin to overcome it.

This answers the question, "where do we go from here?" We go up. Many will say that doing it is harder than just saying it, and they're right. That is the difference between wanting to

change and making the change happen. We must take the initiative to make the world a better place for the new generation of Americans who fear what tomorrow brings. Fear pushes them into a corner with nowhere to go and no hope of a brighter future. Their desires and ambitions to live a free life and pursue their dreams are held back by this fear. It is up to us to create this future for them.

We must learn to support America the way we once did, before we viewed every individual as a threat to our livelihood. We must choose to love our nation, be confident in our ability to hold strong, have faith in those who are fighting for us, and overcome fear. Harriet Tubman, a woman who lived her life on the run, said, "We will not be paralyzed by fear." It lives within us all, but we can not allow it to control us. Through the influence of those who have shaped us, knowing the hardships they endured, we must strive to be as brave and strong-willed as them.

These are the answers to the question, "America: Where do we go from here?". We learn from the past and take our mistakes in stride. We take the initiative to create a brighter future for our country. We build trust between each other, and make decisions based on confidence rather than fear. These things are what will restore the integrity of America, and return it to the patriotic and flourishing nation it once was.

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