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Reader Response 3

Parenti questions what it means to love one’s country. Loving one’s country could mean loving every aspect and every region of the country. He says loving the country could be loving all the American people. Another aspect that he says that could mean loving one’s nation is loving its history. According to Parenti, one could love the country due to its culture as well. He lastly questions one’s love for the country being its title of the “Land of Opportunity.” In the entire aspect of it all, however, he is questioning every aspect in which one might love the country. He lists all the downsides and the reality of loving such a country. For example, he cites one could not love America’s history with the slaughtering of the Native Americans. He also states that America is without real culture because writers like Shakespeare actually came from England. What Parenti is trying to say in his novel, Superpatriotism, is that what it means to love one’s country is to stick with their country despite all the negatives and downsides. I believe that Parenti understands all the downsides of the country but also understands all the positives, however, and chooses to accept all of it while still loving his country. Another aspect that Parenti says that outlines his love for his country is that he is able to question it and make change upon these questions that he asks. What it means to love one’s country is to stick with a country despite its downsides and choose to value its positives greater than its negatives. What it means to love one’s country is to accept the country for all its faults and all of its beauties.

What Parenti means when he says “Love it or Leave it,” defines his entire meaning of loving one’s country. If you cannot love your country, then that is to not being able to accept the faults of the country. If one cannot accept that America is not number one rated in certain aspects, then the person should leave and go to the number one rated country. For example, when one says they hate America because it is not number one in Education, then they can simply go to another country that is rated number one in education. In other words, when Parenti says to “Love it or Leave it,” it can be rephrased to “Accept it or Leave it.” He is saying that if you cannot accept your country’s faults in spite of all the positives, then there are so many other countries that the person would rather accept besides America. When Americans were saying this during the Vietnam War, the signs almost enticed that America is susceptible to change and that instead of asking for change, one should just leave. To mean “Love it or Leave it,” simply means to accept the country for its values and faults because change is unlikely to happen within the parameters in which why a person might not love their country. There are many meanings to “Love it or Leave it,” but Parenti does not entirely like that phrase because it induces that people cannot question their country or bring upon change. It’s an inhibitor to change in America which is holding back development of the nation. Without people questioning the nation, or people not being completely accepting of the nation, the nation will truly never be the best in numbers or the best in other aspects like history, culture, or ratings. Questions bring upon change, and “Love it or Leave it” only brings upon nothing, but the same country everyone does not actually love. This is a terrible slogan.