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Do you ever wonder what the American Dream really means? It's a concept that has been ingrained in American culture for centuries, but its true meaning often gets lost in the hustle and bustle of everyday life. In this blog post, we will dive deep into the American Dream meaning, exploring its origins, evolution, and what it means for individuals in
today's society. The Origins of the American Dream as "that dream of a land in which life should be better and richer and
fuller for everyone, with opportunity for each according to ability or achievement." Evolution of the American Dream has evolved to reflect the changing values and aspirations of American Dream has evolved to reflect the changing values and aspirations of American Dream has evolved to reflect the changing values and aspirations of American Dream has evolved to reflect the changing values and aspirations of American Dream has evolved to reflect the changing values and aspirations of American Dream has evolved to reflect the changing values and aspirations of American Dream has evolved to reflect the changing values and aspirations of American Dream has evolved to reflect the changing values and aspirations of American Dream has evolved to reflect the changing values and aspirations of American Dream has evolved to reflect the changing values and aspirations of American Dream has evolved to reflect the changing values and aspirations of American Dream has evolved to reflect the changing values and aspirations of American Dream has evolved to reflect the changing values and aspirations of American Dream has evolved to reflect the changing values and aspirations of American Dream has evolved to reflect the changing values and aspirations of American Dream has evolved to reflect the changing values and aspiration of the American Dream has evolved to reflect the changing values and aspiration of the American Dream has evolved to reflect the changing values and aspiration of the American Dream has evolved to reflect the changing values and aspiration of the American Dream has evolved to reflect the changing values and aspiration of the American Dream has evolved to reflect the changing values and aspiration of the American Dream has evolved to reflect the changing values and aspiration of the American Dream has evolved to reflect the changing values and aspiration of the American Dream has evolved to reflect the changing value and the properties and the properties and the properties and the properties and the properti
include things like financial success, personal fulfillment, and social mobility. With the rise of technology and globalization, the American Dream has also become more accessible to a wider range of people. While some traditional aspects of the Dream may still hold true, there are now more opportunities for individuals to define and pursue their own
version of success. What Does the American Dream Mean Today? In today's society, the American Dream can mean different things to different people. For others, it might be about pursuing a fulfilling career, traveling the world, or making a positive impact on society.
Ultimately, the American Dream is about the pursuit of happiness and self-fulfillment. It's a deeply personal and individualistic concept that can mean different things to different people. Key Elements of the American Dream So, what are some key elements that
make up the American Dream? Here are a few fundamental aspects: Freedom: The ability to pursue your own choices. Opportunity: The chance to achieve your goals and aspirations, regardless of your background or circumstances. Equality: The belief that everyone should have the same opportunities to succeed. Hard works
The idea that success is earned through dedication and effort. Examples of the American Dream in Action There are countless examples of people who have achieved their version of the American Dream in Action There are countless examples: Oprah
Winfrey: From a troubled childhood to becoming one of the most successful media moguls in the world, Oprah's story is a true rags-to-riches tale. Elon Musk: The founder of Tesla and SpaceX, Musk embodies the American Dream of innovation and entrepreneurship. Malala Yousafzai: A champion for girls' education and human rights, Malala's story is
a testament to the power of resilience and determination. Conclusion In conclusion, the American Dream is a complex and multifaceted concept that continues to evolve with the changing times. It's about more than just material wealth or social status – it's about the pursuit of happiness, self-fulfillment, and the freedom to live the life you want.
Whether your version of the American Dream is starting a business, traveling the world, or making a positive impact on society, remember that anything is possible with hard work, dedication, and a little bit of luck. So, what does the American Dream mean to you? Share your thoughts in the comments below! And remember, the key to achieving your
dreams is to never stop dreaming and never stop working towards making them a reality. The American Dream may mean different things to different people, but ultimately, it's about the endless possibilities that come with living in a land of opportunity. So, go out there and chase your dreams - who knows, you might just achieve the American
Dream after all. What does the American Dream really mean to you? For many, it's a vision of success, freedom, and opportunity. But in today's world, that dream can feel more like a moving target. You might find yourself wondering if it's still attainable or if it's just a nostalgic idea from the past. This article explores the true meaning of the American
Dream and how it's evolved over time. By examining different perspectives and experiences, you'll gain insights that resonate with your own journey. Whether you're chasing your goals or rethinking what success means, understanding this concept can help you navigate your path with clarity and purpose. Historical Roots: The American Dream
originated in the early 20th century, emphasizing hard work, opportunity, and the potential for upward mobility. Evolution of Meaning: Its interpretation has transformed over the decades, reflecting societal changes from post-war suburban ideals to contemporary views on social justice and personal fulfillment. Diverse Perspectives: Individual
interpretations vary, with some valuing financial stability while others prioritize freedom, opportunity, family, and community connections. Cultural Impacts: Immigration plays a crucial role in shaping the American Dream, as many view it as a path to better opportunities and a chance for upward mobility. Modern Challenges: Economic inequality and
systemic discrimination seriously undermine the attainability of the American Dream, posing significant barriers to many communities. Importance of Reflection on one's own goals and values. The American Dream has deep historical roots that reflect the
nation's foundational values. This cherished idea emphasizes success, opportunity, and the belief that hard work leads to prosperity. The phrase "American Dream" emerged in the early 20th century, popularized by novelist James Truslow Adams in his 1931 book "The Epic of America." Adams defined it as a vision where anyone, regardless of
background, can achieve upward mobility through determination and effort. This concept drew from earlier notions of freedom and equality, enshrined in the Declaration of Independence. The American Dream's meaning has shifted throughout the decades. In the 1950s, it represented suburban life, homeownership, and stable jobs, often depicted in
media and advertisements. By the 1960s and 1970s, social movements highlighted inequality, prompting a reevaluation of who truly shared in this dream. Today, the focus has expanded to include diverse experiences, emphasizing personal fulfillment, social justice, and sustainability. Time Period Key Features 1930s Hard work leading to upward
mobility 1950s Suburban lifestyle and homeownership 1960s-1970s Social movements addressing inequality Present Diverse expressions of success and fulfillment The American Dream holds various meanings for different individuals and communities. These interpretations reflect personal values, experiences, and aspirations. Success often translates
into financial stability and wealth for many. Acquiring a home and achieving professional advancement represent key milestones. For instance, a college education might serve as a pathway to a fulfilling career and higher income. Stories of entrepreneurs building businesses illustrate this quest; they embody the ambition to create opportunities for
themselves and others. Freedom and opportunity play crucial roles in defining the American Dream. Citizens seek the liberty to pursue their passions, whether through artistic expression or entrepreneurial ventures. The emergence of the gig economy showcases this pursuit, allowing individuals to create flexible career paths. Immigrants often viewed their passions, whether through artistic expression or entrepreneurial ventures.
the U.S. as a place to escape oppression, seeking better lives through newfound opportunities. Family and community often anchor interpretations of the American Dream. Many prioritize building a supportive social network that fosters growth and community often anchor interpretations of the American Dream. Many prioritize building a supportive social network that fosters growth and community often anchor interpretations of the American Dream.
bonds within neighborhoods. Seeing personal success reflected in family well-being adds another dimension, where thriving communities contribute to collective prosperity. By understanding these interpretations, you can reflect on your perspective regarding the American Dream and what it means to you. Cultural perspectives on the American
Dream reveal its multifaceted nature, influenced by individual experiences, histories, and societal values. Immigration heavily shapes the American Dream. For many immigrants, it represents hope for a better life and increased opportunities. The aspiration to achieve prosperity and success drives countless individuals to the United States. Stories
abound of immigrant families who arrived with little more than determination. They often view the American Dream as their chindren. For instance, the story of the Martinez family illustrates this journey. Arriving from Mexico, they worked multiple jobs to purchase their first home,
emphasizing the significance of hard work and sacrifice. Socioeconomic factors significantly influence the interpretation of the American Dream. Individuals from wealthier backgrounds may perceive success in terms of luxury and lavish lifestyles, emphasizing material wealth and prominent careers. In contrast, those from lower socioeconomic
classes often associate the dream with basic stability, such as reliable employment and access to education. For example, a working-class family may prioritize securing affordable housing and quality education for their children as markers of success. These differing views reflect the broader narrative that success is not solely defined by wealth but
also by personal fulfillment and access to essential resources. The American Dream faces numerous challenges today. Economic inequality undermines the foundation of the American Dream. Wealth distribution varies greatly, creating barriers to access for many.
