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The country we live in is not simply called “America” – its proper name is “The United States of America.” This name tells citizens and noncitizens that, in the end, America stands united. “E Pluribus Unum”, or “Out of Many, One,” is a promise that yields a similar meaning. This phrase was a motto of the United States of America during the American Revolution and originally signified the unification and freedom of the 13 colonies. It was inscribed on the Great Seal in 1776, and the United States of America has grown since; yet, the phrase remains on coinage and the Constitution. The phrase E Pluribus Unum now signifies not just the unity of our states, but something greater: the unity of our people.

In the eyes of many, the phrase may be considered either outdated or incorrect. Most people think that the United States of America is no longer as united as it once was. In our current day and age, political tensions are rising as the polarization of opinions affects everyone. Strangers, coworkers, classmates, neighbors, and even friends have split views on almost all topics in the media. What’s truly unfortunate, though, is that this media is only becoming an echo chamber. As the press contributes to political polarization, the divide in our country widens, and our unity fades. Social media and the news both perpetuate ideals that encourage the exact opposite of our country’s old motto: the unification of the nation.

Our division of opinions has set expectations that America is divided overall; however, the USA has defied expectations before, and we continue to do so today. Although the United States of America is divided by our media, this same media keeps us interconnected and united in the ways that matter. Media provides the resources to build a bridge between two cliffs, connecting like-minded and not-so-likeminded individuals and allowing them to work together for a common goal. Furthermore, it encourages others to join in the unity by showcasing the product of a community’s hard work, such as the internal and external assistance provided by various communities throughout the country during the California fires, for example. Both division and unity stem from the media, but our unity works towards bridging the divide, bringing more and more people together.

The Constitution promises: Out of Many, One. This reflects the ideal that our country should remain united through the tests of time. Unfortunately, with the development of mass media, disconnects are amplified and the unification our founding fathers promised seems to have disappeared. However, the media has granted us a new, better form of unity. Instead of seeing unity on a national level between states, we see unity among communities, on a more personal level. The unification of our people stems from interconnectedness, leading to further development, greater growth, and deeper connections. Unity has been the USA's mission since the country's inception; although it was initially centered on the whole nation, it has evolved to encompass communities everywhere.