

**Trump is NOT a King**

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“The accumulation of all powers, legislative, executive, and judiciary, in the same hands, whether of one, a few, or many, and whether hereditary, self-appointed, or elective, many justly be pronounced the very definition of tyranny.” The Federalist Papers, No. 47. James Madison (1788) wrote this line in one of the eighty-five essays that supported the ratification of the United States Constitution. In simple terms, a key building block in the founding of the United States of America. This quote states that the presence of a central power, or a small concentration of power – no matter the circumstances- is a Tyrant government (Madison, 178). Which is exactly the type of government they were fighting against, the British Monarchy. So much so that even talk about a monarchical government was blasphemy. 240 years later, the United States Government and our own President are very comfortable using that type of language. In fact, they welcome it with open arms. On the social media platform Truth Social, President Trump stated “CONGESTION PRICING IS DEAD. Manhattan, and all of New York, is SAVED, LONG LIVE THE KING!” (Trump, 2025) Which was then furthered by the White House posting an illustration of Trump wearing a crown on the social media site X. This illustration depicted Trump in front of the New York City skyline in a fake Time magazine border. Though the President and his cabinet might have seen the statement as lighthearted or to be taken as a joke, it is quite the opposite. I disagree with President Trump’s self-proclaimed title of king. Given his role as President of the United States, this statement is much more than a simple post and goes against everything the United States was built upon.

The United States declared Independence on July 4, 1776, when the Declaration of Independence was approved by the Continental Congress. This meant that from then on, The United States was officially declared an Independent Nation. The Declaration of Independence states that “All men are created equal”, it states that people have certain “Unalienable rights” which means these rights should be guaranteed, they should never be taken away. Many people

today have heard these rights, “Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness” (Jefferson, 1776) Meaning people should always and forever have the right to live, live happily, and the justice system or system put in place to govern them, should be fair and without corruption. However, what people may not know is that the Declaration of Independence outlines twenty-seven examples of the corruption and mistreatment of England perpetrated against the United States. An example of this mistreatment was that England had “Made Judges dependent on his Will alone” because of threats to salaries and positions in office, creating an extremely corrupt justice system. Another example was the refusal “to pass other laws for the accommodation of large districts of people,” unless they give up their representation in the governing body (Jefferson, 1776).

To combat this corruption, the founding fathers, and people of the United States created many documents that specifically fought against corruption and a spotlight of power. These documents would be, The Federalist Papers, The Constitution of the United States of America, and The Bill of Rights. Not only did these documents combat corruption they also created rules and regulations that were not widely popularized at the time. The reason our country was created was to escape the harsh and brutal rules and restriction of the British Monarchy. That is why the Constitution creates the presence of a strong federal government, and separation of power throughout the government branches (National Archives, 2016). This desire for independence and Popular Sovereignty can be defined many times throughout the history of the United States. A letter to George Mason from George Washington (1769) narrates, at even the earliest days of our country, freedoms from an overarching power was the top priority:

" At a time, when our lordly masters in Great Britain will be satisfied with nothing less than the deprivation of American freedom, it seems highly necessary that something

should be done to avert the stroke, and maintain the liberty, which we have derived from our ancestors....”

George Washington states freedom from a tyrant as an ancestral liberty. He states that the protection of this right is crucial.

This trend of a fair and just country, without a despot can also be shown from the way Abraham Lincoln defines the United States. Abraham Lincoln’s Gettysburg address states, "Government of the people, by the people, for the people". Highlighting the idea of equality and distribution of power. This Idea is a key aspect of the Bill of Rights as well. This document was created to ensure fair treatment among people. These rights include freedom of speech, religion, assembly, and the right to “petition the government.” (Bill of Rights, 1791) Trump’s casual use of monarchal language and his keenness of undermining these very bills and founding documents, directly opposes the system designed to prevent tyranny. Trumps welcoming behavior of the word “king” contrasts everything the Founders of America fought for.

Present day, the system that so many different people have created and elevated over hundreds of years, has begun to fall because of one person, President Trump. Before Trump was elected there had been more support for the LGBTQ+ community than ever seen before in US history. Same sex marriages, gender-affirming care, acceptance of transgender individuals throughout many areas of society. Now, these human rights are being banned and threatened. In a multitude of states there has been legislation that has created harmful restrictions and policies that are going against the Equal Protection Clause, and Liberty. Specifically in Iowa, there has been a bill passed which eliminates civil rights protection under “Gender Identity”. This will then create the opportunity for discrimination and complete mistreatment of transgender

individuals within many different areas of concern. For example, the workplace, housing, education, and even health care.