According to the Federal Reserve, the top 1% of households possess nearly 32% of the nation's wealth. This concentration leaves little opportunity for those in lower income brackets. For instance, individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds often struggle to afford higher education. Student debt averages around $38,000 per borrower, limiting
financial freedom and delaying homeownership. Without equitable access to resources, achieving the American Dream becomes increasingly elusive. Discrimination poses another challenge to the American Dream. Many marginalized groups experience systemic barriers that hinder their progress. Issues such as racism, gender inequality, and
LGBTQ+ discrimination create obstacles that limit opportunities. For example, a report from the Economic Policy Institute individual lives but entire families and communities, perpetuating cycles of poverty. Social justice movements are
increasingly demanding change. These movements push for equal rights, fair wages, and access to quality education for all. Addressing these inequalities is essential for ensuring that the American Dream, encouraging reflection and action
toward a more inclusive future. The American Dream is more than just a concept; it's a personal journey shaped by your values and experiences. As you navigate your own path to success, remember that fulfillment can come in many forms. It's about finding what truly matters to you and pursuing it with passion. Embrace the diverse interpretations of
the American Dream and let them inspire you. Whether it's building community connections or achieving financial stability, your version of the American Dream for everyone. The American Dream
refers to the ideal that every individual can achieve success and upward mobility, the American Dream's meaning has shifted from post-
war suburban life to encompass themes of social justice, fulfilling personal passions, and environmental sustainability, reflecting diverse experiences and values. The American Dream can feel elusive due to rising economic inequality to attain
their dreams, making it seem like an ever-changing goal. Cultural backgrounds and individual experiences greatly influence perceptions of the American Dream. Immigrants, for example, often view it as a symbol of hope, while others may define success through different lenses based on socioeconomic status. Economic inequality, high student debt,
and discrimination against marginalized groups are significant challenges facing the American Dream today. These barriers prevent many from achieving financial freedom and accessing opportunities essential for upward mobility. Was the American Dream ever real? Or was it a mirage? With so many young people burdened by student loan debt and
questioning whether they'll ever be able to afford a home, it's a question worth asking. It's a question worth mulling over when older Americans are busting their budgets, their children need support deep into adulthood, and the pensions that once knit together a financial
safety net are for many a long-ago memory. A series of stories by USA TODAY reporters reveals how ephemeral and tenuous the so-called American Dream has become, and also how a younger generation is setting its own terms for what constitutes a life of financial stability and fulfillment. The realities are stark. A first-time homebuyer would need an
income of roughly $64,500 a year to buy a so-called starter home, according to Redfin. That's 13% more than what was needed just a year ago, and what's necessary to purchase a smaller property that typically sold for $243,000 in June 2023 - a record high. Among millennials, student loans make up 36% of their debt, the highest of any generation. In
28 states, child care is more expensive than the cost for a student to attend a public college in their home state, according to lending platform NetCredit.com. And it's expected to cost a middle-income, married couple, $233,610 to raise a child born in 2015 through their 17th birthday, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. It's no wonder
65% of Gen Zers and nearly 3 in 4 millennials say they feel their financial starting point is far behind where previous generations were at the same age, according to an online poll of more than 2,000 U.S. adults conducted exclusively for USA TODAY by The Harris Poll. And two-thirds of Americans agree that younger people are dealing with
difficulties that earlier generations didn't have to. "They're telling us they can't buy into that American Dream the way that their parents and grandparents thought about it – because it's not attainable," said The Harris Poll CEO John Gerzema. Of course, dreams, by their very definition, are aspirational with no assurance they can become reality. They
shimmer in the distance, or in our imaginations. One person may feel they've missed the mark if they don't become a multimillionaire. For others, a comfortable home, a family and a little extra cash in the bank is more than enough. Whatever the nuances, the American Dream is fundamental to the American identity, and there is little doubt that some
iteration of it loomed large for the 967,500 people who became American citizens last fiscal year, according to the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services. My mother was an immigrant. Though she grew up in an affluent family in her native Guyana, she says she and her peers would read American magazines, watch Hollywood epics and imagine
that the streets here were paved with gold. When she came to the U.S. to attend college and graduate school, brushes with racism tarnished the fantasy. But she, together with my father, forged a good life, and when she officially became a U.S. citizen in the early 1970s, the photos at the celebration show her smiling, triumphant and proud. Yet the
American Dream has always been hazy, its contours in the eye of the beholder. Depending on who you were, and from where you came, the ladder up was often missing a few rungs, and many had to pull themselves up with no ladder at all. Maybe your piece of the American Dream was bulldozed for a freeway, like the many Black and brown residents
whose homes were demolished in the 1950s and '60s in the name of urban renewal. Maybe it was denied because you loved someone of the same gender and weren't allowed to marry. Or perhaps your dream languished because pay inequities based on your being a woman or a person of color made it difficult to build and hold onto generational
wealth.Despite the odds, the dream wasn't impossible. Among Black Americans, 38% owned a home in 1960, though that was far below the 65% of white Americans who had property. But the hurdles that had to be overcome were arduous. Redlining denied loans to those who were trying to buy homes in minority neighborhoods. Segregation and
housing discrimination were rampant. Owning the place where you lived, a cornerstone of the American ideal, was a pillar that was hard won. The Fair Housing Act passed in 1968 made redlining illegal. But still today, lawsuits have found that appraisers assign lower values to homes owned by Black people compared with their white counterparts. The
gap between white home-owning households and those that are Black (73% vs. 44%) is greater now than it was in 1960, according to the Urban Institute. It's also very hard to get ahead when you don't earn enough. Women are paid 82 cents for every dollar earned on average by a man, according to an analysis by the Pew Research Center. Black
and Hispanic women (70% and 65% respectively) are paid even less. And while the ability to obtain an abortion legally in the wake of the Roe vs. Wade decision in June 2022 that took away that federal protection now puts the economic
stability and advancement of millions of women in jeopardy. I know from my own conversations with Generation that has had to face the grimmest of realities, from a once-in-a-century pandemic to a relentless
plague of gun violence to a democracy in stunning decline, no longer has the optimism to dream at all. They are fighting for survival, to reshape a world they did not make, and so they don't have time to wish and wonder. Or perhaps they are curating a different sort of dream. Members of Gen Z save more and also spend more on what they truly care
about. That's a worthy change. Debt, while often necessary, can be suffocating, so if you must take it on, why not make sure it's for what gives your life purpose and joy? Buy a house to have an abode to call your own, or a haven that frees you from the whims of a landlord, not just so you can keep up with the proverbial Joneses. Choose college if it's a
building block for your desired career. But if an apprenticeship will get you where you want to go, that should be fine too. And while raising a family can give you contentment that's hard to convey, if you don't want a spouse and 2.5 kids, it's too significant a responsibility to take on just because society says you should. In a piece written by USA
TODAY reporters Bailey Schulz and Kathleen Wong, Matt Marino, a 27-year-old teacher in New York City said that while his peers see owning their own house as "impossible," they would also prefer to have "more freedom," such as being able to do work that they love. How liberating it must be to care less about status than about having a life where
you have the bandwidth to truly enjoy the fruits of your labor. How gratifying that the ability to breathe fresh air and preserve the Earth means more to many young adults than a bottomless pile of material possessions. Whatever version of the American Dream you aspire to, if that vision is to be preserved, all of us, across generations, must commit to
making it a real possibility for all. Is the American Dream still possible? How younger workers are redefining successHow much does it cost to raise a child? College may no longer be the biggest expense. That's not easy when too many continue to view financial insecurity as a mark of personal failure. It's a tall task when some believe certain
first public American Dream definition from historian James Truslow Adams' best-selling book "Epic of America," published in 1931. In his book, Adams went on to clarify that the American Dream is not, "...a dream of motor cars and high wages merely, but a dream of social order in which each man and each woman shall 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." While the term "American Dream" was officially coined in 1931, its vision was laid out by our Founding Fathers as described in the Declaration of Independence. However, the general idea
can be traced as far back as the first colonists to settle the New World. The Declaration of Independence protects the idea and pursuit of the American Dream. It states, "We hold these truths to be self-evident, 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 Founding Fathers wrote into law the revolutionary idea that the "pursuit of Happiness" is not just self-indulgence. Rather, it drives ambition and the desire to contribute to the well-being and success of society as a whole. The American Dream provides the opportunity to pursue one's own happiness under an equal, fair
