

# The Lincoln Lyceum Summer Essay Contest

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Do these numbers seem to follow a pattern: 1503, 471, 422, 392? These seemingly random numbers represent the lifespan of some of the greatest empires ever to exist. These empires included the Roman, Parthian, Han, and Hapsburg empires. The leaders built their empires to withstand the tests and trials of the ages, which include famines, war, border control, and poverty. They resorted to mandatory public service of their citizens, both in government work and military service. For America to last, she needs to model the structure of these empires if she wishes to remain a world power.

Five years ago, Former President Joseph Biden claimed that he could help America “Build Back Better!” This message, in the context of a global pandemic, exploded with interest throughout the public, and Biden was elected president. At this point however, his plans have failed. Under increased strife in our nation, a weakened reputation among the world’s leaders, an increase in our population from a flux of immigrants, a decrease in the number of young men and women entering the armed services, this order of mandatory service is now necessary to succeed. On top of that, other nations are on the rise to new, more powerful heights. You see, all of the empires who lasted all those years enforced mandatory military service, or service of another kind. This is how we can bring stability to the country. This is how to credit the claims of the two former presidents. This is how The United States can raise an empire worthy of praise and adoration for years to come. This is the future.

One of the most common arguments against forced conscription is that it’s unconstitutional. People opposing it would say that when you are drafted, you lose your freedom. Your life is now in absolute control of the government, essentially paid labor enforced by those in control who try to prevent that kind of treatment from other countries. They would

have one look to the 13th Amendment to the constitution, which states, “Neither slavery, nor involuntary servitude.”

Highly Decorated Chief Petty Officer Stephen Rehberg of the United States Navy, was strongly against the draft, stating that he, “...think[s] that a mandatory draft is extremely unconstitutional, as it refuses an American citizen’s right of choice.” He still joined the Armed Forces, having had the draft ended a year prior to his graduation. Stephen contemplated in his senior year of high school regarding the draft. He believed that it would be better to get his GED a year early and drop out of high school so he could forge his own path into Naval service, thus rendering his imminent drafting obsolete. “My brother had already been drafted, and I just figured that I was next.” He claims that the draft was an unnecessary burden that he, along with many of his peers, unjustly had to bear. There is nothing in the US Constitution limiting conscription powers, rather, it states that congress has “the power to raise and support armies.”

Even if Congress were to raise an army, a single year’s worth of service cannot provide a country's success, not even if all male citizens serve in this way. It’s simply forced labor. There is no other way to describe it. Countless lives are being set up for slaughter, should war be declared. Yet, just imagine the repercussions of the populations of those various empires who enforced service, especially those brave souls, “...who nobly fought and nobly died...” (Pericles’ Funeral Oration). Nevertheless these souls built a nation, and that is truly what we need to become a modern legacy, a world power. Ancient lives were still lived well, even when dedicated to forced warfare.

Additionally, the United States performed a mandatory draft lasting from 1948-1973. Many men were drafted then, and it was found acceptable, since America was facing great danger. Now, as Recep Tayyip Erdoğan has re-established the caliphate in Turkey, and could at

any time declare jihad on all non muslims, and Russia is continuing its conquest of Europe, we need, more than ever, a draft to instill a new fighting spirit in weary America.

Retired E4 Sergeant Kenneth H. Smith, who served in the United States Air Force was interviewed and discovered to be supportive of the mandatory draft, stating, “It wouldn’t be just our children, but the children of the higher political figures who would also have been drafted, and the consequence for illegally dodging the draft, would have been the same regardless of the status of those drafted.” He went on to say that he had dodged the draft, having already applied for the United States Air Force, but claimed that he would have “...relished serving our country, drafted or not.”

Therefore, no matter who you are, or what your opinion is, it is necessary to immediately see that a mandatory draft is key to the United States’ Military success. With incoming war from Russia and China, and possible jihad from the new Turkish Caliphate, a strong fighting force has never been more necessary. In the interest of preserving our great nation, please consider this. And please, do not try to dodge the draft, after all, Uncle Sam wants You!