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American Democracy Between Dream And Reality

*An extended essay submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirement for a
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DEDICATION

To everyone who knows me, had faith in me and most of

All believed in the person I am destined to be.

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ABSTRACT

Democracy and respect for human rights have long been central components of United State foreign policy. Supporting democracy not only promotes such fundamental American values as religious freedom and worker rights, but also helps create a more secure, stable, and prosperous global arena in which the United States can advance its national interests. In addition, democracy is the one national interest that helps to secure all the others. Democratically governed nations are more likely to secure the peace, deter aggression, expand open markets, promote economic development, protect American citizens, combat international terrorism and crime, uphold human and worker rights, avoid humanitarian crises and refugee flows, improve the global environment, and protect human health. The present dissertation looks into the attitude of the American democracy Between Dream and Reality. I would like to deal with this topic to show in brief how was the rise of American Democracy with it's different major events and decisions. And how did America delt with what is called « the American Dream ».

General Introduction

GENERAL INTRODUCTION

For the historical backdrop from claiming American civilization, there need been a struffle between equality and liberty. These ideas were thick, as diligent should attain for New England, America succeeded on planting the confidence about vote based system for the landing of the ardor of the old their bible based soul including those enthusiasm of the old confirmation to Equity and the Christian purposeful anecdote of adoration. For reality, between 1620 Furthermore 1700, popular government might have been appreciated by the affluent kin who misled poor people Americans by appearing with make their spokesmen same time they reveled in feasting for the nobles. Then afterward the civil-war and the reconstruction, those purely equitable men who were loyal with their ancestors, extended the utilization of law based convictions of the quiet nationals to guarantee their vicinity What's more privileges similarly as people.

The concept democracy has two (2) meanings; the main is the association of nothing protected legislature with spare people's diversions. The second may be the libertarian framework over which every last one of kin are rise to and the social equity may be a reason of the legislature.

So is democracy practiced between citizens as it was adopted by the puritans or is it just a utopian word used to run private interests at the expense of the people's wishes?

-How was the growth of American Democracy?

- Does the American Dream make the United Stat as an exceptional nation?

This work deals with "The American Democracy between dream and reality" as a concept. It is divided under two chapters. In the primary chapter, it starts with Examining the Different conceptions for popular government a result there needed been no concurred upon over its intending. Then, notice the root and the start of majority rules system in the United States Likewise an arrangement about governmental issues and the values from claiming majority rules system as a set from claiming convictions.

The second chapter deals with the American dream in general and the three main principles of the American constitution particularly.

Chapter one

The growth of American democracy

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The roots of democracy in the UNITED STATES
- 1.2 The characteristics of life in the 13 colonies
- 1.3 The birth of American democracy

2. The American Branches

- 2.1 Legislative institution
- 2.2 Executive institution
- 2.3 Judiciary institution

3. The American constitution

- 3.1 The American checks and balances
 - 3.1.1. Some examples of checks and balances
- 3.2 The American bill of rights

4. CONCLUSION

1. INTRODUCTION

After their arrival in America the settlers promised to build and protect it.

They succeeded to establish a set of beliefs, and settle justice on this sacred Land.

When they gained their self-independence, they came to setup a government based on democracy which represented goals.

One of the main goals of democracy is to settle equality between the citizens. But the extension of the democratic faith, representation spread in the nation and the British control was abolished. As a result, life in the United States has improved after the opening of the South and providing jobs for both men and women.

1.1. The Roots of Democracy in the UNITED STATES:

While studying the history of America, we distinguish that the roots of democracy extended from the settlement of Virginia. At that time, democracy was unknown until 1606, when Virginia was chosen as the first plantation in new England.

AT the same year, the « **Royal charter** » for the Virginia Corporation was adopted. This document stated that each colony shall have a council which governs but under the king's province,

“...that each of the said colonies shall have a council, which shall govern and order all Matters and Causes, which shall arise, grow, or happen, to or within the same several colonies, according to such Laws, ordinances, and instructions, as shall be, in that behalf, given and signed with our hand or sign Manual, and pass under the Privy Seal of our Realm of England; Each of which councils shall consist of thirteen Persons, to be ordained, made and removed, In time to time...”¹

¹The Royal Charter—The Beards' New Basic History of the United States. (Doubleday and company, INC. 1968). P 487.

The fact to get a council for each colony is one aspect of democracy in America

After that, in 1619, Virginia was chosen as a representative assembly consisting of representatives from each colony. It was the first time that a mother country got a representative government. Even Robert Laeour – Gayet declared in his book that American democracy was born in Virginia.

