

President Washington's inaugural address

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President Washington's Inaugural Address Washington's first inaugural address is seen as one of the most remarkable speeches of US presidents as it set certain rules and conventions. The president gave his oaths and revealed his ideas on his presidency and the future of the nation. The address is quite solemn and it appeals to people's hearts as it has references to major American values.

It is possible to note that Washington defined presidency as the president's responsibility "to recommend" to people's "consideration, such measures as he" would "judge necessary and expedient" (as cited in Washington's inaugural address, 1789, para. 3). The president stressed that he would act in accordance with the Constitution. According to his speech, Washington sees presidency as the institution aimed at making sure that the major law is followed and people have an opportunity to live proper lives. The president is a guard who makes sure that the nation develops and achieves all the goals set. Of course, the major goal is wellbeing and prosperity, but there is also an aim to be respected in the world.

It is necessary to add that a number of political ideals mentioned by Washington especially animate his speech. First of all, the reference to the Constitution is one of these ideals as the nation was built on the idea of equality secured by the Constitution. Americans have always been sure that there should be the governance of law. The president promised that there would be "no local prejudices, or attachments", no "party animosities" (Washington's inaugural address, 1789, para. 3). He promised that all decisions would be made in accordance with the major law of the country. Admittedly, this was an important political ideal for Americans who took pride in their Constitution.

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The president also mentioned “the voice” of his country a number of times (Washington’s inaugural address, 1789, para. 1). In this case, he appeals to another political ideal: people’s ability to vote and choose the President of the country. This is an important pillar for the American democracy as people take the responsibility and make their major decision affecting the future of their country. Clearly, Americans knew (or at least wanted to make it happen) that there was political equality, and each citizen could express his ideas and his voice could be heard.

Washington paid specific attention to another important political ideal. The president stressed that he (as any other politician should) would try his best to make the nation prosperous and advanced in many respects. Americans have understood that politicians (and especially the President) are skilled managers who introduce policies that improve Americans’ quality of life. In conclusion, it is possible to note that Washington’s inaugural speech is exemplary as it entails certain values, people’s aspirations and the president’s commitment. Washington unveiled his views on presidency and the future of the nation. He also outlined some of the principles of his future presidency. Admittedly, this speech made supporters of the Republican Party understand that they had made the right choice and the future of the country was secure.

Reference List

Washington’s inaugural address of 1789. (1789). Retrieved from http://www.archives.gov/exhibits/american_originals/inaugtxt.html