

their safety and happiness”)—shows that the passage goes beyond the pursuit of happiness to the role of government in guaranteeing equality in the unalienable rights.

Allen is right that this is a big deal. Her point is not just about a period. It is about our political division. As I describe in my book *Whose Freedom?*, progressives and conservatives have very different views of freedom. Conservatives talk about their version of freedom, which does not include either equality or the role of government in securing it. They also attribute their view to the Founding Fathers. And though conservatives seek radical change, they use the term “conservative” as if it conserved the values of the founding of our nation.

At issue is what freedom is supposed to mean, what democracy is supposed to mean, and what personhood is supposed to be.