

People's Democratic Republic of Algeria

Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research

University of Mohamed Khider - Biskra

Faculty of letters and Languages

Department of Foreign

Languages



**The Effect of the American Dream on the
American Society from Settlement to
Depression.**

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Degree In literature and civilization

Submitted by:

SAKER Hind .

Supervised by:

Mr. TEMAGOULT Slimane.

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Dedication

I dedicate this modest work to my beloved parents to whom they risked their life to give me a birth they are the light of my eyes .to my sister, brothers and my best friends Soumaia; who Stood by my side ,Dhafer , Sihem and Imene.

To my sister Imene:

I need you

*This is the first time I saw this
This is the first time I'm feeling like this
This is the first time I cry like this*

*I feel like this only because I love you
you know, I love you I would like us if we are together this is knowing only by Allah
We can only pray for you*

*I need you in my life
you take so much space in my heart, in my mind
I need you by my side*

*I prayed to Allah for us to be both well in paradise because you are
my heart my laugh my happiness my dream my delirium I did that because*

I promised you.

I love you..... <3

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Thank you...

ABSTRACT

The American Dream" has become a widespread term to describe the American way of life in general .The American Dream always has something individual. That is, why till today no one succeeded in giving a universally acceptable definition of the term, because it becomes a universal concept. The American Dream is something that makes America great. It allows those with aspirations to make their dreams come true. In America all one needs is a dream and the motivation to carry out that dream. Ambition is the driving force behind the American Dream. for the first immigrants was a better life not with material goods it stayed with America until the 1900's however things started to change in which it turned into greed .During the Great Depression, several people wrote about the American Dream. The Depression brought hardship, homelessness, Poverty, Destruction of families Farm losses and hunger to millions. So, the American Dream turned into ashes and became a nightmare. American Dreams from the very beginning was the driving motive of many people to migrate to the USA from different parts of the world in search of better life. It was also an idea fixed by the majority of American population. For many it became true for others it led to complete failure. The work is divided into three main parts; in the first chapter, we seek to enrich readers understanding about the historical dimension of the American Dream, while in the second chapter, we present the American immigration roots and how it contributed in shaping the American values of the American society .Concerning the third chapter, is devoted to clarify the disillusion of the American Dream from the dream to the nightmare.

RESUME

“Le rêve Américain“ est devenu un terme répandu pour décrire le mode de vie américain en général. Le rêve américain a toujours quelque chose d'individuel. C'est pourquoi jusqu'à aujourd'hui personne n'a encore réussi à donner une définition universellement acceptable du terme.

“Le rêve Américain“ a probablement un sens différent à chaque citoyens des États-Unis; pour certains, c'est le rêve de liberté et d'égalité, pour d'autres c'est le rêve d'une vie bien remplie ou même le rêve de gloire et de richesse. Pour les immigrants de la première génération c'était une vie meilleure pas avec des biens matériels et cela durait jusqu'a 1900 cependant les choses commencent à changer Et le rêve américain devient une cupidité pour une majeure partie d'immigrés Durant la première crise mondiale, plusieurs auteurs ont pris comme thème le rêve américain. La crise a des difficultés, l'itinérance, la pauvreté, destruction des familles et perte agricoles et la famine des millions. Alors, le rêve américain est transformé en cendres et devient un cauchemar.

“Le rêve Américain“, dès le début a été le motif de séduire des grande masse d'immigrés et de choisir les Etats-Unis comme destination parmi d'autre partie du monde en rêvent d'une vie meilleure. qui est pour beaucoup de population américaine une réalité pertinente, mais pour d'autre un échec sur tout les fronts.

L'ouvrage est divisé en trois parties principales; dans le premier chapitre, nous cherchons à enrichir la compréhension des lecteurs sur la tendance historique du rêve Américain et de ses concepts, tandis que dans le deuxième chapitre, nous présenterons les origines de l'immigration américaine et la façon dont elle a contribué à façonner les valeurs américaines des américains. En ce qui concerne le troisième chapitre, se consacre à clarifier la manière dont le rêve américain s'est transformé en cauchemar.

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GENERAL INTRODUCTION

GENERAL INTRODUCTION

Since the early 19th century, the United States has regarded and promoted itself as a beacon of liberty and prosperity achieved through a combination of the philosophical and ethical principles propounded by its founders and implemented in their most perfect form. (Holmes 10)

America is a nation of people from all over the world who want to live in a country where they can live in freedom and pave the way for their children. This nation was created on the foundation of freedom and liberty. We believe that the leaders who created this country were well aware that they were building a nation where immigrants would choose to live. The leaders of America created an ideal community that includes different nationalities, and religions can live in a country together in peace. The United States of America is a nation of immigrants because it was created by immigrants and for immigrants. America is sometimes referred to as a "nation of immigrants" because of its largely open-door policy toward accepting foreigners pursuing their vision of the American Dream.

The American Dream is a national ethos of the United States of America in which democratic ideals are perceived as a promise of prosperity for its people. Freedom, justice, life, and liberty are the basic elements of the American Dream. America was built on these dreams; many years ago the people of the United States chose to take a risk and put their lives on the line, all for the American Dream.

The American Dream is to be just happy, and to acquire wholeness and happiness by the efforts of those who have worked hard for it. But the definition it differs from one generation to another for some it is a real dream and for others it is a nightmare .

Many of those immigrants sacrificed their jobs, their relationships, connections, their educational levels, and their languages at their homelands to start their new life in America and succeed in reaching their dream. The American Dream is often something that humanity wonders about. So what is the American dream?

In the light of all what have been stated, the present research aims to answer a set of basic questions:

What are the concepts of the American Dream?

How did the American Dream change over time?

Is the American Dream a fact or a fiction?

At the expense of this aims we can hypothesise that, the American Dream is more difficult for today's generation to achieve than the previous ones. For the first generation it has begun as a dream of freedom in all the sides however , it was evolved by time what was a dream of freedom turned into a dream of material wealth .During the current time the American Dream changed completely for some it turns into a nightmare .

So, in attempt to prove this hypothesis as we know there are different methods in research and only the problem under investigation can determine the method to be employed. In analyzing the American Dream we are going to use the descriptive and historical methods Combined because we deal with facts and those facts are rooted in the American history.

Our present work is divided into three chapters: in the first chapter we deal with the American Dream as well as to its historical trend, through giving a clear answer about the meaning of the American Dream and its main concepts.

Concerning the second chapter we trace the American immigration from its roots, how does it contribute in the building of the modern American society, and how the concept of the American dream changed through time.

In the last chapter we discuss the way in which the American Dream turned into nightmare especially in the great depression which greatly impacted the American family. In addition we attempt to figure out if the American people still believe on it or no.

In short, the work intended that in our days there are many dreams and traditions that Americas hold. Some of them can be reached, some cannot. The American Dream was a reality to some people and a nightmare to some others depending upon the cultural prejudices and availability of freedom.

PART ONE
METHODOLOGY

PART ONE

I- Definition of the issue

The American Dream has reflected and shaped American identity from the Pilgrims to the present. The United States, unlike most other nations, defines itself not on the facts of blood, religion, language, and geography, or shared history. But on a set of ideals expressed in the Declaration of Independence and consolidated in the Constitution.

The authors of the United States Declaration of Independence held certain truths to be self-evident that, all Men are created equal and they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

The phrase "American Dream" was first popularized by author James Truslow Adams in his 1931 book, *Epic of America*. His vision of the American dream was that "life should be better and richer and fuller for everyone, with opportunity for each according to ability or achievement (Adams 214-215).

The American Dream is the freedom to reach one's goal and the ability to rise to fame and prosperity if one works hard for it .if you work hard, you can be whatever you want to be this notion portrays the American Dream.

And it could simply describe to find new ground, fresh possibilities, and be successful by the sweat of your own brow.

So, the American Dream is just to be happy, to acquire wholeness and happiness by the efforts of those who have worked hard for it, and the Dream gives them that.

II- Research Question

The thesis analysis has been focused on how the American Dream contribute in building the new nation; in which The American Revolutionist broke any from Britain in hopes to find a free land, a land that belonged to Americans.

The American Dream constituted everything Americans wanted for their children, a better life then the one they had endured under the British Empire. The people of new revolutionized nation only had simple dreams. “Americans” wanted a land where people could be free and prosper. However this beautiful dream has been broken into pieces during the Great Depression, the American dream became a nightmare. What was once the land of opportunity was now the land of desperation whether it is possible-well that is a matter for debate. Based on that assumption above, we come to state our problem analysis as follows:

- ▶ What is the American Dream?

- ▶ What are the concepts of the American Dream?

- ▶ Did the American Dream contribute in shaping the new nation?

- ▶ Did the Americans have the same Dreams?

- ▶ How did the American Dream change over time?

- ▶ Is the American Dream a myth or a reality?

III- The hypotheses

To demonstrate the role of the American Dream in building a new nation from its foundation a very big number of immigrants had crossed the border of the United States of

America to pursue the most valuable thing in life, the dream, which every American person thinks about the American dream. In order to obtain the meaning of the American Dream through its beginning to the present time, the following hypothesis was set:

Hypothesis 1

The American Dream can be defined as having the opportunity and freedom that allows all citizens to achieve their goals in life through hard work and determination alone. The definition of the American Dream is now under constant discussion and debate.

Hypothesis 2

Freedom is the desire and the right of all individuals to control their own destiny without outside interference from the government or any other organized authority.

Hypothesis 3

There are six basic values that have become traditional American values. Three reasons; why immigrants got to the States led to three prices; they had to pay

Reasons:

Prices:

1) Chance of individual freedom —————> 1) self-reliance

2) Equality of opportunity —————> 2) competition

3) Material wealth —————> 3) hard work

Hypothesis 4

These values of the American dream are the basic philosophical foundations of this nation, Justice, liberty, fairness, democracy and equality

Hypothesis 5

The American Dream turned into nightmares in which, most of the Americans believe that the American Dream is harder for them to achieve

Hypothesis 6

If you ask Americans today how they understand the American Dream, you will get many different responses. Some see it as a thing of the past. Others claim that it is alive and well and feel that Americans should make it a reality for all.

IV- The limitation of the study

The American Dream phrase begun as a national ethos of the US, which means that freedom includes a promise of prosperity and success. It was first expressed by James Truslow Adams in 1931. However, the American Dream is also rooted in the second sentence of the 1776 Declaration of Independence which states that "all men are created equal" and that they are "endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable Rights" including "Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness".(Cullen 38)

As the limitation of our research is important, we are going to talk about the idea of the American Dream which was dating back to the 1600s, when people began to come up with all sorts of hopes and aspirations for the new and largely unexplored continent. Until its crises emerged in the Great Depression, The year of 1929 began a time period of horror in America.

V- Objectives of the Study

In analyzing the American Dream as a key concept we have some purposes as follows are:

To identify the reasons why did people come to America and discuss the concept of the American Dream what considered as a recurring theme in American society. Also, we are going to explain the real meaning of the American Dream based on its concepts, to reveal the common values that shaped the new nation.

In addition, we will analyze the common values of the American society concerning the American Dream to explain its crisis that turned it into a nightmare. And finally we want to reveal if the Americans still believe in the American Dream; does it exist or no and why?

VI- Methodology

In analyzing the American Dream we use the descriptive and historical methods as a type of research. As we are interested in describing facts, the descriptive and historical methods are combined because we deal with facts, and those facts are rooted in the American history.

The descriptive method is used to obtain and analyze information concerning the current status of the phenomena to describe "what exists".

Taking into consideration the historical method is the one that should be employed when we are in reporting events that occurred chronologically in the past. So, it is the appropriate method of our research. As a result, we are going to follow those methods because they are the best one's in analyzing the American Dream from it's the beginning to the present time.

VII- Review of related literature

In analyzing the American Dream we deal with some books which have close relation to the title itself.

JIM CULLEN "A Short History of an Idea That Shaped a Nation" :

Cullen explores American history through its ideals and notions that feed goals from which success and happiness are perceived and secured. At different times the American dream has meant different things. At the founding of the nation, Cullen asserts, the Declaration of Independence embodied the American ideal that all men are created equal. Even with the obvious contradiction of slavery, the essence of this dream allowed for the possibility of racial equality, class mobility, and home ownership all values that at some point have centered the collective American consciousness. Cullen explores the ideas, hopes, and accomplishments of both native-born Americans and immigrants in developing consensus around the ideals. As the dream varies, Cullen tracks its shifts and the complexities that result in our cultural unity of valued ideals. From the initial ideals of the Declaration of Independence, Cullen moves to the expansion and inclusion of the dream through Martin Luther King dream of racial equality to, finally, home ownership as the commonly accepted notion of the American Dream.

Petter Muller "is the American Dream continued?" :

Muller begins with an examination of the American Dream's historical roots. He traces the main elements of "The American Dream in Star Trek". It is dedicated to an analysis of how the Dream and its crisis in the Sixties are reflected in the original Star Trek series.

CHAPTER ONE

THE HISTORICAL DIMENSION OF

THE AMERICAN DREAM

Introduction

The term "American Dream" conveys many different images: raising a family, owning a home, traveling to new adventures on the open road, starting a successful business. All of these images depend on the personal and economic freedom that Americans take for granted.

The American Dream, first used by James Truslow Adams in the *Epic of America* (1931), usually implying a successful and satisfying life. The term usually implies financial security and material comfort, but can also imply a dream of fame, exceeding social, ethnic, or class boundaries, or simply living a fulfilling life.

The term is not easily defined, and has idiosyncratic meaning to many who claim it. The American Dream is often associated with immigration, as the dream of religious freedom, economic prosperity, and opportunity has historically driven immigrants to the United States. The term is used by many modern Americans to signify success in life as a result of hard work.

In this chapter, we seek to enlighten the reader about the American Dream as well as to its historical trend, through giving a clear answer to issues such as: we first refer to the originally intended meaning of the American Dream as a key concept with regard to historical background.

I- What is an American ?

“An American is a conglomerate of all races and creeds of the world put into one melting pot” (Day 5). It means that the American Society includes many people of different races, region, national origins, and cultural backgrounds.

An American believes everyone should receive the rights listed in the Bill of Right. This means no one group is higher than any other, all are equal. To be American is to live in liberty to be proud of those who serve and protect their rights which were given by their founding fathers of their country.

In addition u should take in your consideration that you are living in the best country in the entire World; to be given all the liberties that you want as long as you work hard to get them. The Foundation of America is a set of ideals, embodied in a written Constitution and the system of Government thus established. Those who agree to abide by protect and support, are Americans (Day 15).

