Religion

One of the oldest points of controversy in relationship to political ideology and struggle over the course of human history rests in the realm of religious doctrine. Historically, competing religious doctrines have often been expressed through the lens of politics and political debate.

For example, within the United States, issues involving separation of church and state, pro choice versus pro life, and the status of individuals to marry legally are some of the primary issues that relate to religious doctrines and interpretations. Liberal and conservative pendants and advocates often express opposing viewpoints on such issues and, in turn, such factors often come to the center of the political struggle.

As is true of many issues, advocates are passionate, vocal, and forthright in the expression of the viewpoint that they wish to advance. More often than not within the United States, such expression has remained within the realm of civil disobedience. Civil disobedience, as a theory, dates to transcendentalist Henry David Thoreau in the nineteenth century. He asserts as an argument that people within a nation (speaking in this case about the United States) maintain the right to peaceful protest or to express contrary opinions to the national agenda through the expression of nonviolent civil disobedience (Thoreau, 2000).

Immigration

Like other issues, the debate about immigration and, in particular, immigration policy in the United States has often led to struggles within the political realm. With advocates both for the expansion of the level of immigration and critics of such expansion, the issue is one that is akin to other debates. It sparks passionate and forceful arguments from those sides.

In particular, in the era since the September 11, 2001 attack of the World Trade Center in New York, the issue of limitation of immigration, greater accountability and restrictions on immigrants, and a focus on the impact of the overall cost of immigrants has sparked constant debate within the political arena of the United States. Indeed, the focus on security that followed September 11, 2001 sparked a great deal of interest and focus through Homeland Security to better control the flow of immigration into the United States. Critics of such efforts charged that to limit immigration is to disregard the overall essence of the notion of the United States as a democracy having open borders to the overall so-called "melting pot" that is reflected in immigration historically within the United States.
Technology

As we progressively continue to advance into the twenty-first century, the role of technology in our daily lives is ever present. From cell phones to personal digital assistants and computers, people are ever more reliant on technology for commerce and communication. A variety of issues have surfaced that have come to prove to be part of the overall political struggle within the United States.

That is, issues like the use of cell phones while driving in terms of safety concerns, privacy issues related to the prolific nature of technology, and the overall impact of the shift from the traditional industrial-based economy that has characterized the United States to a technology-driven economy have produced great debate. In particular, issues associated with privacy and the growing interconnections that people have because of such technology have sparked intense debates from advocates of safety and security and advocates for personal privacy and freedom.

Views on Justice

In the contemporary era, as has been true of the overall course of development to date of the United States, political debate and controversy related to the variety of interpretations and expressions of views on the judicial system have been a consistent feature of the American political landscape. Issues related to constitutional protections, government intervention into the private lives of citizens, and the treatment of defendants and victims have long been a central point of debate within the United States.

In particular, issues related to the application of capital punishment and the rights of victims of crimes versus the rights of defendants accused of such actions have long sparked passionate and intense debate reflective of all expressions of the political spectrum. Indeed, over the course of development, such issues have resulted in a review of the standards related to such factors and have often produced changes in the application of such factors over time.

Reference