

Should Mandatory National Service be Instated?

By Lilah Gutt

Part 1: Should the United States Have Mandatory National Service?

Freedom: Absence of subjection to foreign domination or despotic government.
Armed forces: The system in some countries by which young people, especially men, are ordered by law to spend a period of time in the armed forces.

This country constantly tells us we are the land of the free, our country is great because we have freedom. Now imagine if the United States had Mandatory National Service. Imagine growing up believing you can do whatever you want in life... Unless I get recruited to the army. This idea of there being a possibility that I get recruited for the army has always scared me, because over the years I have learned how war affects those exposed to its horrors. Thus, when we get recruited for the army, our life is figurly gotten taken from us.

Perhaps another reason for my beliefs on this issue have to do with my family upbringing. I grew up in a what you could say a "hippy" family. I was raised to believe that love is greater than war. Whenever politics was brought up in our household and i was present, I would ask why can't the world just get along? And then I would get some logical response and would zone out. My peers wanted to because president to rule the world, I wanted to become president to make everyone get along. Once I got older I understood why everyone doesn't get along, and why we have to go to war, but that should make me give up my belief of make peace not war.

A a great influence for me is what if I don't agree with why we are in war against another country?. Why should I literally drop my life to support something I don't support? Does this really make sense if we have freedom of our beliefs then we should have to support something we don't, right? Some people may bring up that we're protecting our socerity, but I know plenty of people that want to join the army, and would if their country was in danger, but I still don't believe that is moral to force someone into a life threatening situation.

This brings me to my last and possibly the reason why I really don't believe that we should have mandatory national service. psychological and physical harm one can experience as a result of war is PTSD, depression, attachment issues, shell shock, drinking/drug problems. Once you come out you are not the same , so how is this country free if we don't have the freedom to choose if we go to war or not?. Once they are finally releases from our duty there is

no guarantee that they are still alive. In this case, we are then not only affecting the happiness of the one person, but the happiness of their loved ones. What if a dad was recruited and died in one of the missions. Is it fair that the child or children did not have a dad because the government took him away from their family?

This is why I believe that it is unfair, and unjust for our country to force people into National service. We the people should have the freedom to choose our futures.

Part 2: For Mandatory National Service

People make the mistake to assume that national service is only military based. National service is not just joining the military, it ranges from helping in education, to environmental stewardship. This is a way to engage with our country to help the greater good. National Service creates a way to pay back government loans through service.

Our country struggles with social diversity, and acceptance of differences whether they be based on race, sexual orientation, social class, or disabilities. Mr. Lehrer who puts it perfectly, “We are splintering off into segments, interest groups, lobbies, target audiences, blogs, boxes...Our racial, cultural and religious differences — always our great strength — have become an instrument in our great disconnection. Our growing economic differences... are feeding this. Our politics at the moment actually seem to be encouraging it; and our otherwise terrific explosion in new media outlets for information and debate...” (Lehrer, para 13). We as a country need to change this. We as a country need to build ourselves up, not chip away at what we’ve already built. Our country has great potential, but our weakness is that we don’t work together and often only surround ourselves by people that hold our own beliefs.

Through mandatory military service our country would slowly become stronger. We would learn to respect, and learn from each other, and by this we would become sympathetic towards one another, and loving towards each other. As Michael Gerson states “A rite of passage in which young people — rich and poor, liberal and conservative, of every racial background — work side by side to address public problems would create, at least, a vivid, lifelong memory of shared national purpose.” (Gerson, para 8) Doing so will as “Laramie cowboy” and the “Litterateur in Greenwich Village” “Ever so slightly elevate us from the trough of self-concern

and self-devotion". This would help our country as a whole by learning to adapt to each other's needs and concerns in a more sympathetic way. By taking on mandatory national service, our country would be able respect each other's religion, ethnicity, and social class. This would be giving diversity apertunity such as the poor. Stan McChrystal states "Such service should provide a moderate stipend to ensure that people from any background could participate, count for some sort of course credit in college and be designed to help make it easier for a service member to get a job."(McChrystal, para 9). Which would put people in more diverse activity together that they other wise wouldn't, witch would also help the community be one.

By allowing mandatory national service it would create a stronger country by having a very strong. Through having such a strong, and bound country that works as one, we will be stronger, undefeatable, and national security will be at an all time high. In "title of article, Ted Cruz "called for increasing the number of active duty forces to at least 1.4 million from 1.3 million, as well as improving the nation's Air Force capabilities — to at least 6,000 planes, with a minimum of 1,500 tactical fighter aircraft, an increase from roughly 4,000 aircraft. Anything less creates a continuing training and readiness gap that risks the lives of the men and women who volunteer to serve this great nation,"(Cruz, para 2). By having a mandatory national service we would always have the army we need to protect our country, and make sure our citizens are safe.

In conclusion, there are three things considered when creating laws: national security, liberty, and equality. Although liberty is being taken away reinstating mandatory national service would be benefiting the greater good through equity; giving everyone equal opportunities, and national security; making sure the citizens of the U.S.A will have no harm cased us as a whole.