It means that you born in the land that brought values and customs and morals from Peoples who came here from all over the World. Those early Settlers and those who were born here developed their ways of thinking because of what they saw and felt living elsewhere under restrictive governments.

The uniquely American personality includes such traits: a deep religious sense of Freedom of Religion, of Idealism, Patriotism, and Individualism. Freedom remains the sole basis for American Society as we know it. Without Freedom the great Nation of America would have never been founded. The Americans have basic Freedoms which are outlined in their Constitution.

In America, you have the Freedom to live, believe and worship as you like .The Freedom to voice your opinion regarding the Government and Freedom to earn a living. To be able to participate in the Government and issues that face their nation.

We have another element that we would bring to your attention is the Great Patriotic instinct. Being a true American means to believe in the values of the American Constitution and to protect your Country's integrity. The Founding Fathers formed the United States to escape tyranny. This is a well developed Country now.

With tolerance, diversity and accepting others, an American does not judge the Patriotism of another American; it means he knows that Patriotism has nothing to do with religious beliefs. To agree to live under the American Constitution and laws, to embrace the English Language and American Republican, Democratic, and Capitalist culture, to support the Nation in times of crisis, and to embrace the Founding ideals of the Nation; to be a Citizen and supporter of America, it's past, present, and future.

What gives in this large heterogeneous mixture of People not just single system of government, but a single identity, two very concert and specific things; the Us Constitution, and the American Flag (Day 16).

The Americans are proud in whom they are and what their Country stands for. An American treats others with respect and tries their best to see others at their equals. Besides they will respect others with different Ethnicities or backgrounds as long as they make an effort to respect America's values and fit into Society, the other more symbolic embodiment of American Identity is the Flag.

The informing spirit of the American Character has always been a deep religious sense. The American government was founded on the essential religious idea of integrity of the individual. It was this religious sense which inspired the Authors of the Declaration of Independence; that all men are created equal Congress shall make no law prohibiting the free exercise of religion.

"Everyone has the right to Freedom of thought, conscience and religion; this right includes Freedom to change his religion or belief, and Freedom, either alone or in Community with others and in Public or private, to manifest his religion or belief in teaching, practice, worship and observance (Article 18 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights).

We think that one of the most important freedoms available to Americans is the freedom of religion. Throughout history many people have left their homelands due to persecution they have faced for believing in what they feel is right. Some have even paid the ultimate price with their lives.

A deep sense of Idealism is another element which represents the American citizen. The Founding Fathers also recognized that just as God grants them their Freedoms, that Government has no right to limit these God-given rights.

The American Constitution offers numerous protections against those Governmental intrusions which they knew would come eventually. The divisions of powers between the States and the National Government are very clear in the Constitution. The States are recognized as sovereign entities with limited power being granted to the Federal Government. The Constitution is a masterful document which recognizes their liberties and which offers limits on government centralization and powers.

Concerning the last element, the American has been not only Religious, Idealistic, and Patriotic, but because of this it has been essentially individual. The right of the individual against the state has ever been one of the most cherished Political principals.

The American Political system allows everyone to participate in some form or another; everyone has rights and no single member of the Government can take those rights away. Even though People disagree with the way things are, they are still allowed to express their views and opinions without fear of recrimination from the Government. If the laws you did not want them to be you can be part of the solution and actively work toward getting them changed.

Being an American means being part of a Country that is by the people, for the people with all the freedoms and responsibilities it entails The requirements of building a new society on a new continent demanded individualism, the opportunities available in the new country rewarded it .there was land enough for everyone (Day 23).

It means to be in a land where your rights as an individual are protected; that you can do anything you want with your career choice, having the freedom to speak your mind, choose your religion, Freedom to vote, bear arms, and gather peacefully to express your opinion but be aware that others have opinions also.

Early American writers have made long-lasting contributions to developing and explaining American beliefs, values, and culture. St. John de Crevecoeur's "What is an American" sets out to describe what makes an American an American. Through the analysis of American government, beliefs, culture, and values Crevecoeur explains to the world what an American encompasses.

Crevecoeur defines an American as being any person who leaves behind him all his ancient prejudices and manners, receives new ones from the new mode of life he has embraced, the new government he obeys, and the new rank he holds (Steinberg 181). Americans are the western pilgrims who are carrying along with them that great mass of arts, sciences, and industry...ect .

The American is a new man, who acts upon new principles; he must therefore entertain new ideas and form new opinions. From involuntary idleness, servile dependence, penury, and useless labor, he has passed to toils of a very different nature, rewarded by ample subsistence" (Steinberg 182). Basically, he is defining an American as being a man who is dedicated to the newly developed free country that he loves, open-minded to the changing opinions of the times, and willing to work hard in order to be rewarded by the land.

II- Definition of the American Dream

The American Dream" is one of the essential elements for people to know the American culture and the American people. It has been on the lips and in the hearts of millions of Americans for generations. It is a wonder filled, hope filled, and inspiring call to every person and to the American country as a whole but what does it mean?

When you try out to search the definition of the American Dream, all you can find is only stories. No one could give you any specific meaning; the American Dream probably has a different meaning to every US citizen, for some it is the dream of freedom and equality, for others it is the dream of a fulfilled life or even the dream of fame and wealth.

As defined by most writers, such as Hemmingway, it is becoming rich young and having the opportunity and will to do what you please with your wealth. To many foreigners, the “American Dream” is just to escape poverty and retain a better life. Maybe, the “American Way” is philanthropy, making billions of dollars and giving some of it back to those who really need it. The “American Dream” has a different interpretations and point of views (Hochschild 17).

According to Hochschild “the idea of the American Dream has been attached to every thing from religious freedom to a home suburbs and it has inspired emotion ranging from deep satisfaction “(Hochschild 15). We believe that the American Dream means freedom in all of its dimensions and equality as well as equal opportunity. It means democracy not dictatorship. It means personal responsibility and also responsibility of the community for individuals to provide services that the individual alone can not provide. It means a rule of just law, protection from violence and social justice for all. It also means hard work at a fair wage, an opportunity to own a home, start a business and get ahead. Each generation of Americans has always believed it had a responsibility to make life better for their children and to leave the world in a better place than they found it.

The American Dream is the idea that anyone not matter what their background, can become wealthy or successful in America. Many Americans believe that everyone is born equal. They believe this because everyone has the same rights: a right to an education, a job, starting a business and buying a home. They believe that anyone can become a successful wealthy person in life if they work hard throughout their life to achieve their dream.

The idea of an American Dream is older than the United States, dating back to the 1600s, when people began to come up with all sorts of hopes and aspirations for the new

and largely unexplored continent. It was then that people started to acquire aspirations ranging from owning land to opening successful businesses (Smith par.7).

James Truslow Adams, when he used the phrase in his book "Epic of America" in 1931. He wrote "The American Dream is that dream of a land in which life should be better and richer and fuller for every one with opportunity for each according to ability or achievement" (Adams 214-215). He used it to embody the idea that with enough hard work and luck, anybody could achieve what they wanted in life. At that time the United States was suffering under the Great Depression. Adams used the term to describe the complex beliefs, religious promises and political and social expectations.

"The American Dream" has become a widespread term to describe the American Way of Life in general, but it is by far not that easy." The American Dream" always has something individual. That is, why till today no one succeeded in giving a universally acceptable definition of the term. Another reason is the permanent change of the "American Dream", which always made it a highly discussed topic within the American Society. So, not only American authors like T.C Boyle in his novel "The Tortilla Curtain"⁵ are dealing with the topic of "The American Dream", but also Hollywood used and still uses it in a lot of movies, for example in "Pretty Woman".

In general, the American dream can be defined as being the opportunity and freedom for all citizens to achieve their goals and become rich and famous if only they work hard enough. if America was also a land of dreams come true, that was so because generations suffered to discover that the dream was here to be reached for, and not to be lived in. So, "the American Dream" has a lot to do with America being a country of immigration, and these immigrants all hoped to live a better life in the new world.

Today there are so many different ideas regarding the meaning of the American dream. Some feel that it is all about having money or material goods. Others feel that it is the ability to get an education and achieve something in life. For some, the idea of purchasing their own home is symbolic of the dream. Today's role of the American dream is a matter of discussion. Some think that the American Dream is still a viable element today, for others it is only an illusion.

III- The History of the American Dream

The American Dream trends from the old Puritanical American Culture the affirmation that Americans every where are a special people, "a City upon a Hill" like old puritans of New England called it. Is a land and place formulated by divine provide and right to be a beacon of hope, promise and freedom to the rest of the world.

The dream seekers included the first group of English religious dissidents, Puritans who came to America to escape the religious persecution from the Church of England. The New World seemed to them an ideal place to enjoy freedom of worship, to realize the religious dream and to fulfill the holy mission assigned by God. They believed that they were new breed of humans, destined to begin the world over again and to build a land here that will be for all mankind a shining city on a hill.

In saying; "We shall be as a city upon a hill" (Walker III 1) .Puritan leader John Winthrop told his fellow voyagers by migrating to America; they sought to fulfill their holy mission which is to create a model nation for the rest of the world to follow.

Many of the early immigrants found that they had a better chance to succeed in America than in their native countries. The American Dream gave People great satisfaction both materially and spiritually. In the late 17th and 18th centuries, the pattern of thought

known as the Enlightenment became dominant in Europe. The apostles of the Enlightenment believed in science and reason and the perfection of man and the world.(Holmes 40). They believed in the perfectibility of man and the world, to some extent, destroyed the Calvinistic conception of the earth as a vale of tears and suffering, and convinced people that they were the master to the physical and spiritual needs of the colony.

Thomas Jefferson, one of the representatives of the Enlightenment, established the political ideal of the American Dream. His democratic thought, best expressed in his “Declaration of Independence” and “The Bill of Rights” has profound and lasting influence on the American people and it has become the tradition and the national dream for the following Generations. “Life, liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness” of each individual, these are well known words from his “Declaration of Independence”.(Armitage 25)

He insisted that “all men are created equal” .Jefferson’s democratic thought was based on his belief that “the government governed least governed best” and his belief on the innate goodness of human nature. His democratic thought has profound and lasting influence on the American people and it has become the tradition and the national dream for the following generations. Among many of his doctrines, the most prominent are the principle of democracy, liberty and equality. (Holmes 50)

In the 19 Century, The Industrial Revolution was one of the greatest forces that developed the American Dream. The Industrial Revolution resulted in the creation of hundreds of thousands jobs. The development of big business, the Transcontinental Railroad, and increase in oil production greatly increased in the American standard of living "rags to riches" stories of business tycoons like Andrew Carnegies John D. Rockefeller led to the belief that if you had talent, intelligence and a willingness to work

extremely hard, you were more likely to live a successful life .(Out line of U.S. History 159).

Great changes took place during the 20th Century. The two world wars create a mortal blow upon People and plunged the American youth into the pessimism. Because of the American wars, It was an age that people found “all gods dead, all wars fought, all faith in men shaken” (Out line of U.S. History 211).

Then the Great Depression came in the 1930s however it distorted the image of the American dream, it turned into a nightmare. The defeat in the Vietnam War in 1960s made many Americans doubted the strength of the country. The shortage of some essential resources and dangers of air and water pollution and many problems pointed to a decline in the material abundance that America had enjoyed throughout its history.

Essentially, “the American Dream” is a confident belief as well as an optimistic desire for perfection by means of progress. But by the end of the 20th century, people were not so confident and the belief of the American Dream reached a crossroad. The history and the reality of the United States have proved that the American Dream is to some extent a kind of illusion.

IV- The Concepts of the America Dream

IV-1-The Dream of Good Life (The Puritan Enterprise)

The Puritans were a group of people who grew discontent in the Church of England and worked towards religious, moral and social reforms. The Puritans wanted to leave the Church of England to become pure by getting rid of Catholic practices.

The Puritans did not want to separate entirely from the Church of England; they wanted to make reforms or changes. King Charles I would threaten the Puritans with harsh punishments if they did not obey the Church of England; therefore, they sought freedom in America. The place that later became the United States has been called "the Promise Land". It means principles, hope, and liberty were powerful attractions, and would remain so for subsequent generations who came here from all over the world. (Cullen 16)

Puritan beliefs developed from the teachings of religious reformers, such as John Wycliffe and John Calvin. Wycliffe was a famous professor of philosophy at Oxford University during the 1300's. Calvin was a leader of the Reformation, the religious movement of the 1500's that gave rise to Protestantism. (Cullen 19)

The Puritans believed that the Bible was God's true law, and that it provided a plan for living. Puritans stripped away the traditional trappings and formalities of Christianity which had been slowly building throughout the previous 1500 years. Theirs was an attempt to "purify" the church and their own lives. The Puritans emphasized Bible reading, prayer, and preaching in worship services. They simplified the ritual of the sacraments. They also wanted more personal and fewer prescribed prayers. The Puritans stressed grace, devotion, prayer, and self-examination to achieve religious virtue.

The Puritans received a charter from the Massachusetts Bay Company to settle land in New England. John Winthrop led approximately 1,000 Puritans to America and established the Massachusetts Bay Colony (Cullen 15)

The colonists wanted to base the colony on the laws of God. They believed that God would protect them if they obeyed his laws. Winthrop wanted to make this colony a model for all other colonies to follow. Like the other colonies, the Massachusetts Bay Colony established a government. All men who were church members were able to vote for governor and for

representatives to the General Court. The General Court would then make laws for the good of the colony .Roanoke Island, Jamestown, Plymouth, and Massachusetts Bay Colony were the earliest of the English settlements.

The Doctrine of Predestination kept all Puritans constantly working to do well in this life to be chosen for the next eternal one. God had already chosen who would be in heaven or hell, and each believer had no way of knowing which group they were in. Those who were wealthy were obviously blessed by God and were in good standing with him. The Protestant work ethic was the belief that hard work was an honor to God which would lead to a prosperous reward. Any deviations from the normal way of Puritan life met with strict disapproval and discipline. Since the church elders were also political leaders, any church infraction was also a social one. There was no margin for error.

The Puritans shaped religion, social life, and government in North America to their ideals. Their strong belief in education led them to establish Harvard and Yale as colleges and to require a system of grammar schools in the colonies. The Puritans organized their government according to the teachings that they found in the Bible and on the basis of their English experience.

