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Thomas Jefferson

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For centuries ago, thirteen colonies of United States were under Britain colony which made American people tortured for a long time. In that period of time, it was not generally accepted if someone was said to be equal. Almost countries are ruled by Monarchy System¹. In 1776, some politicians and thinkers claimed that everyone should have life, liberty, freedom and equality. One of them was Thomas Jefferson, the third president of United States who tried to make the characteristics of life came true by disseminating it to American's people through Continental Congress.² If without Thomas Jefferson, the idea of liberalism would not be mentioned up until today. Thomas Jefferson has played a very important role by promoting the idea of liberalism which later lead to the independence of United States.

Firstly, Thomas Jefferson began his political life as the draftsman of the Declaration of Independence³ in June 1776. The conflict between United States and Great Britain⁴ occurred when England did not let thirteen colonies participated in

¹ Frank Prochaska. "The American Monarchy." *Historytoday.com*. 4 Feb. 2013. <<http://www.historytoday.com/frank-prochaska/american-monarchy>>

² "The Continental Congress." *History.com*. 4 Feb. 2013. <<http://www.history.com/topics/the-continental-congress>>

³ "Declaration of Independence." *Huffingtonpost.com*. 4 Feb. 2013. <http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/07/04/declaration-of-independence_n_1644926.html>

⁴ Wikipedia contributors. "American Revolutionary War." *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia*. 4 Feb. 2013. <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/American_Revolutionary_War>

politic. Since England was affected by French and Indian War, to increase its revenue, it imposed taxes on those colonies, for instance, the creation of the Stamp Act in 1765⁵ which imposed a tax on printed and paper goods. The increased of taxation caused the Boycott of English products and the damage in tax collector's house in Britain's Colonies. Not only the Stamp Act but also the tea-tax which helped East Indian Company to sell its tea. This situation was getting more tensed. Finally, the colonies founded the Continental Congress. Thomas Jefferson and other 4 committees were selected to write the draft of Declaration of Independence and announced that United States was going to be considered as an agricultural society. He also cancelled all unnecessary taxes and bureau. In the Declaration of Independence stated that the colonies were not a part of Great Britain anymore. The Declaration of Independence consisted of two parts of philosophy. One part was about the nature of human, Thomas believed that every man was inevitably equal, they must have their own freedom life and human right or can be said that no one can control any fundamental rights of a person.

Secondly, the democracy⁶ was also the things that Thomas Jefferson thought important in early United States of America. Democracy was considered as human rights which can be characterized by independency, equality and freedom. The slavery⁷ is commonly known at that period of time. Thomas Jefferson opposed the slavery system since his childhood and began to write a law against the use of slave

⁵ Kennedy Hickman. "American Revolution: The Stamp Act of 1765." *Militaryhistory.com*. 4 Feb. 2013. <<http://militaryhistory.about.com/od/americanrevolution/p/stampact.html>>

⁶ Wikipedia contributors. "Jeffersonian Democracy." *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia*. 4 Feb. 2013. <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jeffersonian_democracy>

⁷ "Slavery in America." *History.com*. 4 Feb. 2013. <<http://www.history.com/topics/slavery>>

labors⁸. During that time slaves were both be traded and worked extremely hard without holidays. Slavery was considered the cruelest things that happened to the US nation. Slaves especially the Africans were ordered to do many works particularly in a Southern of United States which can grow grains, tobacco, etc. Many of them died and most were punished and hung to death. This was contradicting to both Jefferson's idea of liberalism and democracy. To end the slavery system, he came up with the law of slave cancellation. His first attempt was in 1784, the slave prohibition was first prohibited in Virginia in year 1778 which stated that female will work until the age of 25 and then they were free. Sadly, his law was not passed. Later he came up with the second attempt, for instance, the draft of the Land Ordinance⁹ which is about the purchasing of land that implied the slave liberation. As time passed by, the slavery system was not end in his lifetime. The slavery system was completely over in the year of 1863 by Abraham Lincoln. Eventually, in the year of 1863, the democracy was enlightened to the Americans from the idea of slave cancellation of Thomas Jefferson.

Thirdly, the nature of human consisted of equality, life, freedom, right, and liberty¹⁰. Most of the American people at that time were not respect other religion rather than Christian. Thomas Jefferson was a person who was not believe in Christianity, he rejected most of the orthodox Christianity that was because he always thought that every person had a right to choose what they were respect, no one cannot

⁸ "Thomas Jefferson Biography." *Biography.com*. 29 Jan. 2013.
<<http://www.biography.com/people/thomas-jefferson-9353715>>

⁹ Wikipedia contributors. "Land Ordinance of 1785." *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia*. 5 Feb. 2013.
<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Land_Ordinance_of_1785>

¹⁰ Garrett Ward Sheldon. *The Political Philosophy of Thomas Jefferson*. 1993. P.97-98.

control other's beliefs. The nature of man can be seen through his idea of human's nature which showed equality, right and especially freedom. His political life was continuing. During the year 1783-1784, he joined the Continental Congress and be part of the committee to create the decimal system instead of using Pounds unit. At that time he went to develop the relationship between France and USA¹¹ but he did not notice the Federalist formation. The Federalist¹², led by Alexander Hamilton, was an opponent of Thomas Jefferson since they had a different opinion in politic. Thomas Jefferson's thought was to aggregate the country to be a unity which the government had a little role to rule the country, on the other hand, Hamilton wanted the country to have the strong central government and controlled the people. By these contradiction, it led to the arise of the Republican Party¹³. Thomas Jefferson became the leader of Anti-Federalist and formed the Republican Party. The Democratic-Republican Party was established by Thomas Jefferson together with his friends. The party was founded because of the afraid of Monarchy System. This party was based on the idea of liberalism that brought right to the society. With his strong will and hardworking the federalist was deteriorating because of the internal controversy. The Republican won the election and set Thomas Jefferson as the third president of United States.

Thomas Jefferson was considered to be the spokesman of the American Revolution who free the United States from the Great Britain. From his work, the draftsman of the Declaration of Independence, the slavery cancellation, democracy,

¹¹ Wikipedia contributors. "France-United States Relation." *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia*. 5 Feb. 2013. <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/France%E2%80%93United_States_relations>

¹² "Federalist Party." *History.com*. 5 Feb. 2013. <<http://www.history.com/topics/federalist-party>>

¹³ "Democratic-Republican Party." *Britannica.com*. 5 Feb. 2013 <<http://www.britannica.com/presidents/article-9063241>>

and religion, these works were related to right, liberty, and freedom. In addition, about the creation of the decimal system, it can totally said that Thomas Jefferson was a person who thought the human right was most important to people because his work made United States be independent. Thomas Jefferson who brought about the ideal of liberty was dedicating his whole lifetime to give the freedom to American people through the Declaration of Independence which came along with the meaning of life, liberty, and right of people. These ideas were not only substantial to the people in early 18th century but also had an effect on the people in the American society until today.