

HST 203: U.S. History Sp19 (Escobar)

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Rights, Rights, Rights
by [Joe Escobar](#) - Friday, May 24, 2019, 5:30 PM

This thread is for discussions on the Rights, Rights, Rights topic.

To make your POSTS, click the reply link in this, MY post. To reply to another student's post, be sure to click the reply link within in THEIR post.

IMPORTANT - SUBJECT LINES

BE SURE to use an informative subject line for your post, which clearly describes the pictures and questions you are addressing. Do NOT simply leave it RE: Rights, Rights, Rights

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Which two pictures show an actual understanding of a right
by [Kaylee Calvert](#) - Saturday, May 25, 2019, 10:46 AM

Between the two photos, the T-shirt with “education is a right” on it and the poster with “college should be tuition-free”, I believe Professor Walter Williams would find the poster to have a more accurate understanding of actual rights. In the four minutes long video, *What is a Right?*, Williams stated, “A right is something that exists simultaneously among people, a right does not confer any obligations among another” (What is a Right? 0:30). So with this knowledge, the statement, “education is a right” is nonsense because it would impose an obligation on another person. It infers that if you have a right to education, whether you can pay for it or not, then somebody else does not have a right to what they earned because, like Williams said, “the government does not get the money from the tooth fairy or Santa Claus, it has to get it from somebody” (What is a Right? 1:30).

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Re: Which two pictures show an actual understanding of a right
by [Sidney Axtell](#) - Friday, May 31, 2019, 6:54 PM

I completley agree with your viewpoint! Between the two pictures, I believe that thinking “education is a right” isn't realistic. According to the Supreme Court "public education is not a fundamental right under the constitution" (San Antonio Independent School District v. Rodriguez [1972]). I think that by virtue of having “free” education, it devalues the inherent value in pursuing an education in the first place. A college education, while helpful for many, does not have a monopoly on happiness and success in life.

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1

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Re: Which two pictures show an actual understanding of a right



by [Brayden Lane](#) - Saturday, June 1, 2019, 12:02 AM

I agree with your stance on what Walter Williams would think is a right. At first it was hard for me to find out what is a right in his eyes but then after thinking about it more and watching the video again he would think the poster was more of a right. "A right is something that exists simultaneously among people, a right does not confer any obligations among another" (What is a Right? 0:30). That is the definition given by Professor Williams and knowing that he would not think that education is a right. But I disagree with both either way in the thought's of being rights. If going by the definition given by Walter Williams, both will cost money from tax payers and that is what he states as not a right. If tuition is free and or education is a right then they will be payed for by not the student themselves but taxpayers, someone has to pay teachers and utility costs etc.. The quote you gave above is perfect as well because the government doesn't just get money magically or print it up, they take it from tax paying people.

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Understanding what is a right
by [DAVID Welshman](#) - Saturday, May 25, 2019, 4:21 PM

Difference of rights and wishes

First the Bill of rights in the constitution is a living valid document that lots of people try to interpret to fit their wants. I like the explanation that Walter Williams gave to show the difference. Rights were written in the beginning by men to protect our basic human rights. It was not given by god. We do have rights, that must be upheld by protecting them.. I feel Walter would say the t shirt is stating education is a right. but its a wish to say college should not cost anything.

Rights for citizens and illegals

Civil rights as I understand it were to protect and give equality to those of race, women, children and citizens that came to this country properly. I agree that immigrants that come over through the proper channels should be awarded the same rights that Americans have. Now the cartoon that shows them saying they are not second class citizens, that is correct they are not citizens and need to understand that in order to receive government help and rights they should be using the proper channels. The ones that come over illegally are making it more difficult to be accepted and even many of their own dislike the way they try to come In to the USA

Personally I feel that veterans through out history have had a short end of the stick when it comes to help to get back into society. A veteran basically wrote a blank check to the United States government for an amount up to and including their life. So to even give illegals more help when the come into our country is ridiculous. A veteran wants to live a good life in society with out struggling to get the medical attention they need, or to find a job. Most veterans are proud and want to be part of society in a productive way. Its a job that does come with both physical and mental needs after they return from wars. So its an insult to vets to be stating illegals should come first.

I believe that the constitution is a worthy document, and I was willing to give up my life for it. I believe that there are people in other countries who if they need or desire to come to American they should but through the proper channels. Its important to remember that the rights citizenship is given comes with responsibilities. So we should want as a nation to have those responsibilities carried out by all who live in America and because of that we want them to be citizens. It is a privilege to come to America and to have a chance at a better life.

Not understanding our rights as citizens of USA cause rifles between political groups and misunderstanding of what is a right and what is a wish. Most on the news today have political agendas and use the media to push those agendas. This is sadly causing problems with many different groups including those we elect into power. Maybe they all should listen to Walter explain the difference I think they forgot.

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Re: Understanding what is a right

by [Gerardo Morales-Martinez](#) - Saturday, June 1, 2019, 11:14 PM

Hi David,

I agree with your point of view in which you talk about veterans getting the short end of the stick, because its true! We had seen it with the veterans from WWI, the Bonus Army, who wanted their bonuses early and were met with resistance under President Hoover. I do believe that immigrants who properly arrive to the U.S. should have the rights that we as citizens have. It isn't fair to prioritize illegal immigrants over the veterans who protected us and served in the military. Our rights as citizens should be protected since it was written in the constitution. It is a privilege to live in this country with the rights we have. Comparing to some other countries, we have a pretty nice set of rights to protect us. I believe because of the time we are living now, we want more and more. Potentially this could be caused by the lack of conservatism in the country. When I say that, I'm referring to Mr.Escobars comment about 3 weeks ago when he mentioned that in time of war, as a country we become more conservative. Hence, the lack of conservatism in the country today. Although we are experiencing a war, it isn't to the extent as WWI and WWII. Which could potentially make us want more "rights" which really are wishes.

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Re: Rights, Rights, Rights; Where do rights come from?

by [Joe Kiefer](#) - Saturday, May 25, 2019, 6:36 PM

Our rights are given to us by God, or the Creator, or just a higher power , however you care to look at it. The Declaration of Independence does make this explicitly clear by stating, “all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness.”(forum materials) The way it was explained to me is that if your rights were given to you by a government, that the same government that gave you the rights can take them away. We have seen in this class that even though the Bill of Rights exists, and the Declaration clearly states that they were granted by our creator, the government does their best to try to take them away when they feel it necessary. For instance, what about the Sedition Act which limited free speech or the way that nonwhites have been treated throughout our history, even though the Declaration clearly states that all men are created equal. So, as you can see that all branches of the government will limit your rights if we don’t accept the responsibility of fighting to protect those rights, even if it means that we strike down such an unjust government and institute a new form of government , as stated in the Declaration of Independence.