IV-2 The Dream Charter (The declaration of independence)

The idea of the American Dream is rooted in the United States Declaration of Independence which proclaims that "all men are created equal" and that they are "endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable Rights" including "Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness."(Cullen 38)

The United States Declaration of Independence; is a very important thing in the history of the United States of America. It is a paper which said that the United States is a country not ruled by Great Britain. American people wrote the Declaration in the year

1776. In the 18th century, the United States of America was not a country. It was a colony of Great Britain. This means that the country of Great Britain ruled the United States. All American people had to do what the King of Great Britain said.

In the year 1776, the American people who wanted to make America a country had a meeting. They met in the American city of Philadelphia. During this meeting, on June 11, 1776, they gave an important job to John Adams of Massachusetts, Benjamin Franklin of Pennsylvania, Thomas Jefferson of Virginia, Robert R. Livingston of New York, and Roger Sherman of Connecticut. They wanted them to write a paper that said why America should be a country. The leaders of America would use this paper to declare independence.

Jefferson, who did most of the writing, was a very smart man, his words are important because he explained the democracy of America. Here is a simple version of his words:

Sometimes the people of a country do not want to live in that country any more.

Sometimes these people want to make their land into a new country that is not a part of the old country they lived in before. When people want to do this, they have to say why they want to do it. In this paper, I will say why the people of America want to make a new country. I will say why they do not want to be part of Great Britain any more (Kukla and Kukla 33).

All people are equal .God wants every person to have rights life, freedom, and happiness Sometimes bad people try to take away the rights of other people. The job of the government is to protect their rights. A government is good when it does this. Also, the government must do what the people say, because the people made the government. When it does what the people say, it is called a democracy.

The government of Great Britain did something very bad. The king tried to take away the rights of the American people many times. Because of this, people of the United States of America wants to make a new country. They do not want to be a part of Great Britain anymore. After these words, Thomas Jefferson says all the bad things that the government of Great Britain did. There are many things, for example they put people in jail with no reason, made taxes that were too high, and did not give respect to people who lived in the colony.

After he says this, Thomas Jefferson says that the people of America declare their independence. This means that people of America want to make their land into a new country that is not a part of Great Britain.

The Americans in Philadelphia liked the words of Thomas Jefferson. They used his paper to declare their independence. It was actually declared on July 2, 1776, at the Pennsylvania State House.

They made a new government, a democracy, to rule America. When the king of Great Britain heard about this, he was angry. Great Britain and the United States of America fought in a war. This war is called the American Revolution. America won the war. Because of this, people do not have to listen to the King of Great Britain. They do what they want to do.

They like the Declaration of Independence a lot. Every year on the day of July 4, they have a party. They do this to remember the day that Thomas Jefferson wrote the Declaration, and the day that the United States of America became a country. There are parades, fireworks, and songs. July 4 is the birthday of America.

IV-3 The Dream of Material Success (From rags to rich)

Rags to riches refers to any situation in which a person rises from poverty to wealth, or sometimes from obscurity to fame, in addition to have change of circumstances from being very poor to being very wealthy. This is an exploration of the meaning of the "American Dream," and whether it is defined only in financial terms. The meaning of success is explored (Hochschild 16). Is really money means the American Dream ?

One cannot deny that money and success are important parts of the American Dream. There are many famous examples people move "from rags to riches", and one of those is Bill Gates: He was born 1955 in Seattle, an average boy who was interested in computers, but out of his passion he built a company and is nowadays one of the richest men in the world. The example of Bill Gates shows that even a young boy from nowhere is able to fulfill his dreams and that's because he lives in the U.S where, as the Americans believe, the unreachable becomes possible. One could conclude that it is the belief of getting rich. But moreover it is the chance to have equal opportunities as well as the dream of classlessness where everyone can fulfill his dream (Petechuk par.1).

To understand the American Dream we have to refer to the history. The first immigrants did not have the dream of money when they settled in America. They were refugees who escaped from their strict Government to settle somewhere where they could live freely and without persecution. At this time the American Dream started to grow and it was a dream of liberty, classlessness and equality as the settlers wrote in the Declaration of Independence.

And even today the American Dream is defined as more than just money. James Truslow Adams, the first one who published a definition of the American Dream, describes

it as "a dream of a social order in which each man and each woman should be able to attain to the fullest stature of which they are innately capable, and be recognized by others for what they are, regardless of the fortuitous circumstances of birth or position" (Adams 214-215). There is no mention of money. He describes it as the wish to be one community, where everyone has the same rights and moreover is recognized by the others for what they are, no matter where they come from or which position they have. Furthermore everyone has the same opportunities of attaining something in life according to his ability or achievement.

The American Dream is an important part of the American Community. Believing in the same aims and having the same dream, they feel equal. It does not matter if they are black or white, which job they have because having the same dream let them stick together. To summarize this one can say that the American Dream is on a spiritual level and money has no influence on it.

In regard to the listed arguments, one can conclude that the American Dream is really not just money, but the dream of an Community with an higher spirit and moreover a dream of a classlessness society with equal chances and opportunities for everyone.

In the 19 century, the industrial revolution was one of the greatest forces that developed the American dream. The Industrial Revolution resulted in the creation of hundreds of thousands jobs. The development of big business , the Transcontinental Railroad , and increase in oil production greatly increased in the American standard of living "rags to rich" stories of business tycoons like Andrew Carnegies Jhon .D .Rockefeller led to the belief that if you had talent , intelligence and a willingness to work extremely hard, you were more likely to live a successful life .

Oprah's rags to riches story is probably one that you have heard or know about fairly well. Oprah was born to unwed teenage parents in Mississippi. Once she was born, the two teenagers ended their relationship. Oprah was raised by her grandmother who was poor and wasn't able to give her much, but she did teach Oprah how to read before age three. When Oprah turned six she relocated to the city of Milwaukee to live with her mother. During this time she still didn't have much, but she was doing great academically. Oprah became rebellious and ran away from home, so her mother sent her to live with her father in Tennessee. She continued to be a great student and was able to impress many. She went from a radio host to a news anchor, and then to a television host. Today, she has her own television show and channel, as well as a magazine

IV-4 The Pursuit of Happiness

It basically means that everyone has the freedom to go after the things that make them happy in life. The key word is pursuit. It does not guarantee happiness, just an ability to pursue it. There is no mention of entitlement. The phrase is borrowed from John Locke, who actually wrote "life, liberty, and property" (Wootton 8)

The idea of "life, liberty, and property" comes from Locke, who greatly influenced the Founding Fathers (Fink 22). Locke saw everything as a form of property, as illustrated above, and considered this ownership of one's own life a basic element of any free society. Studies have shown that prosperity is a major source of pleasure. Besides material gain, another source of happiness is marriage, and a poll of Americans indicated that married people, regardless of income, were happier than single people

In composing the Declaration of Independence, Thomas Jefferson understood that it is up to the individual to decide what pursuits will cause him or her happiness. However, the Founding Fathers also understood that government has a responsibility to create a society where one's right to pursue happiness is guaranteed by social and legal protections.

What did Thomas Jefferson have in mind when he penned the phrase, "the pursuit of happiness?" Depending on your beliefs. Happiness means something different to each of them, but in general most people would probably agree that happiness has a lot to do with improving the quality of life at all levels (*Cullen 37*).

The Declaration of Independence emphasis on three basic rights: the rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. The right to life is the only fundamental right, from which all other rights are derived (*Cullen 38*).

The right to life protects the individual's ability which based on the idea that life is the standard of moral value. The right to liberty protects the individual's ability to think and to act on his own judgment. It is based on the idea that rationality is man's highest moral virtue. The right to pursue happiness protects the individual's ability to live for his own sake, rather than for the sake of society. It is based on the idea that the pursuit of one's self-interest is one's highest moral purpose.

You should bear in mind that the right of life means that Man cannot be deprived of his life for the benefit of another man nor of any number of other men .The Right to the Pursuit of Happiness means man's right to live for himself, to choose what constitutes his own private, personal, individual happiness and to work for its achievement, so as long as he respects the same right in others. It means that Man cannot be forced to devote his life to the happiness of another man nor of any number of other men. It means that the

collective cannot decide what is to be the purpose of a man's existence or prescribe his choice of happiness.

The pursuit of happiness is a part of their personal constitution and make up as a living being. It is every human's birthright and it is within every person's possibility to achieve. So we can say that the pursuit of happiness is a journey the Americans take from within; liberty is the freedom that allows them to express them selves; and life is the ship which carries both their happiness and their freedom.

IV-5 The Dream of Equality

Equality is something Americans seek to provide and maintain. It has become an integral and necessary part of their culture. Even now when people think of America, they naturally think of freedom and equality. People of many different races, disabilities and creeds have come to the United States seeking this morality upon which this country was founded. The institutions of this country have relied upon it, just as it was created by the events in order to instill of this moral foundations

The Declaration of Independence was one of the first published works that outlined for what the United State stands. Also, it serves their Personal desires and convictions which show the people's need for equality.

In the first paragraph of the Declaration of Independence, it relates that when a Country chooses to break ties with her government, a justification is called for. The next section suggests the basic human rights that the founding fathers believed every government should respects the human rights ; "that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness"(the Declaration of Independence 1776) . Giving the

citizens these basic rights would allow everyone the chance to achieve above their born status, and to strive for whatever might give them happiness. Though term was yet to be coined, these rights give birth to the American Dream (Cullen 58).

The Declaration of Independence in essence says to England, “we are free men, and potentially a great nation; we will not be restricted and bound by your unjust and inhumane laws any longer.”(Cullen 46).

After the complaints, are the explanations, of how the colonists have answered the unfair actions with protest, and what their response to this treatment shall be. This statement above is an example of the American work ethic. It shows that the colonists were not afraid to go to war and work hard against the British to gain the equality they dreamed of.

The most famous figure in this struggle for equality was Dr. Martin Luther King. He had a dream that one day blacks could have freedom. He believed that all men were created equal. One ideal of American Democracy was expressed in King's words by, "I have a dream that one day my four children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character. I have a dream today." (Cullen 110). King's meaning of that was people must accept each other for who they are on the inside than what they represent on the outside, During the time of this sermon, African-Americans were openly and widely being segregated from Whites, legally in the south, and in a secondary way in northern and western states. Even though this time was after the ruling against segregation

His main goal was to have peace for both whites and blacks. He wanted everyone no matter what color to get along and live among each other instead of being segregated.

His advice was not to judge one another by the color of their skin but by the contents of their characters. Martin Luther King has made a huge impact on the world today. He was a very bright kid and successfully completed three different collages and got three different degrees. He became one of the main leaders in the Civil Rights Movement. Obviously this was very successful since the United State currently has an African American president.

V- The Main Elements of the American Dream

The standard “American Dream” usually consists of ideas such as equality, freedom, individuality, independence, and prosperity; the list goes on. As we said before, these things may be changed or replaced with other qualities according to each individual. The most important "major strands" in the fabric of the American Dream are.

First of all the belief in steady progress towards a perfect society and personal success (Muller 74).Is the dream of a nation in which life should be better and richer and fuller for everyone, with options for each according to capacity or accomplishments.

Concerning the second point which is the belief in democracy as government of the people, by the people and for the people as the exclusives sponsor of liberty and equality: American society is characterized by the emphasis on liberty, equality, fraternity and democracy (Muller 74). Democracy is difficult to define. In a democracy, every citizen has certain basic rights that the state cannot take away from them. These rights are guaranteed under international law.

Voting in elections is another important civil duty of all citizens, But to vote wisely each citizen should listen to the views of the different parties and candidates, and then make his or her own decision on whom to support.

Another element that we should talk about is the idea of the melting pot that in America people of various nationalities, religious beliefs and ethnic origins are forged into something new which is an American (Muller 74)

America is known as a “melting pot” of different cultures. Since the first Europeans landed on American soil, this has been a land of mixed origins. The Spanish originally settled in the southern area. The British, German, Irish, and other Europeans settled in the eastern part of America, and the French settled in the northern area. Because of this diversity, Americans are unique in the fact that the majority of the Americans are descended from more than one race or ethnic group.

The history of immigration to America has greatly shaped America's culture. Instead of having one basic set of customs and beliefs, America has so many that there are no dominant viewpoints. America is like a melting pot in some ways, and a tossed salad in other ways. Each immigrant brings some of his homeland's culture with him, and some parts of his culture will melt with others, and some will stay intact (like all of the different pieces of a salad). The ability to be free made this country into the melting pot it is today and that ability still brings many immigrants who believe in the “American Dream” to the country.

The Americans believe in the idea the manifest destiny in which they considered America has been chosen by God to free the rest of the world from despotism and darkness. (Muller 74). American people are described as being disconnected with any other nation. American national birth meant the beginning of a new history and the separation of the past. The main issue of the text is that America is destined to be the great nation of futurity.

Since the earliest colonial times people had assumed that it was their mission to spread the message of Christianity to this dark and heathen continent. The first Puritans settled in New England had a sense that they were destined by God to establish a religiously, morally, and politically pure nation. Colonists regarded themselves as the "New Israel," and North America was regarded as Canaan - a homeland promised to people by God.

The term Manifest Destiny as it relates to expansionism in the United States related to a widely held belief that that it was the destiny of the United States to expand westward across the American continent in order to spread democracy and liberty, and to provide additional resources and land for the good of the young American republic, so this term was used as a justification for the territorial expansion of the united states. the term was used to defend the Mexican war (1846-48),the Alaska purchase(1876)and the Spanish-American war(1898)all ending in territorial gains for the united states.

Conclusion

The American Dream is to work at something that you enjoy doing and get paid well for doing it. Then, one is successful. If one is interested and happy in the performance of his or her occupation, money will follow naturally.

The American Dream can be described as a belief in freedom that allows all citizens and residents of the United States of America to achieve their goals in life through hard work. Today, in America it generally refers to the idea that one's prosperity depends upon one's own abilities and hard work, not on a rigid class structure, though the meaning of the phrase has changed over America's history. For some, it is the opportunity to achieve more prosperity than they could in their countries of origin; for others, it is the opportunity for their children to grow up with an education and career opportunities; for some, it is the opportunity to be an individual without the constraints imposed by class, caste, race, or ethnicity.

CHAPTER TWO

IMMIGRATION TO AMERICA

Introduction

Four centuries ago immigrants from all over the world fled to the shores of what came to be known later as America. The newcomers craved something to believe in. They hoped that they would survive in the new land and fulfill their dreams. These immigrants came to America for economic opportunity, religious freedom, and justice. In other words, they came with the desire to satisfy a set of dreams they aspired to and wished to realize in America.

