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## Influences on History

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### The Humble Essence of America

A phenomenal doctor bursting with zealous passion, Ben Carson positively impacts American Exceptionalism by motivating Americans to knowledgeably defend the nation. Compassionate, disciplined, and patriotic, he believes that Americans have life-altering potential waiting to be expressed. Because of this, Carson knows that Americans can and must fill the responsibility to educate the nation and remain vigilant against attacks. He knows the American people need to be knowledgeable to fight for the preservation of America's authentic freedoms, and he recognizes the reward and weight of America's exceptionalism. Carson's affirmations directly line up with specific elements of American Exceptionalism, but so do his concerns. America grants its people unmatched title, but it is the God-given responsibility of Americans to maintain this title and the unrivaled blessings following it. An icon of American Exceptionalism, Ben Carson places unmatched value in Americans, convicting them to responsibly secure the God-given privileges of America, and leading the front of defending America's unrivaled freedom.

America expresses exceptionalism by cultivating treasured, intelligent people willing to fight for America's future. Endowed with popular sovereignty, Americans are elevated from ordinary people to extraordinary individuals. This entitlement creates an agenda of supreme independence across America, and drives individualism by recognizing the "dignity and creativity of the individual" (Cain). The Founding Fathers wanted this agenda of self-reliance because they believed man was made in the image of God, fearfully woven to be capable of extraordinary feats like ruling a nation. Complimenting America's mark of individualism, the

nation houses an intelligent and well-equipped populace. Because of the foundations the Fathers crafted, the American people are directed to discover “virtue and intelligence” through education to defend American rights (Murray 13). Curiosity is instilled in Americans to explore America’s blessings and to harvest a hunger for knowledge. Americans can grasp knowledge and virtue because they are instilled with “unparalleled freedoms” of opportunity – an aspect which makes America distinctive (Cain). And Americans do not keep these merits to themselves; they fight the dominance of the uninformed to pass knowledge down to their children. Americans not only fight for “boundless prosperity” to make a “better life for oneself and one’s children,” but they also fight the guileful usurpations within the government (Cain, Murray 19). From the inception of America, the Founders valued liberty and free-will designed in every human from God. Believing in the concept of individual freedom, they fashioned a limited government controlled by laws created by the people through popular sovereignty - a republic. While the Founding Fathers built a republic intended to secure man’s rights, the government still remains unavoidably flawed. The nature of man is sinful, and with this inevitable reminder Americans take up the duty to be vigilant and authoritative in the limitations and exceptions of the government. From these elements, America is clearly unlike any other nation because its nationalistic ties place value in the individual to learn how to responsibly defend the American identity of individuality. Zeroing in on one person, Ben Carson unequivocally characterizes American Exceptionalism, beginning with his veneration of Americans.

Ben Carson fully upholds Americans and believes in their adequacy to fulfill America’s needs. He knows Americans are not stupid and proudly believes that mankind is made in the image of God (“Ben Carson on Principles”). He believes Americans have the ability to achieve success, no matter who they are. In regards to the American identity, he boldly states, “The skin doesn’t make them who they are,” and “The hair doesn’t make them who they are” (“Ben Carson on Principles”). He understands that Americans are not defined by appearance, but by the

individualism flowing in their blood. Acknowledging the need to “draw people together behind a vision,” Carson believes the Founders placed value in Americans because their vision was rooted in popular sovereignty (“Ben Carson on Foreign”). Carson confirms that the original intention of Americans was to authoritatively regulate a government so it solely focused on the will of the people. Because Carson believes Americans are the paradigm of authority, he convicts them to be responsible for the vitality of America, channeling through an emphasis on education.

With the future of America at stake, Ben Carson exposes the roots of responsibility to uphold America. Realizing the Founding Fathers “had America’s best interests at heart,” he calls Americans to “honor their legacy by upholding its principles and emulating their unselfish examples” (Carson, *A More* 25). Rather than promoting the government’s liability to take up this legacy; he places it in the hands of the people. Believing Americans are responsibly accountable to God, Carson upholds the Founding Father’s values and believes the public can do the same through means of education. To honor their legacy, Carson persuades Americans to excel in education because he recognizes that the Founders envisioned a “well-informed and educated populace” (Carson, *One* xvii). Carson knows the paramount threat to the preservation of America’s freedom is an absence of pragmatic awareness, and that when Americans become educated of how America’s republic functions they can efficiently facilitate the security of American rights. Carson encourages a spirit of proactivity to keep the government accountable, to protect freedom, and to uphold America’s well-being. He also warns about laziness leading to vulnerability, exposing the American people to potential threats of previously entrusted rights. When Americans arm themselves with knowledge their intellectual defenses go up, and Carson not only encourages Americans to equip themselves with knowledge, but to hand knowledge down to the future generation. America’s secured blessings of liberty are at stake, but Carson believes that by the “grace of God,” Americans will preserve their freedom and also “enhance” it for the children of America and for “all of humanity” (Carson, *A More* 39). Because the nation’s

freedom is at risk, Carson convicts American's to wield knowledge and fight for popular sovereignty for the sake of America's republic.

With vibrant passion and patriotism, Ben Carson leads America's fight for unmatched freedom. The fight is not nationally external, but within America's own framework - a battle between the people's rights and the expanding control of the government. Carson brings this struggle to light by proclaiming that "our challenge is to rein in a union that is growing too strong" (Carson, *A More* 191). If Americans do not control the leviathan known as government, their rights will be devoured one by one. Recognizing the threatening nature of a growing government, he is waking up Americans, telling them to stay vigilant for the sake of their rights. Carson's roots of inspiration are from the Founders because he recalls and remembers their "pains of living under tyranny" (Carson, *A More* 25). Carson clearly believes it is the American mission and Founders' vision to maintain the government's boundaries through popular sovereignty. If Americans do not follow the original intentions of the Founding Fathers, the roles of the government and the people will flip. Carson realizes the fight for freedom is an endless effort, but he is not about to submit to the forces of government, not with America's exceptionalism on the line.

Ben Carson impeccably exemplifies American Exceptionalism through his vibrant desire to secure America's Founder-cultivated roots. Because he invests significant value in Americans, he trusts they will arm themselves with knowledge to responsibly fight against the bombarding constraints of freedom in America. Carson gives one final call to the populous when he declares, "Fellow Americans, our nation faces a new crisis today. Once again, our freedom will come at the price of courage, strength, and faith. The future is in our hands" (Carson, *A More* 193). An informed and humble leader, Carson encourages American's to keep this nation a city on a hill, and positively exemplifies the essence of America. Bursting with individualism, prestige, and passion, no one can better represent American Exceptionalism.

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