

SOCO 101 – Principles of Sociology
Miramar College
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Subject: Exploring the Concept of Freedom in America

When you ask me, what freedom does, I think of different things. First, freedom for what? I believe there are multiple types of freedom, e.g. you are free to move around within Miramar's campus, you are free to buy a chocolate bar, you are free to meet new people. However, are you free to organize with students and local labor unions, and protest about the current state of the United States Immigration injustices and ICE Detention Camps and block the interstate 15 highway to attain a social change? Well, that depends. Do we want to keep our liberty? Do we want to stay alive? Then I would say that we are not free to do so. How do I define freedom then? What the conventional U.S. citizen defines as freedom is the ability to pursue an action based on a predetermined plan that does not affect the interest of the capital, instead a plan that benefits you financially regardless of any Machiavellian actions you partake and regardless of any people you step upon; this means that freedom comes with a series of restrictions; you are free to follow such plan as long as it doesn't affect the power circles' interest, the capital's interest, otherwise you are deemed unwelcome to society, and thereby worth being assassinated or incarcerated. How I personally describe freedom is to make this plan altruistic, and thereby impactful, otherwise the plan becomes egoistic and intended for personal gain only, which is when social injustices occur. I am of Mexican descent. For circumstances of my parents' lives I was born in the United States, but I spent my first 14 years (crucial period for a human's life) in Mexico, at a border town called Tijuana, in the state of Baja California, a place I frequently visit in a weekly basis to see my parents. This fact has of course shaped my view upon freedom. Why? Because when you compare Tijuana with San Diego, the purchasing power of the citizens of each place differ drastically, thereby the security, the state of life, minimum wage, governmental institutions, academic institutions, and the basic amenities of life of an average citizen vary as well, it can even be described as a "cultural shock" when it comes of noticing this disparity. This has led me to notice the different types of freedom that a human has based on his purchasing power, on his class, and how these different types of freedom reduce or increase not only his happiness and education, but his life expectancy as well. We are not truly free. Not only in the United States, but in the world in general, not everyone experiences freedom equally. The freedom each of us experience relies on our social class, the higher in the hierarchy, the more freedom you have, the lower in the hierarchy, the more time you spend trying to survive, trying to nurture yourself and your love ones, reducing your leisure time, working all the time, and reducing the time available to make a social change. Especially nowadays, where the working class spends the small amount of time, they have available between arduous working hours indulging in instantaneous pleasures such as social media, drugs, or reckless consumerism.

We are not free ladies and gentlemen, they've attain utter control of ourselves through esoteric computational algorithms implemented in social media platforms that compel you to waste time scrolling, buying things you don't need such as expensive brands to increase your social image and appear "more valuable" in comparison to other human beings, traveling and spending money you don't have and entering into chronic debt, and making us think that posting something in twitter and Instagram makes an impact, when in reality, posting something in a social media platform just promotes more advertisements that makes the CEO of such platform richer, while you keep thinking that you are free. These factors are what limit our real freedom. What we need to sacrifice is that indulgence into instant pleasure and learn more about the current situation of the world. How? By educating ourselves, expanding our lexicon, and doubting everything you see. The first step is to delete all social media, but you can't, right? "What would they think?", "How would it look?", "How would I know what they are doing?", "How would I be notified of the next trend?". We need to destroy those drugs we always carry we us in our pockets that we call cell phones, they are destroying our critical thinking, not only for us, but for your children, for the upcoming generations, we need to plant trees so our children can enjoy the shadow they provide.

The United States shouldn't be called America in the first place; when did they decide they can appropriate the continent's name for themselves? America is everyone of us, from Alaska to La Patagonia, Argentina. We are all Americans, Mexicans, Venezuelans, Panamanians, Peruvians, Cubans, Colombians, Brazilians, Haitians, Canadians, Ecuadorians, Bolivians, and all other fellow Latin American brothers that represent American as much as everyone else. If you mean what the United States represent? An imperialistic power that torments and exploits developing countries. I am not going to be a critic only, the United States also represents a land of opportunity, even temporarily due to its purchasing power. There is this term I coined called "Border boys" or "border girls", which are people with U.S. Citizenship that cross the border on a daily basis to work, which mostly work a minimum wage job, but that U.S. hourly minimum wage is triple the minimum wage of Mexico, where they reside, which does makes a difference, and as I explained before, the purchasing power, i.e. your social class, opens you to different types of freedoms. Not only that but me personally have found success in the United States, and for that I praise the United States, for having a relatively stable job market opportunity for anyone with willingness to work it, and not only that, but I am acquiring my education from the United States Community College System, even though I am paying it myself (I forbid myself from using FAFSA and entering into debt), I praise its educational system. Regardless, several historical and contemporary events have shaped my view on the United States, the most evident one is the ICE Detention Centers. My parents being Mexican citizens and having relatives whose significant others have been put into these camps inevitably infuriates me and compels me to criticize it, that's all I can do, due to my social class I don't have much freedom to cause a social change, but don't get me wrong, I am trying to make a social change one way or another with the means I have available whenever I can...

"We the people" thanks to this class means to me a selective group of bourgeoisie and capitalists that using their conviction, which whether you like it or not, is quite strong, decided to found a country in order to promote their interest and the interest of akin people. Today the population and

land of such country have increased drastically, but not only the population and land, but different social classes and a diverse number of ethnicities have gotten involved in this country as well. Back then only such bourgeoisies and capitalists were granted full citizenship, the lower classes and non-Aryan ethnicities were forbidding such rights, now due to social pressure (something that should never cease), everyone being borne in this land has that right. Nowadays, what “We the People” entails are all citizens who possess the freedom, not the Real freedom, but the freedom to pursue an action based on a predetermined plan that does not affect the interest of the capital, instead a plan that benefits you financially. If you don’t affect them, you are free, you are granted access to the category of “We the People”, which as you can see, does not represent all individuals of America. Currently, according to U.S. public policy, Immigrants are the center of attention, and a threat to such freedom, thereby they do not belong to the category of “We the People”. Are we going to stand that? Yeah right... We are going to do what we Latin Americans know how to do best: become independent in a revolutionary way.