I truly appreciated the way that Professor Walter Williams clarified what a right is, he gave a clear and concise explanation. He said, “a right is something that exists simultaneously among people.”(what is a right video, Walter Williams, :30) What he is trying to get at is that a right is that it is only a right if applies to everyone equally, like the Declaration made clear that we are all equal, that if one has a right we all must have it to remain equal. Williams also said, “a right does not confer any obligation on another.”(what is a right video, Walter Williams, :35) This statement means that a right you have cannot imply a cost onto someone else, whether it be monetary or the cost of someone’s time and effort. This is why the picture of the t-shirt that says education is a right is not true, nowhere in the constitution , the bill of rights specifically, does it say that you have a right to an education. That was a law that was passed by government that made it mandatory for all children to go to school.(class lecture) If a law is passed by the government it can be struck down by the government as well. Also, as Professor Walter Williams would acknowledge , education can not be a right because it would infer a cost onto another person. As for the other picture that said that college should be free, Williams would say that is perfectly fine because that would be classified as a wish, with the way that it was worded.

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How wrongs became rights

by [Ryan Monett](#) - Sunday, May 26, 2019, 3:45 PM

In our political discourse of late, the terms "I have a right. . ." to abortion, to free healthcare, to free secondary education, etc. is being echoed mostly by the younger, leftist generation (although certainly not exclusively). It sounds plausible and a good thing on the outset. Who doesn't like free college and healthcare?

(I have strong feelings on those claiming a "right" to kill an unborn fetus so we'll bypass that for the time being).

Yet, our only real *"right"* is to breathe air. We live in a generation that expects things to be handed to us, instantly, without effort and, here's the key, without demonstrable responsibility. If I claimed I had the right to fly a commercial aircraft, then I have to possess the responsibility to know how to handle the aircraft safely. There are years of work that I must put in before I can even claim I possess enough *responsibility* to fly an aircraft. Then, I also need another to verify that I am capable of handling that duty seriously (pilot's license). If we claimed anyone had a *right* as a citizen to fly a commercial aircraft, would *you* entrust your parents to hop on board with just anyone?

No, because one can quickly see how dangerous that would be. I simply have a right to breathe - all else in life takes actual work, effort, and demonstrable responsibility.

We hear that education is a right. To be a right, then it's something endowed upon us by our Creator, right? So really, it's not a right. It's a fantasy. We have gone a long way from what Tom Brokaw termed, "The Greatest Generation". Even upon returning from WWII, those who fought and experienced horrors we cannot imagine didn't expect their future to be just given to them. They worked hard to gain everything they earned - and that's after they returned home. Nothing was just handed to them, least of all freedom.

They fought and died for our freedom. Part of the issue is that when things are just given to us, we take it for granted. Everything cost somebody something along the way. We must get out of this trap that life owes us. It's ruining our culture and our future. One of the biggest mistakes we can do for future generations is to train them to believe they are owed everything the previous generations actually worked for. It does them - and our country - a huge disservice.

Every choice in life has natural and spiritual consequences.

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Web Video, Walter Williams:



Website: <https://www.uscis.gov/citizenship/learners/citizenship-rights-and-responsibilities>

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Are Rights Really Unalienable?

by [Owen McCoy](#) - Sunday, May 26, 2019, 5:58 PM

The Declaration of Independence states that people are "endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights..." It then goes on to explain that government is only meant to "secure these rights" and that it no longer serves its purpose if it is violating these rights. The idea of rights being above government is important because as we've seen, the government does not always uphold rights. (For example, think about the number of trials that took place during war-time in which the 1st Amendment right to free speech was violated.) In fact, the whole system of checks and balances was designed so that the federal government would not be able to take too much power and use it in ways that would infringe on the rights of the people.

That said, times have changed. The role of the federal government has greatly expanded since the time of the founding fathers. This system of government has endured through war, economic growth and recession, territorial expansion, and demographic diversification, among other things. However, this endurance mandated changes and these changes tended to increase the size and scope of the federal government. We saw how the first World War required government spending and economic/industrial mobilization the likes of which had never been seen before. We saw how FDR tried to forcibly yank the economy out of a recession by creating new government offices and

agencies. Ideally, these changes are “reforms.” (That is to say, changes for the better.) The problem is when the government starts to violate the rights of those under its jurisdiction. We saw in WWI how the Espionage, Sabotage, and Sedition Acts were used to suppress anti-war speech, in many cases abridging the right to free speech. In WWII, tens of thousands of Japanese citizens were forced into internment camps and deprived of private property.

Such things make one wonder whether rights are really “unalienable.” Furthermore, do rights exist before they are declared? If that is the case, then African-Americans had the right to vote and be treated equally as citizens before the passage of the 14th and 15th Amendments. One could argue this based on the republican principles outlined in the Declaration of Independence, but few people were willing to act upon it at the time.

For me, it is easier to look at an example such as the Civil Rights Act of 1964 which, among other things, “prohibited racial discrimination in all public accommodations connected to interstate commerce...” (textbook p.953) The right of all citizens to be treated without discrimination based on race or ethnicity was defined in the 14th Amendment, but for several nearly a century, this right had been routinely circumvented or even blatantly ignored. Consequently, I see the Civil Rights Act as having reaffirmed a right that was already there. (The same is true with Brown v. Board of Education.) The people that were discriminated against during that time did not always experience recognition of that right or the privileges associated with it, but they still had that right. In that light, it would appear to be a case of the government failing to secure the rights of its citizens for a long time. Nevertheless, it is my opinion that rights are indeed unalienable even if they are not upheld and protected.

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Free, Free, Free!!!
by [Matthew Berry](#) - Monday, May 27, 2019, 5:12 PM

I think that Professor Walter Williams hit the nail on the head so to speak. Many people believe that free education, healthcare, housing, etc. are rights, but they aren't they are simply wishes. Of course it would be great if everyone had free everything, but that is not realistic, everything comes at a cost and somebody has to pay that cost. Professor Williams says, “A right is something that exists simultaneously among people, a right does not confer any obligation on another” (video clip :30). So, if you think that you have the right to free education, or free healthcare you are literally saying that educators and doctors don't have the right to collect, or be paid for something that they have provided. Also if you say that the government can just pay for it, well the money has to come from somewhere, i.e. Taxpayers! Thus you are imposing an obligation onto somebody else, which is in fact trampling their rights. I think it would be great if people would use the same vigor, or ambitious energy, to be creative, and mold their attitudes to go out and earn these things rather than to assume that these things should be given to them under the rouse of being a “Right”.

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Re: Free, Free, Free!!!
by [Gerardo Morales-Martinez](#) - Saturday, June 1, 2019, 11:28 PM

Hi Matthew,

Professor Williams did indeed doe a great job on explaining the situation with citizens demanding certain things they believe is a right. Yet, they oversee the fact like you said, that some of those "rights" will be coming out of somebody's pocket. There is no way to sustain "free college" without affecting teachers pay, and "free healthcare" will cut into doctors pay and so on. What I think we should be doing instead is starting to use the word "tax" because essentially thats what it is. As history has proven over time, we are not fond of the idea of being taxed. Maybe we can strike the tax fear into people so they might rethink the logistics of these wishes.

