Essay 1

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Author Note

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The US government is responsible for ensuring the safety, security and livelihood of the people of America. These values are practiced, as they are enshrined in the Constitution of America and the Declaration of Independence. The ideas of limited and participatory government, sovereignty, the social contract and republicanism are key to forming administration in the US. In 1776, after the Second Continental Congress passed the Declaration of Independence, a people-oriented mechanism became the cornerstone of the American government. The American Constitution and the Declaration of Independence have certain norms and values that are applied in its republican form of government (Wills 2018, 26). Following are some important ideas and principles enshrined in the two important documents

*Limited Government:* In this form of government, there are certain limitations which are placed on the representatives for the reason to protect the rights of individuals and their liberties. This form of government, provided the US authorities of the time, a departure from the monarchy at the British Empire (Wills 2018, 39).

*Natural Rights:* The forefathers of American states believed that the British Monarch had been violating the natural rights (unalienable rights) of the American people (Wills 2018, 39). For the American forefathers, the spirit of individuality and being a human remained most sacred. John Locke, who was among the authors of the declaration of Independence, believed that the pursuit of happiness, life and the liberty are unalienable rights, and therefore, they were enshrined in the American constitution as well.

*Republicanism:* The famous phrase ‘*No taxation without representation*’ led the basis for this form of government. Amongst the criteria set for governments in the world, republicanism distinguishes the American way of government. This phrase intended to introduce the people with the ideals of true democracy, and to make them feel that meeting their demands is conditioned in certain manners.

*Social Contract:* Social contract chiefly authorizes the duties and the rights of both the people of America and its government. The idea of a social contract intends to offer a converging mechanism to both stakeholders in America.

*Popular Sovereignty:* Popular sovereignty erupts from the strength of vote. The British monarch was powerful and made the people of America their subjects, which proved devastating for the people of America. The Declaration of Independence and the American Constitution both overemphasize over the power of people and provide an intrinsic power to the people of America (Harbison and Belz 1983, 98).

The United States Supreme Court, formed in 1789, gradually reduced the number of judges to nine. There were a number of cases being heard in the US Supreme Court, but most prominently, the number of the cases at the Supreme Court’s disposal remains hundred for the year. The cases heard and decided by the Supreme Court have a lasting impact on the country. Some of the cases and the executive orders which have had a lasting impact on the country include Marbury v. Madison (1803), Munn v. Illinois (1877) and Buck v. Bell (1927) etc. (Pasley n.d.). In addition, there were several cases and executive orders which left a lasting impact over American history.

In Marbury v. Madison (1803), the Supreme Court declared that the powers for the judicial review rests with the Supreme Court and not with the lower courts. The verdict declared that Madison’s refusal was unconstitutional and therefore implied that the formation of courts was illegal (Hall 1999, 56). Similarly, in Munn v. Illinois (1877), the legislation set a bar for private companies in order to charge specific amounts. The Supreme Court later held that the law is derogatory and it impacts the industries and the private sector in the most pejorative manner. Lastly, the Buck v. Bell (1927), held the verdict that sterilization for any purpose and certain circumstances do not stand opposite to the spirit of laws in the US (Hall 1999, 59). These decisions of the US Supreme Court suggest how the court’s ruling, remain worthy for a country.

# References

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