In 1620, the pilgrims wrote a great document known as "**the May flower Compact**". They came from Europe to plant the first colony and build a new nation on democratic basis.

"... a voyage to plant the first colony in the northern parts of Virginia. do by these presents solemnly and mutually in the presence of God, and one of another convenient and combine ourselves together into a civil body politics, for our better ordering and preservation and furtherance of the ends aforesaid; and by virtue hear of to enact, constitute, and frame such just and equal laws, ordinances, acts, constitutions and offices from time to time, as shall he thought most meet and convenient for the general good of the colony, into which we promise all due submission and obedience"¹.

In the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, two major events played an important role in the growth of democratic attitudes.

First, the beheading of Charles I in England in 1649, and the execution of the king Louis XVI and queen Mary Antoinette of France, in 1793. Second, the French Revolution abolished aristocratic titles, and the American constitution provides that no title of nobility shall be granted in the. United States.

¹The May flower compact – The Beard's New Basic history of the United States. (Doubleday and company, INC. 1968) p 490.

1.2. The Characteristics of Life in the 13 Colonies:

The atmosphere of life in the colonies was characterized by a different spirit than the one that existed in England.

The settlers came for many reasons and their major goal was neither economic, nor religious, but certain amount independence. Although they were three thousand miles away from the king, they remained loyal to the crown. They were willing to pay their taxes, and refused the king's intrusion in every day affairs.

As a result, it was the spirit of democracy. On the one hand, freedom of religion existed in the colonies. It was promoted by **Roger Williams and William Penn**.

Likewise, they established a town hall meeting where the citizens could discuss the manners of law. Elected legislatures existed in the society. Moreover the colonists were ready to govern themselves. The most oppressive characteristics is the « **May flower compact** » which showed that the government came from the will of the people.

On the other hand, slavery was an undemocratic figure of that society. Then, indentured servitude was another unfair fact of life. Furthermore, the colonies were ruled by the king until the revolution which offered freedom to the Americans.

1.3. The Birth of the American Democracy:

Previously, the word democracy was used by a group of persons belonging to the Revolutionary generation of the eighteenth century as a means to run their political and social programs.

After the abolition of the British control, legislatures became very powerful in all the states representing a positive tendency in the direction of democracy.

During the Revolution, the word "democracy" was unused. It did not appear neither in the Declaration of Independence, nor in the first state constitutions nor in the constitution of the United States.

Even **Thomas Jefferson** didn't use the term in any of his messages or addresses, because he believed that the government by a simple majority—even of farmers — could be as despotic as a one man tyranny.

Democracy spread rapidly especially after the opening of the French revolution in 1789. After the American Revolution which took place in 1793, local societies were organized in every state in order to carry on politics and education. There were forty _ two societies which called themselves “**Democratic**” —“**Republican**”, fifteen called themselves “**Democratic**” societies, and the others selected the term “**Republican**”.

There were two well-organized parties held in the congress and each did its -best to improve its interests. Then, the Anti-Federalist party held local conventions and chose the name that corresponded to them. Some of them called themselves “**Republicans**”, others selected the name “**Democratic-Republican**”, and the rest called themselves Democratic. However, there were no official names of the parties.

In 1840, the national convention spoke of "**cardinal principles in the democratic faith**". In 1844, it was ready to declare the party to be «**The American Democracy**», the democratic party of this union.¹

In a very short time, the democratic ideas began to spread in the nation. There was more equality in wealth and social conditions. After the adoption of the constitution, the new states gained the right to vote. However, the Senators and Representatives increased in the congress. There was more chance to apply the aspects of democracy in the daily life.

All the Americans agreed that democracy appeared in the ideal time to help people realize their liberty and prosperity.

¹<http://www.history.com>

2. The American Branches:

The Constitution of the United States divides the federal government into three branches to ensure a central government in which no individual or group gains too much control:

- 1- Legislative – Makes laws (Congress)
- 2- Executive – Carries out laws (President, Vice President, Cabinet)
- 3- Judicial – Evaluates laws (Supreme Court and Other Courts)

2.1. Legislative Institution:

Congress is the legislative branch of the government of the United State which is divided into structures, a house of representatives and a senate, and these structures are jointly assigned “all legislative powers” in the national government.

The founders expected congress on a chance to be those predominant limbs of the national administration. In the early 1800s, James Monroe, the fifth what's to come for U.S Encountered with urban decay because of deindustrialization, engineering concocted, government lodgi president, said, “The entirety framework from claiming national legislature Perhaps said should rest basically in forces allowed to (the legislative) limb. To fact, congress might have been that focal point for administration until the force of the presidency started to build in the twentieth century.