So, many times the phrase “melting pot” is used to describe the United States of America. It is a country built on ideals such as freedom of speech, freedom of religion, and other basic human rights. These ideals, though they may have originated from European men labeled as liberals, eventually captured followers from all over the world. Soon, America was a mixture of peoples with different ethnic backgrounds, religions, and cultures all working together for the “American Dream”. In the following pages we talk about the American Immigration and how does it contribute in the building of the new nation.

I- Over View about the American Immigration

Immigration in America can be broken into three waves. The first wave consisted of British Pilgrims looking for a new life where they could practice their religion without contradiction or persecution. The Pilgrims took full advantage of the limited communication between Europe and the New World, and within a short period of time, friends and family members began to migrate to the New World in search of economic opportunity and religious freedom.

The first, and longest, era stretched from the 17th century through the early 19th century. Immigrants came from a range of places, including the German-speaking area of the Palatinate, France (Protestant Huguenots), and the Netherlands. Other immigrants were Jews, also from the Netherlands and from Poland, but most immigrants of this era tended to hail from the British Isles, with English, Scottish, Welsh, and Ulster Irish gravitating toward different colonies and regions (Roger 9). Even during the end of the seventeenth century, there were only approximately 250,000 people in the American colonies. However, all this was to change with a series of big events occurring in Europe that ignited the second wave of migration. (Roger 8)

In the early eighteenth century the Agricultural Revolution evolved into the Industrial Revolution, which resulted in better sanitation and a more urban lifestyle. This also caused the average death rate of England to drop, which resulted in an explosion of population growth. Eventually, there were too many people for the economy of England to employ. The land was so crowded that farming became virtually impossible, Meanwhile America offered high paying jobs.

By the nineteenth century, Western Europeans were coming to America by the million. However, at the end of the Civil War in 1865, migration to America continued at an even faster rate. During the four year war, Northern Europe entered the Industrial Revolution, and like in Western Europe, the population growth increased substantially. For similar economic reasons, Northern Europeans began to migrate to America. Finally, the Industrial Revolution spread to Southern and Eastern Europe in the early twentieth century and they too began to migrate to America.

During the 1920s, America experienced the most immigration in its history. However, when the Great Depression occurred in the 1930s, immigration dropped to almost zero. Immigration remained low until the conclusion of the Second World War. Even after the war very few Europeans migrated to America. Instead, the third wave of migration consisted almost entirely of Asians and Latin Americans in the 1970s, since 1980, Latin America, especially Mexico, has surpassed Asia in immigration to the United States.

Immigration, however, played a key role not only in making America's development possible but also in shaping the basic nature of the society. Its history falls into distinct time periods, each of which involved varying rates of migration from distinctly different places in the world. Each reflected, and also shaped, much about the basic nature of American society and economy.

II- The Reasons of Immigration

People became immigrants for many different reasons. Some hoped to escape poverty or to obtain better jobs, while some simply wanted adventure. Some were fleeing starvation, disease or the ravages of war while others were escaping political or religious

persecution. So, they immigrate to America because they see a possibility of achieving a goal such as economic advancement or attaining a level of political, religious and cultural freedom and security.

Many groups of immigrants have come to the United States to take advantage of **economic opportunities** that either did not exist or were not open to them in their native countries. Economic hardship has been a powerful “push” factor for many groups. During the 1840’s and '50s, potato crops failed in Ireland and the country was devastated by famine and disease. Approximately 1.5 million Irish citizens immigrated to America. (Roger 287)

During a hundred years (1815-1914) Germans went to North America. First from Southern Germany, later from Northern and then from Eastern Germany. 90 percent of Germans went to the USA, was caused mainly by socio-economic problems during the crisis of the transition from an agrarian to an industrial economy.

The Dutch came to America for many of the same reasons as other countries did. Some Dutch citizens came looking for a new home and beginning. And some came to take advantage of new trade opportunities that the new world offered them. Taxes in Holland were high and wages low (Roger 93)

The Italians immigrated to the United States because there was poverty, bad wages, high taxes, and overcrowding. In the north there was a spread of pellagra, which causes them to go insane and then die.

In the 19th century, the population of Europe more than doubled, from some 200 million to more than 400 million, even after about 70 million people had left Europe. Midwestern states such as Minnesota, Wisconsin, Illinois and the Dakotas became home to

thousands of German, Swedish, Norwegian and other northern European immigrants.

(Roger 279)

Between 1880 and 1920, young men from southern European countries immigrated with the intention of earning enough money often to buy farmland in their native countries. Immigration dropped during the Great Depression of the 1930's. (Roger 279), and it was not until the late 1960's that immigrants again began to arrive in large numbers, seeking economic opportunity.

The greatest reason for new immigration was for **employment**. The southern and eastern European nations most new immigrants fled were in dire economic times with high unemployment and limited opportunity the majority of immigrants came as relatives, usually poor and unskilled, and it was very difficult for them to compete in the job market. Only a limited number of these individuals had the strong educational background and skills that were in demand. Between 1965 and 1974, 75,000 foreign-born physicians entered the country in response to an increased demand for medical services.

Newcomers from Asia and Latin America quickly began to outnumber Europeans. Between 1951 and 1965, 53 percent of all immigrants came from Europe and only 6.6 percent from Asia. However, until 1978, Europeans represented only 24 percent of the total, while Asians accounted for 28.4 percent. The Philippines, for instance, sent 6,093 people in 1965 and 41,300 in 1979 (Roger 43).

One idea that gave motivation to many immigrants leaving their homelands for America was the **social mobility** offered by the "rags to riches" American Dream. This popular idea viewed America as the land of opportunity where anyone willing to work hard, save money and be smart could become rich. These notions were reinforced by the

rags to riches, many of which feature industrious immigrants becoming successful by hard work and perseverance.

Another reason is **Religious Freedom**. They came to explore, to make money, to spread and practice their religion freely, and to live on land of their own. The Pilgrims and Puritans came to America to practice religious freedom.

From the earliest days, America attracted people of strong religious beliefs in search of a place where they could live in peace without compromising their faith. Among those first settlers were the English Pilgrims who founded the Plymouth Plantation in Massachusetts in 1620. Ten years later, Puritans established the Massachusetts Bay colony near Boston (Roger 277).

In the 1500s England broke away from the Roman Catholic Church and created a new church called the Church of England. During that time there was a group of people called Separatists that wanted to separate from the Church of England. The Separatists, under the leadership of William Bradford, decided to leave England and start a settlement of their own so that they could practice their religion freely.

In 1630 another group left England in search of religious freedom. This group was called the Puritans. The Puritans wanted to leave the Church of England to become pure by getting rid of Catholic practices. The Puritans did not want to separate entirely from the Church of England; they wanted to make reforms or changes. King Charles I would threaten the Puritans with harsh punishments if they did not obey the Church of England; therefore, they sought freedom in America.

John Winthrop led approximately 1,000 Puritans to America and established the Massachusetts Bay Colony. The colonists wanted to base the colony on the laws of God. They believed that God would protect them if they obeyed his laws. Winthrop wanted to make this colony a model for all other colonies to follow. Like the other colonies, the Massachusetts Bay Colony established a government. Roanoke Island, Jamestown, Plymouth, and Massachusetts Bay Colony were the earliest of the English settlements. They paved the way for future colonies to develop.

Quakers fled persecution and settled in Pennsylvania, escaping laws that established the Anglican Church as the only legal church in England. Thousands of Jews left Russia to escape widespread and systematic religious and social persecution at the end of the 19th century. A second wave of Jews left Germany during the 1930s and '40s to escape persecution and death.

The **Political Freedom** was The main thought that have brought many immigrants to the new world was the idea that free people can govern themselves, that government's powers are derived from the consent of the governed, that each of them is endowed by their Creator with the unalienable rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

The promise of political freedom and fundamental civil rights has also brought many immigrants to America. During the 20th century, many immigrants left Russia and other eastern European countries to escape the political oppression of different communist governments (Roger 185).

Cubans immigrated to the United States during the early 1960's to escape what they felt was political and cultural oppression under the leadership of Fidel Castro.

Hundreds of thousands of Iranians, many from religious minority groups, fled their homeland starting in 1978 rather than face the repression of the newly established fundamentalist Islamic regime (Roger 157).

III- The Place of Settlements

The Spanish, in their search for gold, explored and later settled in Florida, New Mexico and southern California. The Dutch and the English concentrated on the eastern seaboard, and were engaged in foreign trade. The French explored the East, and settled in pockets both north and south. The Swedish and later Norwegians went to the Midwestern, which closely resembled Scandinavia. The Germans liked the Midwest, but also were drawn to the hills of Pennsylvania, as were the Scottish-Irish. They settled in the Deep South as far away from the English as they could get. Blacks were brought to the South as slave labor, where they became the mainstay of an agrarian economy.

A **Spanish** explorer named Ponce de Leon reached Florida in 1513 was the first settlement. He explored this land in the hope of finding a "Fountain of Youth". American Indians had told the explorer that such a fountain existed. According to the tale, anyone who drank from the fountain remained young forever. Ponce de Leon never found the fountain, but he claimed Florida for Spain. (Roger 277)

Father Junipero Serra came to the New World in 1749 to fulfill a childhood dream. His dream was to become a Catholic priest and help the Indians in North America. As a boy in Spain he had heard many stories about these Indians. First Father Serra spent 20 years in Mexico. Then he led the first Spanish settlers to California. At San Diego Father Serra and other priests built a church and a settlement which they called a mission. There priests taught the Indians about Christianity and

Spanish customs. At Father Serra's mission the Indians learned about new ways to farm, breed cattle and build houses.

Father Serra died in 1784. During the next fifty years Spanish priests continued his work. They started twenty one missions along the California coast. At these missions the Indians and Spanish learned to live together as good neighbours.

In 1607, a group of merchants established a permanent English settlement in America at Jamestown, Virginia. The population of Virginia grew steadily to reach 15,000 by 1650 and 60,000 by 1685. (Roger 101)

Yet another important English settlement was established in Massachusetts. In 1630 more than one thousand Puritans, fleeing religious persecution came to the Massachusetts Bay area and built homes in and around Boston.

The first **Germans** arrived in Jamestown in 1608, only a year after the English settlers. Being glassmakers and carpenters, they started manufacturing glass in America, establishing one of the nation's first industrial enterprises.

In 1683, the first permanent settlement of German immigrants was established in America. In 1708, the British government began to encourage Protestants from Germany to settle in the New World. During the next few years, about 13,500 Germans reached England; however, it took nearly six months to transport them to America. (Roger 122)

In 1608, **French** explorers founded the first permanent colony in Quebec. Sixty years later, the French began to expand south. In 1673, the central portion of the Mississippi River to the Gulf of Mexico was explored and the entire territory was named Louisiana in honor of King Louis XIV.

In the 17th century, French immigration to Louisiana was restricted to Roman Catholics. Consequently, French Protestants who wanted to live in America had to settle in the Protestant English colonies. (Roger 116)

The first Dutch arrived in America in 1609, but it was not until 1624 that 30 families came from Holland to establish a settlement that became known as New Netherland (Roger 93).

The **Dutch** government gave exclusive trading rights to the Dutch West India Company. During the next few years others arrived and a large colony was established on Manhattan Island. In 1664 the Dutch were forced to allow the English to take control of the territory and New Amsterdam became New York.

In 1638, in 1638, the **Swedish** government established a colony at Christina in Delaware Bay. The Swedes became involved in the fur and tobacco trades that eventually brought them into conflict with the Dutch and English settlers. The era of New Sweden ended in 1655 when the colony was lost to the Dutch. The original settlers remained and kept up their language and culture for many years (Roger 85).

The arrival of **African** slaves in 1619 is significant in this context as the first and only directly forced immigration of people to North America. For the next 200 years more than 390,000 Africans were brought into the country under the most inhuman conditions. The plantations in the South needed cheap labor to work in the sugar, tobacco, and cotton fields and African slaves fulfilled this demand (Roger 22).

The **Jews** settled the new world In order to avoid religious persecutions, millions of Jewish immigrants arrived along with the third wave of immigrants between 1881 and 1920. A century later, hundreds of their descendants had crossed the Atlantic Ocean to

establish a new Dutch colony in Brazil where Jewish communal life was possible (Roger 173).

In 1654, the first Jews from Brazil arrived at New Amsterdam. In 1655, more Jews arrived from Holland. In colonial times, they settled along the Atlantic coast and in several southern states. During the 17th century; however, Rhode Island was the only New England colony that allowed a permanent Jewish community.

IV- The Common Values of the American Immigration

IV-1 Religious Aspect “City upon a Hill”

The story of the Puritans is much bigger than we have been told. These people have been the leading lights of America since the time of the early English Colonies. And the settlement of the New World is a history we have heard much about. The Puritans were a People who caused others sit up and listen. They were bound and determined to make an impact in their generation. Their dreams and their goals were both individual and national.

In 1629 a group of Puritans, who were being prosecuted in England, came to form a colony called Massachusetts Bay Colony. “We shall be as a City Upon a Hill” (Walker 1); Puritan Leader, John Winthrop ,was one of those early English Puritans who set sail for the New World. He was a wealthy landowner who provided valuable leadership in the early days of the Massachusetts Bay Colony. He served as governor this colony

Winthrop and the colonists believed that they were there because of a calling from God. Looked at Massachusetts Bay Colony as a city that would be a role model for all the other colonies.

He said that ‘‘ we must Consider that we shall be as a City upon a Hill, the eyes of all people are upon us’’ (Walker 2).The phrase was used as a metaphor to demonstrate that the Puritans regarded themselves as a "new Israel," repeating the biblical story of Exodus by establishing a "City on the Hill" in a "new Canaan" , they compared themselves as a Jews that they are selected by god to show everyone else how to live in the way that God wanted ;Winthrop also told his followers to follow the laws of God and warned them not to be selfish and if they did God would bless the nation and it would multiply in size. The term was used to justify the U.S. annexation of Oregon, New Mexico, and California and later U.S. involvement in Alaska, Hawaii, and the Philippines. So, he used this Old Testament concept of being a ‘‘chosen people’’.

We do not always mean it in a religious sense anymore. Now it can just be an example of how to have a good government or something like that. The colonists attempted to follow his dream and create a community that corresponded with the footsteps of Puritan Society, which attempted to purify their connection with God and sought to maintain perfect order in their society.