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Were Not Citizens
by [Trevor Mejia](#) - Monday, May 27, 2019, 6:58 PM

For this Post I decided to discuss the Act of immigration. Personally, I am on the belief that our country was founded on immigration. However, none of our founding fathers were born here in the U.S to start. It's also Immigrants throughout our own history that I feel help shed light on the American dream.

Right off the bat I feel I should start with Illegals blaming not to be second class citizens and how that plays into what we watched in class with the Brown V.s Board of Education. In that video we saw African American students being told they cannot go to school because of segregation. This issue was caused when the State of Kansas disagreed with the Supreme court’s ruling of racial segregation in schools being unconstitutional. I feel that those students do fall under the term second class citizens due to the fact the state was overlooking them. However, the people in the cartoons whose sign is to show that in today’s standers Illegals are illegals and are not claimed to be citizens by the United States point of view or in this case lady liberty. Now this I disagree with I don’t believe we should ignore other cultures and act like they are of no worth in the United states when our country was founded by Immigrants.

Alexander Hamilton for example had little to nothing and lived on a small island apart of the British west indies, however after the death of his mother Alexander used his pain to focus on another outlet being reading and writing. he used the skills he taught himself and with a communion made up of his nahboors was sent to the United states to make a name for himself When George Washington was elected president he appointed Hamilton secretary of the treasury. Hamilton sought to create a stable financial foundation for the nation and increase the power of the central government.

What I find Inspiring about Alexander Hamilton is how he went from an Orphan with nothing to the Presidents Right hand man. So, when I see the Cartoon about the statue of liberty re editing the Sign of the second-class citizens to “we are not citizens.” I feel that this plays into how no one who founded or claims to be a citizen of the United States isn’t. The land belonged to the Native Americans before Columbus massacred them. None of us are True Us Citizens but because we live in the Us It gives us some sort of right to tell others to stay out.

Another Example would be Albert Einstein, born and from Ulm Germany It wasn’t until 1933 that he decided to immigrate to the Unites States due to having Jewish heritage. He would later find work as a professor at Princeton for theoretical physics and go on to create the Atom bomb used to help end the war. Einstein is also known for his discovery of the photoelectric effect, for which he won the Nobel Prize. He also developed a theory of special and general relativity, which helped to complicate and expand upon theories that had been put forth by Isaac Newton over 200 years prior.

Now don’t get me wrong, I am fully aware of terrorism and how when the U.S goes to war with other countries and kill everyone loses. Killing someone causes everyone to lose you take away a life and all the people that life touched or effected also lose. It creates hate and leads to acts of revenge and terrorism. However, that’s just one side of the coin, we forget that we are blocking out people just like us. Who’s minds and ideas could pave the way for future generations.

I Disagree with the message of this cartoon but understand how it plays into our culture today. However, Our Country is a wonderful one its full of all races and religions although lately its doesn’t seem that we have been super accepting we have been making steps in the right direction and if we keep blocking out people we could be blocking out brilliant minds that could help further our country like Hamilton and Einstein.

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my thoughts on our rights

by [Dylan Boleyn](#) - Monday, May 27, 2019, 7:02 PM

Are rights granted by god or governments? I would say the answer to this is god because like it is stated in the constitution and in the material’s for this forum governments sometimes grant rights and sometimes they take them away and with this they can be changed by people. Which means that if governments granted rights we would not continue to have the same rights we do today.

Did professor Walter clarify the differences between rights and other things people call rights? For me it did help clarify the difference. What helped me most was when he brought up the example about how wishing that everyone had heath care is very different from saying heath care is a right.

Which of the two picturs above would walter consider an accurate understanding of actual rights? I would have to say the picture on the right which says college should be tuition free. Going back to his example of wishing everyone had health care that example directly ties to these pictures. According to Walter saying that education is a right is false because it imposes an obligation on others and that obligation is to provide you education. However, saying that college should be tuition free is the same as whishing we all had heath care.

Dose any human posses rights or do they exist only when protected and upheld by government? I think as humans we do posses rights ourselves because any government enforcement that would be in place to protect/uphold our rights is only there because we put them there. I think the answer of this question just gose back to the first question I addressed which was asking weather rights are granted by god or governments. My answer was our rights are god given meaning we have rights that we posses of which there existence has nothing to do with the governments we put into place.

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Different topics regarding questions and answers on rights

by [Alex Davis](#) - Monday, May 27, 2019, 7:11 PM

People will have their own opinions on several of these questions, but based off my opinion and what has happened throughout history I'd say rights are granted by the government. I can see why people would say God, because the Declaration says we are endowed by our creator and at the time up till now people have religious views like that about our history. I felt like Professor Walter Williams did help clarify the differences between rights and wishes and definitely helped me better understand as well. Around the 1-2 minute point in his video he broke down what rights are compared to what isn't a right, so based off the question between the 2 pictures I think he'd say education is a right, because all individuals have the right to education. I think part of the reason we have rights is from being protected and having them upheld by governmental enforcement. I know if we didn't people would heavily argue this subject and chaos would probably break out more. Some hard questions to answer overall, but do you agree with Professor Walter Williams and/or agree/disagree with how our rights are granted and if humans actually possess any rights?

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Re: Rights, Rights, Rights

by [Jason Fitzsimmons](#) - Monday, May 27, 2019, 8:06 PM

This is a difficult and complex issue. In the United States there exists a separation of church and state. The Bill of Rights is 'Godless'' in keeping (a) God out of the document, out of the business of Government.

"As secretary of state, Jefferson wrote an "Opinion on the French Treaties" in 1793 and espoused a view of human rights founded on human nature: "Questions of natural right are triable by their conformity with the moral sense & reason of man. Those who write treatises of natural law, can only declare what their own moral sense & reason dictate in the several cases they state." Our rights, even those based in natural law, are the product of "liberal and expanded thought," not divine revelation. Those rights are discoverable by human reason and our innate moral sense."---Thomas Jefferson.

Under professor Williams definition: rights must exist simultaneously among people and not confer obligation on any other. By extension allowing religion to influence the laws in a free country has the potential of creating a situation of removing or adding rights dependent on whatever religion happened to be in charge could lead to violating another's rights based on an imposed obligation, on the other side of the proverbial coin the government granting rights is under the same scrutiny in the sense of state power having the potential to impose rights in addition to defending.

Rights that do not confer an obligation on other citizens and are arrived at by rational analysis are the best course and what the founding fathers (Jefferson in particular) envisioned as a guiding principal of the definition of a right as well as enforcement.