and just democracy. With the legal protection of these values, an attractive society was laid out for those aspiring for a better life. A society based on these principles offers everyone the right to live life to its fullest however he or she sees fit. For the American Dream to thrive, the Declaration of Independence introduced, "no taxation without
representation." Meaning that the government of the United States would operate as a Democracy, rather than a Monarchy. Under a democracy, leaders are elected by the people and for the
representation" or reason to. Legal disputes are settled by a jury of people and not the opinion of a leader. Finally, the Declaration of Independence states that a nation must be allowed free trade. The Founding Fathers believed that the best way to ensure national progress is to protect citizens' right to improve their lives. This is the essence of the
 American Dream. The American Dream during the Colonial Era was fueled by religious beliefs of the Puritans who left England to escape persecution. The Puritans believed that life was a continual battle between good and evil. And the only way for good to win out over evil was through ambition and hard work. The religion taught that success on
Earth would lead to rewards in heaven. The main theme in literature throughout the 17th and 18th centuries is largely based on religious and Puritanical beliefs. However, the topics of slavery, the American Revolution, and political and cultural change are also prevelant during this time. According to colonial literature, the Pilgrim's believed that they
were the "new Israelites" or God's chosen people who would be protected on their journey to the "promised land." They believed that coming to North America was part of God's grand plan and success was contingent on the faithfulness of the Puritans. During the 1700s, Benjamin Franklin led the charge in encouraging American colonists to create
wealth through hard work and frugality. His annual magazine, Poor Richard's Almanack, used common sense - not religion - along with wit and humor to motivate readers to accomplish the America could be achieved by educating the masses. The first
record of slavery in America was around 1619 when a Dutch ship carrying enslaved Africans arrived in Jamestown. In 1865, nearly 250 years later, the Constitution's Thirteenth Amendment abolished slavery and described America
as a place free of oppression and full of opportunity to become independent, self-interested landowners. Thousands of letters between John and Abigail Adams from 1762 to 1801 document enormous social, cultural and political change in America. During this time, Adams served in the Continental Congress, as vice president to George Washington
America's somewhat new freedom from British reign. With the new found freedom established by the birth of the United States of America in 1776, the nineteenth century saw an influx of immigrants from around the globe. Many desperate to escape poverty in war-torn Europe with hopes of starting a new life in America. The Civil War, a period of
industrialization that seemed to almost instantly change American economy and culture. Rather than a mindset of cooperation, competitiveness set in as Americans fought over their share of development and wealth in their hard-won country. These hundred years experienced rapid expansion and the notion of the "self-made man" took on a new
powerful meaning. While the Civil War obliterated many American's dreams, the survivors became advocates against racial and gender discrimination. The 1800s began with a desire to explore the vast, rugged wilderness west of the colonies. This "frontier" mindset triggered the removal and displacement of Native Americans and eventually the race
for California gold. With the exploration of the frontier out west, the wilderness became less "wild" and therefore, less feared. Ralph Waldo Emerson rejected traditional religion and materialism and proclaimed that nature was the root of endless human possibility and
fulfillment. The Transcendental movement supported the individualistic mindset of this century. Many participants of the movement became well-known social reformists, particularly anti-slavery and promoters of women's rights. In the 1900s, the diverse backgrounds of people in America had never been greater. The economy experienced record
highs and extreme lows, with the devastation of WWI, followed by the Great Depression hitting America's interests hard in the late 1920s and 1930s. Just as America's economy was recovering from the downturn, Hitler and the Nazi regime ignited WWII in Europe, forcing the Allies to step in. America was once again thrust into another war turning
the once idealistic mindset of a nation into cynicism and dread. Following the first World War, American's were haunted by the terror of modern warfare resulting in disillusionment and doubt toward traditional beliefs and the ideals of the American Dream. F. Scott Fitzgerald's first novel, This Side of Paradise (1920), describes the "new" American Dream.
Dream as a quest to find one's own identity. "It was always the becoming he dreamed of, never the being," writes Fitzgerald. The arrival of the Great Depression magnified the increasing gap between wealthy and poor American's. Criticism toward the government's failure to look after the poor were abundant as dreams of prosperity were
overpowered by the need to simply survive. For many dreamers, the Great Depression signaled the end of the American's in the twentieth century carried the burden of massive loss due to multiple wars. The 1960s brought the Vietnam War where many people finally verbalized the notion that "war has no winners." Mainstream
American culture is thrown to the wayside by many and the redefining of the American Dream continued. The nature of the American Dream was no longer mainstream ideals, but what lies on the edges of society. Another decade brings yet another shift in the picture of the American Dream. During the 1980s, the dream of success shifted away from
having a family, home, and job and toward money, fame and power. The final two decades of the twentieth century American Dream follows a similar theme: change buried cracks in the foundation of the American Dream. These events broke open a conversation
about the ongoing issues of race, social class, and justice in American Dream. The American Dream has been a long-time model of prosperity for both American's and people around the world. "The charm of anticipated success" has brought
millions of immigrants to America, looking for equal opportunity and a better life. Historian Emily Rosenberg came up with five components include: Belief that other nations should replicate America's development. Faith in a free market economy.
Support for free trade agreements and culture. Promotion of free flow information and culture. Acceptance of government protection of private enterprise. The notion of the American Dream continues to be a theme across the nation and around the globe. Whether these dreams brought triumph or despair, American's keep on dreaming his or her
own version of the Dream. Has the American Dream today moved away from the vision set forth by our Founding Fathers? Many argue that it has, while others remain optimistic in the evolving definition of what the American Dream is today. A number of U.S. presidents around the turn of the century, including Bill Clinton and George W. Bush
supported homeownership as an integral part of the Dream. In fact, during Hillary Clinton's presidential campaign in 2008, she laid out her American Dream Plan. This plan included homeownership, college, retirement, and health insurance for children.
American's. The Great Recession of 2008 resulted in even greater income inequality across the U.S., seemingly putting an end to the American Dream for many. In reality, the recession only injured the materialistic Dream. The New American Dream for many.
imagines, "...a focus on more of what really matters, such as creating a meaningful life, contributing to community and society, valuing nature, and spending time with family and friends." Three factors are said to have made the American Dream possible: A large land mass under one government Benign neighbors Abundant natural resources A new made the American Dream possible: A large land mass under one government Benign neighbors Abundant natural resources A new made the American Dream possible: A large land mass under one government Benign neighbors Abundant natural resources A new made the American Dream possible: A large land mass under one government Benign neighbors Abundant natural resources A new made the American Dream possible: A large land mass under one government Benign neighbors Abundant natural resources A new made the American Dream possible: A large land mass under one government Benign neighbors Abundant natural resources A new made the American Dream possible: A large land mass under one government Benign neighbors Abundant natural resources A new made the American Dream possible in the American Dream possible in
crisis has emerged as the impact of climate change is becoming more prevalent. Science has proved a rising reater reliance on natural resources. Extreme weather, rising sea levels, increasing health risks, and food inflation is already costing the U.S. government billions
of dollars, thus slowing economic growth. Therefore, a vision for a new American Dream is needed in order to endure this new crisis. The Founding Fathers of this nation could not have foreseen an American Dream that didn't offer the right to clean air, water, and plenty of natural resources. But the vision of our Forefathers included rights to be
 "self-evident." With an entire population united by language, political system, and values, America's strength only seems to grow with more innovation and accessible markets to test new products. Additionally, America's "melting pot" offers
diverse demographics, further giving commerce the edge to test niche products, generating more innovative ideas compared to a small, homogenous population. The U.S. continues to enjoy the benefits of cultural diversity. Thanks to the vision of our Founding Fathers, everyone has an equal right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of one's own happiness
The Declaration of Independence makes no attempt to define happiness or lifestyle. Rather, it protects the right for everyone to have the same opportunity to pursue their personal vision of the American Dream. It fosters a belief in free enterprise where people can create and own businesses that operate without government control. It promotes a free
market economy where products, prices and services are decided by the market and not the government. Giving everyone an equal opportunity to create wealth however they see fit. "Hope will be found by understanding that diversity is the essence of the American Dream and why we need each other to fulfill it." Ilhan Omar "When we make college
more affordable, we make the American Dream more achievable. William J. Clinton, 42nd President of the U.S. "Our workforce and our entire economy are strongest when we embrace diversity to its fullest, and that means opening doors of opportunity to everyone and recognizing that the American Dream excludes no one." Thomas Perez, U.S.