This bill also formally defines the words “Male” and “Female” as which reproductive system an individual has (Iowa Legislative Services Agency, 2025). This bill is completely going against the 14<sup>th</sup> amendment, or the Equal Protection Clause. Which states all citizens should have “equal protection under the laws,” (Constitution Annotated, 1868). Because Bill 242 has made it okay for transgender individuals to be discriminated against, equal protection has become a thing of the past in Iowa. How can a person be physically and mentally discriminated against, while also being protected? This oppression of vulnerable groups is very similar to the rules and laws created by the British monarchy, putting down populations they view as threats. Lawmakers that support Trump create legislation that specifically targets individuals they disagree with or have negative connotation towards. This increase of legal discrimination points to the dangerous centralization of power. Which is the very type of oppression the founding documents are meant to prevent. By allowing the rights of minorities to be dismantled, Trump’s ideas and plan for America moves closer to the kind of Tyrannical rule fought against in the American Revolution.

Even though the passing of Bill 242 in Iowa should be enough to persuade you to the fact that these new policies initiated by trump and his followers are completely against the constitution and the Bill of Rights. There is still an immense number of other policies and behaviors that show this as well. The most specifically unconstitutional behavior, was the issuing of the executive order attempting to end birthright citizenship for “babies of undocumented immigrants” and “people with temporary status in the U.S” (Khan & Pinto, 2025) This would be entirely against the 14th amendment, as the first sentence being “All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the state wherein they reside.” (Bill of Rights, 1791) meaning that it does not matter the race,

gender, or religion of the child, because they were born in the United States, they are United states citizens.

Because its executive order was so obviously unconstitutional the order did not get passed. However, the attempt alone is enough to narrate President Trump's views. He would much rather deport legal citizens just because their parents aren't a citizen, than uphold the amendments and values of the United States. Though this order was blocked, the willingness to attempt such a violation of the constitution shows Trump's deep contempt for the documents the United States is built Upon. It demonstrates how easy it is for a leader who sees himself as "Above the Law" can threaten the very freedom America is praised for.

Now, I acknowledge that I have moved away from Trump's specific statement and only focused on the text that reads "LONG LIVE THE KING," but even if I were to focus on the big picture, I still would not agree with what he is saying. Congestion pricing is the use of tolls on cars, motorcycles, and other private street vehicles. The money that NYC gets from these tolls goes into funding for the subway and bus systems throughout the city (Towfighi, 2025). While this pricing does mean that drivers and people in New York City will be paying some extra money if they are to drive somewhere, it also means that they are going to be there in a much timelier manner. Congestion pricing has reduced the number of vehicles on the roads, therefore creating less traffic than before. Another advantage to congestion pricing is the increased air quality in the absence of an immense number of carbon-emitting vehicles and increased use of public transportation (Towfighi, 2025).

In addition to the health and general benefits of congestion pricing, from an economic standpoint, congestion pricing is a good thing. This toll system will create a lot of profit and economic growth for New York City. So much so that the Governor of New York, Kathy

Hochul, said this toll system will “support \$15 billion in debt financing for mass transit improvements.” (Shepardson, 2024). The idea of shutting this system down would be a huge mistake regarding the health of New York City’s citizens and the economic state of New York. Personally, I don't think hurting the economic state of a major city in the United States deserves the title “KING.”

The United States was built upon the fight for “Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness.” It was built upon escape from the struggles and mistreatment by England. It was created to be a place where the government was fair and just, where the citizens of the country were the priority. And most importantly, it was made to never have a king (Constitution Annotated, 1868) (Bill of Rights, 1791). But this is changing because of President Trump. The many harmful and destructive policies he has either put in place or attempted to implement combat the very documents that the United States is structured around. The Gender Identity restrictions in Iowa and the attempt to abolish birthright citizenship are just the tip of the iceberg of the unconstitutional policies Trump wants to put in place. These policies are not only taking us back centuries in the realm of human rights, but they are also creating damage that will take decades or even centuries to repair. A professor at Northeastern University of Law, Jeremy R. Paul shares these same sentiments, He states “What the public should be worried about is that a president abuses his official authority, that’s the single greatest fear; that a single person with the vast power of the government at his or her disposal would use that power to corrupt ends”(Stening, 2024). So, Trump’s post on Truth might seem to be taken lightly, but it reflects on his behavior greatly. He truly believes he is a king, and his use of power shows it. In the U.S., the word "king" has not been used to describe a leader in 248 years. It would be a shame if this was the year it made its return.





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