However, from those starting the authors additionally felt that it might have been significant should hold some control over the forces for congress. Similarly as a result, that constitution particularly enumerates ten things, a percentage from claiming them no more relevant, that congress might not would. "Around different prohibitions, congress can't pasquinade laws that retroactively make a wrongdoing of the thing that might have been legitimate when committed, and the congress can't expense interstate business. For addition, that bill of rights forbids congress starting with abridging privileges held by people.

2.2. Executive Institution:

The United States' office of presidents is one of the most powerful in the world.

The president according to the constitution must “take care that the laws be faithfully executed”. With this responsibility, he presides over the official extension of the central government.

The president also, as much as the vice president, is chosen by the electors of all states of the United States; both serve four-year terms. In spite of the fact that the president appoints members of the executive branch and the Judiciary, he or she is the majority capable and most powerful officeholder in the country. Furthermore, the president need not have a majority in Congress, yet all the proposals he or she makes become law. Concerning international relations, the president of the United States has emerged as a standout among the world's most significant leaders for global undertakings.

2.3. Judiciary Institution:

The second branch of the Federal Government, the judiciary, consists of a system of courts headed by the Supreme Court and including subordinate courts throughout the country. The Supreme Court is the highest court in the United States. Litigants dissatisfied with a lower court decision may appeal to the Supreme Court, although very few cases ever reach the court. A ruling of the Supreme Court cannot be appealed. As Justice Robert Jackson once explained: “**The Supreme Court is not final because it is infallible; the court is infallible because it is final**” There are currently nine Supreme Court justices, who, like federal judges, are appointed by the president and confirmed by the Senate.

3. The American Constitution:

The **United States Constitution** is the supreme law of the United States of America. That Constitution, initially including seven articles, delineates that national outline about administration. It's to start with three articles settle in those regulation of the detachment from claiming powers, whereby this central government may be partitioned under three branches: the legislative, comprising of the bicameral Congress; the executive, comprising of the President; and the judicial, comprising of the preeminent court Furthermore different elected courts. Articles Four, five Furthermore six settle in ideas from claiming federalism, describing those privileges What's more responsibilities from claiming state legislatures Furthermore of the states over association of the central government. Article seven secures the system thusly utilized by the thirteen States should endorse it.

Since the constitution originated under drive clinched alongside 1789, it need been corrected twenty-seven times. Previously, general, those to start with ten amendments, referred to all things considered as the bill of Rights, offer particular protections of unique freedom Also Equity Furthermore spot confinements on the forces about administration. Those dominant parts of the seventeen after the fact amendments expand distinctive social liberties protections. Others deliver issues identified with elected power or change legislature procedures Also methods. Amendments of the united states Constitution, Dissimilar to ones settled on a really a lot of people constitutions world-wide, would appended of the wind of the archive. During seven articles and twenty-seven amendments, it is those briefest composed constitution in power. Every one five pages of the unique. Encountered with urban decay because of deindustrialization, engineering concocted, government lodge. Constitution would compose ahead material.

The Constitution is interpreted, supplemented, and implemented by a large body of constitutional law. The Constitution of the United States is the first constitution of its kind, and has influenced the constitutions of other nations.

3.1. The American Checks and Balances:

The framers included these principles to provide the president, the legislator and the judge with the means to check the actions and activities of the other branches.

Each branch is given the responsibility to perform the functions of the others. The two doctrines ‘separation of powers ’ and ‘checks and balances’ are independent.

So, the framers established a government not of separated powers but a ‘**government of separated institutions sharing powers** ’. Moreover, the framers added that legislative branch takes the big part in the whole government as Madison said: ‘**the legislative authority necessarily predominates**’. While the two others are given different functions in the society. Besides, the American constitution contains eight basic types of checks.

3.1.1. Some Examples of Checks and Balances:

The United States Constitution has a formal Separation of Powers that divides government into three branches, giving each branch checks and balances on the others to prevent one from becoming too powerful. For example, the legislative branch can impeach the executive branch in the event of wrongdoing.¹

The legislative branch is also able to override presidential vetoes, approve of various appointments and declare war. The executive branch can check the legislative branch with vetoes and calling emergency sessions of Congress. The executive branch appoints members of the judicial branch, which can also be considered a check.

The judicial branch is able to perform judicial reviews on either of the other branches²

¹<http://get.smarter.com>

²<http://int.search.myway.com>

3.2. The American Bills of Rights:

Congress of the United States started Furthermore held in the city of New-York, once Wednesday the fourth of March, one thousand seven hundred What's more eighty nine.