Secretary of Labor "A basic element of the American Dream is equal access to education as a lubricant of social and economic mobility." Nicholas Kristof, Journalist "I am the epitome of what the American Dream basically said. It said you could come from anywhere and be anything you want in this country." Whoopi Goldberg, Actress and Comedian
"The promise of the American Dream requires that we are all provided an equal opportunity to participate in and contribute to our nation." Charles B Rangel, U.S. Congress "To me, the American Dream is being able to follow your own personal calling. To be able to do what you want to do is incredible freedom." Maya Lin, Architect "For many, the
American Dream has become a nightmare." Bernie Sanders, U.S. Senator "I have spent my life judging the distance between American Dream requires that we are all provided an equal opportunity to participate in and contribute to our nation." Charles B
Rangel, U.S. Congress "My father worked in the Post Office. A lot of double shifts. All his friends were in the same situation - truck drivers, taxi cab drivers, taxi cab drivers, grocery clerks. Blue collar guys punching the clock and working long, hard hours. The thought that sustained them was the one at the center of the American Dream." Gary David Goldberg
Writer "To realize the American Dream, the most important thing to understand is that it belongs to everybody. It's a human dream. If you understand this and work very hard, it is possible." Cristina Saralegui, Journalist "There are those who will say that the liberation of humanity, the freedom of man and mind is nothing but a dream. They are right
It is the American Dream." Archibald Macleish, Poet "I say to you today, my friends, so even though we face the difficulties of today and tomorrow, I still have a dream deeply rooted in the American Dream. It is a dream deeply rooted in the American Dream. It is a dream deeply rooted in the American Dream. It is a dream deeply rooted in the American Dream. It is a dream deeply rooted in the American Dream. It is a dream deeply rooted in the American Dream. It is a dream deeply rooted in the American Dream. It is a dream deeply rooted in the American Dream. It is a dream deeply rooted in the American Dream. It is a dream deeply rooted in the American Dream. It is a dream deeply rooted in the American Dream. It is a dream deeply rooted in the American Dream. It is a dream deeply rooted in the American Dream. It is a dream deeply rooted in the American Dream. It is a dream deeply rooted in the American Dream. It is a dream deeply rooted in the American Dream. It is a dream deeply rooted in the American Dream. It is a dream deeply rooted in the American Dream. It is a dream deeply rooted in the American Dream. It is a dream deeply rooted in the American Dream. It is a dream deeply rooted in the American Dream. It is a dream deeply rooted in the American Dream. It is a dream deeply rooted in the American Dream. It is a dream deeply rooted in the American Dream. It is a dream deeply rooted in the American Dream. It is a dream deeply rooted in the American Dream. It is a dream deeply rooted in the American Dream. It is a dream deeply rooted in the American Dream. It is a dream deeply rooted in the American Dream. It is a dream deeply rooted in the American Dream. It is a dream deeply rooted in the American Dream. It is a dream deeply rooted in the American Dream. It is a dream deeply rooted in the American Dream. It is a dream deeply rooted in the American Dream. It is a dream deeply rooted in the American Dream deeply rooted in the American Dream.
evident: that all men are created equal." Martin Luther King, Jr. "The faith that anyone could move from rags to riches - with enough guts and gumption, hard work and nose to the grindstone - was once at the core of the American Dream is a phrase we'll have to
wrestle with all our lives. It means a lot of things to different people. I think we're redefining it now." Rita Dove, Poet What is the American Dream means to all of us, both individually and collectively. May we celebrate our diversity, show gratitude and respect to our Forefathers
who paved the way for every American to have the freedom to define, pursue and achieve the Dream. "The American Dream is that dream of a land in which life should be better and richer and fuller for everyone, with opportunity for each according to ability or achievement." This is the first public American Dream definition from historian James
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into law the revolutionary idea that the "pursuit of Happiness" is not just self-indulgence. Rather, it drives ambition and the desire to contribute to the well-being and success of society as a whole. The American Dream provides the opportunity to pursue one's own happiness under an equal, fair and just democracy. With the legal protection of these
values, an attractive society was laid out for those aspiring for a better life. A society based on these principles offers everyone the right to live life to its fullest however he or she sees fit. For the American Dream to thrive, the Declaration of Independence introduced, "no taxation without representation." Meaning that the government of the United
States would operate as a Democracy, rather than a Monarchy. Under a democracy, leaders are elected by the people and for the p
of people and not the opinion of a leader. Finally, the Declaration of Independence states that a nation must be allowed free trade. The Founding Fathers believed that the best way to ensure national progress is to protect citizens' right to improve their lives. This is the essence of the American Dream during the Colonial Era was
fueled by religious beliefs of the Puritans who left England to escape persecution. The Puritans believed that life was a continual battle between good and evil. And the only way for good to win out over evil was through ambition and hard work. The religion taught that success on Earth would lead to rewards in heaven. The main theme in literature
throughout the 17th and 18th centuries is largely based on religious and Puritanical beliefs. However, the topics of slavery, the American Revolution, and political and cultural change are also prevelant during this time. According to colonial literature, the Pilgrim's believed that they were the "new Israelites" or God's chosen people who would be
protected on their journey to the "promised land." They believed that coming to North America was part of God's grand plan and success was contingent on the faithfulness of the Puritans. During the 1700s, Benjamin Franklin led the charge in encouraging American colonists to create wealth through hard work and frugality. His annual
 magazine, Poor Richard's Almanack, used common sense - not religion - along with wit and humor to motivate readers to accomplish the America could be achieved by educating the masses. The first record of slavery in America was around 1619 when a
Dutch ship carrying enslaved Africans arrived in Jamestown. In 1865, nearly 250 years later, the Constitution's Thirteenth Amendment abolished slavery and described America as a place free of oppression and full of opportunity to
become independent, self-interested landowners. Thousands of letters between John and Abigail Adams from 1762 to 1801 document enormous social, cultural and political change in America. During this time, Adams served in the Continental Congress, as vice president to George Washington, and eventually as the second President of the United
States. These letters chronicle important moments before, during, and after the American Revolution, including the Declaration of Independence signifying the beginning of democracy in America's somewhat new freedom from British reign
With the new found freedom established by the birth of the United States of America in 1776, the nineteenth century saw an influx of immigrants from around the globe. Many desperate to escape poverty in war-torn Europe with hopes of starting a new life in America. The Civil War, a period of industrialization that seemed to almost instantly change
American economy and culture. Rather than a mindset of cooperation, competitiveness set in as Americans fought over their share of development and the notion of the "self-made man" took on a new, powerful meaning. While the Civil War obliterated many
American's dreams, the survivors became advocates against racial and gender discrimination. The 1800s began with a desire to explore the vast, rugged wilderness west of the colonies. This "frontier" mindset triggered the removal and displacement of Native Americans and eventually the race for California gold. With the exploration of the frontier
out west, the wilderness became less "wild" and therefore, less feared. Ralph Waldo Emerson rejected traditional religion and materialism and proclaimed that nature was the root of endless human possibility and fulfillment. The Transcendental movement supported the
individualistic mindset of this century. Many participants of the movement became well-known social reformists, particularly anti-slavery and promoters of women's rights. In the 1900s, the diverse backgrounds of people in America had never been greater. The economy experienced record highs and extreme lows, with the devastation of WWI,
followed by the Great Depression hitting America's interests hard in the late 1920s and 1930s. Just as America's economy was recovering from the downturn, Hitler and the Nazi regime ignited WWII in Europe, forcing the Allies to step in. America was once again thrust into another war turning the once idealistic mindset of a nation into cynicism and
dread. Following the first World War, American's were haunted by the terror of modern warfare resulting in disillusionment and doubt toward traditional beliefs and the ideals of the American Dream as a quest to find one's own identity. "It was
always the becoming he dreamed of, never the being," writes Fitzgerald. The arrival of the Great Depression magnified the increasing gap between wealthy and poor American's. Criticism toward the government's failure to look after the poor were abundant as dreams of prosperity were overpowered by the need to simply survive. For many
dreamers, the Great Depression signaled the end of the American Dream. American's in the twentieth century carried the burden of massive loss due to multiple wars. The 1960s brought the Vietnam War where many people finally verbalized the notion that "war has no winners." Mainstream American culture is thrown to the wayside by many and
the redefining of the American Dream continued. The nature of the American Dream was no longer mainstream ideals, but what lies on the edges of society. Another decade brings yet another shift in the picture of the American Dream was no longer mainstream ideals, but what lies on the edges of society. Another decade brings yet another shift in the picture of the American Dream was no longer mainstream ideals, but what lies on the edges of society.
and power. The final two decades of the twentieth century American Dream follows a similar theme: change. The effects of the American Dream follows a similar theme: change buried cracks in the foundation of the American Dream. These events broke open a conversation about the ongoing issues of race, social class, and justice
opportunity and a better life. Historian Emily Rosenberg came up with five components of the American Dream that began showing up in nations around the world. These five components include: Belief that other nations should replicate America's development. Faith in a free market economy. Support for free trade agreements and culture.