Works Cited:

McChrystal, Stan. "How a National Service Year Can Repair America." Washington Post. The Washington Post, 14 Nov. 2014. Web. 26 Oct. 2016.

Ed Crego, George Muñoz and Frank Islam. "National Service Not Military Service." The Huffington Post. TheHuffingtonPost.com, n.d. Web. 03 Nov. 2016.

The Atlantic. Atlantic Media Company, n.d. Web. 10 Nov. 2016.

"We Don't Need a Military Draft." Washington Post. The Washington Post, n.d. Web. 10 Nov. 2016.

"Michael Gerson: National Service Can Heal a Divided Nation." Washington Post. The Washington Post, n.d. Web. 10 Nov. 2016.

Part 3: Against Mandatory National Service

The last time the draft was enforced was 1973 and since then the United States has taken away the mandatory draft and substituted it for the all volunteer based service. This has benefited our country greatly according to Melvin R. Laird an American politician and writer, Congressman from Wisconsin, and Secretary of Defense under President Richard Nixon as he explains in a recent New York Times article, "After more than a decade of sustaining combat operations in Iraq and Afghanistan while meeting other global obligations, our force has been successful by virtually every measure. The "total-force" concept, which I conceived, more closely links active-duty, National Guard and reserve military components. The volunteer military is more intelligent, fit, committed and representative than ever. Moreover, it has proved more cost-effective than a draft force." Taking away a person's freedom to be apart of national service, takes away motivation which can result in a lack of motivation to learn, and work hard.(Laird, para 4) Thereby, in order to ensure the liberty of our citizens and their contribution to our nation, we must not reinstate mandatory national service.

In recent studies it shows that only 1% of national service groups help benefit their country other than in the military. According to Ori Swed, in two surveys these are the results of what fields were most served in through Israel's mandatory military service. 32% in combat unit, 36% technical unit, 24 other military service, 7% did not serve, and only 1% got national service, working in forests teaching and etcetera. Who's to say that this doesn't happen to our country, who's to say that 99% of us get forced into military service, and only 1% of us get to actually serve our country in other ways. (Borja, Eric, and Porterem. Para 2.) Our country should use the statistics of other country, so that we don't make the same mistakes.

Mandatory national service put most of its recruits in military, the military is not what I would say is safe. As it says in Michael Smerconish article "So far this year, 51 NATO soldiers have been killed in what are referred to as "blue on green" attacks in which supposedly friendly forces attack our troops." (Smerconish, Michael. Para 2) Why should our freedom be taken away. If we are the "land of the free" should the citizens not have the opportunity to live long

healthy lives. Do we want the majority of our young citizens to have the side effects of the aftermath of the war if they do come out alive, this includes shell shock, depression, PTSD, and many other effects. According to Stan Tian "It's no surprise, once you understand the distress that soldiers experience during war, that they find it hard to be the same, emotionally, ever again. Some may say that their inability to form close bonds with loved ones is due to the experience of near death and the fear that they will leave someone behind. The emotional effects of war on soldiers very often hinders their future achievements too as they find it impossible to imagine or plan. Veterans of war who experience PTSD without adequate counseling and care often do not marry or have children, perhaps because they have experienced near death and have severe difficulty letting go of the idea that they may die any day." (Tian, para 1) Saying this do we want the majority of our society to be in this condition for the majority of their life. Forcing young men, and women into mandatory national service is taking away their freedom, and harming the individuals.

Many argue that National Mandatory Service is less cost effectively but as Melvin R. Laird says "For a given level of force effectiveness, a volunteer force is less costly than a draft force. Among the reasons: A conscripted force has a higher level of turnover. Draftees tend to serve shorter terms and reenlist at lower rates. Training costs are therefore higher, and increased training time means less operational performance time. During the draft era, about one in eight stayed after his first term; with the volunteer force, closer to one in two wants to stay." In conclusion having an all volunteer based National service system is working better for our country economically.

The all volunteer National Service is working as volunteer based. On the ___ website it states. "Our report found that 62.8 million adults (25.3 percent) volunteered through an organization in 2014. Altogether, Americans volunteered nearly 7.9 billion hours last year. The estimated value of this volunteer service is nearly \$184 billion, based on the Independent Sector's estimate of the average value of a volunteer hour." By having an all volunteer National Service system, it insures that the people are more motivated, they get to choose if they are in the military, is safer for our citizens, and it is more cost beneficial. There for it would be more beneficial for our country as a whole, and as individuals to have all volunteer National service

Works Cited:

"We Don't Need a Military Draft." Washington Post. The Washington Post, n.d. Web. 03 Nov. 2016.

Borja, Eric, and Porterem. "UT Austin SOC." UT Austin SOC. N.p., n.d. Web. 03 Nov. 2016.

Smerconish, Michael. "Why to Reinstate the Draft." The Huffington Post. TheHuffingtonPost.com, n.d. Web. 03 Nov. 2016.

"Volunteering in America." Corporation for National and Community Service. N.p., n.d. Web. 10 Nov. 2016.

"The Emotional Effects of War on Soldiers." *The Emotional Effects of War on Soldiers*. N.p., n.d. Web. 10 Nov. 2016.