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What is a right?

by [Brayden Lane](#) - Monday, May 27, 2019, 9:11 PM



I believe rights are granted by god and not the government. As talked about in the video with Walter Williams so called "rights" given by the government aren't right because you are taking from another persons so called rights. For example he talked about healthcare being a given right when in reality it isn't because your taking the rights away from others who have to pay for it with taxes. The reason I believe there god given is everybody has a right to be free or other amendmets but it doesn't take away from someone else. He would believe between the two pictures that the one on the left "education is a right" is a more accurate understanding of what a right is. I believe that because education is a right that doesn't affect or take away anyone else's right, everybody has a right to education you just have to make sure you take it. The reason I believe he would disagree with the one on the left because free college tuition would be taking the right's away from others who have to pay for it. Similar to his stance on healthcare rights.

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Whose Rights?
by [Maximillian Prentice](#) - Monday, May 27, 2019, 10:15 PM

The Declaration of Independence states that all men are “endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights,” and that governments are instituted among men to secure those rights. Governments do change throughout time, adding or reducing the amount of rights granted to citizens, showing that rights only exist if they are granted and protected by some type of government. Providing for your people is one differentiator between a failed and successful sate, but I think present day Americans get too attached to the idea that the government owes them something. We have had a major shift in U.S. government policies since the start of the 20th century, FDR’s New Deal setting up a lot of the groundwork for the big government that we have grown more reliant on in recent years. Education is a big topic related to this, with people like Bernie Sanders running for President on the idea of “College for All.” I cannot deny that the idea of free college, as well as healthcare, sounds great but I do not feel like it is a right; as Professor Williams says in the video, “There is a difference between wishes and rights.” Colleges, universities, and the Government together could make it easier to get into and pay for schooling, but saying schooling is a right just doesn’t fit with the other unalienable rights listed in the Declaration.

I think the 14th Amendment is still relevant today, and for the most part the Constitution as a whole. I think redrafting the constitution would have to take place after a major event, like a civil war, and it should just probably go on existing as it is; though the rights should continue to be extended only to citizens. I think a major consequence of granting non-citizens the same rights as a citizen would be the change to voting. A new population can change the successes for a party, as we saw with the Republican party after the enfranchisement of African Americans post-Civil War. On a day-to-day basis I do not think about rights, mine or anyone else’s. I don’t feel like my rights are in danger of being infringed on and I feel like everyone should have the opportunity to experience those same feelings, but people coming into the country illegally should not get to take place in the American system. Just like college, the process to become a citizen could be sped-up and streamlined, but people should not expect that everything will come for free.



**I felt like this cartoon went along well with Part 1 of the forum material. People only get the rights that their government secures for them.

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Re: Rights, Rights, Rights
by [Patryce Miller](#) - Monday, May 27, 2019, 10:53 PM

Rights are given by God by granted by governments, what I mean is God (in the Bible) tells us that we should honor and obey those who govern us which mean they are the one who grants us our rights. The proof is in Romans: Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment. For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Would you have no fear of the one who is in authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive his approval, for he is God’s servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain. For he is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God’s wrath on the wrongdoer. (Romans 13:1-4). Yes, Professor Walter Williams short talk does clarify the differences between rights and other things that people often mistakenly call “rights”. He said, "A right is something that exists simultaneously among people; A right does not conferred any obligation on another"(Walter William short talk 0:30). That people who call something a right that is opposite to this definition is not a right but a wish. He would consider the first picture to have a more accurate understanding of actual rights because the second picture would have someone else paying it for the person getting the free tuition while the first picture exists simultaneously and does not confer any obligation on another. I believe that any human actually possesses any of these things called “rights” when they are protected and upheld by the government because without any type of government enforcement we wouldn't have any rights.

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Re: Rights, Rights, Rights
by [Patryce Miller](#) - Thursday, May 30, 2019, 11:45 PM

The specific areas of similarity between the gains of the historic civil rights era to the more recent citizenship rights issues like cartoon 4 where a legal alien or immigrates have to carry an ID at all time if not it is a federal misdemeanor crime and this in Arizona (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arizona_SB_1070). They end radical discrimination of all immigrates. Well at least in one way with the ID. The cops won't have to take all the immigrates to jail or deport them thinking that they are illegal. The cops won't have someone do long research to find out if those aliens are legal or not. With the ID they are gaining a few equal rights under the law with this too. The differences I see is that people who work in a store of some type can ask for their ID to see if their legal or not and some with the cops. The cop can arrest someone when there is a reasonable suspicion that that person is an illegal immigrant. People in the civil right era didn't have that because they were already citizens of the USA. I think it is proper to apply the 14th Amendment to situations that exist nearly 150 years after that amendment was passed for a very specific situation. I mean legal immigrant past and jump through all the hoops to come here. They went through all that to become a permanent resident of the US and is given the rights of all American citizens except to vote and "can be prosecuted and lose your chance at U.S. citizenship" (<https://www.alllaw.com/articles/nolo/us-immigration/permanent-resident-vs-citizen-difference.html>). Some of our Constitution a living document is worthy of governing our nation today. I think that there are some laws in the constitution that we can still follow to keep us in line. The positive consequences of granting citizenship rights to both citizens and those who are not legally citizens are that we would have less fighting and will be able to fix other problem in the united state. The country will be about to tax more people and get more money too. The negative is we will get overpopulate and have more people out of a job. I will give this level of seven importance to this “rights” issue because I believe that there are other things that are more important. The problems that are created when citizens have only a vague, incomplete or completely illogical and false understanding of the subject matter are discrimination against the people in the subject, making up lies to get people on their side, and stopping the good progress in that subject matter while pushing the forward their incorrect ideas hurting the country in some way

Sum of ratings:[1 \(1\)](#)

1

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Re: Rights, Rights, Rights
by [Gerardo Morales-Martinez](#) - Monday, May 27, 2019, 11:53 PM

I believe that the rights given to us were given to us by the government, and not a right from God. The reason which is because the government has had a tendency to give rights to a certain group of people, or even strip rights away from others. They only exist when they are upheld by the government. Our rights that we may have here, will not be the same rights if we were to travel to a different country. Yet, we have a tendency to want to label things as "rights". Professor Walter Williams had a create explanation as to how we tend to want to call things rights, but by doing so, we are striping others of a right.

Sum of ratings:[1 \(1\)](#)

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Re: Rights, Rights, Rights
by [Trevor Mejia](#) - Friday, May 31, 2019, 4:25 PM

I agree with your post completely. I feel chapter 29 has shown a lot of the fact that Rights are government controlled and not from God. For example simple rights such as African Americans rights to vote along with African Americans rights to public education and desegregation. All things our government later changed. I also enjoyed your point on how rights are not the same in other areas/ countries. Very well stated.

Sum of ratings:[0 \(1\)](#)

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Re: Rights, Rights, Rights
by [Alex Davis](#) - Friday, May 31, 2019, 9:17 PM

Couldn't agree more with you. The government has been in control for a long time and they have given rights to the people or taken them away over time. Either way they do only exist, because they're upheld by the government. I like how you added the part if we go to another country our rights might be a little bit different which helps validate your point even more and is true. I think some people in general don't understand this topic and they throw around the word "right" due to only hearing that word. I liked how you included Professor Walter Williams saying that by calling things rights we are stripping others of a right. I agreed with what he said as well. Very solid statement.