 Promotion of free flow information and culture. Acceptance of government protection of private enterprise. The notion of the American Dream continues to be a theme across the nation and around the globe. Whether these dreams brought triumph or despair, American's keep on dreaming his or her own version of the Dream. Has the American
Dream. In fact, during Hillary Clinton's presidential campaign in 2008, she laid out her American Dream Plan. This plan included homeownership, college, retirement, and health insurance for children. Obama went on to pass the Affordable Care Act, which expanded the right to healthcare for all American's. The Great Recession of 2008 resulted in
even greater income inequality across the U.S., seemingly putting an end to the American Dream for many. In reality, the recession only injured the materialistic Dream. The New American Dream is returning to the basic values of our Founding Fathers. The Center for a New American Dream is returning to the basic values of our Founding Fathers.
as creating a meaningful life, contributing to community and society, valuing nature, and spending time with family and friends." Three factors are said to have made the American Dream possible: A large land mass under one government Benign neighbors Abundant natural resources A new crisis has emerged as the impact of climate change is
becoming more prevalent. Science has proved a rising rate of global warming resulting in a call for lower levels, increasing health risks, and food inflation is already costing the U.S. government billions of dollars, thus slowing economic growth. Therefore
 a vision for a new American Dream is needed in order to endure this new crisis. The Founding Fathers of this nation could not have foreseen an American Dream that didn't offer the right to clean air, water, and plenty of natural resources. But the vision of our Forefathers included rights to be "self-evident." With an entire population united by
language, political system, and values, America's strength only seems to grow with the differences of its citizens. A diverse population gives companies in the U.S. a competitive advantage, with more innovation and accessible markets to test new products. Additionally, America's "melting pot" offers diverse demographics, further giving commerce the
edge to test niche products, generating more innovative ideas compared to a small, homogenous population. The U.S. continues to enjoy the benefits of cultural diversity, and the pursuit of one's own happiness. The Declaration of Independence makes no attempt
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services are decided by the market and not the government. Giving everyone an equal opportunity to create wealth however they see fit. "Hope will be found by understanding that diversity is the essence of the American Dream and why we need each other to fulfill it." Ilhan Omar "When we make college more affordable, we make the American
Dream more achievable. William J. Clinton, 42nd President of the U.S. "Our workforce and our entire economy are strongest when we embrace diversity to its fullest, and that means opening doors of opportunity to everyone and recognizing that the American Dream excludes no one." Thomas Perez, U.S. Secretary of Labor "A basic element of the
American Dream is equal access to education as a lubricant of social and economic mobility." Nicholas Kristof, Journalist "I am the epitome of what the American Dream basically said. It said you could come from anywhere and be anything you want in this country." Whoopi Goldberg, Actress and Comedian "The promise of the American Dream
requires that we are all provided an equal opportunity to participate in and contribute to our nation." Charles B Rangel, U.S. Congress "To me, the American Dream is being able to follow your own personal calling. To be able to do what you want to do is incredible freedom." Maya Lin, Architect "For many, the American Dream has become a
nightmare." Bernie Sanders. U.S. Senator "I have spent my life judging the distance between American Dream." Bruce Springsteen, Musician "The promise of the American Dream requires that we are all provided an equal opportunity to participate in and contribute to our nation." Charles B Rangel, U.S. Congress "My father
worked in the Post Office. A lot of double shifts. All his friends were in the same situation - truck drivers, taxi cab drivers, grocery clerks. Blue collar guys punching the clock and working long, hard hours. The thought that sustained them was the one at the center of the American Dream," Gary David Goldberg, Writer "To realize the American Dream," and the collar guys punching the clock and working long, hard hours. The thought that sustained them was the one at the center of the American Dream, and the collar guys punching the clock and working long, hard hours. The thought that sustained them was the one at the center of the American Dream, and the collar guys punching the clock and working long, hard hours. The thought that sustained them was the one at the center of the American Dream, and the collar guys punching the clock and working long, hard hours. The thought that sustained them was the collar guys punching the clock and working long, hard hours. The thought that sustained them was the collar guys punching the clock and working long, hard hours. The thought that sustained the collar guys punching the clock and working long, hard hours. The thought that sustained the collar guys punching the clock and working long, hard hours. The thought that sustained the collar guys punching the clock and the collar guys punching the clock and the collar guys punching the clock and the collar guys punching the collar guys pu
the most important thing to understand is that it belongs to everybody. It's a human dream. If you understand this and work very hard, it is possible." Cristina Saralegui, Journalist "There are those who will say that the liberation of humanity, the freedom of man and mind is nothing but a dream. They are right. It is the American Dream." Archibald
Macleish, Poet "I say to you today, my friends, so even though we face the difficulties of today and tomorrow, I still have a dream deeply rooted in the American Dream. It is a dream deeply rooted in the American Dream. It is a dream deeply rooted in the American Dream. It is a dream deeply rooted in the American Dream. It is a dream deeply rooted in the American Dream. It is a dream deeply rooted in the American Dream. It is a dream deeply rooted in the American Dream. It is a dream deeply rooted in the American Dream. It is a dream deeply rooted in the American Dream. It is a dream deeply rooted in the American Dream. It is a dream deeply rooted in the American Dream. It is a dream deeply rooted in the American Dream. It is a dream deeply rooted in the American Dream. It is a dream deeply rooted in the American Dream. It is a dream deeply rooted in the American Dream. It is a dream deeply rooted in the American Dream. It is a dream deeply rooted in the American Dream. It is a dream deeply rooted in the American Dream. It is a dream deeply rooted in the American Dream. It is a dream deeply rooted in the American Dream. It is a dream deeply rooted in the American Dream. It is a dream deeply rooted in the American Dream. It is a dream deeply rooted in the American Dream. It is a dream deeply rooted in the American Dream. It is a dream deeply rooted in the American Dream. It is a dream deeply rooted in the American Dream. It is a dream deeply rooted in the American Dream. It is a dream deeply rooted in the American Dream. It is a dream deeply rooted in the American Dream. It is a dream deeply rooted in the American Dream. It is a dream deeply rooted in the American Dream. It is a dream deeply rooted in the American Dream. It is a dream deeply rooted in the American Dream. It is a dream deeply rooted in the American Dream deeply rooted in the American Dream. It is a dream deeply rooted in the American Dream 
Martin Luther King, Jr. "The faith that anyone could move from rags to riches - with enough guts and gumption, hard work and nose to the grindstone - was once at the core of the American Dream." Robert Reich, Economist and Former U.S. Secretary of Labor "The American Dream is a phrase we'll have to wrestle with all our lives. It means a lot of
things to different people. I think we're redefining it now." Rita Dove, Poet What is the American Dream means to all of us, both individually and collectively. May we reflect on what the American Dream means to all of us, both individually and collectively. May we reflect on what the American Dream means to all of us, both individually and collectively.
have the freedom to define, pursue and achieve the Dream. The term "American dream" refers to the belief that anyone, regardless of where they were born or their socio-economic status, can attain their own version of success in a society in which upward mobility is possible for everyone. The American dream is believed to be achieved through
sacrifice, risk-taking, and hard work, rather than by chance. The term "American dream" was coined in a best-selling book in 1931 titled "Epic of America," by James Truslow Adams, Adams described it as "that dream of a land in which life should be better and richer and fuller for everyone, with opportunity for each according to ability or
achievement." The idea of an American dream took hold in part due to a number of factors that gave the United States a competitive advantage over other countries. Homeownership and education are often seen as paths to achieving the American dream has changed to mean different things to different things the different things t
generations, it's undoubtedly part of the nation's ethos. Investopedia's 2024 report found the cost of the American Dream is now $4.4 million over the course of a lifetime. The term was coined by writer and historian James Truslow Adams in his best-selling 1931 book "Epic of America." He described it as "that dream of a land in which life should be
better and richer and fuller for everyone, with opportunity for each according to ability or achievement." Adams went on to explain: "It is a difficult dream for the European upper classes to interpret adequately, and too many of us ourselves have grown weary and mistrustful of it. It is not a dream of motorcars and high wages merely, but a dream of
social order in which each man and woman shall be able to attain to the fullest stature of which they are innately capable, and be recognized by others for what they are innately capable, and be recognized by others for what they are innately capable, and be recognized by others for what they are innately capable, and be recognized by others for what they are innately capable, and be recognized by others for what they are innately capable, and be recognized by others for what they are innately capable, and be recognized by others for what they are innately capable, and be recognized by others for what they are innately capable, and be recognized by others for what they are innately capable, and be recognized by others for what they are innately capable, and be recognized by others for what they are innately capable, and be recognized by others for what they are innately capable, and be recognized by others for what they are innately capable, and be recognized by others for what they are innately capable, and be recognized by others for what they are innately capable, and be recognized by others for what they are innately capable, and be recognized by others for what they are innately capable, and be recognized by others for what they are innately capable, and be recognized by others for what they are innately capable.
