that the Constitutional provisions they agreed to were set up to protect slavery by saying "If gentlemen look over the footsteps of that body, they will find the greatest degree of caution used to imprint them, so as not to be easily eradicated" (Phillips 134).

Eventually, after much debate, these propositions were referred to a selected committee. The committee then referred it to a committee of the whole House who discussed it for four successive days (Phillips 144). Upon reviewing these proposed ideas, the committee decided that "the importation of such persons… cannot be prohibited by Congress prior to the year 1808" and "that Congress have no power to interfere in the emancipation of slaves, or in the treatment of them, within any of the States" (Phillips 145). In other words, Congress agreed that the constitutional provisions that were originally established protected slavery, and as a result, Congress could not prohibit the importation of slaves nor could they fully emancipate them. Therefore, the results of the constitutional provisions not only prevented Congress from banning slavery, but also barred them from even discouraging it. By not hindering slavery from occurring, the founders, and by extension the United States, were essentially giving "the appearance of countenancing the practice" (Phillips 110).

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The American Individualist

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The term "American Individualism" creates a deep and passionate response throughout the nation. However that response is not always based on the same concept of individualism. For some Americans this may call to mind images of the Old West, while others may consider the All-American urge to be the first and best at everything we do. The debate over what it truly means to be an individual has been ongoing since the beginning of our nation and consists of two main aspects that are still present today. The first is the existence of the American Frontier, a concept that is clearly present today in American society, especially in advertising. The second aspect that is debated is the role government ought to play and how it hinders or helps individualism. This is present in current elections as well as popular culture. This same debate has been occurring since the founding of our nation and there is no end to it in sight.

The American individual spirit has consistently been portrayed through the idea of the open frontier. Americans often consider themselves explorers that "blaze their own trails." Russell Conwell's motivational speech titled "Acres of Diamonds" represents this idea. He claimed that wealth in America can be found anywhere, a person just needs to go out and pick it. He claimed that "never in the history of the world did a poor man without capital have such an opportunity to get rich quickly and honestly as he has now" (Conwell, p. 738). Conwell went even further to claim that Americans have a duty to make money because the wealthy are the best in society since money is what allows people to do good. Since he believed the frontier to be open, he believed everyone was capable of and responsible for fulfilling this duty. He also felt that poor people were not to be sympathized with because, "there is not a poor person in the United States who was not made poor by his own shortcomings" (Conwell, p. 739). The idea of the open frontier in which opportunity is abundant in America was also present in Herbert Hoover's *American Individualism*. Hoover believed that the Pioneer Spirit was inherently the American Spirit. Hoover claimed that, "there will always be a frontier to conquer or to hold as long as men think, plan, and dare" (*American Individualism*, p. 1135). Though there was no longer a physically open frontier of land for people to explore, he believed the frontier consisted of exploration in

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