

### The Worldwide Flaw

Benjamin Franklin's ingenuity is not a factor which need be questioned. He was an idealist, which can, however, respectably allow for objection regarding some of his beliefs.

Such opinions are well-exemplified in Franklin's credited saying, "*Freedom is not a gift bestowed upon us by other men, but a right that belongs to us by the laws of God and nature.*" While this quote is representative of how the world *should* be, it is not necessarily corresponsive with the actuality of the modern world. How did the freedom of this nation originate? It was not simply bequeathed upon us at the time of America's discovery. Previous to the independence of this country, freedom was an object to strive for while under the rule of Great Britain several centuries ago. In order to obtain such an ideal lifestyle, American men sacrificed life to attain freedom for their subsequent generations. Had freedom merely been a gift endowed upon us, dying for such a cause in the past would have been unnecessary.

Although freedom ought to be a natural right of those residing in all countries of the world, it very rarely is. Who set the standard that freedom was an object to be won? Acquiring such an object allows for liberty to indeed appear as a gift to all of those privileged enough to experience it, contrary to Franklin's outlook. Taken into account the idealistic nature of Franklin's quote, it could very well qualify as the goal to strive for among all countries of the world. Many of the world's modern nations not only lack any form of free will, but also lack the option of even attempting such a thing. Why are certain countries denied this should-be natural right? Nations such as this are not even given the option of fighting for freedom and are therefore forced to remain trapped under forceful rule. Such rule is demonstrated with communism in North Korea or with the oppressive Sudanese government involved with genocide in Darfur. Franklin's belief that freedom is a right which belongs to such people is completely disregarded in situations such as those previously stated. It is hard to believe that in today's world-one which is supposed to be "civilized"-such atrocities are still occurring in freedom-deprived nations.

If freedom was indeed a natural right bestowed upon everyone, perhaps the United States of America would not be such a target for attack. The rights which are endowed to all Americans allow for power and strength of magnitude which is above all other countries. If this liberty were not a gift, as stated by Franklin, then why is it an entity for which so many people struggle?

"*Freedom is not a gift bestowed upon us by other men, but a right that belongs to us by the laws of God and nature.*" The ideals embodied within Franklin's quote can, if nothing else, serve as a relevant principle from which the world can model.