Without looking beyond the underlying facts, the result perfectly matched the "City upon a Hill" vision, which strived for national perfection, and seemed to be a smashing success. This newly established colony paved the road for the creation of America that the world watched with amazement as it immensely grew over the years

The concept means that the U.S is a world leader which has an obligation to be the best country on earth, the U.S is metaphorically a country on top of a hill, thus, all other countries are somewhere below; depending on how different they are from the U.S. The concept of "city upon a hill" has drastic influence on almost anything that was ever done by the U.S, be it the civil war, or Vietnam, or even Iraq today. The idea is that the U.S has

an obligation as a world leader, to protect the world from "evil" such as communism, and even terrorism, and therefore, bring all other countries closer to that "hill".

We should notice that the American Dream of Winthrop comes true. Today the eyes of all people are truly upon the Americans and their government, in every branch, at every level, national, State and local.

IV-2 Political Aspect “A Democratic Utopia”

The main reason of the Declaration of Independence was to explain the Americans view of the purpose of government. If you read the text of the Declaration, you will see that the signers believed that all men were created equal by God, and that they possessed certain unalienable rights. This means that God gives mankind certain rights when each one is born. Among these rights are "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness."(Armitage 27).

Sometimes though, there are people and events in life that try to take away these rights. So, men create governments in order to secure or protect their rights. The government derives its power from the consent of the governed. It means that the people who are being ruled over have a right to choose how their government functions. If the government tries to do things without the people's consent, then that would be unjust. Notice that the signers did not think that a government, such as that of Great Britain, had the right to tell people what to do, or to dictate to people how they should live. Nor did they believe that a government existed for supplying people's needs or solely for the building up of its own self. They believed that governments should be allowed to exist only to protect their God given rights.

The Declaration also says that if ever "any form of government becomes destructive of these ends; it is the right of the people to alter or to abolish it, and to institute New Government."(Armitage 27).This means that if a government starts doing things that destroy people's rights, rather than protecting their rights, it is their right to change or destroy that form of government, and to institute a new one that will protect their rights.

The Declaration goes on to list a great many violations of the trust that the people of the thirteen colonies had with the King of Great Britain. The members of the Continental Congress listed all of these grievances to prove to their fellow Americans, to the population of Great Britain, to the King himself, and to the entire world, that they were justified in breaking away from this unjust government that was not protecting their God given human rights, but was instead, actively working to destroy the very rights it was supposed to be protecting.

IV- 3 Democracies and Melting Pot

America is called the melting pot because there are people from everywhere around the world, they have different cultures, and customs, but when they come to America, they are one, one nation. America has been named the melting pot of the world. It houses many different cultures, nationalities, ideas and religions. There are Christians, Jews, Catholics, Buddhists, Mormons, Hindus, Spiritualists, Jehovah's Witnesses, Islamic, plus many more.

America is unique in that all these religions are represented in a nation that is only 200 years old. America has upheld, throughout history, that the freedom and equality of religion is extremely important in this nation to function as a free nation. The foundations of America were set as a result of England's persecution; more specifically, England's

religious persecution. The colonists wanted to create a nation that allowed people to be free. They desired to speak what they wanted to speak, do what they wanted to do, and practice what they wanted to practice without the government watching their every move. The makers of the Declaration of Independence stated many of the Dream's political assumptions. The main principles are as follows:

First of all ,“That all men are equal and that they are endowed with unalienable rights, including life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness” (Muller 63) which means that freedom is a natural right ,is given by god, Freedom of thought, word, religion and opportunity in a democratic environment free of oppression and prejudice.

Then , “That governments are instituted to secure these rights and that they derive their just powers from the consent of the governed.” (Muller 63).It means to be tolerant of others, having the good fortune to live in a country which was created to protect the individual's freedom.

Finally, “That it is the Right of the People to alter or abolish it, and to institute a new government should it become destructive of these ends’ (Muller 63). It means to be able to express their opinions without being persecuted, the right to vote, the right to hold office and to speak up when they feel the government is not governing in the best interest of the people.

These principles were of course neither new nor of American origin, but it was the very first time in history that Locke's doctrine of natural rights had been translated into political terms as a foundation for government. This added a political dimension to the American Dream.

The Bill of Rights was accepted as part of the US Constitution in 1791. Remember that only a few years before, the Americans had fought a costly and bloody war against the tyranny of Britain's government. They fought the Revolutionary War because they believed their natural, God given rights were being trampled on by Great Britain. If you remember reading the Declaration of Independence, one of the statements of this documents said that if a government was unjust, it was the duty of the people to throw off that government and form a new one, which is exactly what they did.

The Bill of Rights provided for basic individual liberties, such as freedom of religion, press, speech, and assembly. The Constitution, and the Bill of Rights, they represent a breakthrough in the development of democratic ideas. To many Europeans suffering under the rule of absolutist monarchists such words must have seemed like a dream come true, like "heaven on earth".

America's goal was "nothing less than to establish a democratic utopia of liberty, prosperity, and public virtue," and this utopia would be open to all mankind. Often Utopia An ideally perfect place, especially in its social, political, and moral aspects.

IV-4 Manifest Destiny and Frontier

Manifest Destiny was a concept which heavily influenced American policy in the 1800s. The idea was the driving force behind the rapid expansion of America into the West from the East, and it was heavily promoted in newspapers, posters, and through other mediums. While Manifest Destiny was not itself an official government policy, it led to the passage of legislation such as the Homestead Act, which encouraged Westward colonization and territorial acquisition. It also played an important role in American thought.

Manifest Destiny was a phrase which invoked the idea of divine sanction for the territorial expansion of the United States. It first appeared in print in 1845, in the July-August issue of the United States Magazine and Democratic Review by the editor John L. O'Sullivan, proclaimed that ;"our manifest destiny to overspread the continent allotted by Providence for the free development of our multiplying millions."(Leland 12).

According to O'Sullivan, it is the fulfillment of our manifest destiny to overspread the continent allotted by providence for the free development of out Yearly multiplying millions. He applied to the annexation of Texas. O'sullivan was the opinion that the United States should not limit its territorial expansion, and since the historians have discussed whether 'Manifest Destiny' was only a cover for imperialism. The policy of extending a nation's authority by territorial acquisition or, by the establishment of economic and political hegemony over other nations.

The term 'Manifest Destiny' was used by the Americans as a justification for the territorial expansion of the United States. the term was used to defend the Mexican War (1846-48),the Alaska Purchase (1867)and the Spanish American war (1898),all ending in territorial gains for the United States.

Even today America's international policy and its role as the world's policeman seems to fit in the 'Manifest Destiny ' ideology ,interfering everywhere in the world and over spreading the globe with the American way of life .as every place on earth is populated and American expansion would result war, America's new frontier is the Space.

V- The Common Values of the American Society

The United States is a great and strong country made up of about three million populations. Americans usually defined as citizens of the United States. However, it is hard to distinguish as they are without a common heritage, ethnicity, Therefore Americans should be precisely defined through their common characteristics. It is the characteristics that distinguish them from other people around the world by its equality, goals, and the pursuit of happiness.

In the United States, the diversity of racial, ethnic, cultural, and religious groups is greater than in any other nation on earth. That diversity is also called pluralism and it is one of the country's strengths Accepting diversity was the only practical choice, In spite of diversity, people share a common set of values that make them American, give them their identity. There are five basic values that have become traditional American values.

Freedom means being allowed to worship freely. Their nation has welcomed people from around the world, and they tell no one how to worship. In fact, they have welcomed those persecuted for their faith. The right to speak practices your own religion and the right of others to do the same.

It means the right to have the freedom to be able to believe what you wish to believe, say what you want to say, and do what you want to do. To have a less corrupt government. To be able to criticize the government without being threatened and to be able to think and say whatever you like without worrying that your thoughts won't get you into trouble (Freedom par.7)

Equality of opportunity does not mean that everyone is or should be equal, but that each individual should have an equal chance for success. For the Americans, Everybody

should have an equal chance to enter the race and win, that the race for success is a fair one. Equal opportunities means being fair, reasonable and just in all service activities. It means treating people as individuals with different skills and abilities, without making judgments based on stereotypes. These characteristics include sex, age, race, sexuality, disability, pregnancy, or marital status (Equality par.3)

Democracy is to live without persecution, to be able to express your opinion without fear, and to participate in the government and issues that face their nation in which being responsible for your freedom by staying abreast of the issues voting and participating in government from the local to the national levels; to be a responsible citizen includes integrity, voting, taking an interest in politics in which they participate in local and federal elections, and stay informed of the policies both foreign and domestic of the federal government (Democracy par.6).

The Self-Reliance value is often called individualism, but the Americans prefer the word freedom is the desire and the right of all individuals to control their own destiny without outside interference from the government or any other organized authority.

The price to be paid for that is; self-reliance “we must rely on ourselves or risk losing freedom; we must “stand on our own two feet” examples of self-reliance. Americans view themselves as highly individualistic in their thoughts and actions. Individualism leads to privacy, which Americans see as desirable (Hart and Leininger par.1).

In addition Material Wealth and Hard Work is another value which represents the American society. The immigrants went to the United States in order to have a better life, and to raise their standard of living. The country was abundant in natural resources and it was a land of plenty where millions of people could come and seek their fortunes, make

their dreams of prosperity come true.

The phrase “going from rags to riches” became a slogan for the “American Dream.” People who achieved material success became very attached to material things, to their property. This is how material wealth became a value of the Americans. This does not mean that the Americans are materialistic. It is just that material wealth is a measure of their social status. It is a substitute for judging social status.

In the American mind, change is seen as good quality, leading to development, improvement, progress. Many older, more traditional cultures consider change disruptive and destructive; they value stability, continuity, tradition, and ancient heritage - none of which are considered very important in the United States.

Americans believe that competition brings out the best in any individual and in any system. This value is reflected in the American economic system of free enterprise, and it is applied in the U.S. in all areas - medicine, the arts, education, and sports.

VI- The Legacy of the American Culture

The United States is both an old country and a new country. American values have developed over several centuries, affecting successive waves of immigrants. The trend continues: old ways blending with new ideas.

The Puritans were members of a religious and social movement of the 1500's and 1600's. The movement began in England and spread to America where it greatly influenced social, political, and religious institutions.

The Puritans emphasized Bible reading, prayer, and preaching in worship services. They simplified the ritual of the sacraments. They also wanted more personal and fewer prescribed prayers. The Puritans stressed grace, devotion, prayer, and self-examination to achieve religious virtue (Johnson 37).

The Puritans shaped religion, social life, and government in North America to their ideals. Their strong belief in education led them to establish Harvard and Yale as colleges and to require a system of grammar schools in the colonies. The Puritans organized their government according to the teachings that they found in the Bible and on the basis of their English experience.

Puritan influence also shaped political and social institutions in England and the American Colonies. In England, the Puritan Revolution led to a greater emphasis on limited or constitutional monarchy, in which a constitution, legislature, or both limit the power of a ruler. The Puritans' belief in government by contract from the governed influenced the development of American democratic principles. The term puritan has also come to describe moral attitudes and values that characterize modern movements for rapid social change that require discipline and hard work.

Enlightenment thinkers from the 1600's like John Locke, Montesquieu, Rousseau and Voltaire have had a great impact on the American government and their political philosophy. The ideas of the enlightenment writers discussed below were read by the intellectual elite of the colonies and spread to all. They were heavily influenced by these writers, particularly Locke. (Holmes 40)

John Locke, His writings became the basis for the Declaration of Independence, he played attention to this values which are; the Natural Rights, consent of the governed, Life,

liberty and property. Later it was changed to "pursuit of happiness" by Jefferson. In addition Right to Rebel

He wrote about the natural rights of Life Liberty and Property. He also wrote that government was created by consent of the governed in order to protect these natural rights. If the government did not protect these rights he said that people had the right to rebel and dissolve the government. This was the philosophical justification of the American Revolution.

We have another figure of enlightenment Voltaire. His writings became the basis of the 1st Amendment and Freedom of Speech. Voltaire once wrote: "I may disagree with what you say, but I will defend till death your right to say it." This famous quote was widely read and believed which means Liberty to express opinions and ideas without hindrance, and especially without fear of punishment from the government. (Holmes 40)

Baron de Montesqueau influenced the Americans. His writings became the framework of the American constitution, the separation of powers, checks and balances, and it divided the government into three branches.

He wrote about a Separation of powers and checks and balances that would divide government into three branches in order to prevent one branch of government from getting too powerful. Revolutionary ideas like those of John Adams, Thomas Jefferson and Thomas Paine created a nation out of rebellion. Dissent is the very basis of this nation, it is their heritage. The founding fathers were those political leaders who were part of the American Revolution and the founding of the new nation after independence was won. There were many more than ten founders that had a huge impact on the American Revolution, like Thomas Jefferson, Benjamin Franklin, and John Adams.

VII - The Evolution of the American Dream

With so many different ideas regarding the American Dream out there today, it is definitely helpful to look back to the founding of this country to see what was originally meant by this term.

Today instant wealth seems to be the meaning of the American Dream to many people. This is made apparent by the rise of television shows like "Who Wants to Be a Millionaire"(Warshauer par.6) and the success of the lottery. People love the idea of getting rich fast. However, this was not always seen a part of the "Dream."

In the past, it was hard work and thriftiness that was emphasized by the early founding fathers. Industry was the key to wealth and the "Dream" was all about having the opportunity to build wealth, to prosper, and to have equal opportunity for advancement through their financial gain. Later the "rags to riches" idea became a big part of The American Dream to many people this was the idea that hard work could help anyone to achieve wealth in life (Warshauer par.3).It was not until after the Second World War that people began to shift their desires towards materialism, which has been fed by marketing efforts through the years (Warshauer par.4).

The meaning of the American Dream is not about what you own. It is not about home ownership. In reality, the deep meaning of this term is about having the ability to create your own future.

Unfortunately, in pursuit of the American Dream, many people have lost the real meaning of the American Dream. Many people think they can achieve it by owning more cars, having a nice home, or by having more material goods. The skewed perception of the "Dream" leads to home loans, car loans, and huge amounts of credit card debt.

Conclusion

The American Dream began as a search for ideals; in the late 18th century, it took the form of a fight for democracy. With the Westward movement The American Dream took another direction and became openly associated with a search for wealth. In the early decades of the 20th century, the American Dream became a quest for a new material and a luxurious life.

