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Does the United States measure up to the
definition of a “free” society?

Freedom is one of those tricky things to figure out. What does it mean for a person to truly be free? Early in the chapter Charon mentions the fact of being free, yet still being impacted by other forces. This makes you think a bit deeper about what freedom is and what a free society truly looks like. The definition of a free society, means the people inside the society get to live freely under their own choices. Here in America, we've always been told we are free. The land of the free, and freedom of speech are ways we signify our freedom. But are we actually a free society? I believe this is a very interesting question that can have arguments from both sides. In my opinion we live in a “free society” when being compared to other countries such as North Korea, Venezuela and many others. But are we truly free when we narrow it down to ourselves? Charon states “life is the consequences of individual choice; we choose what we think and do.” Yet that same individual choice we have, can be based upon what others think, or how they may feel if we do to. We think about whether it's breaking the rules, our choices aren't solely depend upon our own thoughts, instead they have

been impacted by certain things we have learned over the course of our life. This is what ultimately doesn't make us a free society.

A free society is a society where people have the freedom to live their life in any choosing of their own. They control their own property and what to do with it, they choose if they want to participate in economic activity, they can save as much money as they want, and spend as much of their money as they want. Overall it is a society where if peace is maintained, no one causes trouble, relationships are consensual then the government just leaves them alone. In contrary to government in the United States, they won't be as intrusive and nosy. Essentially it lives up to its name, and things are ran by the people In the society rather than government.

On the other hand, compared to the United States, we have basic guidelines we follow handed down from the government. We have to pay taxes, some pay for healthcare. The government had control over everything that is done, and your actions replicate that. It is more of a subconscious thing as you grow older you learn right from wrong, but it's not necessarily your thoughts of right or wrong. It's what you learn from people older than you, laws, or being in school. Charon states "Thinking about who we are and judging our worth is thinking that is highly influenced by others." The thoughts and actions we take on a daily basis likely have an impact of some force, whether it be a close family member, or not wanting to get in trouble. The actions we take aren't free actions, but impacted ones.

Furthermore, we do have basic rights of freedom. But we see now those are only so limited. We're always saying the "land of the free", the first amendment states our freedom of speech, but in times like these it shows how limited they truly are. 2020 is a

perfect example of the United States not being free. Between Covid-19 mandates, current actions in politics and the protests going on. The first amendment also states our freedom to assembly, yet we've seen first hand what these protests were met with. In a free society things like these would not occur, the government wouldn't need to step in. The matters would be solved within and problems wouldn't arise. The Giving USA Foundation says, "Americans gave \$410.02 billion to charity in 2017." Yet in a free society, these people wouldn't lose this money in the first place. There wouldn't be people begging to be out on food stamps or unemployment. They would keep their hard earned money, yet lose out on things such as health insurance and social security.

In conclusion, the United States right now is not does not measure up to the definition of a free society, and in my own opinion not even close to one. The government runs daily operations of the citizens, they have an impact on what some can afford for dinner, or how much they have to pay for gas. They control the right to say yes or no to whether someone can take out a loan or buy a house. With the right structure and guidance it can begin working towards one that is more free, not necessarily completely free. If the United States did move towards a more free society not much would truly change. People would still have jobs to attend. School and Churches would still be in session, people will still go see a sports game or a fancy restaurant for dinner. Life doesn't change much in a free society, Americans would just do those things without government mandates, licenses, regulations, restrictions, standards, intervention, oversight, surveillance, or interference.