Sum of ratings:[0 \(1\)](#)

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Re: Rights, Rights, Rights
by [Gerardo Morales-Martinez](#) - Saturday, June 1, 2019, 11:35 PM

Hi Alex,

Thank you for agreeing with me. Going off your point that the government has been in control of who they choose to give these rights to. We have seen it with the Chinese Exclusion Act, which kicked out and did not allow those of asian descent to live and work in America. Keep in mind that it is an "Act" which means it was approved by congress. Then we have the Japanese internment camps which I can see why they chose to do that, it still goes against the constitution by stripping this group of people from their rights. Depending on who you ask, our rights will never be enough for people. Naturally we are selfish and sometimes greedy, and completely forget how good our rights are....when they aren't being stripped. My part of comparing it to another country is to show how well we got it. Despite if we think our government or politicians are lacking leadership, or think we have the best government in the world, our rights are great to those found outside of this country, wishing they had the rights we have today.

Sum of ratings:[1 \(1\)](#)

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Re: Rights, Rights, Rights
by [Brayden Lane](#) - Tuesday, May 28, 2019, 11:52 PM

I believe our constitution is a living document that as worthy of governing are nation today. At the beginning it layed down simple laws that were import all thorough out its time and will continue to be important forever. There some of the basic laws that our country was made on and will always be relevant. Now I believe it forever should be a living document that changes over time because just like in every society there is new advancement's and problems.

There has to be changes over time because just cause people believed in stuff years ago doesn't mean its morally right. For example women not having the right to vote is an amendment that was added and made the constitution a living document that changes over time. The level of importance when it comes to the rights issue when it relates to Americans having an understanding of it is huge. Americans have to understand the difference between rights and wishes. Yes it would be nice if everyone was rich and could by anything but that simply isn't a right. "A lot of people believe healthcare is a right and that is utter nonsense". This is a quote from Professor Walter Williams in which he goes on to explain most Americans don't understand what a right is, according to him a right is "something that exists simultaneously among people, a right doesn't infer an obligation on another." So what most people believe to be a right is not actually a right and that's why it is imperative American's understand what a right truly is before making decisions on new laws. Healthcare is not a right because it is interfering on somebody else, if your not paying for it the government has to cover it in taxes.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

2

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Rights Can't Be Granted
by [Zachary Oswald](#) - Wednesday, May 29, 2019, 12:24 AM

Rights, as they are traditionally understood, are never granted by any government. Whether they are granted by God is a theological debate. However, rights exist in nature. A person living alone in the woods has the right to say whatever they like, worship however they like, and pursue whatever activities make them happy. Governments aren't able to bestow rights which already exist, they can only curtail them. They can decide to avoid curtailing these rights as much as possible. Because rights naturally exist, they may be said to be granted by God.

Professor Walter Williams greatly explains the traditional concept of rights, as the term is used in the Constitution. He'd likely prefer the poster which reads "College Should Be Tuition Free." Williams' refers to this as a wish, I'd characterize it as a political demand.

The T-Shirt on the left only makes sense in the context of positive liberty. Positive liberty is the assumption that society is obligated to provide certain services so that individuals can possess the agency to act freely. This is a more left-wing idea though.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

2

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god given rights
by [Sidney Axtell](#) - Thursday, May 30, 2019, 9:56 PM

Well realistically, according to our Declaration, it states our rights come from God, thus our rights predate and pre-exist the Constitution. The three foundational principles of our Constitutional Republic state that our rights are unalienable and come from God. The purpose of Civil Government is to protect our "God-given rights", as well as the civil government is legitimate only when it operates with our consent. But truly, God-given rights are so problematic because they depend solely on a particular individual's interpretation of his god's word.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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The mistaken rights
by [Sidney Axtell](#) - Thursday, May 30, 2019, 10:23 PM

Walter Williams discussed some of the differences between right and other things that people often mistakenly call rights, such as health care. "A right is something that exists simultaneous among people, a right does not confer any obligation on another." (Video .30sec) Where does the government get it from? I enjoyed his comical expression "The government does not get the money from the Tooth Fairy, or Santa Claus, it has to get it from somebody". (video 1.30min) I think ObamaCare is a great exapmle of this. Too many Americans now see health care as a human right rather than a good. Where do you think the money is coming from right now to pay for it all--where does the government get its fabled unlimited money? "Government is not a productive organization; it has no source of wealth other than confiscation of the citizens' wealth, through taxation, deficit financing or the like." (Article by freedomworks)

As the Declaration of Independence states that we have an unalienable right to life, liberty as well as the pursuit of happiness. That doesn't mean that other people should be forced to sustain our life or make us happy. In my opinion health care is a valuable good that would be better left to the free market.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

1

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Re: The mistaken rights

by [Aaron Richards](#) - Saturday, June 1, 2019, 9:01 PM

But who is to state that a right is mistaken? That depends entirely on how one defines a right and where that definition comes from. Culture to culture people speak different languages and hold different beliefs than what we may believe. Walter Williams' definition of a right is what he believes to be a right, but as you referred to the Declaration of Independence, I'd like to point out that all of these "rights" are protected with the consent of the governed, therefore dictated by us. So unless the US has completely abandoned the original principals it was founded upon and chosen to ignore the voice of the governed, then if the majority of Americans wish for health care to become a right, then they have a responsibility to listen.

Sum of ratings: 0 (1) 0

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Rights Part 1

by [Aaron Richards](#) - Friday, May 31, 2019, 5:48 PM

As was stated at the beginning of the document given to us by Joe, the idea of rights has been at the forefront of American history. This can be seen in both the Declaration of Independence and that the constitution was not ratified until a bill of rights was included. But are rights granted by governments or a god? I think that rights are put forth by the people and enforced by the government, at least in the US. To quote the Declaration "That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed", so ultimately the final decision on if a right is a right or if it should be enforced is up to the governed. However earlier in the document it states that rights are God given, but what about people who don't believe in god? In that way the government is establishing rights on the basis of a religion, in a roundabout way establishing that religion and violating the first amendment of the bill of rights. We can say people have a right to life, but people die every day in many forms, so that doesn't stop death. We can say that people have a right to free speech, but people are silenced for their beliefs constantly. Rights are merely another set of laws dictating what a person may or may not do within the realm of a government.