The definition of the American Dream is highly individual and most people have a different concept of it, but in general it can be defined as the freedom to reach one's goal and the ability to rise to fame and prosperity if one works hard enough for it. However, in a society of unemployment, immigration and poverty can the American Dream actually come true or will it always remain a dream. Many Americans have lost their faith in the concept of the American Dream especially in the Great Depression.

CHAPTER THREE

THE AMERICAN DREAM FROM THE

DREAM TO THE NIGHTMARE

Introduction

The term “American Dream” is used in a number of ways, but essentially it is an idea which suggests that all people can succeed through hard work, and all of them have the potential to live happy, and have successful lives. Many people have expanded upon or refined the definition of the American Dream, and this concept has also been subject to a fair amount of criticism. Many people believe that the structure of American society belies the idealistic goal of the American Dream, pointing to examples of inequality rooted in class, race, and ethnic origin which suggest that the American Dream is not attainable for all.

The idea of an American Dream is older than the United States, dating back to the 1600s, when people began to come up with all sorts of hopes and aspirations for the new and largely unexplored continent. Many of these dreams focused on owning land and establishing prosperous businesses which would theoretically generate happiness, and some people also incorporated ideals of religious freedom into their American Dreams. During the Great Depression, several people wrote about the American Dream, codifying the concept and entrenching it in American society. The Great Depression greatly impacted the American family. The effects included the structure, finances and employment of the family unit.

In the following chapter we very briefly outline how the American Dream turned into nightmare, and do still people believe in it or no?

I- American Dreams, American Nightmares

America in the late Sixties did not look like the "shining city upon a hill" the Puritans had envisioned. The American Dream had in almost all respects turned into an American Nightmare". The Dream had suffered a major setback during the Great Depression. Since then the economy appeared to have recovered, but despite the prosperous fifties poverty had persisted throughout the United States. (Muller 78)

In 1968, a few months after King's assassination, a black student leader told Democratic candidate Hubert Humphrey that «I don't believe in the American Dream, be-cause the American Dream doesn't believe in me. The American Dream for the black man is nothing more than a nightmare."(Muller 86)

It was not just blacks that were excluded from the American Dream. Red Indians lived in reservations, deprived of their land; Ever since their first contact with white immigrants American Indians had commented upon the incomprehensible way the White Man treated nature. the poisoning of the waters, and the pollution of the air to name but a few catchwords had finally brought the message home that progress was about to turn paradise into a waste land. Chicano farm workers were fighting for their rights; and Chinese and Japanese well remembered the Chinese Exclusion Act or the relocation camps after Pearl Harbor.

The ideal of America as a melting pot for all races, as the forge for a new and more perfect kind of human being was for the first time consciously repudiated by a significant part of the population.

The ideal of steady progress towards a perfect society was contradicted by almost everything that happened in the Sixties. Furthermore, the belief in technical progress had resulted in the rape of natural resources and had turned into a serious menace threatening not only the Dream but also the dreamers. President Johnson wrote in a special message to Congress that «the water we drink, the food we eat, the very air we breathe, are threatened with pollution."(Muller 90). Instead of progressing towards perfection society seemed to be heading towards disaster. Polarization of

American society was in full swing and the nation was in desperate need of an integrating personality. The war in Vietnam also served as a catalyst to domestic conflicts and offered "the key to a systematic criticism of America."

I-1- The Crises of The American Dream

Historical accounts of the Sixties describe the period as "Years of Discord", "The Lost Consensus", "Into the Maelstrom", or simply as "Coming Apart" a quick glance at the already mentioned discrepancies between the grand promises of the Dream and the unpleasantly conspicuous shortcomings of its reality (Muller 84).

The ideal of steady progress towards a perfect society was contradicted by almost everything that happened in the Sixties. Instead of progressing towards perfection society seemed to be heading towards disaster. By October 1967 only 44 percent of the American public still supported the American involvement in the war and opposition was growing. On April 4, Martin Luther King was assassinated. Riots broke out in more than a hundred cities. On June 6, Robert Kennedy was shot (Muller 92). Within only two months two of the most needed men had been killed, two important symbols of hope and unity in America had been destroyed by violence. One of Nixon's first major acts as president was "Operation Breakfast": the bombing of Cambodia, which at the time was a neutral country.

Being threatened by impeachment, Nixon resigned on August 8, 1974. The president of the United States had continuously and consciously lied to his own people. The American nightmare forms some kind of opposite to the American Dream. Some Americans feel betrayed by the promises of the American Dream. For example, they think they have not had a fair chance to fulfill their own American Dream, because of their skin color, their race, their religion or their origin. A special example for the American Nightmare is the war in Vietnam. Many Americans particularly the soldiers who fought in Vietnam believed in fighting for the

Freedom and democracy their own country represented. Sometimes people can not manage to live the American Dream, even though they have worked hard for it. Thus the American Dream can not be fulfilled in some cases and turns out into the American Nightmare.

The post-war period in America generally is portrayed as an idyll, a time of consensus. Historians like Hofstadter, Hartz and Boorstin described the American past "as a homogenized culture without significant class, ethnic, or racial conflict" and among social scientists such terms as "disharmony, disequilibrium, maladjustment, disorganization" were considered "bad things". (Muller 78).

However, the seeds for disharmony were already sown. As the 1950s drew toward their close, a mood of dissatisfaction began to spread and during the 1960s took hold of almost every aspect of the American Dream. The Dream had suffered a major setback during the Great Depression

I-2- The Nature of Crises

"The American Dream' is a cliché, symbolic of the Dream defunct". (Muller 94). According to this theory we can understand that the American Dream came during a period and it started to disappear with time in addition it was a result of many crises .the Great Depression was the most effective one ." This observation led Muller to the central question of his study: "What was the American Dream and how did it evolve into a nightmare?".One of the major problems that led to this change is the Great Depression

I-2-1 The Great Depression

Statistics such as the unemployment rate tell only part of the story of the Great Depression. More important was the impact that it had on people's lives: the Depression brought hardship, homelessness, Poverty, Destruction of families Farm losses and hunger to millions.(Greenberg 19)

In cities across the country, people lost their jobs, were evicted from their homes and ended up in the streets. Some slept in parks, wrapping themselves in newspapers to fend off the cold. Others built makeshift shacks out of scrap materials.

Conditions for African Americans and Latinos were especially difficult. Their unemployment rates were higher, and they were the lowest paid. They also dealt with increasing racial violence from unemployed whites competing for the same jobs. Twenty four African Americans died by lynching in 1933. Latinos mainly Mexicans and Mexican Americans (Greenberg 21). Living in the Southwest were also targets. Whites demanded that Latinos be deported, or expelled from the country, even though many had been born in America. By the late 1930s, hundreds of thousands of people of Mexican descent relocated to Mexico. Some left voluntarily; others were deported by the federal government.

Many surveys found unemployment rates among blacks to be 30 to 50 percent higher than among whites. Discrimination was undoubtedly one factor: examples abound of black workers being laid off to make room for white workers. Yet another important factor was the preponderance of black workers in industries such as automobiles that experienced the greatest reductions in employment. And the migration of blacks to northern industrial centers during the 1920s may have left them especially prone to seniority-based layoffs. (Burg 22)

Life in rural areas was hard, but it did have one advantage over city life: most farmers could grow food for their families. With falling prices and rising debt, though, thousands of farmers lost their land. Between 1929 and 1932, about 400,000 farms were lost. Many farmers turned to tenant farming and barely scraped out a living (Greenberg 22).

In the face of the suffering caused by the Great Depression, the family stood as a source of strength for most Americans. Although some people feared that hard time would undermine moral values, those fears were largely unfounded. In general, Americans believed in traditional values and emphasized the importance of family unity. At a time when money was tight, many families entertained themselves by staying at home and playing board games, such as Monopoly invented in 1933, and listening to the radio. Nevertheless, the economic difficulties of the Great Depression put severe pressure on family life. Making ends meet was a daily struggle, and, in some cases, families broke apart under the strain. (Burg 17)

Many men had difficulty coping with unemployment because they were accustomed to working and supporting their families. Every day, they would set out to walk the streets in search of jobs. Some men became so discouraged that they simply stopped trying. Some even abandoned their families (Burg 18).

Women worked hard to help their families survive adversity during the Great Depression. Many women canned food and sewed clothes. They also carefully managed household budgets. Many women also worked outside the home, though they usually received less money than men did. As the Depression wore on, however, working women became the targets of enormous resentment. Many people believed that women, especially married women, had no right to work when there were men who were unemployed.(Burg 27)

In the early 1930s, some cities refused to hire married women as schoolteachers. Many Americans assumed that women were having an easier time than men during the Great Depression because few were seen begging or standing in bread lines. As a matter of fact, many women were starving to death in cold attics and rooming houses. As one writer pointed out, women were often too ashamed to reveal their hardship (Burg 28).

The American Great Depression of the 1920s and 1930s left several effects on children of all ages. The unemployment rate had skyrocketed and peaked at figures exceeding the 12-million mark. This forced many poor families to send their children to work in order to meet their financial obligations. Many children of the Great Depression were malnourished and ill, as their families could not afford necessary medical care. Many children were sent to live with relatives, and yet others were left abandoned or orphaned.(What were the effects on the Children of the Great Depression par 1)

The Depression left deep emotional scars on the American psyche. The stock market crash destroyed the nation's feeling of invincibility and left its people anxious and guilt-ridden. For a decade, the Depression defined life in the United States, leaving an imprint on the nation that remains apparent at the beginning of the twenty-first century. Whenever the economy sputters, as with the late 1990s dot-com fallout and subsequent recession, many people are gripped by fears of another Great Depression. (PSYCHOLOGICAL IMPACT OF THE GREAT DEPRESSION par 7)

The stock market crash on October 24, 1929 brought about the ensuing Great Depression, which caused a number of changes and chaos in the American society in the thirties. The Depression changed people's values and beliefs The American Dream has turned into a nightmare. What was once the land of hope and optimism had become the land of despair.

I-2-2 The Racial Discrimination

The racial discrimination towards ethnic minorities during the twenties is another crisis of the American dream can also be seen in the job opportunities available to them. Blacks, Mexicans, and the recent immigrants clustered as the bottom of the wage scale (Simpson and Yinger 37).

During the 1920's various groups of ethnic minorities were discriminated against through the act of segregation. Most commonly associated with Blacks, who were separated from whites in most public areas including trains, parks and even cemeteries, also extended to

other minority groups. Orientals living in America were compelled to attend segregated schools.

Jews continued to be discriminated against in the twenties. They were casually excluded from large parts of American society. Attempts to restrict Jewish admission to law school began in the twenties, arising from resentment of their success in various careers. We can say that the 1920's were marked considerably by racial tensions between the ethnic minorities and those who upheld white Anglo-Saxon values. (Simpson and Yinger 14)

So, we can suggest that the crisis of the American Dream is of historical rather than structural nature. The solution suggested by this point of view necessarily has a conservative tendency. It tries to preserve the values and ideals underlying the Dream in their true form and does not question their integrity. The nightmare is believed to be merely a dream gone wrong.

II- The Achievement of the American Dream

Since the term "American Dream" was introduced by James Truslow Adams in the 1930s, it has probably been one of the most widely spread terms in the U.S. The definition of the American Dream is highly individual and most people have a different concept of it.

In the course of the American history again and again people have tried to rise from "rags to riches," meaning they have tried to rise from extreme poverty to wealth. Most people failed, but there are still those who have not and who will probably always be the role models for those that are still trying to reach their personal American Dream. They became for example famous film stars, journalists, singers, writers, rich businessmen, or successful politicians. So, the achievement of the American dream is undoubtedly depends

upon one's definition of the dream ,and there are many form to choose from the old days to the present time.

John Winthrop was a prominent early Puritan minister. He was one of 20,000 who came to America between 1620 and 1640.he set sail with the puritans from England with a dream (Twichell par 1).Their nation should be a guiding light. It would be an example for the hole world. John Winthrop spoke of a 'city upon a hill' which means to show everyone else how to live in the way that God wanted and it will be an example for all other people, where everyone else can see them and whether they follow God and prosper or defy him and fail as a society . It is not only associated to religious sense. Now it can just be an example of how to have a good government or something like that. This was the puritan vision for America, and it continues to this day. The first people who pursued the American dream were the English in the 17th and 18th century. They called America the land of plenty, opportunity and destiny. Later, they created the colonies, the states and the image of today's America. we think that they proved it as an ideal society which attract many immigrants to immigrate to the new world.(Twichell par.2)

Benjamin Franklin, one of the most important people of the new American Dream Benjamin Franklin is an American hero because he accomplished much in his long lifetime. He was a successful printer and writer. He is also credited with the discovery of electricity, He was also a brilliant inventor, and he started many establishments that exist today. Franklin was most famous for his witty and wise sayings.

In the Autobiography, Benjamin Franklin achieved his goal by being able to express himself and his ideas freely. By expressing himself in the mode he felt was ideal, Franklin followed a similar cause that his Puritan ancestors came to America to accomplish .(Benjamin Franklin par.3)

Franklin traveled extensively across America's East coast to start his private printing house, a circulating library, newspaper along with various other accomplishments that someone of Franklin's background would not have been allowed to do in England because of the King might have considered it spreading mutinous propaganda. We will be arguing that Franklin attained the American dream because his *Autobiography* achieved its goal of being an open and liberal text that future generations of Americans would follow. The American dream can therefore be defined in Jeffersonian terms as life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Franklin's classification of the American dream implied an ideal that everyone had the chance to achieve the Jeffersonian ideal of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. For Franklin, the American dream was possible for anyone who had the willingness to work hard and honestly. Franklin's estimation, anyone who would abide by this maxim would either achieve success or be emulated for their effort. (Benjamin Franklin par.4)

Franklin was also a civil leader and politician. When disputes between Britain and the colonies arose, Franklin helped the colonies win their freedom. He helped to draft the Declaration of Independence. He was also sent to France to help convince them to help the colonies. After America won independence, Franklin became the only person to sign both the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution. He was not only a scientist, but a printer, a civil leader, and a founding father of the America Dream. He remains, to this day, the most famous citizen of Philadelphia (Benjamin Franklin par.5).

The greatest explanation of the American dream is Martin Luther King He was born during a time when black people did not have the rights which they have today. M.L., as he was called, first experienced racial discrimination when their white neighbors refused to let him play with their boys. This was hard for him to understand because the boys had grown up as neighbors and had played together for years.

