GP Essay: Assess your country’s record on Human Rights. (2009)

The United States of America was founded on the ideals of it being a safe haven from the political ways of Europe. The foundation of this country is deeply rooted in the protection of the basic Human Rights of all people who live in this country. Although this is what is seen on the outside, these foundations haven’t been kept completely true throughout the years. If Americans look back into the history of their country, it is clear that the basic Human Rights have been broken and corrupted to a vast amount of people.

First off, it can be said that Human Right almost completely negated to African Americans. The United States has a deep history of slavery since it’s beginning. They were seen more as property than actually human beings. Once slavery was abolished, African Americans were still greatly discriminated and segregated from the rest of society. Although such things are illegal now, there is still subtle racism amongst some American. Racism can lead to things like generalizing and stereotyping which have caused serious incidents with the police, which could be considered, in most cases, police brutality.

Furthermore, the record of this country’s Human Rights does not look too good based on how Americans have treated illegal immigrants and how many people have dealt with this issue. “The Eisenhower Administration Initiative deported closer to 300,000 people,” (Linthicum) in the 1930’s, which was accompanied by many deaths and shattered families. These mass deportation campaigns separated families and was put to effect with almost no consideration of the immigrants as real people. These people lived in poverty and were not wanted by other people. The immigration issue is still something that is occurring and there is still some racism towards South American people because they are seen as a threat to an ignorant society.

Finally, the record of Human Rights can be reflected in the voyage of the St. Louis in 1939. The president of Cuba decided not to honor the passengers’ visas because of the fact that they were mostly Jewish so they were almost help hostage. The United Stated decided to keep their silence and not help. They refused to become a refuge and instead sent Miami Coastguard ships to not let anyone in and sent the passengers back to Germany. This shows how people are incapable of helping other people just because of their race or religion.

The United States has certainly not had the cleanest record of Human Rights. Many events in history shape the way people see the world and learn to embrace the basic Human Rights of all people. Although this country is seen as a safe place for a people, it’s history shows otherwise. National, international, and social issues such as immigration, slavery, or racism expose a darker side of this country’s record. This only comes to show that just like any other country in the world, the United States is still a work in progress.