Sum of ratings: 1 (1) 1

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Immigrant situation with cartoon

by [Sidney Axtell](#) - Friday, May 31, 2019, 7:38 PM

This has been a major debate in the United States for many years. Whether or not we should be granting immigrants citizenships is a tricky discussion because there are many pros & cons to the whole issue. I think personally, it is important to understand both sides because there are many viewpoints to the discussion. A positive viewpoint would be that, citizenship for the unauthorized will bring about significant economic gains in terms of growth, earnings, tax revenues, and jobs. Another pro is that they are also consumers and taxpayers. But on the other viewpoint they can burden taxpayers and create unwanted competition for jobs. Wages have aslo stagnated or declined for less-educated U.S. workers, many of whom are forced to compete with immigrants for jobs. Take

this cartoon for example:



when U.S citizens don't have a strong understanding as to what the negative affects that take place when granting citizenship rights to both citizens and those who are not legally citizens, many do suffer from job loss. According to Trump, immigrants are stealing job opportunities from American workers. As he said in July 2015, "They're taking our jobs. They're taking our manufacturing jobs. They're taking our money. They're killing us." (Donald Trump) I think a citizenship is a right, if done deservingly.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: Immigrant situation with cartoon
by [Gerardo Morales-Martinez](#) - Saturday, June 1, 2019, 11:41 PM

Hi Sidney,

I like how you chose to see the benefits and pros of both sides of this issue. I do see the pros in which giving those who came here illegally the rights citizens have. From an economic point of view. Yet, talking about our constitution, citizens of the United States should be the one getting these rights. I do believe in giving immigrants rights, if they come here legally through our methods of arrival. Regarding our veterans, it is sad if we think about how we treat those who voluntarily risked their life to protect the citizens. Yet, we choose to help other people instead of our own. Which, if we want to give rights to illegal immigrants, I think we should be upholding the rights of our own first.

Sum of ratings:0 (1)

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God or Gov?
by [Baylee Crowson](#) - Saturday, June 1, 2019, 9:49 AM

The Declaration of Independence thinks that rights are granted by God and the governments are in place to help give everyone those rights. Which hasn't always been the case because there's been slavery. Holocaust. Internment camps. All things that took away those peoples' rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

Yes, Williams was very clear in the difference between a right and a wish, I think he explained it good. I believe he would consider the picture to the right saying "College should be tuition free" because he says that when something is a right, it needs to be given to them for free and this picture says tuition needs to be free. I believe we only have these rights when there is enforcement. If you look at other countries, some don't have the freedoms we do. We have the freedoms we have now because there is a government ensuring we have them, if our government decided to permanently shutdown, another country would most likely come here to conquer us and we wouldn't be guaranteed the same freedoms we have now. (Not that *that* would happen)

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: Rights, Rights, Rights
by [Zar Oelke](#) - Saturday, June 1, 2019, 1:04 PM

I believe that Professor Walter Williams was extremely thorough in his video on rights in the United States and what people often perceive to be a right when actuality it's a privilege to a United States citizen. I believe that rights are granted by a government and not a universal power. I say this because it differs from country to country.

For example, in America, citizens are granted the right to be able to divorce their spouse whenever they'd like. While in the Philippines, the citizens of that country aren't granted the right to divorce. In the New York Times Article: *Philippines Stands All but Alone in Banning Divorce* the president has a quote on the topic of divorcing by saying, "It is not a priority, and I don't see it becoming a priority in the near future." Rights are specifically granted by each country's individual government.

I also believe that he made a clear distinction between rights and what other's might consider "rights" especially when he mentions how citizens in the United States believe that health care should be a universal right, all while it would be an obligation on others infringing on their rights. If there's a doctor that has a specific number of clients they see, if healthcare was a right, it would be their obligation to take care of every patient that came in. Causing longer hours, same pay and more stress onto them which could cause mistakes. Mr. Williams brought up an excellent point about how food stamps hasn't always been a right of the citizens. His exampling being of the Irish and when they moved into America, they didn't have the chance to be allowed food. They had to work for it. An how as citizens we have to remember what came before all of these social services.

Mr. Williams, I believe would have an issue with both pictures but if he were to lean a certain way, it would be for the t-shirt that says, "Education is a right" because all United States citizens are granted the right for an education up to a point. After the age of eighteen, it is no longer a right. It's a privilege. Rights only exist by the specific government you live under. I believe no one possess specific rights, it's up to the government to have that control for each citizen that lives under it's watch.

https://www.nytimes.com/2011/06/18/world/asia/18iht-philippines18.html?_r=0

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Uneducated

by [Kaleah Holmes](#) - Saturday, June 1, 2019, 7:02 PM

There are problems when people do not know the definition of a right, and by people who disagree with the definition of what a right is. "A right does not confer an obligation onto anybody else" (Walter Williams video 0:40). One issue is that we the people lose a credible source. The other issue is people attempting to pressure the government into adding non rights into law. Another issue is people who advocate for those non rights, and them gaining followers.

The people who attempt to make non rights into rights are uneducated. It's perfectly fine promoting something you are unfamiliar with because of Freedom of Speech. Yet it my opinion when I hear "health care should be a right" I immediately stop listening because they have proven that they don't know what they are talking about. So, if these people could be more educated they could gain much more listeners. Instead, at least for me, I lost my hope of credibility for that source. It is kind of like when a parent repeatedly badgers you about what college you're going to go to. Eventually you stop listening. Onto my next point about pressuring the government incorrectly.

People who attempt to pressure the government into making non rights into rights are plain and simple wrong. This is upsetting because the government does so much. On top of it all they have to listen to so many complaints. Then to have amounts of people telling you that you suck, and they aren't even correct. People who don't even know their definitions. That sucks. If their ideas were well thought out, and just then I would support them. Onto my next point concerning incorrect promoters gaining followers.

The inaccurate people are dulling their audience's knowledge. Whoever agrees health care should be a right is being misled. Health care is not a right. The followers get caught up with the persuasive speaker. This spreads the uneducated thoughts. We should always look into something that interests us on our own, instead of believing what we hear.

Sum of ratings:[2 \(1\)](#)

