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Infidel by Ayana Hirsi Ali is a book that proves education is the best defense to ignorance.

Ayana is a Somali woman who is also Muslim. There are many aspects of their culture that are found repulsive in American culture. Women are genitally mutilated. They are stripped of their free will, led to believe this idea of genital mutilation will keep them pure and ready for their husband. In reality this practice does not keep them pure. Ayana helps her culture and religion open their eyes to their misdeeds. She also helps the world recognize the actual internal struggle inside a Muslim woman. They are forced into arranged marriages. Most women do not try to escape because they do not want to shame their families. Eastern based societies are very shamed based and selfless. Everything is about honor. If you have no honor, then you die. Women are murdered by their families because they are not virgins and because they bring dishonor to their family. Ayana escaped from her arranged marriage and bought shame to her family. Even though it disturbed her greatly, she knew that she would lose herself before she actually found out who she was if she stayed in the marriage. She worked hard to receive a college education, become a citizen of Holland, and become a member of Parliament.

When Ayana got to Holland she was desperate to receive refugee status. She lied on her application and was approved. In Somalia, she barely received a secretarial certificate. She knew that in order to have the government pay for her education she would have to become a citizen. Ayana worked menial jobs in order to pay for the test before citizenship. She also worked as a translator for people that wanted to receive the same status that she once received. Ayana finally received her citizenship and continued her education. She received her PhD in political science even though many believed she never would. She then began to speak out against the plight of Muslim women. Her life is placed in imminent danger because it is not acceptable for Muslim women to speak out against the way they are treated. Ayana still spoke out even though there were threats made against her life. She helped the Dutch Parliament envision the cycle of submission. Ayana shows the drastic effect Islam has on women. They are led to live submissive lives, which can have a drastic effect on their daughters. The cycle of submission is a continuous one. It can lead mothers to turn a blind eye on their children. These children, mostly girls are not allowed to be educated. This lack of education makes it impossible for women to become

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effective in their own lives.

Education is the best defense to ignorance. If a person is educated, he or she may be able to change the mind of one person. In turn changing the mind of that one person, can lead to the changing of many minds. An education is the one thing that no one can take from you. In the world that we live in today, an education is a must. Jobs that once did not require a high school diploma, now do. My attending community college has had a great impact on my life. I believe that everyone should further their education. It is as essential as water, air, food, and shelter. There are many great minds that go to waste because of lack of education. In order to adapt to the changing times, education is a necessity. Through education the world has seen many things that many would not believe to be possible, the election of the first African-American President.