

Analysis on thoreau's ideologies essay



**ASSIGN
BUSTER**

Henry David Thoreau was a man of individualism, and democracy, quoting in an essay entitled Civil Disobedience, "The government that governs best, governs least." The quote shares the idea that man is capable of self-government, and shuns the idea of any over imposing power that may decide what is best for the people, rather than relying on the people themselves to follow the laws laid out.

Thoreau shows with the quote the deep belief he has that man is perfectly capable of doing the right thing for the greater good of the nation. Even still, he does not neglect that idea that a higher power is needed in order to keep balance and the people in line, during times of negligence and hardship. While many believe democracy to be an excellent example of a fair, open system of government, the argument can be fairly made to testify against it. Democracy works in the idea that everyone believes they are important. As long as everyone believes this, they do not mind taxes or laws they did not necessarily vote for, so long as the power they did vote for had a say in favor for it.

The truth of the matter, as one could say, is that democracy is just a great illusion. A curtain to shade the eyes of the public mass in order to have peace, as well as control. This point alone is the main contributor to the success of democracy, and the fall of communism, dictatorships, and other forms. The quote has us to believe that without too much interference, man woman and child are easily able to follow set lines and laws. Meanwhile, in the streets of today, we have rampant crime, prostitution, trickery, and an overall lack of respect and responsibility to government.

The unwillingness to vote works directly against the "freedom" we have to govern, and as such, forces the hand of the government to do what it deems necessary. It's in the time of the Great Depression that one can best realize the flaws of democracy. Every where you turned there was propaganda, for and against the government. For and against democracy, and communism.

For no matter how hard any individual tried, they could not earn money, support themselves, find work, or afford food. Meanwhile, all the government could relay was to "Have confidence" and "Believe in the country, Believe in the Government." Many flocked to the idea of communism, but in that there lay the same fatal flaw that befalls democracy, the right to self govern. Only communism took this to an extreme, and as such, many took advantage of the idea, working less and for themselves, rather than more and for the country, as communism is based.

So too did it fall, and democracy was left again to retain government. Rather than a collective people voting, governing themselves out of poverty, it was a single individual, among council, that brought the country into war, and out of poverty. This fact, opposed to Thoreau's idealism, is what brings doubt to the truthfulness of the quote. Thoreau believed in the idea that each man had the right to self government, and the will and pride to use this responsibility for the betterment of himself and his country. Unfortunately, in an imperfect world, these idealisms are no longer able to function properly, and as such a larger, more imposing power is required to maintain and keep order, while managing to keep the curtain that may be democracy over the eyes of the general public.