

Student's Name

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Course

Date

Article Summary and Analysis

Author

The source's author, Henry Richard Lee, was a prominent figure in the revolutionary America who strived for freedom and liberties in various colonies. A powerful member of the Continental Congress, Lee worked towards enforcing civil autonomy by maintaining that people were equal due to the indestructible rights granted by the creator. Turning his attention to public sphere, he took the responsibility as a US citizen to champion for the declaration of responsible rights that could make the country a better place for all citizens.

Context

The article is written in the context of religious freedom. From the beginning of American history, this subject had been the core of vision and democracy. Within constitutional confines, religion played a vital role in defining public life and space as envisioned by government. In this reasoning, coalescing of different faiths raised myriad questions regarding the veracity of religious factions in the United States. For national harmony, such issues required specific responses. In this epoch, Islam faced various challenges due to attempts to conflate its validity and relevance. Enslaved Muslims were extremely discriminated and violated by various institutions; for instance, contesting construction of mosques and conducting public sermons. In this regard, various Islamic figures voiced their concerns to deter interference with their spiritual practice. Worse still, existing laws on religion were either defective or obscure that they

remained subject to compelling justification principle. Nonetheless, the administration was charged with the responsibility of moderating sacred authority as a frequently exercised right. Even so, there was widespread apprehension about government's ability to guarantee freedom for all citizens as a useful control tool. Again, the country had not attained the requisite diversity and tolerance for people all backgrounds to coexist as equal citizens. As Lee notes, pious independence to practice one's choice should be a national undertaking, which must not be relinquished through events such as elections or majority vote. In this way, there should not be cases of individuals that attempt to impose their mystical foundations on others in a way that they feel less protected. In fact, the argument was that unless all citizens are assured of their dutiful space, their freedom was in jeopardy. Even though enslaved Muslims were at times forced to exercise their belief in secret, agitation for accommodation provided a ray of hope to survive this period.

Content

The letter is written in reference to the role of African American Muslims in early America. According to Lee, they were an integral component in establishing the United States through mapping its boundaries while contesting British rule. In spite of obstacles, they utilized their doctrines to enact sacred literacy in pursuit of freedom. Inscribing numerous manuscripts including diaries, letters, and autobiographies in Arabic, Muslims underlined the significance of religion in the fight for freedom. Particularly, they used it to undermine the tribulations of slavery. However, they faced extreme hostility in their endeavors. For instance, Ayuba Suleiman Diallo was pelted with mud by a young white boy in Maryland as he conducted a sermon. In some cases, they were compelled to adorn sacrilegious outfits and forego their divine convictions. While many persevered through their principles, others converted to Christianity for

their families' safety. Notably, Muslims lived in the United States with cultural and religious beliefs, establishing networks that sustained their identity amidst overwhelming pitfalls. The American-Islamic narrative does not merely entail a minority group but people who undertook to restructure communities that they had known over time. In Georgia, for example, Muslims secluded a plantation to serve as residence for one of their prominent leaders. According to the writer, introspection into the events of this era portrays Muslims as a group that lived under imposed values. Though it was imported, Islam restructured the American religious background as a major constituent of its culture.

Impacts of the Article

Lee's letter to James Madison defined new steps to attain a democratic system that not only recognized religious inclusion but ensured security of civil rights. They maintained that such elements comprised the multiplicity of interests particularly those that ensured existence of Islam among the many sects in the United States. All these efforts underlined extension of political domain to accommodate a variety of specifications and parties to create a common motive that was devoid of invasion of other citizens' rights. Again, it was prudent to reduce the political and cultural gap that created suspicious presumptions between Islam and other faiths. On the other hand, they strived to eliminate the perception that various quotas were not committed to creating a national identity alongside other social practices and prejudices. Still, highly instigated anti-Muslim rhetoric threatened its fabric and incited readers to violence against this minority category. Even as the Muslim position remained ambiguous, it elicited the emergence of a systematically sanctioned bigotry that hampered tolerance efforts. On the whole, the text was instrumental in outlining pleasant sanctified principles that worked toward political stability and collective peace in a setting where Muslims were considered paltry.

Works Cited

Lee, Richard H. "To James Madison from Richard Henry Lee, 26 November 1784." *National Archives*, <https://founders.archives.gov/documents/Madison/01-08-02-0079>. Accessed 27 October 2017.