

There are many things that come to my mind when I think of American History. Although there is a great deal of good things that had happened throughout history, there are also a handful of things that weren't so good. There are many examples of things in the past that aren't considered "right", but they molded America to what it is today.

What are some of the big events in history that you would consider "wrong"? You may think back to the Trail of Tears, slavery, Jim Crow laws, the lack of women's rights, abuse of child labor, and also the idea of Manifest Destiny. Most of the mistakes in the past, I believe were made because we were narrow-minded. I feel as if we Americans felt that we were more entitled than others. For example, during the period of Manifest Destiny we kept moving west, thinking that any land that was discovered was ours. We didn't take into consideration that possibly the land we were trying to take was already somebody else's. When there was slavery, we thought that just because someone had a different color of skin than us we could treat them as if they were less, granted not everyone thought of African Americans this way. There were people of more than one ethnicity that would help on the Underground Railroad, safe houses, and many other ways to help free slaves. Even after slavery was abolished there were still people who treated African Americans like they weren't equal. People established the KKK and Jim Crow laws, which both were wrong and discriminative. While in the time of Trail of Tears, we pushed the Native Americans out of their own homes and put them in reservations and made them live a completely different way of life. And you can't tell me that there was any other reason we did this than we were selfish and wanted to accumulate as much land as possible.

Although there are things that we as Americans have done in the past that we are not proud of, there are definitely many things that we should be pleased about. For starters, a stupendous right we have is the Freedom of Religion. This is one of the main reasons people desire to immigrate to the United States, for in many other countries people don't have this liberty. Along with the being able to study religion freely, we have the Freedom of Speech. And what a beautiful right it is. As well as the appreciable freedoms we have, Americans give back by having an outstanding work ethic. You look at the farmers and ranchers the put in endless hours to feed America. You also have the business men and women that keep the monetary numbers in balance, teachers, lawyers, bankers, and so many more people that keep this country running smoothly. In addition you must give credit to the people in the past such as George Washington, Rosa Parks, and Martin Luther King Junior that went out of their comfort zone and risked a lot to make the U.S what it is today. We need more people like that in our day of age. Now days people are afraid to stand out, they are scared of a little risk, and they also can't seem to do something just for the good of themselves and others, they believe they need to be rewarded. I think that improving the future would be reward enough.

The good and bad things that have happened in the past have formed America to be the greatest country there is. We learn from our mistakes and keep building off the accomplishments we have framed. The past gives us hope for the

future for the United States keeps improving. We need to look at the past as a learning experience on what we should do in the years approaching. As Donald Trump may say, "Make America great again", but we don't have to for it always was.