The assemblies of an amount of the States, Hosting during the time of their adopting those Constitution, communicated An desire, in place will prevent misjudgment or misuse about its powers, that further definitive and prohibitive clauses ought further bolstering be added: Also Likewise extending those ground from claiming state funded certainty in the Government, will best guarantee those beneficent winds about its establishment.

Determined Toward those senate and house of agents of the united states for America, for congress assembled, two thirds for both Houses concurring, that the Emulating Articles a chance to be suggested of the lawmaking bodies of the few States, Similarly as amendments of the constitution of the united States, all, alternately any for which Articles, At approved Toward three fourths of the said Legislatures, will a chance to be substantial should every one intents Also purposes, Likewise and only the said Constitution; viz.¹

Articles furthermore to, what's more alteration of the constitution of the United States for America, suggested Toward Congress, and approved Toward the Assemblies of the a few States, pursuant of the fifth article of the unique constitution.

¹<http://www.billofrightsintitute.org>

4. Conclusion

There is no universal accepted meaning of democracy in theory or in practice. This confusion is due to the different interpretations from the earliest times to nowadays.

What could attract is its role, in the American policy and the American life.

Democracy contributes in the development of the United States.

Although, the negative characteristics of Democracy in the society, the citizens preferred it, because of the great achievements and the good conditions they live in.

Chapter two

The American Dream and its Evolution through the USA history

1. INTRODUCTION

2. The concept of the American Dream

2.1 Life

2.2 Liberty

2.3 Pursuit of Happiness

3. The Origin of the American Dream

4. Race relations and the American Dream

5. The American Dream survival in 21st century

6. OBAMA and the American Dream

7. Does the American Dream make America ExeptionalNation ?

8. CONCLUSION

1. Introduction

The American dream is something common to all people, but it is something that everyone views in different ways. The American dream is different for everyone, but they share some of the same aspects of it. The dream is dependent mainly on the setting of where one lives and one's social status. For example, The Declaration of Independence was by Thomas Jefferson, who was an upper class white male. He wanted freedom, but freedom for people like himself that were white landowning males. Martin Luther King, in his I Have a Dream speech, also called for freedom, but mostly for African Americans like himself. F. Scott Fitzgerald wrote in his book *The Great Gatsby* that he would have liked to eliminate the idle rich, which he was a part of. Every American dream is somewhat different, but they all relate to the times that one lives in.

In this chapter introduces the concept of the American dream, and its origins it means a history of what make the United Stat an exceptional nation

2. The concept of the American Dream

America has always been seen as the land of promise, hope, and opportunity. Many sacrificed their lives so that they could have the freedom they know today. As Thomas Jefferson wrote in the famous declaration of independence:

“We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal... with certain unalienable Rights that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness”¹

Those three words truly encompass the American Dream, for they are the base upon which our country's entire was built.

The American Dream is a national ethos of the United States, which describes the values and social standards that people traditionally try to achieve in America, such as democracy, equal rights and wealth. It contains the belief that every individual can achieve prosperity and success through hard work and with strength of mind.

2.1Life

The primary aim of this society is to sustain the individual life of each and every citizen of this country. That has come to mean that we wish to enable people to live healthily, to live successfully, and to live comfortably. Thereby, comfortably we mean not to suffer and not to die at an early age and not to sacrifice our lives for some abstract goal that has nothing to do with our personal dreams. In America, everyone is able to live the life they want. No one is restricted by societal classes, and people are free to make their own decisions and find their own individual identity.

¹Boyd, Julian P., ed. (1950). *The Papers of Thomas Jefferson*. Volume 1: 1760-1776. Princeton: Princeton University Press. pp. 243–247.

2.2 Liberty

This concept has never been used before so openly in an official document. In fact, in 1788, the states were not even ready to ratify the Constitution unless the first Congress promised immediately to enshrine the concept of liberty in a set of Amendments that came to be called the Bill of Rights. They wanted no guesswork about what liberty means. It was too important.

They wanted it spelled out and guaranteed. Americans strongly believe in their right to equality and fair treatment. The American attitude is to refuse to back down from what you know to be right, and many came to America in the hopes of such equality, as well as the freedom from oppression and restriction.

2.3 Pursuit of Happiness

It is a very interesting phrase, and you have to understand it in the context in which it was written. The word happiness did not mean the same thing in the 18th century in American English as it means today. Today we relate the word to the concept of joy or pleasure. Happiness back then meant the realization of an individual's potential. This country is based on the goal that every individual citizen should be free to pursue their dream and to realize it. This is completely antithetical to any kind of autocratic society. Ours is a society where people are supposed to articulate themselves and their dreams, and the government is supposed to support that. We don't go around saying; we need 300,000 CPAs in order to make our country work, so here's what we'll do. Well count off 300,000 young men and send them over to CPA school. In this country, we begin with the individuals dream. This is the quintessential American attitude of going after what you want and seeking things in life that bring you happiness. This attitude has produced the American identity we know today.

