

## On Freedom

Freedom, as defined by the Encarta Dictionary, is a state in which someone is able to act and live as he or she chooses, without being subject to any, or to any undue, restraints and restrictions. Freedom is said by British philosopher John Locke to be one of the three unalienable rights of human beings, along with the right to life, and ownership of property. The idea and belief of freedom dictates how nations are governed and how people live there lives.

No nation can be totally free. Without restraints and restrictions there is no government and without government there is anarchy. The first nation to come closest to a free state was born in 1776. America's founding fathers borrowed ideas from Locke and other philosophers establishing the idea of letting people govern themselves, or democracy. Freedom and democracy are considered to go hand-in-hand, yet democracy does not leave people free by definition. It does make its citizens as free as possible while avoiding anarchy.

Democracy revolutionized the world and is still impacting society today. The United States' took action in Vietnam and Korea to stop the spread of communism, and to encourage freedom and democracy in the world. Presently, the actions taken by President Bush in Iraq are leading to reform and the development of a new, "free," democratic Iraqi nation.

Freedom is a part of what makes us human. Without freedom, people are oppressed and lose their sense of humanity. A nation without freedom is a nation without justice, logic, and opportunity. In America, we are as free as possible. This provides us

with the opportunity to make what we want of our lives and the tools to help us succeed. As quoted by Vietnam POW Capt. James A. Mulligan, “Freedom is our most precious possession! Faith is our most precious gift!”

The people of the United States will always defend our democratic principles no matter what the price, just as both of my parents did in Vietnam, because freedom is never free.