which states: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, 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." In a society based on these principles, an individual can live life to its fullest as they define it. America also grew mostly as a
nation of immigrants who created a nation where becoming an American dream requires political and economic freedom, as well as rules of law and private property rights. Without them, individuals cannot make the choices that will
permit them to attain success, nor can they have confidence that their achievements will not be taken away from them through arbitrary force. The American dream promises freedom to make both the large and small decisions that affect one's life, the freedom to make both the possibility
of achieving them, the freedom to accumulate wealth, the opportunity to lead a dignified life, and the freedom to live in accordance with one's values—even if those values are not widely held or accepted. The books of post-Civil War writer Horatio Alger, in which impoverished but hardworking teenage boys rise to success through pluck,
determination, and good fortune, came to personify realizing the dream. The American citizens or immigrants—do not completely determine their future. Terming the concept a "dream" also carries with it the notion that these ideals
aren't necessarily what has played out in the lives of many actual Americans and those who hope to become Americans. The criticism that reality falls short of the American limitation of the right to vote to white male landowners, and a long
list of other injustices and challenges have undermined the realization of the dream for many who live in the United States. As income inequality has increased substantially since the 1970s, the American dream has begun to seem less attainable for those who aren't already affluence. According to U.S. Census family income data,
real family income began to grow much more among the top income group than among other segments of American dream as an ideal and a beacon to all nations. Today, homeownership is frequently cited as an example of attaining the American dream. It is a symbol of
financial success and independence, and it means the ability to control one's own dwelling place instead of being subject to the whims of a landlord. Owning a business and being one's own boss also represents the American dream fulfillment. Entrepreneurship has always been important to the U.S. economy, too. From 1995 to 2021, small businesses
created 17.3 million net jobs alone. In addition, access to education and healthcare have been cited as elements of the American Economic and Cultural Expansion, 1890-1945," sociologist Emily S. Rosenberg identifies five components of the American dream that have shown up in countries around
the world. These include the following: The belief that other nations should replicate America's development; Faith in a free market economy; Support for free trade agreements and foreign direct investment; Promotion of a free market economy; Support for free trade agreements and foreign direct investment; Promotion of a free market economy; Support for free trade agreements and foreign direct investment; Promotion of a free market economy; Support for free trade agreements and foreign direct investment; Promotion of a free market economy; Support for free trade agreements and foreign direct investment; Promotion of a free market economy; Support for free trade agreements and foreign direct investment; Promotion of a free market economy; Support for free trade agreements and foreign direct investment; Promotion of a free market economy; Support for free trade agreements and foreign direct investment; Promotion of a free market economy; Support for free trade agreements and foreign direct investment; Promotion of a free market economy; Support for free trade agreements and foreign direct investment; Promotion of a free market economy; Support for free trade agreements and foreign direct investment; Promotion of a free market economy; Support for free trade agreements and foreign direct investment agreement and foreign direct investment agreement agreement
aided by a number of factors that gave the United States a competitive advantage over other countries, and enjoys a temperate climate. It has a culturally diverse population that businesses use to foster innovation in a global landscape. Abundant natural resources
 —including oil, arable land, and long coastlines—generate food and income for the country and its residents. The phrase "American dream" was often used by Progressive-era reformers of the 1900s. Rather than exalting the pursuit of wealth, they sought to tame monopoly capitalism and protect workers and communities from robber barons. This
concept was popularized by writer and historian James Truslow Adams in his best-selling 1931 book "Epic of America." He described it as "that dream of a land in which life should be better and richer and fuller for everyone, with opportunity for each according to ability or achievement." Examples of the American dream include owning your own
house, starting a family, and having a stable job or owning your own business. It's widely debated if the American dream is still achievement even entails. Indeed, today, many people wonder if they can keep up with rising housing costs and interest payments on loans needed to purchase things like homes and cars. Moreover,
American's need to save for their own retirement and pay large out-of-pocket costs for healthcare and higher education, which can leave families saddled with high-interest debt that is hard to crawl back from. Over time, the American dream has shifted from an ethos of equality and solidarity to one of individualistic competition to succeed
materialistically, fueled by consumption. In the 1990s and early 2000s, mortgage company Fannie Mae began promulgating the notion that buying a home was a cornerstone of the American dream, and use the term prominently in ads selling home loans. This ideology led to the housing boom and ultimate bubble that popped ultimately, leading to the
2008-09 financial crisis. The concept of the American dream is still one of the most uniquely "American" ideals—the ultimate idea that any individual should be able to pursue their dreams and build the life they want if they put in the hard work. This motivating drive influences the economy with entrepreneurship and individual ambition, infusing a
romantic notion to anyone trying to be successful in the United States. Though the definition of the American dream has changed to mean different things to different things the different things to different things the different things the
for each according to ability or achievement." This is the first public American Dream definition from historian James Truslow Adams' best-selling book "Epic of America," published in 1931. In his book, Adams went on to clarify that the American Dream definition from historian James Truslow Adams' best-selling book "Epic of America," published in 1931. In his book, Adams went on to clarify that the American Dream definition from historian James Truslow Adams' best-selling book "Epic of America," published in 1931. In his book, Adams went on to clarify that the American Dream definition from historian James Truslow Adams' best-selling book "Epic of America," published in 1931. In his book, Adams went on to clarify that the American Dream definition from historian James Truslow Adams' best-selling book "Epic of American," published in 1931. In his book, Adams went on to clarify that the American Dream definition from historian James Truslow Adams' best-selling book "Epic of American," published in 1931. In his book, Adams went on to clarify that the American Dream definition from historian James Truslow Adams' best-selling book "Epic of American," published in 1931. In his book, Adams went on to clarify that the American Dream definition from historian James Truslow Adams' best-selling book "Epic of American," published in 1931. In his book, Adams went on the American Dream definition from historian James Truslow Adams' best-selling book "Epic of American," published in 1931. In his book, Adams went on the American Dream definition from historian James Truslow Adams' best-selling book adams and the American Dream definition from historian James Truslow Adams' best-selling book adams and the American Dream definition from historian James Truslow Adams and the American Dream definition from historian James Truslow Adams and the American Dream definition from historian James Truslow Adams and the American Dream definition from historian Dream definition from historian Dream definition from historian Dream definition
man and each woman shall 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." While the term "American Dream" was officially coined in 1931, its vision was laid out by our Founding Fathers as described in the
Declaration of Independence. However, the general idea can be traced as far back as the first colonists to settle the New World. The Declaration of Independence protects the idea and pursuit of the American Dream. It states, "We hold these truths to be self-evident, 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 Founding Fathers wrote into law the revolutionary idea that the "pursuit of Happiness" is not just self-indulgence. Rather, it drives ambition and the desire to contribute to the well-being and success of society as a whole. The American Dream provides the
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Franklin led the charge in encouraging American colonists to create wealth through hard work and frugality. His annual magazine, Poor Richard's Almanack, used common sense - not religion - along with wit and humor to motivate readers to accomplish the American Dream through industry. Franklin believed that the overall betterment of society in America could be achieved by educating the masses. The first record of slavery in America was around 1619 when a Dutch ship carrying enslaved Africans arrived in Jamestown. In 1865, nearly 250 years later, the Constitution's Thirteenth Amendment abolished slavery in the United States. The majority of popular literature during this time period conveniently left out the issue of slavery and described America as a place free of oppression and full of opportunity to become independent, self-interested landowners. Thousands of letters between John and Abigail Adams from 1762 to 1801 document enormous social, cultural and political change in America. During this time, Adams served in the

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Continental Congress, as vice president to George Washington, and eventually as the second President of the United States. These letters chronicle important moments before, during, and after the American Revolution, including the Declaration of Independence signifying the beginning of democracy in America. The 19th Century American Dream
included ideals of individualism and self-interest, mostly driven by America's somewhat new freedom from British reign. With the new found freedom established by the birth of the United States of America in 1776, the nineteenth century saw an influx of immigrants from around the globe. Many desperate to escape poverty in war-torn Europe with
hopes of starting a new life in America. The Civil War, a period of industrialization that seemed to almost instantly change Americans fought over their share of development and wealth in their hard-won country. These hundred years experienced rapid
expansion and the notion of the "self-made man" took on a new, powerful meaning. While the Civil War obliterated many American's dreams, the survivors became advocates against racial and gender discrimination. The 1800s began with a desire to explore the vast, rugged wilderness west of the colonies. This "frontier" mindset triggered the
removal and displacement of Native Americans and eventually the race for California gold. With the exploration of the frontier out west, the wilderness became less "wild" and therefore, less feared. Ralph Waldo Emerson replaced the often feared term wilderness, with the word "nature." Emerson rejected traditional religion and materialism and
proclaimed that nature was the root of endless human possibility and fulfillment. The Transcendental movement supported the individualistic mindset of this century. Many participants of the movement became well-known social reformists, particularly anti-slavery and promoters of women's rights. In the 1900s, the diverse backgrounds of people in
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novel, This Side of Paradise (1920), describes the "new" American Dream as a quest to find one's own identity. "It was always the becoming he dreamed of, never the being," writes Fitzgerald. The arrival of the Great Depression magnified the increasing gap between wealthy and poor American's. Criticism toward the government's failure to look
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verbalized the notion that "war has no winners." Mainstream American Dream was no longer mainstream ideals, but what lies on the edges of society. Another decade brings yet another shift in the picture of the American
Dream. During the 1980s, the dream of success shifted away from having a family, home, and job and toward money, fame and power. The final two decades of the twentieth century American Dream follows a similar theme: change. The final two decades of the twentieth century American Dream follows a similar theme: change.