3. The Origins of the American Dream

The term American Dream is often traced back to James Truslow Adams.¹ In 1931, as Americans suffered through the Great Depression, Adams wrote a book called *The Epic of America* in which he spoke of "a land in which life should be better and richer and fuller for everyone, with opportunity for each according to ability or achievement...regardless of fortuitous circumstances of birth or position."²

In the beginning, the American Dream simply promised a country in which people had the chance to work their way up through their own labor and ingenuity.

Immigrants fled the entrenched class restrictions of their homelands for the United States in the hope of obtaining land and gaining religious and other freedoms.

But the concept of the American dream, as Adams defined it, actually existed long before him. In 1630, John Winthrop gave in his "city upon a hill" sermon to his fellow Puritan colonists as they sailed to Massachusetts in 1630. Although Winthrop never used the word "dream," he eloquently detailed his vision of a society in which everyone would have a chance to prosper, as long as they all worked together and followed Biblical teachings.³ Gradually, that dream of opportunity evolved in colonists' minds into a God-given right. In the Declaration of Independence in 1776, Thomas Jefferson asserted that everyone in America, at least, those who were not enslaved by the colonists, were entitled to "life, liberty and pursuit of happiness".⁴

¹**James Truslow Adams** was an American writer and historian, he was born in Brooklyn, New York on October 18th, 1878. He was not an academic, but a freelance author who helped to popularize the latest scholarship about American history and his 3-volume history of New England is well regarded by scholars

²Adams, James Truslow. *The Epic of America*. P. xi

³Winthrop, John. "A Modell of Christian Charity." Hanover Historical Texts Project. August 1996

⁴Idem

As America evolved and grew throughout the 19th century, so did the notion that America was different from other countries. It was a land of unparalleled opportunity, where anything could be achieved if a person dared to dream big enough. Alexis de Tocqueville, a Frenchman who visited the new nation in the 1830s, called this belief "the charm of anticipated success"¹ American transcendentalist philosopher Henry David Thoreau, in his 1854 book "Walden," articulated it this way: "If one advances confidently in the direction of his dreams, and endeavors to live the life he has imagined, he will meet with a success unexpected in common hours"²

The words "American dream" gradually began to appear in newspaper articles and books in the mid- to late-1800s, often in reference to hardy pioneers who headed westward to seek fortune, or to European immigrants who arrived in U.S. ports in search of better jobs and homes.

By the early 20th century, it was a euphemism for upward economic mobility, the prototypical American rags-to-riches dream. In Sherwood Anderson's 1916 novel "Windy Macpherson's Son," for example, the author described his protagonist as "an American multi-millionaire, a man in the midst of his money-making, one who had realized the American Dream"³

By the time James Truslow Adams wrote the history of the United States in 1931 -- a book he had to be talked out of calling "The American Dream". He and many others believed the dream was in serious danger. A land that had once been viewed as the land of opportunity was now mired in the Great Depression. The Depression had destroyed the fortunes of legions of self-made millionaires and cost Americans of humbler means their homes and jobs, forcing them to live in hobo camps and beg for

¹Cullen, James. "The American Dream: A short history of an idea that shaped a nation." Oxford University Press. 2003.

²Thoreau, Henry David. "Walden." Thoreau.eserver.org. 1854.

³Anderson, Sherwood. "Windy McPherson's Son." John Lane Co. 1916.

spare change on street corners. Few believed President Herbert Hoover's words that "prosperity was just around the corner"¹

Hoover's successor, Franklin D. Roosevelt, however, launched an array of social programs to help the impoverished, and had better luck convincing Americans to believe they could improve their lots in life. In a January 1941 speech to Congress, Roosevelt articulated his own vision of a new, government-assisted American dream. This "dream" included full employment, government help for the elderly and those unable to work, and "enjoyment of the fruits of scientific progress in a wider and constantly rising standard of living"²

That vision of boundless prosperity started to look real again after the end of World War II. Thanks to an economy primed by massive amounts of military spending, the victorious United States emerged as the wealthiest, most powerful and arguably, most envied society on the planet. In the 1950s, Americans, who made up just six percent of the world's population, produced and consumed one-third of its goods and services.