Dr. King speech; ‘I Have a Dream’. Is more like a testimony of truth, rather than a speech.(Bryan par.5) At the time of his speech African Americans were not free, while the Declaration of Independence states claimed that all men are created equal. Dr. King’s movement established the way for the idea that there is an American dream. The idea that somebody can be anything they would like to be. He was awesome. He stood up for his rights, and the rights of thousands, during the Civil Rights Movement. He started at the bottom, as low as every other African American at that time. But through prosperity, knowledge, and a big heart, he was able to break free of that and accomplish great things. This idea is still relevant now in America. Americans pursue their dream everyday by having the opportunity to attend college, and work. Americans take these opportunities for granted, while other parts of the world make it their life time goal to get here. This is one of his passages from his famous speech:

“I say to you today my friends, so even we face

The difficulties of today and tomorrow, I still have a dream

It is a dream deeply rooted in the American Dream

I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up ,

Live out the true meaning of its creed:

‘we hold these truths to be self evident ,that all men

Are created equal’’ (dream 2532)

In this passage dr.king counters his dark description with bright promise for the future, basing his promise on his belief in the American Dream .

After watching king perform ‘‘I have a dream ‘’on live television, President Kennedy commented ‘‘he’s damn good’’.(Bryan par.7).thus’ ‘‘I have a dream’’ is good not only because king was skillful orator but also, perhaps more important, because king speaks with the power and persuasion of tradition, voices, and ideas familiar to him and to African American.

One very good example of the American Dream is Andrew Carnegie, the founder of what is known as U.S. Steel. Carnegie was born in Scotland to a poor family. As a teen, he emigrated from Scotland to the United States. He was portrayed as a hard working individual who was very intelligent and disciplined. He took it upon himself to read and learn as much as he could (Andrew Carnegie par.1)

Carnegie's first job was a telegraph messenger boy, and later upgraded to work for the Pennsylvania Railroad Company as a telegraph operator. His persevering work allowed him to quickly advance through the company, and he became the superintendent of the Pittsburgh Division. He continued making investments and made good profits throughout the civil war, and finally left Pennsylvania Railroad and started his own iron companies, eventually Keystone Bridge Works and Union Ironworks. (Andrew Carnegie par.2)

Carnegie saw how bad the wooden railroads were, so he proceeded to slowly replace them with iron ones. Carnegie's charm, perception, and hard work led to becoming one of the world's most famous men of the time, and led to the first corporation in the world with a market capitalization in excess of one billion when he sold his companies to John Morgan who called them United States Steel Corporation. (Andrew Carnegie par.3)

The rise from the poor boy in Scotland to the second richest man in America. He had plenty of initiative and persevered throughout his life to become what he wanted to be. He retired as one of the most respected men in the world, and he will be in the history

books forever. He was polite, educated, wealthy, intelligent, respected, and perceptive.

Andrew Carnegie lived the American Dream.

This still holds true today, as many immigrants come to the United States for better, more successful life. This is what the states were founded upon, and, hopefully, will never die. Life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Overcoming all obstacles, becoming someone no one else is. Everyone dreams of the American Dream

Elvis is a national sensation, a legend, an amazing person in history, and he probably always will be recognized for his work. He introduced Rock N Roll to America and that is something America will always praise him for. He changed America's way of life. He opened people's minds to new ideas and thoughts. He will never be forgotten and will always be a legend in American History.

Elvis Presley, for example, wanted to succeed by simply providing for his loved ones, and he just happened to stumble across stardom. His American was like everyone else's. He wanted to succeed, be happy, and in return, make those around him pleased and proud of his work (Evans par.7)

Oprah Winfrey is one of the best examples of the American Dream. She overcame poverty and abuse to become one of the most influential people in the country. She was born on January 29, 1954 in Kosciusko, Mississippi - USA, At a young age Winfrey's parents separated and sent her to live with grandparents in very poor surroundings until the age of 6 when she moved to live with her mother. She was consequently sexually molested by male relatives at a young age and endured the hardship up until she was 14 when Winfrey moved to live with her father in Nashville Tennessee.(Winfrey, Oprah par.5)

Her father's high standards inspired her to aim for and achieve more from life. Winfrey became involved in several groups and pursued her interests in media and journalism while at University. Even though her early years in life were filled with hardship, she was always gifted with intelligence and she graduated as an honors student.

Oprah Winfrey's career in the media industry began as a news anchor and reporter for a television station in Nashville (although she also worked in radio during high school as a newscaster). She was the first black African American woman television news anchor to work in Nashville on the WTVF-TV station at the young age of 19.(Winfrey , Oprah par.6)

. Winfrey never felt comfortable in her position as a news anchor and only began to enjoy her work when she was moved to the early morning talk show "*People are Talking*" at WJZ-TV in Baltimore where she was able to be herself and express her own opinions and share her true feelings about topics that moved her.

Winfrey's career really began to take off after moving to Chicago in 1984 to host "*AM Chicago*", an early morning talk show at WLS-TV's. It went on to become the number one ranked talk show shortly after she started and it was renamed "The Oprah Winfrey Show" after one year.(Winfrey , Oprah par.7)

The Oprah Winfrey Show went on to become one of the most successful and highest ranked television talk show programs in history. The program is viewed by more than 20 million Americans (USA) every week and broadcast internationally to more than one hundred countries worldwide. Winfrey's production company "Harpo Productions, Inc" produces the program and she is the host.

"What material success does is provide you with the ability to concentrate on other things that really matter. And that is being able to make a difference, not only in your own life, but in other people's lives." Oprah Winfrey.(Winfrey, Oprah par.8)

Oprah Winfrey continues to follow her dreams through her many business and media interests. She is one of the wealthiest women in the United States of America and is regularly placed high up on the Forbes magazine Rich List each year. Winfrey continues to influence and inspire people worldwide with her example of overcoming great odds to achieve great success financially, spiritually and socially (Winfrey, Oprah par 9)

Barack Obama created history by being the first African-American to be elected as President of the United States of America. This will forever be a turning point in black history. Many achievements and advances have been made, especially where colored people are concerned in America. Today, we see that some of the richest people in the world are actually African-Americans. Concurrently, we have seen that determination, hard-work and integrity can propel a man, of any race or color, to one of the most revered positions in the world (Obama, Barack par.5).

He is well loved by the people of America, be they white or black or any other race. Obama did not speak of black consciousness, or of revenge for the racial ill-treatment blacks had faced for years. Obama spoke of equality, of equity, and of integrity. In this light Barack Obama represented a catalyst of change and that is what America longed for. That is what Dr. King dreamed of.

These examples show that it is not impossible to rise from "a dishwasher to a millionaire." Nevertheless, those examples are not the rule and the vast majority of Americans or emigrants trying to find their American dream in the United.

In spite of it, the American dream might still have its positive aspects. It could serve as an ideal for many people and keep them from giving up hope of reaching their personal goal and the examples of those who were able to achieve it are encouraging to others who are still trying to.

III - The Minorities and the American Dream

America is the land of opportunity. If you work hard enough, you can be whatever you want to be. If you truly want something, you can get it. You will work hard and grow up to be whatever it is that makes them happy this notion portrays the American Dream. In which it represents the belief of the most Americans. At some point in their childhood, but now they seem almost comical.

Today, the notion of the 'American Dream' stretches far beyond the idea of political and religious freedom to a more economically base. The United States has increasingly become a consumer based society, so the idea of success is now measured by material wealth a white picket fenced house in the suburbs complete with car, dog and two children. The American Dream is still alive, but only in the minds of those citizens who have the resources to fulfill the definition of success, namely, material wealth

Early immigrants have left an indelible mark on American cities and society, from the Italians in New York, the Scandinavian farmers of Wisconsin and the Mid-West, to the more recent waves of immigrants from Asia on the West Coast. All came to pursue the dream and entered the great melting pot in the desire to become a successful American. (Doak 70)

The United States has a history of racial tension and violence that has prevented certain minority groups, especially blacks, from reaching the American Dream. More recently, opposition to immigration has been rising as economic success has become harder for many to achieve, immigrants have been seen as reducing the already shrinking portion of the Dream available. Although American society generally has become more tolerant of racial differences, the population as a whole is permanently divided into three main groups in all official wording - black, white and Hispanic. Blacks and Hispanics continue to face a harder road to success and achievement of the American Dream than most whites. (Doak 71)

In *The Legacy*, the 'Dream' as Martin Luther King saw it was that all people would be treated equally regardless of race, religion, or sex. He dreamed that his four children would not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character. He waited for the day they could walk down the street and hold hands with a child of a different race. This part of King's dream, in theory at least, has come true. Segregation by race has been outlawed.

In reality, whites and blacks still lead separate lives. In cities and towns, affluent areas are mainly white, poor areas black or Hispanic. The two rarely mix. The American Dream seems a little more difficult to attain when the American dreaming is a member of a minority group living in poverty. This is not to say that the dream of success and money Yes, we said success and money, they are not the same thing is unattainable for certain people. It is just incredibly more difficult to achieve when one is faced with certain obstacles that others do not have to overcome.

The truth about American society is not pretty, and the facts prove it. According to the United States census Bureau, blacks are twice as likely to be poor compared to other

racess, and eight times as likely to be imprisoned. Blacks are also three times more likely to be convicted of drug violations than whites. Only 75 percent of blacks have received post-high school education, compared to 85 percent of whites. Not surprisingly, blacks on average also make less money than whites (Doak 75).

A lack of quality public education and uncertainty over financial security top the list of barriers to the American Dream. Caucasian (27%) and Hispanic (29%) adults cite poor quality of education as the main barrier, with African-Americans more likely to report racial or ethnic discrimination as the main obstacle (28%) (Doak 76).

In *Hoop Dreams*, the two young basketball players were both attempting to fulfill the criteria of the American Dream. The only way for them to get out of the ghetto, move their families out of poverty and receive a decent education was through basketball. To be selected for a college team meant a chance at the NBA and, therefore, a chance at life. When one boy is not selected you see the heartache in his eyes and the fear that his Dream may not be fulfilled .The Dream that is envisioned by the decaying inner-urban areas of the US undoubtedly differs in perception from the Dream of the American Heartland.

Latino immigrants come from Mexico, Central America, South America, and islands in the Caribbean. A few of the motivating factors that bring Hispanic immigrants to the United States include a lack of resources and opportunities in their home countries, abuses of their government, extreme poverty, and even the search for adventure. Each individual might have different circumstances leading to his/her immigration to the United States, but most immigrants have the same general purpose—to make better lives for themselves and their families.(Doak 73).

Hispanic immigrants work very hard to succeed in their pecuniary dream quest. To “make it here” is very important to U.S. Latinos. Many came to the U.S. leaving behind

their family, their friends, their land, and their culture. Coming here was a sacrifice. They endured that sacrifice in order to financially live a better life and, most importantly, to provide a better life for their children. In fact, most often when Latino parents are asked about their personal goals and ambitions they answer by saying that everything they do is for the purpose of providing a better life for their children. This tendency of self sacrifice is especially prevalent in the Hispanic female. (Doak 72)

While Hispanics work very hard to achieve their American dream, many find it very difficult on their families. In many cases, it is the Latino male who arrives in the U.S. first. Their original thinking is to make enough money to return to their families. Hispanic incomes are relatively low for a variety of reasons including language barriers and discrimination in the work place. However lack of educational attainment is a major reason for low Hispanic incomes. (Doak 72)

Latinos try to succeed by working very hard. The men often have two jobs and find it difficult to spend quality time with their families. They often leave most of the child rearing responsibilities to their wives. While the traditional Hispanic mother always stayed at home and contentedly bore most of these responsibilities, the new Latina immigrant finds herself with very little time to raise her children. Latinas often complain that life in the U.S. is too fast and stressful, and that they lack the large support network of family and friends that exists in their homeland. They also see themselves forced to work out of the house, or motivated by the American culture to pursue a career of their own. In trying to do it all, their children end up suffering. The parents cannot do it all and supervise the children appropriately.

Asian Americans have done remarkably well in achieving "the American Dream" of getting a good education, working at a good job, and earning a good living. The

Americans see the Asian Americans as a model minority"; a bright, shining example of hard work and patience whose example other minority

In a recent study done by MetLife on the American Dream, more Asian Americans were the most optimistic in their responses than any other ethnic group. Almost half (47%) of Asian Americans believe that their personal situation will improve in 2010 over 2009 versus 35% of the general population. In the study, 34% of Asian Americans believe that they have attained the American Dream. (Doak 74).

Asian Americans have the highest college degree attainment rate, rates of having an advanced degree (professional or Ph.D.), median family income, being in the labor force, rate of working in a "high skill" occupation (executive, professional, technical, or upper management), and median Socioeconomic Index (SEI) score that measures occupational prestige. Yes, in these categories, Asians even outperform Whites. Asian Americans seem to have done so well that magazines such as *Newsweek* and respected television shows such as *60 Minutes* proclaim us to be the "model minority." Asian-Americans tend to have higher incomes than comparable non Hispanic white (Doak 74).

Asian Americans had overcome past instances of prejudice and discrimination without resorting to political or violent confrontations with Whites. Further, their success should serve as an example for other racial/ethnic minority groups to follow in their own quest to overcome barriers in their way to achieving the American dream.

The Arab immigration to the U.S. started in the late nineteenth century and lasted until World War II and that the second wave started from World War II and continues until our present date.

After the tragic event of 9/11 the American Dream for the Arabs is an Arab American nightmare, hate crimes and discrimination against Arab Americans have been steadily decreasing, but the number of violent crimes against Arab Americans remains higher than before 9/11, according to a new report by the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC) released on December .

According to the report, Arab Americans still face discrimination in the media, in schools and workplaces, at airports, and during border crossings into the United States. State and local police misconduct, such as racial profiling and unlawful detention of Arab Americans Eight years after the terrorist attacks in New York City and Washington, Americans believe that Muslims face more discrimination than any other religious group in the US.

IV- The American Dream Between Reality and Myth

The American Dream is different for everyone, though it is most commonly associated with success, freedom, and happiness. The concept of the American Dream seems to have dwindled from where it was in the past few generations. It has gone from success, freedom, and happiness to having lots of money and the nicest possessions.

The American Dream from the very beginning was the driving motif of many people to migrate to the USA from different parts of the world in search of better life. It was also an idea fixed by the majority of American population. For many it became true for others it led to complete failure. So, we would like to find out whether the American Dream is a reality or a myth.

