Governments, or sovereign states, provide their people with the following: security, economic and social opportunities, and personal freedom (liberty). But, as Jefferson once wrote, “whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or abolish it… the same Object evinces a design to reduce them under absolute Despotism…. It is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future security”. Basically, Jefferson explains explicitly how the duty of the Government is to care for the people, and how the people hold the Government accountable. Nevertheless, in an instance in which the people must lay down liberty and freedom for security, should the people accept such a circumstance? I believe that they should not because a life without freedom is not a life.

Nearly every single American can agree that these are not the times of our Founding Fathers, nor are the times of our father’s fathers. We presently face weapons and warfare, and enemies and ideologies no one from the 18th or 19th century could have forewarned of. Does that mean our Constitution, the very foundation of our country, and our Bill of Rights, the only laws that protect us from totalitarianism or despotism, should be discarded as a failed Utopia, created by men of naivety during the bleak end of the Enlightenment Era? Absolutely not! The present time is just as good of a time, if not better, to remember the foundation of our country, and what it stands for. In contrast, what are these threats to our country? What needs to be protected? Well, of course, cyber-space is our top security priority.

It has been said, by nearly everyone alive today, that we now live in the Information Age, and as the age-old saying goes “Knowledge is Power”. What do these two statements mean for cyber-space? Well, if one truly believes that knowledge is power that would mean those who control the flow of information control the flow of power and are powerful themselves. Also, in a more “literal” sense, if one ambivalent country would be able to hack into the U.S.’s secret files, or decipher our codes, they would basically be able to do anything to our defenses. And, in an even darker tone, if a terrorist organization gained access to our nuclear launch codes, what would they be able to do?

The answer to this serious question raises another question: what are we willing to sacrifice to be safe? Actually, what are we willing to sacrifice to feel safe? There will always be terrorists and threats to America’s national security. Absolutely, these threats should always be taken seriously, but is the answer public internet restriction? Indefinite detention? Or even the deletion of the 4th amendment? None of these are wanted solutions; however, the solution is freedom — unrestricted pursuit of life, liberty, and happiness — to the worry of the Information Age.