Juan Vallejo

Professor Sedwick

September 25, 2014

First Paper Assignment

I.a. Introduction

The preamble to the Constitution of the United States eloquently details the prime reason behind the American Experiment. It provides a point for its existence by its statement of “We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, 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, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.”

I.b. Thesis

Such essential values are listed as indispensable ones that are to be protected from an oppressive government, law, or selfish interests, whether foreign or domestic, as well as internal discourse through unrest. They are specified as defining qualities for the nation possessing the obligation of being guarded from the very united entity they aim to create. With controversy and difficulties faced during the ratification of the Constitution, the principal threats to these essential values become disorder and unrest at a domestic level, the abuse of power by any branch or entity of government, and foreign influences and interference. Acknowledging methods to eradicate such threats leads to an understanding that the means to vanquish the aforementioned threats appear to be relevant, necessary and important in securing the country as a state of unity and stability.

II.a. Threats to the Values Listed in the Preamble to the Constitution

According to Federalist Number 23, disorder and lack of influence from a weak federal government threaten such aforementioned values like domestic tranquility, common defense, and general welfare. “Is not a want of co-operation the infallible consequence of such a system? And will not weakness, disorder, an undue distribution of the burdens and calamities of war, an unnecessary and intolerable increase of expense, be its natural and inevitable concomitants?”. Federalist Number 23 states the several duties that a central government is responsible for providing, such as armies and fleets, as well as the regulation of commerce and relations with foreign nations. A lack of common duties such as these leads to domestic instability, uneasiness, and fails to promote trust from the people united through it. Such insecurity and doubt from a governed people pose a threat to values such as the general welfare of the state.

The Constitution is made to prevent the potential threat that could arise from any one branch of government abusing its assigned power. Such event has the potential to destroy the unity and values that keep the notion of the Union alive. While controversy is indeed prevalent throughout the fight for the adoption of the Constitution, a main point that is made in its defense is that without the parameters set forth by the document as to controlling the power given to a much-needed strong governing body, the nation as a whole runs the risk of any one branch of government acquiring the means to abuse the resources allocated to it. This in turn disrupts the welfare, peace, defense (from the perspective of those ruled), and unity for both the current generation, and the ones to come, as well as the potential prevalence of a united people.

Outside influences become a threat that presents itself by altering the outlook on domestic policy and law that a state or people may have. Although it is unlikely that another country’s invasion will count as a confident threat to the union, outside influences and persuasions, when used deviously or in selfish interest, tend to have the potential of enlarging the possibility for internal conflicts. Fueled by foreign propositions and interests, opposing views against domestic policy, laws, and outlooks have a chance to rise, threatening the values of a united people for the current generation and its posterity. According to Federalist Number 23, the perils to such outlining principal values presented by the preamble to the Constitution are seeded through a high involvement in foreign affairs and conflicts.

III.a. Addressing Threats to the Aforementioned Values

Such essential aforementioned values and the threats posed to them from a domestic and foreign standpoint are addressed through various iconic publications and speeches. George Washington’s Proclamation of Neutrality provides a method for resolving such negative influence and the threat it poses to the domestic tranquility and welfare of the nation. Through the demand of non-interference in foreign policy that he imposes on the people, George Washington puts forth the resolution at hand that although a state of conflict exists between several European nations, it is of importance to the union that no citizen interfere or be easily swayed to take part in aiding such events. Although no direct reason is directly given as to why it is in the union’s interest to pursue a state of neutrality in such affair, it is safely concluded that the only manner in which states of tranquility, defense, and welfare can be protected throughout the union is through a neutral approach to situations such as the one presented.

V.a. Conclusion

Mentioned values in regards to the topic at hand require protection mostly from the nation itself. These threats appear to originate from within the union through the potential abuse of power, lack of a stable, strong government, as well as outside influences leading up to internal instability. Threats to the tranquility and welfare of the nation arise through the risk of people imposing and interfering in foreign conflicts and wars. While such threats do appear to have their main causation originate from the outside, it is essentially the people that make up this united nation that posses the power to enable and propagate most of such threats.

Sources

The Constitution of the United States

Federalist Number 23 by Alexander Hamilton

The Proclamation of Neutrality by George Washington