Factories busily churned out products to meet the needs of an exploding population, wages rose, and increasingly affluent workers and their growing families moved into spacious new houses in the suburbs.³

¹Hartman, Christopher. "Herbert Hoover: The 31th President, 1929-1933." *Christian Science Monitor*

²Roosevelt, Franklin D. "The Four Freedoms." Speech to Congress. Jan. 6, 1941

³Schultz, Stanley K. and Tishler, William P. "The 1950s: The Cold War and the Affluent Society." Lecture. University of Wisconsin. 1999.

4. Race Relations and the American Dream

Many Americans in this new middle class embraced a belief in seemingly perpetual upward mobility. They believed that if they worked hard enough, life would continue to get better and better for them and for their offspring. To be sure, some social critics saw that dream as overly materialistic, spiritually empty, intellectually stifling and destructive. Others pointed out the fact that America wasn't necessarily a land of opportunity for everyone, particularly those who belonged to racial and ethnic minorities.

While many Americans reveled in post-World War II prosperity as the fulfillment of the American dream, others weren't so upbeat. Sloan Wilson's 1955 novel "The Man in the Gray Flannel Suit," which was subsequently made into a movie starring Gregory Peck, depicted an emotionally scarred, combat veteran-turned-businessman who worked himself into a state of despair to support his family's suburban lifestyle¹

But other writers angrily defended their middle-class aspirations. "Obviously, we can't pick up and leave the suburbs -- even if we wanted to, which most of us don't," wrote newspaper columnist Ruth Millett in 1960. "What's the use of trying to make us feel guilty about following the American dream of trying to give our children what parents naturally want for their children -- a little bit easier life than they had, better educational opportunities, and a little more protection than they had during their growing years?"²

But soon enough, the suburbanites' Baby Boom offspring were questioning the dream their parents had embraced. At the same time, black Americans who'd long been denied the same rights and opportunities that white Americans took for granted, increasingly demanded their fair share. In a 1964 speech entitled "The American Dream," civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., told an audience at New Jersey's Drew University that America was "a dream yet unfulfilled" because of racial

¹Wilson, Sloan. "The Man in the Gray Flannel Suit." Four Walls Eight Windows Press. 2002

²Millett, Ruth. "A kind word for suburbia-new target for 'experts.'" Rock Hill, SC Herald. Nov. 23, 1960.

discrimination, poverty and violence. He said that instead of amassing more wealth, Americans' dreams should be to make Thomas Jefferson's statement that "all men are equal" into a reality by giving equal rights to minorities, rebuilding decaying inner cities, and working to eradicate hunger in poorer nations¹ to reconsider their ambitions seemed prescient. In 1974, French historian Ingrid Carlander garnered U.S. newspaper headlines by publishing a book called "Les Americans" in which she audaciously proclaimed that the American dream was dead²

In the 1970s, with the U.S. economy stalling, inflation on the rise and the nation torn by both racial strife and an angry divide over the Vietnam War, King's call for Americans

¹Martin Luther, Jr. "The American Dream." Speech given at Drew University, Madison, NJ. Feb. 5, 1964.

²Freudenheim, Betty. "Author Carlander Claims American Dream is Dead." Sarasota Herald-Tribune. June 20, 1974

5. The American Dream survival in the 21st century

In 1980, Americans' concern about the dream's decline helped elect a U.S. President, Ronald Reagan, who promised to restore it. Reagan himself was an embodiment of the dream; the son of a humble farm family in Illinois, he'd risen to become a Hollywood movie star, a spokesman for General Electric and California governor. Reagan proclaimed that America was still a place where "everyone can rise as high and far as his ability will take him"¹

Reagan's formula for restoring the American dream was to cut taxes, which he argued would stimulate economic growth. He also aimed to reduce government social programs, which he believed discouraged self-reliance. The economy eventually did revive, and growing prosperity helped Reagan easily win reelection in 1984. But critics also pointed to ballooning government deficits, and questioned whether cutting taxes really would revive the dream for most Americans or only for the privileged few²

Congressional Budget Office data supports their case. Between 1979 and 2005, the income of the bottom 99 percent of U.S. households grew 21 percent after taxes, a rate of less than one percent a year, not enough to keep up with inflation. But during that same period, the after-tax income of the richest one percent of Americans grew by 225 percent. In 1979, the richest one percent made eight times as much as the typical middle-class family. In 2005, the richest made 21 times as much as the middle-class³

Nevertheless, the debate about how to revive the American dream has continued. Conservatives call for cutting taxes, while liberals argue for raising taxes on the wealthy to pay for programs to help lift up the rest.

Meanwhile, a third group argues that the pain needs to be spread evenly, and that Americans need to rethink what the American dream really means. In a 2008 essay, Harvard professor John Quelch admonishes that "too many Americans have been

¹"Legacy: Ronald Reagan, 40th President." PBS.org.

