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The Military Draft Should Be Reinstated

Many people believe that because America is a free country, they are owed, when in fact, they are the ones in debt. All citizens of America are free, but that does not exclude them from their duty to this country. So, what is the meaning of free? The word free means: not subject to the control of another. American citizens are subject to government taxes whether they would like to be or not because that is their duty as a citizen. These citizens receive protection from the government not only as a gift but a responsibility. The military draft is a selection of qualified citizens utilized in times of crisis or war. Kathy Gill says, “The draft was abandoned in 1973 in large part due to protests and a general belief that the draft was unfair,” (Gill). Many people protested the so-called unfairness of a required draft but now criticize the current voluntary system. A military draft promotes patriotism, belonging, and a sense of responsibility. When citizens serve their country, they take ownership of their personal duties, and the priority becomes the defense of others.

The duty of defending one's country brings about a feeling of belonging. Citizens under government protection are to be willing defenders of that which they own. George Washington expresses the value of required service. He says, “[E]very citizen who enjoys the protection of a free Government owes not only a proportion of his property, but even his personal service to the defence of it,” (Gill). Washington saw that those who enjoyed protection from the government owed their service to the country. This required service forces one to display patriotism and experience accountability for his actions.

Mandatory military service functions not only as a duty to one's country but also as a means of employment. Numerous teenagers are targeted after graduation because they do not have many prospects. John Peterson says, "A good number of servicemen stayed in the service for their whole career, and others used their military training later in civilian occupations." Many benefits coincide with joining the military, such as health care, clothing allowances, home loans, armed forces tax benefits, etc, making military service appealing.

Required military service is more sustainable than the current voluntary system. Much of the money spent on re-enlistment bonuses could be put to alternate uses. The re-enlistment bonuses in 2021 were over 600 million dollars. If a draft were in place, much of this money could be used for other purposes, making the military more sustainable. Voluntary service does not ensure enough soldiers will be at hand in times of need. A military draft would consistently provide a sufficient number of men able to give their service. Victor Rahn says, "Required service would guarantee we have soldiers available to protect our country." Maintaining an ample amount of men warrants the sustainability of the military.

The military should have representation from each social class to promote national unity. The members of the middle class far outweigh the members of the rich and poor classes. Brendan Stickles says, "Over 60 percent of 2016 enlistments came from neighborhoods with a median household income between \$38,345 and \$80,912. The quintiles below and above that band were underrepresented, with the poorest quintile providing 19 percent of the force and the richest Americans enlisting at a rate of 17 percent." Although the poor and middle classes are more accustomed to manual labor, the upper class benefits the military because their skills regarding leadership and technology are also essential. Representation from each class is

significant because it reflects the entire nation. This representation promotes a sense of unity and patriotism.

The culture has changed, so the military is no longer perceived as an asset. Some believe that freedom is being taken away by joining the military, not realizing that the military secures freedom. They dislike the idea of required service because a draft can produce resentment toward service in the military. When people believe the military is no longer good they are reluctant to be involved. Many are drawn towards what is free and has no restrictions over them. Having a draft may not be appealing on the outside, but it does come with many benefits. Another reason for avoiding the draft is for religious convictions. Certain religions teach people to be peacemakers; taking someone's life violates this. The thought that being in the military violates this peace is incorrect. The Israelites often go to war in the Bible with the help of the Lord, showing that the military should be encouraged. Robert Eisen says, "[T]he Israelites fought defensive wars. Was this not proof enough that conscription for such wars was permitted?" Required service allows people to experience and appreciate what takes place in the military. Therefore, a draft should be encouraged.

Patriotism, responsibility, and belonging are crucial aspects of a successful military and a successful nation, and a draft promotes all three. Having each class represented promotes unity not only in the military but also in the country. The leadership and duty displayed through disciplined men and women in the military positively influences the nation. A military draft forms bonds between people and causes them to have a mindset of discipline and responsibility. Able bodied men and women should consider joining the military and steadily support those who currently serve in order to enjoy the benefits of patriotism, belonging, and responsibility.

Work Cited

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