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Although the Statue of Liberty signifies personal freedom and an escape from political and societal oppression for people all over the world, the United States of America still contains forms of corruption that can limit one's god-given liberty. The United States's constitution has undergone countless amendments to ensure an equitable life for all citizens, including the Reconstruction Amendments during the time of slavery emancipation. The thirteenth, fourteenth, and fifteenth amendment aimed to secure an impartial life for the emancipated slaves and, as a result, changed the American frontier forever; however, the fourteenth amendment, which grants citizenship to all people born in America, acts as the most effective of the Reconstruction Amendments.

The fourteenth amendment of the United States protects the privileges and liberties of all native-born people from the corruption of discrimination, yet unlike the thirteenth and fifteenth amendments, the fourteenth amendment sets an unbendable and concrete regulation in the Constitution. The thirteenth amendment includes the phrase, "except as a punishment for crime," enabling a loophole for black discrimination through stricter punishment and servitude for whites by African-Americans at the time. In addition, more loopholes like poll taxes, literacy tests, and the Grandfather Clause defaced the effectiveness of the fifteenth amendment voting rights, and furthermore, failed to include black women until the nineteenth amendment. However, because the fourteenth amendment's unambiguous ruling for all people at that time, slaves were able to escape their role as property and start to rise as citizens of the United States.

Historically, the fourteenth amendment transformed the lives of slaves by ensuring equal protection, but this amendment remains important in today's society as well. This amendment has acted as the basis

for several other empowering court cases, including interracial and same-sex marriages, the use of contraceptives, abortion, and gun rights. Between the Reconstruction Amendments, the fourteenth amendment is the lengthiest and covers a vaster area of jurisdiction that enables it to apply to many other political issues in the country today.

The fourteenth amendment exemplifies why numerous people of all colors and origins are inspired by our country as they approach Statue of Liberty off the coast of New York. As a country, we strive to nurture diversity and make all citizens feel protected, which is exactly what the fourteenth amendment of the United States accomplished one hundred and fifty years ago and still accomplishes to this day.