²Bernstein, Jared. "Updated CBO data reveal unprecedented increase in inequality." EPI.org. Dec. 13, 2007.

³Idem

expressing the Dream through the acquisition of stuff" ¹ He urges them to see the dream as the freedom to pursue one's career ambitions, to educate our children, and most importantly, to be good citizens in our communities. That, in a sense, is a return to James Truslow Adams' 1931 definition of the American Dream as "a social order in which each man and each woman shall be able to attain the fullest stature to which they are innately capable, and be recognized by others for what they are, regardless of the fortuitous circumstances of birth or position" ²

6. Obama and the American Dream

The American dream is the idea that in this country anyone can rise from humble beginnings and succeed, it is deeply woven into our national psyche. It's a promise that draws immigrants to our shores. And it's a staple on the campaign trail.

From the moment he burst on the national scene at the 2004 Democratic convention, Obama ³ has served as a living example of the American dream, proof that in this country anyone can succeed, even a skinny black kid with a funny name

"I stand here knowing that my story is part of the larger American story. That I owe a debt to all of those who came before me," he said. "And that in no other country on Earth is my story even possible."

Obama seems mindful that his own story could have turned out differently, and he's been determined to hold doors open for others. He says doing so is good for the country.

¹Quelch, John. "Selling Out The American Dream." Harvard Business School. Nov. 6, 2008.

²Ibid

³Barack Hussein Obama an American politician serving as the 44th President of the United. He is the first African American

"I think the history of the United States, the reason we became an economic superpower is because, not always perfectly, not always consistently, but better than any other country on Earth, we were able to give opportunity to everybody," he said. "That's what the American dream was all about."¹

Obama says preserving that dream requires a balancing act between self-interest and community. Success is not an entitlement in his book. But neither is it a reward for individual effort alone.

“Barack knows the American Dream because he’s lived it, and he wants everyone in this country to have that same opportunity, no matter who we are, or where we’re from, or what we look like, or who we love.” – Michelle Obama²

Barack Obama has lived the American Dream. It’s hard to deny. A young African-American male from a broken family applies his God-given talents to the opportunities at hand; gets drafted into the Ivy league; graduates Columbia and Harvard Law; meets and marries his soul mate, has two beautiful children, works with the poor to organize their community, is elected to the Illinois Senate, is able to buy the house with the white picket fence, is vaulted to the U.S. Senate and then the ultimate achievement of all: The Presidency

Michelle’s speech about her husband contained everything but the obligatory chorus of “Beasts of England.” So not only have the Obama’s redefined marriage and

¹Ibid

²Michelle LaVaughn Robinson Obama is an American lawyer and writer. She is the wife of President of the United States, Barack Obama

decency; they have revised the very idea of the American Dream; unless of course, the “American Dream” takes place on a street called Elm, with a guide named Freddy.

7. Does the American Dream Make America Exceptional Nation?

The United States of America is exceptional because it has done exceptional things, not because of boasts. Historically, exceptionalism a belief that because of what America represents, its actions are just and benign offered good intentions i.e. by supporting the spread of democracy and human rights.

America's founders had every reason to celebrate the American experience, offering a sense of "newness" and separation from the "old world" of despotic tyrants in Europe. Commenting on the French Revolution, Jefferson wrote:

This ball of liberty, I believe most piously, is now so well in motion that it will roll around the globe, at least the enlightened part of it, for light and liberty go together. ¹

Still Jefferson also believed that America's influence was to be achieved by example, not entanglements. America's more recent leaders have regularly appealed to this sense of uniqueness in the world, but now insist that vision shape foreign policy priorities.

John F. Kennedy, for example, called on Americans to

"let every nation know, whether it wishes us well or ill, that we shall pay any price, bear any burden, meet any hardship, support any friend, oppose any foe to assure the survival and the success of liberty".²

¹Thomas Jefferson to TenchCoxe. June 1, 1795. Manuscript letter. Manuscript Division, 181

²John Fitzgerald Kennedy was an American politician who served as the 35th President of the United States from January 1961 until his assassination in November 1963.

That calling, however, blinded America to the obvious dangers of invading Iraq, leading to exaggerated expectations that America would be welcomed as a liberator and contributed to dangerously inadequate and assumption-driven military planning.

Exceptionalism was a central issue in the 2012 presidential election between Barack Obama¹ and Mitt Romney who said

“Our president does not have the same feelings about American exceptionalism that we do”²

The insinuation was as clear as it was ridiculous Obama did not love his country in the same way. This claim was made despite the fact that Obama epitomized the American dream a child of an immigrant father, raised by a single mother, close to his Kansas grandparents in America’s heartland, worked his way into college, showed the value of talent and hard work rising to the Harvard Law Review, the Illinois Senate, the U.S. Senate and then elected the first African-American president in U.S. history. Regardless of what one thinks about Obama’s policies, his personal story is an exceptional example of what makes the American spirit so strong.