of the American Dream. These events broke open a conversation about the ongoing issues of race, social class, and justice in American Dream has been a long-time model of prosperity for both American's and people
around the world. "The charm of anticipated success" has brought millions of immigrants to America, looking for equal opportunity and a better life. Historian Emily Rosenberg came up with five components of the American Dream that began showing up in nations around the world. These five components include: Belief that other nations should
replicate America's development. Faith in a free market economy. Support for free trade agreements and culture. Promotion of the American Dream continues to be a theme across the nation and around the globe. Whether these dreams
brought triumph or despair, American's keep on dreaming his or her own version of the Dream. Has the American Dream today moved away from the evolving definition of what the American Dream is today. A number of U.S. presidents around the
turn of the century, including Bill Clinton and George W. Bush supported homeownership as an integral part of the Dream. In fact, during Hillary Clinton's presidential campaign in 2008, she laid out her American Dream Plan. This plan included homeownership, college, retirement, and health insurance for children. Obama went on to pass the
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our Founding Fathers. The Center for a New American Dream imagines, "...a focus on more of what really matters, such as creating a meaningful life, contributing to community and society, valuing nature, and spending time with family and friends." Three factors are said to have made the American Dream possible: A large land mass under one
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liberation of humanity, the freedom of man and mind is nothing but a dream. It is a dream deeply rooted in the American Dream. I have a dream that one day this nation
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and Former U.S. Secretary of Labor "The American Dream is a phrase we'll have to wrestle with all our lives. It means a lot of things to different people. I think we're redefining it now." Rita Dove, Poet What is the American Dream means to all of us, both individually and
collectively. May we celebrate our diversity, show gratitude and respect to our Forefathers who paved the way for every American to have the freedom to define, pursue and achieve the Dream. "The American Dream is that dream of a land in which life should be better and richer and fuller for everyone, with opportunity for each according to ability
or achievement." This is the first public American Dream definition from historian James Truslow Adams' best-selling book "Epic of American" published in 1931. In his book, Adams went on to clarify that the American Dream is not, "...a dream of motor cars and high wages merely, but a dream of social order in which each man and each woman shall
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these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness." The Founding Fathers wrote into law the revolutionary idea that the "pursuit of Happiness" is not just self-indulgence. Rather, it drives ambition and the desire to contribute to the well-being and success of society as a whole. The American Dream provides the opportunity to pursue one's own
happiness under an equal, fair and just democracy. With the legal protection of these values, an attractive society was laid out for those aspiring for a better life. A society based on these principles offers everyone the right to live life to its fullest however he or she sees fit. For the American Dream to thrive, the Declaration of Independence
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The religion taught that success on Earth would lead to rewards in heaven. The main theme in literature throughout the 17th and 18th centuries is largely based on religious and Puritanical beliefs. However, the topics of slavery, the American Revolution, and political and cultural change are also prevelant during this time. According to colonial
literature, the Pilgrim's believed that they were the "new Israelites" or God's chosen people who would be protected on their journey to the "promised land." They believed that they were the "new Israelites" or God's grand plan and success was contingent on the faithfulness of the Puritans. During the 1700s, Benjamin Franklin led the charge in
encouraging American colonists to create wealth through hard work and frugality. His annual magazine, Poor Richard's Almanack, used common sense - not religion - along with wit and humor to motivate readers to accomplish the American Dream through industry. Franklin believed that the overall betterment of society in America could be
achieved by educating the masses. The first record of slavery in America was around 1619 when a Dutch ship carrying enslaved Africans arrived in Jamestown. In 1865, nearly 250 years later, the Constitution's Thirteenth Amendment abolished slavery in the United States. The majority of popular literature during this time period conveniently left out
the issue of slavery and described America as a place free of oppression and full of opportunity to become independent, self-interested landowners. Thousands of letters between John and Abigail Adams from 1762 to 1801 document enormous social, cultural and political change in America. During this time, Adams served in the Continental Congress,
as vice president to George Washington, and eventually as the second President of the United States. These letters chronicle important moments before, during, and after the American Dream included ideals of
individualism and self-interest, mostly driven by America's somewhat new freedom from British reign. With the new found freedom established by the birth of the United States of America in 1776, the nineteenth century saw an influx of immigrants from around the globe. Many desperate to escape poverty in war-torn Europe with hopes of starting a
new life in America. The Civil War, a period of industrialization that seemed to almost instantly change American sought over their share of development and wealth in their hard-won country. These hundred years experienced rapid expansion and the
notion of the "self-made man" took on a new, powerful meaning. While the Civil War obliterated many American's dreams, the survivors became advocates against racial and gender discrimination. The 1800s began with a desire to explore the vast, rugged wilderness west of the colonies. This "frontier" mindset triggered the removal and displacement
of Native Americans and eventually the race for California gold. With the exploration of the frontier out west, the wilderness became less "wild" and therefore, less feared. Ralph Waldo Emerson rejected traditional religion and materialism and proclaimed that nature was the
root of endless human possibility and fulfillment. The Transcendental movement supported the individualistic mindset of this century. Many particularly anti-slavery and promoters of women's rights. In the 1900s, the diverse backgrounds of people in America had never been
greater. The economy experienced record highs and extreme lows, with the devastation of WWI, followed by the Great Depression hitting America's economy was recovering from the downturn, Hitler and the Nazi regime ignited WWII in Europe, forcing the Allies to step in. America was
once again thrust into another war turning the once idealistic mindset of a nation into cynicism and dread. Following the first World War, American's were haunted by the terror of modern warfare resulting in disillusionment and doubt toward traditional beliefs and the ideals of the American Dream. F. Scott Fitzgerald's first novel, This Side of
Paradise (1920), describes the "new" American Dream as a quest to find one's own identity. "It was always the becoming he dreamed of, never the being," writes Fitzgerald. The arrival of the Great Depression magnified the increasing gap between wealthy and poor American's. Criticism toward the government's failure to look after the poor were
abundant as dreams of prosperity were overpowered by the need to simply survive. For many dreamers, the Great Depression signaled the end of the American's in the twentieth century carried the burden of massive loss due to multiple wars. The 1960s brought the Vietnam War where many people finally verbalized the notion that
 "war has no winners." Mainstream American Culture is thrown to the wayside by many and the redefining of the American Dream continued. The nature of the American Dream was no longer mainstream ideals, but what lies on the edges of society. Another decade brings yet another shift in the picture of the American Dream. During the 1980s, the
dream of success shifted away from having a family, home, and job and toward money, fame and power. The final two decades of the twentieth century American Dream follows a similar theme: change. The effects of the 1991 Rodney King assault, trial and riots in Los Angeles dug up long-buried cracks in the foundation of the American Dream. These
events broke open a conversation about the ongoing issues of race, social class, and justice in American Dream. The American Dream has been a long-time model of prosperity for both American's and people around the world. "The charm of
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Faith in a free market economy. Support for free trade agreements and culture. Acceptance of government protection of private enterprise. The notion of the American Dream continues to be a theme across the nation and around the globe. Whether these dreams brought triumph or despair,
American's keep on dreaming his or her own version of the Dream. Has the American Dream today moved away from the vision set forth by our Founding Fathers? Many argue that it has, while others remain optimistic in the evolving definition of what the American Dream today. A number of U.S. presidents around the turn of the century
including Bill Clinton and George W. Bush supported homeownership as an integral part of the Dream. In fact, during Hillary Clinton's presidential campaign in 2008, she laid out her American Dream Plan. This plan included homeownership, college, retirement, and health insurance for children. Obama went on to pass the Affordable Care Act, which
expanded the right to healthcare for all American of 2008 resulted in even greater income inequality across the U.S., seemingly putting an end to the American Dream is returning to the basic values of our Founding Fathers. The
Center for a New American Dream imagines, "...a focus on more of what really matters, such as creating a meaningful life, contributing to community and society, valuing nature, and spending time with family and friends." Three factors are said to have made the American Dream possible: A large land mass under one government Benign neighbors
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Forefathers included rights to be "self-evident." With an entire population united by language, political system, and values, America's strength only seems to grow with the differences of its citizens. A diverse population gives companies in the U.S. a competitive advantage, with more innovation and accessible markets to test new products.
