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From Beginning to End

From our humble beginnings as a colony of Britain, patriotism has been a driving factor of uniting America and making us into the mighty force we are today. Through our hardships and successes, America has grown and changed over the course of its relatively brief history. One constant has been our spirit of nationalism and our determination to show that America is a great and beautiful nation: in one simple phrase, our patriotism has remained unchanged. Although to the British Empire patriotism was its downfall, to the US it was the start of something so binding and secure, it is still a great source of power centuries later.

An example of the uniting force of patriotism is shown most simply in our founding fathers and the Continental Congress. Patriotism was the force that brought together many diverse men from different cultural and ethnic backgrounds to work for the common good. The fact that patriotism can bring together strong-minded men is remarkable in itself, but bringing them together to completely redesign and nurture a baby country is something that was previously unheard of. America is known as the great melting pot of humanity, and when observed it becomes clear that all the contrasting cultures, religions, ethnicities, ideals, and mindsets of the citizens are tied together by one outstanding force: patriotism.

Tangible proof of patriotism is the Declaration of Independence. The Declaration of Independence marks the point where America is so permeated with the fundamental desire for freedom and unity that it could not bear having the title of "Britain" for even another year. The American Revolution was not even over yet before this document was issued. The Declaration of Independence was truly what made patriotism a real and tangible thing. It was, and still

remains, the symbol of freedom, the beginning of independence, and the epitome of patriotism.

The Constitution was proof of the long-levity of patriotism. Twenty years after the Declaration of Independence was issued, and a few years after the war was over, we found ourselves with a system of government that was failing the nation. Our founding fathers knew that we were a strong country capable of success. Instead of running back to the old mother empire, as was the norm of colonies that had failed at governing themselves after revolution, we cracked down and fixed the problems. The founding fathers got together once again and created a new document based on the philosophies of the enlightenment thinkers John Locke and Baron de Montesquieu. By protecting the basic human rights of every citizen and separating the powers of government, the Constitution was the final step in securing the bright future of the nation our forefathers had dreamt of.

In conclusion, it is very clear that patriotism is a strong source of power for our country, and for every country that has followed in our footsteps. This source of strength is something that has nurtured us from our desperate beginnings, and will stay with us until our end. Patriotism is often thought of as something that comes after a nation is successful, but really it is something much deeper: it is the glue which holds together a nation and unites all of its people into one powerful, independent country.