

Living with Liberty and Justice for All

The year is 1777. Newly freed America has set an example for fighting to freedom as France follows in her footsteps and embarks on the journey for liberty. The catalyst that instilled in France the courage and belief that independence was possible was the bold and courageous Benjamin Franklin himself. Best known as America's scientist, inventor, politician, philanthropist and businessman, Benjamin Franklin's accomplishments far outnumber his career titles. Fast forward to the year 2024 , and the legacy of Benjamin Franklin continues to resonate with profound significance in the annals of American history. The history of America has been defined by the fight for liberty at home and for all the distant parts of the world. The point that Benjamin Franklin made is so relevant that it is the guiding principle of modern-day America. As a nation, we have consistently defended our own freedom while simultaneously advocating for the rights and liberties of all mankind.

Take, for example, America's involvement in Cuba during the 1960s beginning with the Bay of Pigs invasion. Though our efforts were clandestine and unbeknownst to the common citizen, the outcomes had far-reaching consequences and included the prevention of a possible nuclear war ("US-Cuba Relations", 2023). Modern America reverted to and acted on its fundamental beliefs: that "our Cause is the Cause of all Mankind; and that we are fighting for their Liberty in defending our own". In this instance, our cause was to end communism, which we still believe should be the cause of all mankind; and in doing so, we preserve our own freedom and sovereignty while also fighting for the liberty of Cubans.

An even more “modern” example of the relevance of the quote can be found in America’s efforts in Iran. In the case of Iran, the relevance of Benjamin Franklin's words echoes through the corridors of history and diplomacy. The tumultuous relationship between the United States and Iran has been characterized by political tension, ideological differences, and conflicting interests. However, amidst these challenges, the fundamental belief in the universal pursuit of liberty remains a guiding principle.

Throughout the 20th and 21st centuries, the United States has engaged with Iran in various capacities, often with the goal of promoting democracy, human rights, and freedom of expression. In response to perceived threats to regional stability and American interests, the United States has implemented policies and initiatives aimed at fostering democratic values and curtailing perceived oppressive regimes. These efforts, whether through diplomatic channels, economic sanctions, or covert operations, reflect America's commitment to defending its own liberty while advocating for the broader cause of human rights and freedom. In the ongoing dialogue between the United States and Iran, Benjamin Franklin's words serve as a resounding reminder of the enduring struggle for liberty and justice. As both nations grapple with the complexities of their relationship, the pursuit of a peaceful and prosperous future remains a shared aspiration.

One more pertinent illustration is America's involvement in the global fight against terrorism, particularly in the aftermath of the September 11, 2001 attacks. Following the tragic events of 9/11, the United States embarked on a mission to combat terrorism and uphold the principles of freedom and democracy not only within its borders but also across the world. In

undertaking this endeavor, America perceived its cause as not just safeguarding its own liberties but also championing the cause of all mankind against the threat of terrorism and tyranny.

Moreover, America's engagement in diplomatic efforts, humanitarian assistance, and capacity-building initiatives reflects its commitment to promoting democratic values and empowering communities to resist oppression and extremism. By working collaboratively with allies and partners, the United States endeavors to create a world where liberty and justice prevail for all. Franklin's assertion that "our Cause is the Cause of all Mankind" resonates profoundly in the context of the global fight against terrorism.

Clearly, Franklin's quote is not only relevant to modern-day America, but it has been the principles upon which our country has been built and continues to guide all of our actions. The pursuit of liberty, security, and peace remains a shared endeavor for which we are still trying to be crowned with Success. As America continues to navigate the complexities of the modern world and the current times where wars rage in not-so distant countries, the enduring wisdom of Franklin's words serves as a guiding beacon, inspiring hope, resilience, and solidarity in the face of adversity.

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