

and missionary activity were needed to restore the faiths. The notion of what constitutes 'America' has had to be revised or reinvented overtime and reflects the tension between a materialistic practical reality, with its restrictions, and an idealistic, abstract image of the nation. The Constitution is central to this structure, but it has to be interpreted by the judiciary (particularly the US Supreme Court in Washington DC) to determine whether actions of government are constitutional or not. 31 Page