Leo Khavkin

English 2200

9/28/2023

Independence

The idea of people regaining independence and living how they want sparked many movements from the time America was founded up until now. At a certain point, the United States of America didn’t realize how good independence was, which led to the U.S. being under the control of Britain from 1607 to 1783. During that period someone by the name of Thomas Paine wrote a writing called *Common Sense* which encouraged people to try to look at the bigger picture. The bigger picture was that the U.S. was under Britain's control, which had all but positives. “Europe is too thickly planted with Kingdoms to be long at peace, and whenever a war breaks out between England and any foreign power, the trade of America goes to ruin, because of her connection with Britain ”(Paine-p.1). This quote by Paine says that if Britain were to go under any complication with another country U.S. would go under fire for being associated with Britain while having nothing to do with Britain’s actions. Paine only wanted people to realize the large amount of damage that Britain’s monarchy could’ve caused the U.S. and Paine effectively did so. The Preamble of The Constitution has shared ideas with Paine’s message. The main idea is that the people who live in the United States make their own choices to follow their laws rather than being under any kind of power. “Europe is too thickly planted with Kingdoms to be long at peace, and whenever a war breaks out between England and any foreign power, the trade of America goes to ruin, because of her connection with Britain.” (Constitution-p.1). The Preamble supports the ideas of Paine because it says the people of the nation decide the lives, they want instead of depending on any other ruler. Another piece of writing that agrees with this idea is statements from *The Social Contract (1762)* by Rousseau. Rousseau states that if everyone puts effort into change then change will occur only if everyone does it. The change was the direct tyranny people were under being demolished and how rules are only followed if society agrees to follow them. “Each of us puts his person and all his power in common under the supreme direction of the general will, and, in our corporate capacity, we receive each member as an indivisible part of the whole.” (Rousseau-Ch. 6). Rousseau states that if everyone works together than everyone has a part to play in the uprising of the general will. Rousseau wants a fair human society. The Declaration of Independence supports Rousseau’s message. “That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness.” (Declaration of Independence- P.1). The passage from the Declaration of Independence supports Rousseau’s message by saying that if the general decides to change how to government works, they can if everyone agrees. No one wanted to be ruled by tyranny which is why Rousseau had called out the fact that if the general will work together then anything is possible. To conclude the information, Independence was and still is what everyone wants. People during the period needed to see what rule they were under to move as a unit and disperse from Britain. People came to this realization from the writings of Paine, Rousseau, and many others. I hope history does not repeat itself because it is not good to be under anyone's rule.