

0. LAW BREAKERS - Story Preface

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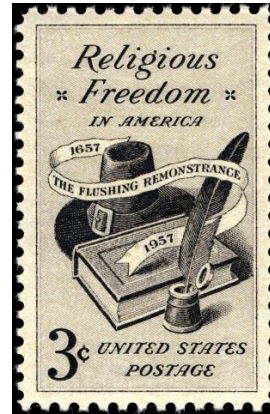


Image online via the U.S. Embassy and Consulate in The Netherlands.

Just because American law guarantees freedom of religion doesn't mean people will forever cease their efforts to destroy what they do not understand or believe. Put differently, much mischief follows whenever courts of law bend to the will of the majority (and fail to protect the rights of minorities). This is particularly true when it comes to mob mentality within the backdrop of "culture wars."

Joseph Smith, the founder of the Mormon religion, and his brother Hiram were victims of such mob violence. First, they were jailed in Carthage, Illinois. Then they were killed.

After Joseph Smith was murdered, Mormons moved to open territory where they could practice their religion without interference. They traveled to Utah. The link takes you to a picture documenting their journey in 1846.

The impact of theological correctness in the "Old World" differed vastly from its effect in the "New World." Those differences stem from the absolute right, established by law, of religious freedom.

Without that right, those in control are predisposed to impose their will on those who are not in control. Without that right, those with differing views—especially if it's a majority view—can shame others to bend to their will.

With that right, however, all people are free to practice their own religion and, if the right to do so is infringed upon, the law provides a cure.

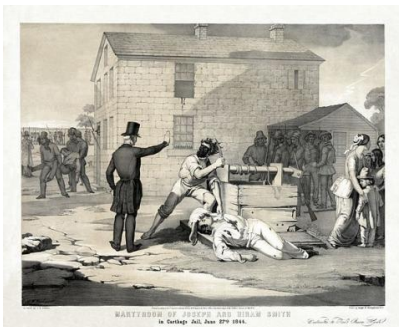
See Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/LAW-BREAKERS-Freedom-of-Religion>

See Learning Tasks for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/LAW-BREAKERS-Freedom-of-Religion>

Media Stream

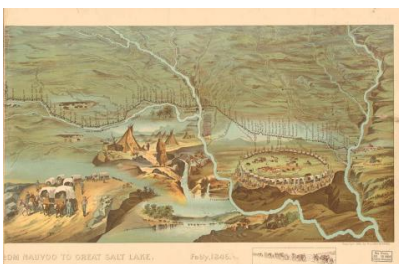


Joseph and Hiram Smith

Image online, courtesy the U.S. Library of Congress.

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Mormons Travel to Utah in 1846

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