## What makes America Great? By Nora Ausman

America is a place of strength, equality, freedom, and hope. We've come so far from the Revolutionary War, when we valiantly won independence against Britain. Though as the years have passed, we have started to forget what America truly stands for. We have ignored the price that was paid to be our own country. Sure, we've been taught about our country in school, but we don't recognize how much freedom actually means to us. Some people might say it's our strength and economy that makes us great. Some might say it's our freedom, or some might say it's our equality to everyone, even if they're different from us.

Every day we all fight our own battles. We all have our own story. What makes us different is what holds us together. The constitution, the Declaration of Independence, the Revolutionary War, all of these monumental events have happened so that we could wake up in the morning safe, happy, and free. Some people have paid with their lives so we could be free. They have risked so much, and their families have paid the highest price. Why would so much effort have gone into making America it's own country if we didn't believe in it?

Other countries say that their economy is what makes them great. For America, it could be our faith in each other. Martin Luther King Jr. once said, "Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that." That is exactly why America is successful. We work together. We work with each other, we work to help each other, we stand united under our constitution and government undefeated. Why? We believe in each other. We believe in our dreams, we believe we can make a positive difference in the world each and every day.

So, what makes America great? Well, it's faith. Faith that we can make a difference, faith in each other, faith that we will rise to fight another day, united as one under our fallen brothers and sisters, under the flag of our home, under our constitution. It was faith that we could be a free country, it was faith that helped our soldiers fight, it was faith that America was worth it, and we were.

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