

**Pity The Nation**  
By Lawrence Ferlinghetti  
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Pity the nation whose people are sheep,  
and whose shepherds mislead them.  
Pity the nation whose leaders are liars, whose sages are silenced  
and whose bigots haunt the airwaves.  
Pity the nation that raises not its voice,  
except to praise conquerors and acclaim the bully as hero  
and aims to rule the world with force and by torture.  
Pity the nation what knows no other language but its own  
and no other culture but its own.  
Pity the nation whose breath is money  
and sleeps the sleep of the too well fed.  
Pity the nation – or, pity the people who allow their rights to erode  
and their freedoms to be washed away.  
My country, tears of thee, sweet land of liberty.