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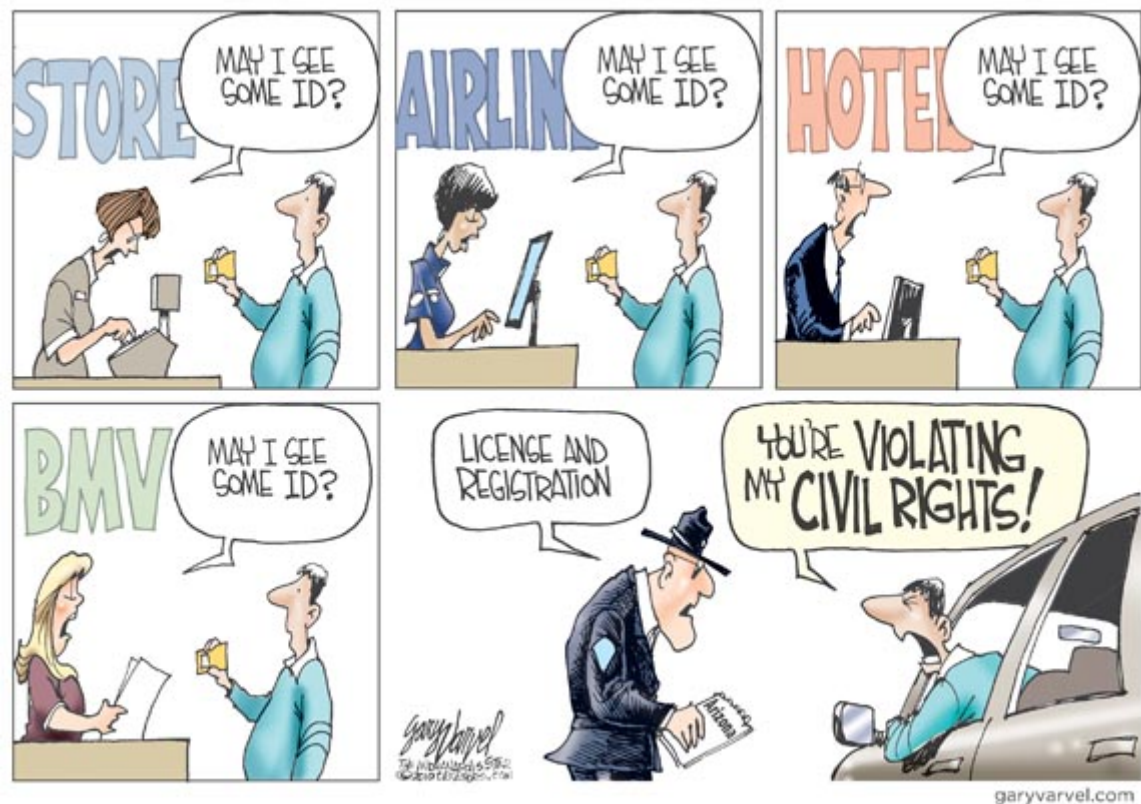
Re: Rights, Rights, Rights

by [Sebastian Garcin](#) - Saturday, June 1, 2019, 7:25 PM

The issue of what is a right and what isn't is a very complicated issue. Just as the comic shows, people always seem to be fine to present their ID's for shopping, going on airlines / checking into hotels, and even posting all that information on social media platforms. However as soon as law enforcement comes in it turns into a violation of civil liberties. In my opinion that is completely unfounded and incorrect. there is no law in the United States stating that you have to carry and ID at all times. However You are required by law to have an ID(a valid driver's license) when you are driving and when you get pulled over it is normally because you did something that violated either driving laws or safety laws. Just we witnessed in the video clip on Thursday LBJ said that rioting, arson, and other criminal activities like that wasn't in protest for civil rights it was just Criminal activity. When you get pulled over you have done generally done something that warrants getting to see your ID, whether that was driving over the speed limit, driving in hazardous manner, or breaking some other driving law like not having a license plate. Getting told to show your license by police officer isn't a violation of a civil liberty.

Police officers are allowed to require to see your ID if they have reasonable suspicion to believe that criminal activity of some kind is taking place. These are commonly known as stop and identify laws , they also allow officers to arrest suspects that refuse to show their ID. That is completely understandable because it is their job to prevent criminal activity and to protect citizens. If you feel that this is a harassment or a violation of civil rights then there are steps you can take. the main one is that if you don't believe they have reasonable suspicion then you can say, "Excuse me officer. Are you detaining me or am I free to go?" If they say that you are free to go then you are free to go and you can leave without releasing any further information. However if you are detained it is up to you to decide whether refusing to show your ID is worth a possible arrest.

There are rules in place to protect civil liberties, and using the excuse that police officers telling you to show your ID isn't a violation of your civil liberties because it is there job to protect citizens (you) and to stop any criminal acts.



Sum of ratings:3 (1) 3

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Re: Rights, Rights, Rights
by [Trevor Mejia](#) - Saturday, June 1, 2019, 7:47 PM

In response to Sebastian,

Very well stated, I agree with you on how when an officer gets involved in asking for a form of identification it becomes a larger issue for people rather than at the store, Dmv ,Airlines and Hotels. However, I feel one could argue showing Identification in stores, Dmv ,Airlines and Hotels are normally used for safety. Stores for example could use Identification for under aged drinking something that is looked at as a pro for keeping alcohol out of the hands of minors. It benefits the community, Airlines help us identify who is truly traveling to hopefully keep air travel safe from acts of terrorisum, another thing looked at as a pro. Hotels ask to see I.D to identify people who may have ill intentions at the hotels and keep them from renting again, or otherwise ensure that they can hold them responsible for their actions. The DMV is similar its to help hold people accountable for their actions on the road and trust that they are safe to operate said vehicles. All these things are pros that benefit the community/ Society. However, one could say any encounter with a cop puts you on the opposite side of society, and in most cases your in the wrong causing you to have an issue with being the issue. This being said, your points and details about the truth of the situation are very well stated and I truly enjoyed the full read, well done.

Sum of ratings:1 (1) 1

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Re: Rights, Rights, Rights
by [Sebastian Garcin](#) - Saturday, June 1, 2019, 10:52 PM

Until you brought it up in your post I never really thought about being on the other side of the law or the officers. But it is clear how that would have an effect more so a negative one. From a young age we are taught to trust in the police force, as well as the government to a certain, and the armed forces. We are taught that(specifically the police) air mats to protect us, as well as prevent crime. Seeing the police force when you are the one they are reprimanding, it is completely different than seeing it on the side where they are still on your side, like when you drive past them, see them on TV, Etc...

The best way I can tie this to history is slightly before and then during the Cold War. The U.S citizens (for the most part) were ecstatic to have such a powerful weapon as the atomic bomb and truly believe that that time that the government was going to protect them from forces like Germany, Japan, and Russia. They were happy because the nukes were pointed by their government at other countries. As soon as Russia also got nukes and pointed them at the US, those citizens saw it as a threat and from the other side of things(as the target, not the one aiming). They called out almost immediately at the president and government, how could you let this happen you were supposed to protect us. I feel that that kind of thinking it's similar to how someone is feeling when the police are reprimanding them for something. Instead of the police being on

your side and doing their job, they are now suddenly against you even though they are still doing their job of preventing crime. Most people don't think about the fact that it is their job to prevent crime, whether that is some thief or murderer, for it is you speeding / disobeying traffic laws.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

1

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Who grants rights?
by [David Pineda](#) - Saturday, June 1, 2019, 8:48 PM

I believe rights are only rights when granted by someone who can protect your rights and uphold them. If the question is who grants your rights I have a very biased opinion on this because I don't believe in a god so therefore to me the only authority that has the power to protect your rights and grant you rights is the government. I don't believe a god should be the one determining what rights are granted because not everyone believes in the same god or gods and one religion shouldn't have more power than others religion or really any power at all in determining what is a right or not a right.

