

1 Amendment, which forbade and abolished slavery within the United States. Later
2 succeeding the 13th Amendment was the 14th Amendment, which stated:

3 *All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the*
4 *jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the State*
5 *wherein they reside. No State shall make or enforce any law which shall*
6 *abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor*
7 *shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due*
8 *process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal*
9 *protection of the laws* (Constitutional Amendments).

10 Last but not least, the 15th amendment was added after the Civil war which gave the
11 citizens of the United States the right to vote and the protection to never be denied this
12 right despite race, color or status (Constitutional Amendments).

13 However the 14th Amendment is still of utmost important when dealing with
14 Constitutional issues during today's era. For example, homosexuals right's to marriage.
15 Like slavery, homosexual rights are vague within the Constitution. Many states have
16 bans or have lifted bans but on a federal stand point there is a huge debate on whether
17 these bans violate the Equal Protection Clause of the 14th Amendment (Gay Rights and
18 the Constitution). It is amazing that even though the 14th Amendment was created over
19 138 years ago and it still plays a vital role in protecting the rights of American citizens of
20 today. As the abolitionists banded together against slavery, so did many citizens in
21 support of gay rights. I believe that eventually there will be a constitutional amendment,
22 like the 13th Amendment, banning slavery that will officially protect homosexual rights.

1 Having a unified democracy and government authority has its pros and its cons.
2 As a citizen of the United States of America, I feel as though the pros outweigh the cons
3 any day. I feel like our governmental system gives me the hope and freedom that with
4 enough action and motivation that anything is possible. The Civil War was a tragic time
5 but along with it came amazing change that helped shape the future of this country. It is
6 a perfect example that in order to have a present and future we must learn from our past.
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