

# Does Rule of Law Keep Us Free?

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Some say that the Rule of Law hinders our ability to act freely in day-to-day life, and others say that it is valuable and necessary in order to maintain a sense of order in the United States of America. I would say that I stand somewhere in the middle. I stand somewhere where the lines between control and freedom are mildly blurred.

The Rule of Law was intended for three things; Keeping people safe, limiting government power, and making sure that the constitution is enforced upon the United States citizens. To me at least, it is obvious that the Rule of Law holds a balance of control, but only enough control to maintain the natural rights of the people.

However, as discussed in the Leviathan by Thomas Hobbes, the citizens must sacrifice certain freedoms in exchange for the safety and protection of the government. In this sense, the Rule of Law protects us from ourselves, the government, and the temptation of control over one another that is, I am sad to say, ingrained deeply in the human nature.

Is the rule of law important? Yes, absolutely, It is invaluable and fundamental to our society, but I will point out that it does limit us in our freedom to a certain degree. The reason why the rule of law is able to do this, however, is because while it limits us as the people, it also limits our government. This is one of the beauties of the rule of law. Everyone is subject to it, the poor, the rich, the influencers, and the powerful. Everyone and anyone, title or no.

Without the Rule of Law in the United States of America, we would not be singing an anthem of freedom, but rather one of oppression. The Rule of law keeps us free by criminalizing the ability to take away the freedom and natural rights of the innocent. It is the element that protects the laws that keep us free, as suggested here, “...in creating our constitution that a government system needs checks and balances to ensure that the most fundamental principle of our nation – the law – would be protected for the generations to follow. (*Missouri Chief Justice Michael A. Wolff, October 2005 **Law Matters***)”

This is why it is so important for the people who are in charge of our communities, states, military, and country to make a public oath to the constitution and to the Bill of rights. It is a sign of their commitment and undying devotion towards our own freedom and the freedom of future generations. This devotion echos through history as the one thing that can truly hold together the United States even though the darkest times.

Swearing an oath to the constitution unites our leaders under one unified purpose and duty. It ensures that the personal agendas of our government are either pushed aside or come in line with that of the constitution. I feel safe knowing that my community leaders, military, and government -especially government- took their jobs and swore to do them and do them well with one purpose, and that is freedom.

So, does the rule of law keep us free? Yes, yes it does indeed. The Rule of Law keeps us free by banning things that could potentially stomp out our natural rights. It ensures that not a single person can infringe upon our rights in our day to day lives, it ensures fair treatment to all and any person, it keeps our laws fair and under the intention of maintaining the Natural rights, and it holds our government accountable to a united purpose that is entrusted to each every American citizen through the Rule of Law, and that is to let freedom ring.

# Bibliography:

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