IV-1 A Lack of Quality Public Education

A lack of quality public education and uncertainty over financial security top the list of barriers to the American Dream. Caucasian (27%) and Hispanic (29%) adults cite poor quality of education as the main barrier, with African-Americans more likely to report racial or ethnic discrimination as the main obstacle (28%).(Longley par.5)

In fact, many of the opponents of the American Dream consider that the USA fails to provide necessary conditions for people to realize their American Dream. It is enough for the person in the US to obtain a highly paid position simply on the basis of the personal characteristics and diligence.

All employers want to see people with college or university degree on their high paying positions jobs. In its turn, higher education is obtained not for free and costs from 10, 000 up to 40, and 000 per year at some prestigious colleges. (Longley par.6),and since the population is growing, many children need a school to get an education, so they raise the price of schools and some of that extra money to add on new classrooms, bigger cafeterias, as a result the parents who most desperately want their children to go to school, would pay more. So, without a good education, young people do not have a chance of getting a well-paid job. As there is no standard school system for everyone, but a system of expensive private schools for the economical prosperous and system of state financed schools that lack resources and quality teaching, it is obvious that the children of the poorer start out their career with lower chances for a good future.

IV-2 High Standard of Living

Many who see the American Dream as being able to do financially better than their parents may get disappointing results. The original vision behind the American Dream was

that each generation would be more successful than their parents. However, many Americans claim that they are far behind where their parents were in past generations.

Overall the American Dream is a myth. Many things in the United States are not as affordable as they once were, especially housing prices. The gap between the rich and the poor is continuously growing in the United States, meaning that the rich people are becoming wealthier and the poor are becoming less wealthy. Also people from other countries do not see America as the land of opportunity, because of the “safety net” and where Europe is now becoming a better place for opportunities. (Brewer par.3)

In the past the American Dream was more probable that people would achieve it. Over time the prices went up in America. Like housing prices, gas prices, oil prices, School, College prices... ect. For example oil is becoming harder to find so people tend to raise the price. This also goes for gas and gasoline.(Brewer par.4)

IV-3 Poverty and Low Income

In the United States, disparities between rich and poor have risen sharply. Low-income individuals are increasingly unlikely to escape from their economic position of poverty.

The existence of poverty in America is a complex situation and so are the solutions necessary to correct it. Huge campaign contributions from large corporations and wealthy individuals dominate politics, economics, and social policies in this country (Louth par.3).

The needs of the poor are not on the agendas of these individuals. Because of those in power, there are conservative government policies that undermine helping the disadvantaged and pad the pockets of the privileged. The various debates on whether the

official measure of poverty is correct are stupid and does not change this fact: America has forgotten about a certain segment of people based on their economic background.

Some have argued that the rate economic growth has been insufficient to eliminate poverty, whereas others maintain that the cause is because of an unequal distribution of income. Some see the poor as lacking the skills or the will to escape their condition; others see the economy as dependent upon the poor to provide a low-wage labor force for various industries. This lack of agreement has long been characteristic of public disagreement about poverty. As long as American society is one of conflict between the classes, nothing will change. (Louth par.4)

America's economic system is flawed as there is unequal distribution of its wealth. When we examine where America's wealth lies we see that it certainly not in filling the bellies of countless hungry babies in this country. The wealth is filling the pockets of the rich.

Truly, the American Dream has become a myth. America's prices are going up. The rich are indeed becoming richer and the poor are becoming poorer. And people have started to forget the American Dream and look up to the European Dream. The American dream is not but almost is lost (Genius par.3).

Certainly, the U.S. has world-beating companies, vast manufacturing industries, and a giant services sector, which produced a national income of \$14 trillion last year. Yet it owes almost five times that in government promises to its own citizens in terms of education, healthcare and retirement-linked benefits. That is \$67 trillion, a figure that has ballooned from \$29 trillion in 2000 (Louth par.11).

IV-4 Employment

The economy's effect on job loss has been so monumental, that a large percentage of America is unemployed. In Texas alone, 6.0 percent of Workers are unemployed.

The state with the highest unemployment rate .Unemployment equals no salary. To some, no salary means no American Dream. The government is also to blame here; they have not sent an American Dream aide to America in a very long time. 70 percent of Americans believe that the Government is one thing stopping them from achieving the American Dream. In previous generations, the government has helped the people achieve their dreams, but they are not now. If the government would help the people, the American Dream could be achieved more often. 50 percent of Americans feel the American Dream is unattainable for them. Most Americans believe the American Dream will be even harder for the next generation to achieve (Heather par.5).

IV-5 Public Opinion about the American Dream

According to a survey released by the National League of Cities (NLC) in 2004; is a Survey about the view of the American People about the America Dream(Longley par.3) .Although Americans remain optimistic, significant numbers of older Americans, women, single parents, minorities and blue-collar workers believe the American Dream is out of their reach. Adults living in urban cities (39%) are more likely to believe than suburbanites (19%) that where they live has affected their ability to achieve the American Dream .(Longley par.4)

- Fifty-three percent of African-Americans said they are not living the American Dream; 36% of Hispanics and 32% of Caucasians have the same view.

- Almost twice as many single parents (52%) as married parents (27%) report they are not living the American Dream.
- More than half of renters (52%) and 28% of home owners find they are not living the American Dream.
- Democrats (79%) and Independents (75%) are more likely to say the American Dream is harder for young families to achieve than Republicans (56%).

A solid majority of all Americans (72%) believe that the government should actively work to help people achieve the American Dream. This is particularly true of young people (90% of 18 to 22-year-olds agree). But almost half (45%) believe the government has done more to hinder their pursuit of the American Dream than help, up from 34% in 2001. Eighty-five percent say that local, state and federal government must work together to give people a fair shot at achieving the American Dream.(Longley par.5)

“The poll shows that while Americans believe the government should play a role in helping them achieve the American Dream, they are skeptical about whether the government can actually get the job done,” Lyons said. “This is an alarming finding that shows the need to work together at all levels of government and across party lines to ensure hope, fairness and opportunity.” (Longley par.6)

V- The Foreigners and the American Dream

The American Dream is often cited by immigrants in the U S as a primary motive in their coming to America. The American Dream conveys certain values and principles like freedom, justice and economic opportunities, along with a promise of a certain measure of lifestyle that is appealing.

About 88,000 foreigners arrive in the United States on a typical day. Most are welcomed at airports and borders, and most do not intend to stay in the United States. 82,000 non immigrant foreigners per day come to the United States as tourists, business visitors, students, and foreign workers. Another 2,200 arrivals are immigrants and refugees, persons that the United States has invited to join American society as permanent residents. The other 4,100 are unauthorized or illegal foreigners—some enter legally as tourists and then stay in the United States, but most enter the country unlawfully by eluding border patrol agents or using false documents to circumvent border inspectors.(Tichenor 20).

Continued immigration constantly reshapes the demography, economy, and society of the United States. As a country of immigrants, America must respond to three fundamental immigration questions: how many immigrants should be admitted; from where and in what status should they arrive; and how should the rules governing the system be enforced?

The three fundamental immigration questions; how many, from where, and in what status newcomers should arrive raise, difficult considerations with no easy answers. More foreigners want to immigrate to the United States than Americans seem willing to accept. U.S. immigration policy has historically passed through three major phases: laissez-faire or few limits on arrivals; qualitative restrictions, which did not limit the number of immigrant arrivals but excluded certain types of persons, such as communists and Chinese; and quantitative restrictions, which included numerical limits as well as qualitative restrictions (Tichenor 47).

During its first hundred years, the United States had a laissez-faire or open borders policy that allowed immigrants into the United States without restriction. At the time of the

American Revolution, most colonists wanted more immigrants to help develop North America. For example, federal and state governments encouraged immigration through railroad and canal construction subsidies because the companies that built the railroads and canals needed to hire laborers, who were most easily found in Ireland and Germany. Federal and state militias enlisted foreigners immigrants represented a third of the regular soldiers in the U.S. army in the 1840s. (Tichenor 47).

Immigrants were generally welcomed in the late 1700s and early 1800s. Although there were fears, especially in the Federalist Party, that immigrants might alter the culture and customs of the United States, the match between Europeans seeking opportunity and an America in need of people left the immigration door wide open. The Naturalization Act of 1790 established the principle that an immigrant could acquire citizenship relatively easily. Between 1783 and 1820, an estimated 250,000 immigrants came to America (Tichenor 48).

During the 1980s and 1990s, the U.S. Congress responded to growing gaps between immigration policy and immigration reality by making major changes in immigration laws and their administration. In 1986, the United States enacted the world's largest legalization program for unauthorized foreigners and introduced sanctions on employers who knowingly hired illegal foreign workers. Instead of slowing illegal immigration, however, this program allowed more foreigners to arrive legally and illegally, which prompted another round of reforms in 1996 aimed at ensuring that new arrivals would not receive welfare payments (Tichenor 249).

It is 8:48 a.m. on September 11, 2001, and the world is about to change forever. Whatever Americans may be expecting from this cloudless, sunny day, they are surely not prepared for the terror, anguish, and horror as American Airlines flight 11 slams into the north

tower of the World Trade Center in lower Manhattan. This crash is followed shortly by a second jetliner, United Airlines flight 175, hitting the south tower. These assaults kill nearly 3,000 passengers, workers, rescuers, and bystanders. The attack on the Pentagon and the crash of United flight 93 in rural Shanksville, Pennsylvania, add to the death toll. Amidst the confusion and chaos, anger and tears, rumor blooms.(Gary and Bill 21)

President George W. Bush declared war on terrorists and the countries that harbor them, and Congress enacted legislation to fight terrorism. This includes new measures for tightening procedures for issuing visas to foreign visitors, tracking foreign students and visitors while they are in the United States, and giving immigration authorities new power to arrest and detain foreigners suspected of ties to terrorism. The Immigration and Naturalization Service was abolished, and its functions of preventing illegal immigration and providing services to foreign visitors and immigrants were separated in the new Department of Homeland Security.(Gary and Bill 21)

take U.S. jobs and cause unemployment among the displaced American workers. Recently, there has been a clamor by some politicians and citizens toward creating a predominantly closed-door policy on immigration, arguing that immigrants "threaten" American life by creating unemployment by taking jobs from American workers, using much-needed social services, and encroaching on the "American way of life." A common argument among those opposing further immigration is that foreigners

Recently Obama has just signed a law that raises Visa costs by 7 times for companies that choose to hire foreigners instead of American citizens, from \$320 to \$2320 for H-1B Visa.(Is Obama Killing the American Dream? Par.1). In a world where globalization is increasing and outsourcing is a more efficient way for companies to survive and provide growth for their own countries, this is an idea that stabs into the heart of the American

Dream .Obama is intentionally slowing down the US economy by forcing companies to hire American citizens that require a hire pay, for jobs that can be done for much less by a foreigner.(Is Obama Killing the American Dream? Par.2)

You might notice something is happening when foreigners take the low paying jobs. The country's economy grows because of the expansion of those companies that hire mostly foreigners, the consumers (all Americans) benefit from the much lower prices of the products and services offered by those companies, and perhaps the most confusing benefit: it allows for more qualified "American" citizens to start focusing on better kind of jobs and better paid ones. It makes them lose interest in the more physical jobs, and gives them the opportunity to even dream up their own businesses, and hire that cheap labor to take their business off the ground. With cheaper and cheaper labor for simple tasks, it enables more people to take advantage of that cheap labor.

Conclusion

The American dream is more difficult for today's generation to achieve than for previous ones. With the current state of the economy and the failing stock market, the American Dream is harder to achieve today. Most of Americans feel the economy is the number one issue stopping them from achieving the American Dream. If the economy doesn't start to improve, many Americans may start to believe the American Dream is not achievable. If the economy does improve, the view of the American Dream may change.

Immigrants are part of the American Dream. America is a beacon of hope and freedom to the world there are many positive effects that the American Dream has such immigrant origins, to the United States. Americans have a higher standard of living, that's why immigrants come to the United States to have freedom, self-expression, and also to have a better standard of living as well

Immigration has been both a boon and a curse for the United States. While on the one hand, the country has seen its rich culture and civilization being shaped out by talented, ambitious, and hard-working people from around the world, but on the other hand Americans are increasingly concerned about immigration. A growing number believe that immigrants are a burden to the country, taking jobs and housing and creating strains on the health care system. Many people also worry about the cultural impact of the expanding number of newcomers in the U.S.

GENERAL CONCLUSION

GENERAL CONCLUSION

The American Dream is for people to have freedom and to ease life. The ability to be free made this country into the melting pot it is today and that ability still brings many immigrants who believe in the “American Dream” to the country. Today freedom is often overlooked because, all of them are use to it, but in many countries freedom is just the “American Dream”. The ability to say what you feel and protest injustice is imperative and should not be overlook as part of the “American Dream”. Freedom is a reality because people believe in the “American Dream”. So, the American Dream gives the American people their rights. It lets everybody live in peace without those really harsh times. It gives people options and let's people express themselves.

Actually the current state of the economy and the failing stock market makes the American Dream so harder to achieve today. Because, most of Americans feel the economy is the number one issue stopping them from achieving the American Dream. If the economy does not start to improve, many Americans may start to believe that the American Dream is not achievable. If the economy does improve, the view of people may change. If the government would help them, the American Dream could be achieved more often.

The “American Dream” can be interpreted in many ways. It is also different according to each individual. It has been changed from time to time and will continue changing as the people living it change.

After the Revolution, Americans followed the American Dream and succeeded to a large extent. Because, there was a high demand for labor wages were for the most part relatively

high in the United States, land was available for the establishment of farms and the American economy was prospering.

For the Americans who achieved the American Dream, the dream became less important. Once a measure of wealth was achieved, the need for hard work and advancement was less important; the first generation worked hard and raised themselves from poverty. The second lived on the interest from what the first generation had earned, and did not work as hard. The third generation consumed the principle and the family was starting again from the bottom.

America was known as a nation of immigrants but today the new element in the attack on the immigrants created a major problem facing the U.S. Hundreds of thousands of immigrants flock to this country every year. Some legally, others illegally. Some are escaping from religious and political oppression while others come to seek out the "American Dream". Either way they are causing nationwide problems. Non-English speaking workers take jobs away from American.

The American Dream is an American value up till now people of the world dream to go to America it is still a land of opportunity.

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