Over one million men and women have fought and died in combat to preserve the freedoms we enjoy today. We can have the jobs we like, the clothes we want, and the food we would like to eat; we have choice. These brave men and women gave their lives not just for freedom, but the idea and spirit that grant us these freedoms in our nation’s constitution. The U.S. Constitution was created to not only protect our lives, but also to protect our freedoms, liberties, and rights.

“They who can give up essential liberty to obtain a little temporary safety deserve neither liberty nor safety.”   
― Benjamin Franklin, *Memoirs of the life & writings of Benjamin Franklin*

While our forefathers warned us against it, America has been known to do this mainly in times of war. After the bombing of Pearl Harbor, the American government established internment camps to house Japanese-American citizens “for security reasons”. The conditions in these camps were terrible; not too different from Nazi work camps. Is what these American citizens experienced during WWII called freedom? Did the government *have* to put the Japanese into internment camps?

Our forefathers believe there should be a balance in the government’s power. The Constitution was created to establish a more powerful centralized government in order to establish justice, peace at home, well-being for all of its citizens, common defense, and to insure that we and our children and our children’s children have the same rights and liberties that our forefathers and soldiers fought so hard to secure. “We hold these truths to be self-evident… that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights…” Our Declaration of Independence, Constitution, and the Amendments to the Constitution are what protect us by law from a heavy and overpowering government.

The Fourth Amendment protects us from unreasonable searches and seizures without probable cause or without a search warrant, but the NSA and other agencies that “insure our security” have been accused of spying on its people via smartphone, webcam, and many other media. Have these agencies probable cause or search warrants? The NSA released information about a supercomputer in Utah that will compile videos, phone calls, web search history, and any other form of cyber evidence. We undoubtedly need security in our day to day lives; this holds our government and our society together: order, security, and information. How do you know you can trust them? They could easily learn every single detail about you: your job, your family, your small personality quirks, and perhaps even your darkest secrets. The government already possesses too many secrets.

As Americans, we like to identify ourselves by our freedom. We have the freedom to elect our officials and leaders. *We the people* hold the power of our government. We have the freedom to speak our thoughts and to protest our government. The thing about our government is that we can control how “secure” we are. We are only as smart as our leaders.