

Riley Grayson:

Thomas Paine's quote has been able to withstand time and still has as much depth now in 2023 as it did in the 1700s. Paine believes that the government has so much power that instead of helping its citizens, it may in turn harm them.

In our country today, citizens have lost their basic freedoms due to the overreaching of the government. Article I Section 8 of the constitution states that Congress has the power to enact war, yet the president is solely in charge of the military and the head of the army. This gives the president too much power in the act of war-making. The concern that too much power is given to the executive branch was also expressed by Brutus. As an antifederalist, someone who does not agree with the use of the United States Constitution, Brutus warned of the consequences that come with these powers, including the necessary and proper clause. This clause is used to enact laws if it is deemed necessary and a valid response to a situation when the Constitution doesn't give the government explicit power in the Constitution. A quote that follows these ideas by James Madison in Federalist No. 51 states "if men were angels, no government would be necessary." This quote further proves how the government should not have ultimate authority. A well-rounded government needs checks and balances to run a proper society. If one branch gets too powerful, another can check its power and reevaluate the situation to improve the country. This power implies that there should be a distribution of power since not every man is perfect and there are bound to be people who want ultimate rule and there needs to be a system in place to prevent too much government overreach.

Furthermore, the out-of-control federal agencies have pushed workers into what is known as the "revolving door phenomenon." The phrase is used to describe the actions of public and government officials leaving their role as public officials for lobbyist roles. The detrimental effects of the government overstepping its bounds has led to their own employees resigning to try to influence legislation for different types of business and organizations. The citizens see that the government has had too large of an influence, so they lobby these federal agencies in hopes of creating change for future legislation. Finally, the 14th Amendment of the United States Constitution states that there will be guaranteed rights and equal protection for all United States citizens. The infringement of basic freedoms, such as abortion rights, has led to the loss of the state's power. The United States Supreme Court has placed the right to abortion into the hands of each individual state, while the US government is actively trying to overthrow this power and is trying to create a country-wide decision.

To conclude, our country faces many dangers due to the government overstepping its bounds in this country, while actively excluding the rights of the people and each state.