America has done great things exceptional things from liberating Europe in World War II, to the Marshall Plan, to building the kind of innovative economy its talented people create at home and launching to the Moon, Mars, and beyond. America ultimately leads best when it leads by example. However, a nation which fails to resolve issues of racism and disparity as in Ferguson, Missouri or Baltimore, Maryland does not act in an exceptional way.

A nation that pays women less than men for equivalent work is not acting in an exceptional way. A nation that is the wealthiest in the world but which leaves many of its citizens without basic health care is not acting in an exceptional way. A nation that saddles its young people with massive debt simply for their effort to gain human

¹Barack Obama ibid

²Willard Mitt Romney is an American businessman and politician who was the 70th Governor of Massachusetts from 2003 to 2007

capital for competitiveness in the 21st century via a university education is not acting in an exceptional way. A nation with manyelected leaders who deny the reality, let alone the urgency, of climate change is not acting in an exceptional way. A nation that accepts torture is not acting in an exceptional way. A nation that continually sends its military into ill-advised and poorly planned wars is not acting in an exceptional way. A nation that does not stand up to support its veterans whose unemployment and serious health challenges continue to run high, is not doing an exceptional thing. A nation that talks of building walls, rejecting refugees fleeing terror, and refusing entry to people based on their religion is not doing exceptional things.

As America heads into its fall election, perhaps one of the most important questions confronting the candidates is not whether they will make America great again it is great and always has been. The question is whether or not they truly understand the responsibilities that come with leadership and whether they will indeed return to the great tradition of American exceptionalism via actions, not platitudes. Candidates from both parties would thus be well to heed the calling of one of America's truly exceptional leaders, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., who in declaring his opposition to the war in Vietnam said:

“I oppose the war in Vietnam because I love America. I speak out against this war, not in anger, but with anxiety and sorrow in my heart, and, above all, with a passionate desire to see our beloved country stand as the moral example of the world. I speak out against this war because I am disappointed with America. And there can be no great disappointment where there is not great love”.¹

¹Martin Luther King, Jr. was an American Baptist minister, activist, humanitarian, and leader in the African-American Civil Rights Movement.

8. Conclusion

With hope comes change and with change comes anxiety. America is now in the midst of uncharted waters which prevent us from turning back to our old ways and dares us to go forward into the unknown. As President Obama asks Americans to collectively reach higher, Americans are already asking one another questions such as: Does the election of President Obama signal the end of White guilt regarding slavery, Jim Crow, and reparations? How does a generation of people who have dedicated their lives to the Movement politically maneuver in an Obama society? Are there potential ramifications when a member of a marginalized minority becomes the leader of the most powerful nation on Earth? These are questions which are up for debate and can only be answered by time and experience.

In the unfolding story of America in the 21st century, President Barack Obama has become something greater than himself. He has become the realization of a national dream.

General conclusion

GENERAL CONCLUSION

America became the super power on this planet. It was the land from claiming dreams done 1492 also even now those territory about wonders really. A large number progression struck them of the area What's more should its people. This creation need expanded in the Agricola and mechanical domains.

The researchers would concentrate on the future, and going to other planets with decide their suitability sanctuary at need goes. Around those futurologists who were used toward those administration will be the “National aeromechanic and space Administration” which will be particular clinched alongside considering the space. Considerably people’s method for speculation need changed.

A standout amongst the American arrangements may be on uphold the planet also rule every last one of nations peacefully, a direct result those Americans still imagine themselves Concerning illustration the men of the will.

Today, unfortunately, popular government got close to expressions without implying. Those American subjects got to be apprehensive about their situation, particularly after that mischance of September 11th, 2001. It may be a fanciful novel into a film. This catastrophe touched those cerebrums and the heart of the American civilization; A plane from the American aviation routes might have been captured by somebody Furthermore wrecked the universal business focus On New York city. Following only couple minutes, an additional plane wrecked the second fabricating of the business focal point. Then, a third plane might have been guided of the pentagon (the images of the United States protection also force). It is a really repulsive will keep in mind that Tuesday The point when many people died.

So, those reason from claiming this catastrophe may be the result of the presidents, their mismanagements Also their outside strategy starting with days gone by on these days.

Democracy offers safety to people but now this democracy is threaded by terrorism. As “John Adams” said, democracy never lasts, it soon murders itself.

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