Sum of ratings:0 (1)

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Re: Who grants rights?
by [Sebastian Garcin](#) - Saturday, June 1, 2019, 11:02 PM

I do agree with your argument that rights aren't completely given by God. I also don't think you're biased to an extent because I still agree with you even though I am a very religious person. I believe that in the perfect world everyone would have their rights and there wouldn't be conflict. Unfortunately we don't live in a perfect world and we never will, it is nature to fight, to have lust over someone's possessions, and act on emotion rather than logic. To have a right whether it is god-given so to speak you have to have the power to allow that right to take place. Taking Germany during the Cold War and how it was split up, Russia didn't care what rights they had, whether they claim them to be god-given and also because they didn't have the power to allow that right. Even though the Constitution clearly states that these are god-given rights, God isn't the one allowing those rights to take place and letting us practice them(I don't really want to get crazy deep into my belief of religion), our government is. Our government, the system of checks and balances to limit the government, and our Armed Forces protecting our nation, are the elements that allow us to practice the rights stated in the Constitution. If you look at the Middle East in certain countries there is no freedom of religion, whether or not I believe freedom of religion is a god-given right that government in control certainly doesn't and that is why they don't have the right to openly worship whatever God or deity they want to. Ultimately it is the government's and their forces that allow the rights to take place, protecting both the rights and the citizens ability to use them.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Potential dangers of misinformed voters in our republic.Re: Rights, Rights, Rights
by [Jason Fitzsimmons](#) - Saturday, June 1, 2019, 8:55 PM

"An educated citizenry is a vital requisite for our survival as a free people-Thomas Jefferson.

When citizens in our republic are operating and voting under misinformed opinion-based assumptions or on anything but careful research of the issue then there is a danger of mob mentality taking over guided by political interests who want the baton of power any way they can get it. Approximately 34% of US citizens can name the three branches of government, most people do not read proposed legislation or regulation. When a populace is largely uninformed on current public policy debates, may vote from an illogical standpoint created by not conducting a careful examination of the issues. The greatest potential danger is when a terrible collective outcome arises from an entire electorate that is voting in an irrational and ill-informed basis. Misinformed voting can cause poor decisions and lead to contradictory or counterproductive policies.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Rights vs Wishes.
by [David Pineda](#) - Saturday, June 1, 2019, 8:58 PM

I think that Williams did a great job of truly explain the real meaning of what having a right means. Before watching the video I did believe that "healthcare" was a right but after him using that example and explain why it necessary isn't a right (1:20 in the video). I do still strongly believe that everybody SHOULD have access to healthcare whether they can pay for it or not and everyone SHOULD have access to food and education whether they can pay for it or not, I now understand that those aren't necessarily "rights". I think the reason why the word "rights" has been misused is because people want to show the shear importance of having healthcare, food and education, and that they are just as important as rights.

When comparing the two pictures, I can easily say that Williams would much prefer the red picture that says "college tuition should be free" because it doesn't misuse the word "rights"

Sum of ratings:1(1)

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Government Giving Rights

by [Kaleah Holmes](#) - Saturday, June 1, 2019, 9:18 PM

I do not believe that God grants us rights. "they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights" (the Declaration of Independence). I am a Christian, but I do not believe this. If God gave us all rights then we would not have participated in slavery. Women would have been seen as equals in the beginning up till now. The government is what gives us rights, and who takes them away. The government is what enforces these rights as well, not God. If God enforced our rights then we would have floods, and other natural disasters whenever we acted corrupt. The government is who enforces the rights that it makes up. I believe God approves of most of these rights, and perhaps points us in a certain direction to achieve a right, but God does not grant us rights.

Sum of ratings:0(1)

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Birthright Citizenship

by [Aaron Richards](#) - Saturday, June 1, 2019, 11:18 PM

Birthright citizenship was enacted in with the 14th amendment as was stated in the forum topic document. The issue is that it was created to solve a specific issue in the past (slavery) but now it is being misused by illegal immigrants to put their foot further in the door to get citizenship. Only 35 countries have birthright citizenship which shows that it is falling out of favor. (<https://www.businessinsider.com/countries-that-recognize-birthright-citizenship-jus-soli-2018-10>) I think a huge part of the problem is that Americans fear change. This can be seen with the various racist laws, resistance to social programs, and continuing animosity toward liberalism that we have learned about in class. The reality is that today's world, technology, and society are vastly different to that of the late 1700s when the Constitution is written. To apply the same rules to a different society is foolhardy and just waiting for disaster.

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Re: Rights, Rights, Rights

by [Sebastian Garcin](#) - Saturday, June 1, 2019, 11:22 PM

Regarding the issue of the rights of the veterans versus the rights of immigrants whether they are illegal or have gone through the proper systems, is one that I find myself split to an extent. Coming from a foreign family that moved here from South Africa I do have a level of respect and concern for the rights of those who are illegal citizens as well as those who have become US citizens. Being that they are legal citizens they haven't yet earned the rights and privileges of a US citizen but that doesn't mean that they don't have the right to be treated as human and equal in that sense. The respect I have for the immigrants also comes from the fact that they are leaving everything they knew in some cases, regardless if that was because of political/ religious unrest, or actually being threatened to be killed. They are leaving their homes and in some cases their families, and that is not an easy thing to do. I do believe that they should go through the proper channels, that can take many years though. My father had gotten his green card, was pursuing medicine and move to the US, it took until I was the age of 16 before he was actually declared a full US citizen and he was in the process 2 years before I was born.

In regards to taking care of our veterans I find it of the utmost importance. These are the men and women who fought for us, and some of their friends or even family members die in the line of duty and they deserve our respect but also our commitment to serve them as they have served us. I do believe that the problems facing veterans who are coming out of the military, PTSD, homelessness, the loss of Limbs, and those are just a few of them, should be our top priority. Of course coming from a foreign family I want the people who are in the process in the process of

becoming citizens to be taken care of but I believe without a shadow of a doubt that the men and women who fought and served this country should be taken care of first. All of those veterans were willing to put their lives on the line and some case give them up to our nation, we need to serve them just as they have served us.

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Do we have Rights?
by [Levi Savage](#) - Saturday, June 1, 2019, 11:37 PM

Rights what are they “Human rights are rights inherent to all human beings, regardless of race, sex, nationality, ethnicity, language, religion, or any other status” as defined by the UN. I would argue rights are not a thing rights are protected and enforced by a government whether it be a democratically elected one or a dictatorship. These are merely things that we all agree upon that every human has till someone disagrees. If every human has these rights then every human can agree to them if we do. That is not the case in this world though. Take the US, for example, many say that the second amendment should not be a “right” that we have but it should be a privilege which is more aligned with the world view on firearms one must earn the privilege of having it instead of inherently being born with it. If that is the case then what qualifies as right do we really have rights or are they just ideas we strive to meet but never achieve. Take a right that the UN says everyone in the world should have “Everyone has the right to rest and leisure, including reasonable limitation of working hours and periodic holidays with pay” (UN). The UN claims this a fundament human right that everyone should have. I don’t think my last employer got that message when they had me working 6 days in a row on an 8-hour shift while going to college full time my first term. I hated it but not once did I think that I had the right to not have to work that even if the UN would even classify that as having rest and leisure. My point being if we as a collective group can not all agree upon even a single right that all humans share then do we even have rights, to begin with?

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