Additionally, America's "melting pot" offers diverse demographics, further giving commerce the edge to test niche products, generating more innovative ideas compared to a small, homogenous population. The U.S. continues to enjoy the benefits of cultural diversity. Thanks to the vision of our Founding Fathers, everyone has an equal right to life,
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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." While the term "American Dream" was officially coined in 1931, its vision was laid out by our Founding Fathers as described in the Declaration of Independence. However, the general idea can be
traced as far back as the first colonists to settle the New World. The Declaration of Independence protects the idea and pursuit of the American Dream. It states, "We hold these truths to be self-evident, 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
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Earth would lead to rewards in heaven. The main theme in literature throughout the 17th and 18th centuries is largely based on religious and Puritanical beliefs. However, the topics of slavery, the American Revolution, and political and cultural change are also prevelant during this time. According to colonial literature, the Pilgrim's believed that they
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powerful meaning. While the Civil War obliterated many American's dreams, the survivors became advocates against racial and gender discrimination. The 1800s began with a desire to explore the vast, rugged wilderness west of the colonies. This "frontier" mindset triggered the removal and displacement of Native Americans and eventually the race
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exception or limitation. No warranties are given. The license may not give you all of the permissions necessary for your intended use. For example, other rights such as publicity, privacy, or moral rights may limit how you use the material. Immigrants who journey to the United States for a better life often say they are coming in search of the
American dream. But many people in the U.S. — immigrants and natural-born citizens alike — now seem to feel that dream is closer to a fantasy. And based on current lifestyle metrics, they aren't necessarily wrong, as the American dream? It's a "century-old phrase used to describe the idea that anyong the anyong is the American dream? It's a "century-old phrase used to describe the idea that anyong is the American dream? It's a "century-old phrase used to describe the idea that anyong is the American dream? It's a "century-old phrase used to describe the idea that anyong is the American dream? It's a "century-old phrase used to describe the idea that anyong is the American dream? It's a "century-old phrase used to describe the idea that anyong is the American dream? It's a "century-old phrase used to describe the idea that anyong is the American dream? It's a "century-old phrase used to describe the idea that anyong is the American dream? It's a "century-old phrase used to describe the idea that anyong is the American dream? It's a "century-old phrase used to describe the idea that anyong is the American dream? It's a "century-old phrase used to describe the idea that anyong is the American dream? It's a "century-old phrase used to describe the idea that anyong is the American dream? It's a "century-old phrase used to describe the idea that anyong is the American dream? It's a "century-old phrase used to describe the idea that anyong is the idea that any only is the idea tha
can achieve success in the United States through hard work and determination," Pew Research Center said. The American dream defines a land where "life should be better and richer and fuller for everyone, with opportunity for each," said historian James Truslow Adams, who coined the phrase in his 1931 book "The Epic of America." "Upward
mobility became the calling card of American life" with the arrival of the Puritans, who were looking for an alternative to the Old World system in which people "born with titles" were "able to be wealthy and powerful just by virtue of their station with
hard work and dedication still draws people to America. Escape your echo chamber. Get the facts behind the news, plus analysis from multiple perspectives. From our morning news briefing to a weekly Good News
Newsletter, get the best of The Week delivered directly to your inbox. Adams wrote "The Epic of America" at the height of the Great Depression, so his American dream was coming true. More than 90% of children born in 1940 ended up better off than their parents, MIT economist
Nathaniel Hendren and Harvard economist Raj Chetty have found. But "only around half of those born in the 1980s were able to say the same," The Wall Street Journal said. "It's still a coin flip whether or not you'll earn more than your parents," Hendren said, "but mobility probably hit a record low in the early 2020s. "Is the American dream still
attainable? A narrow 53% majority believes it is, Pew found in an April 2024 poll, while another 41% said it was once possible to attain but no longer. Older and wealthier people were about 25 percentage points more likely than younger and lower-income American to say the American dream is possible on the American dream, while people with a
college degree were 7 points more bullish than those with less education. Pew found that 31% of respondents felt they had achieved the American team, 36% said it was out of reach. This lack of optimism is especially apparent when it comes to younger people. A January 2025 survey from UCLA
found that 86% of young Americans "want to achieve the American dream in some capacity — but indicate finances are a significant barrier." The poll also found this has a large effect on young people's overall demeanor, with 71% saying that this difficulty of achieving the American dream makes it harder for me to find happiness than prior
generations. A July 2024 Wall Street Journal/NORC survey found that people "overwhelmingly desire all the traditional trappings of the American dream" — which the Journal described as "owning a home, having a family, and looking forward to a comfortable retirement" — "but very few believe they can easily achieve it." For example, 98% of
 respondents said owning a home was an essential life goal but only 10% said homeownership was at at least somewhat easy to attain. Marriage, homeownership and a comfortable retirement seem less like American goals than universal ones. But "people are right to feel that the American dream has become harder to achieve both in terms of their
chances of doing better than their parents and their chances of rising out of poverty," Harvard's Chetty said to the Journal. Why is the American dream increasingly out of reach? Growing wealth and income inequality and decades of stagnant wages have raised the height of the ceiling for the American dream while leaving the vast majority of people
near the floor. Despite America's reputation as a land of opportunity, "there is less movement up and down the economic ladder here than in many other countries," the Brookings Institution said in a 2022 report. In America today, "wealth inequality is high. And wealth status is sticky," and this combination creates "sharp class divides which are at
odds with the American dream." This disparity has been building for a while; a 2014 press release from the House Ways and Means Committee said that the U.S. needs "policies that grow the economy and create jobs so the next generation of Americans can realize the American Dream," and that too many Americans faced "mounting bills and studen"
loan debt."Journalist David Leonhardt, who wrote about the fading American Dream in his 2023 book "Ours Was the Shining Future," primarily blames this stratification on the restructuring of the U.S. economy, from the democratic capitalism that helped create America's large middle class, to the laissez-faire "greed is good" policies that replaced it
starting in the 1980s. And thanks to political shifts — Democrats, increasingly college-educated and socially liberal, haven't been able to win enough power to tip the economy back in the other direction, and Republicans aren't interested — "there is no longer a mass movement focused on improving economic outcomes for most Americans," he said in
his book. "The country's largest activist groups, on both the left and the right, are focused on other subjects."While the dream may still technically be reachable for some, a large portion of Americans, particularly young people, simply no longer feel that way. Gen Z and millennial Americans "still really want financial security and independence, but
many feel like the cards are stacked against them and the system is rigged," said Yalda Uhls, a professor in psychology at UCLA. Notably, high interest and mortgage rates, rising insurance costs, low housing stock and soaring real estate prices have also made it harder for first-time homebuyers to purchase a house, something 75% of Americanski prices have also made it harder for first-time homebuyers to purchase a house, something 75% of Americanski prices have also made it harder for first-time homebuyers to purchase a house, something 75% of Americanski prices have also made it harder for first-time homebuyers to purchase a house, something 75% of Americanski prices have also made it harder for first-time homebuyers to purchase a house, something 75% of Americanski prices have also made it harder for first-time homebuyers to purchase a house, something 75% of Americanski prices have also made it harder for first-time homebuyers to purchase a house, something 75% of Americanski prices have a house and something 75% of Americanski prices have a house and something 75% of Americanski prices have a house a house and a house a house a house a house a house and a house a hous
consider an essential component of the America, the "clearest sign of our problems" is the "stagnation of life expectancy for working-class people," Leonhardt said at The New York Times. "In 1980, the U.S. had a typical life expectancy for working-class people," Leonhardt said at The New York Times. "In 1980, the U.S. had a typical life expectancy for working-class people," Leonhardt said at The New York Times. "In 1980, the U.S. had a typical life expectancy for working-class people," Leonhardt said at The New York Times. "In 1980, the U.S. had a typical life expectancy for working-class people," Leonhardt said at The New York Times. "In 1980, the U.S. had a typical life expectancy for working-class people," Leonhardt said at The New York Times. "In 1980, the U.S. had a typical life expectancy for working-class people," Leonhardt said at The New York Times. "In 1980, the U.S. had a typical life expectancy for working-class people," Leonhardt said at The New York Times. "In 1980, the U.S. had a typical life expectancy for working-class people," Leonhardt said at The New York Times. "In 1980, the U.S. had a typical life expectancy for working-class people," Leonhardt said at The New York Times. "In 1980, the U.S. had a typical life expectancy for working-class people," Leonhardt said at The New York Times. "In 1980, the U.S. had a typical life expectancy for working-class people," Leonhardt said at The New York Times. "In 1980, the U.S. had a typical life expectancy for working-class people," Leonhardt said at The New York Times. "In 1980, the U.S. had a typical life expectancy for working-class people," Leonhardt said at The New York Times. "In 1980, the U.S. had a typical life expectancy for working-class people," Leonhardt said at The New York Times. "In 1980, the U.S. had a typical life expectancy for working-class people," Leonhardt said at The New York Times. "In 1980, the U.S. had a typical life expectancy for working-class people expectancy for working-class people expectancy for working-class people exp
for an affluent country," but now it ranks lower than its peers and even many poorer countries. Can the dream be revived? If "the American political system can solve them," Leonhardt said at the Times. The American political system can solve them, "Leonhardt said at the Times. The American political system can solve them," Leonhardt said at the Times.
crusaders and other "often grass-roots political movements" that steadily nudged the government into creating the Americans can coalesce into a "mass movement organized around the goal of lifting living standards" for the middle class and
working class, he added, it "might well succeed. It has before." Not everyone agrees that the dream is dying. "The American dream is of individual upward mobility, not social progress toward uniformity," John Early and former Sen. Phil Gramm (R-Texas) said in the Journal in 2023. And that "American dream is alive and well." Three recent studies,
they said, suggest that the "vast majority" of U.S. adults still "have higher income than their parents did." If Americans "want to figure out why people don't feel like they're staying above water, we need to examine issues of income disparity and social wealth," Bhaskar Sunkara said at The Guardian. This would involve reupping social democracy
platforms to better align with those in Europe, Sunkara added. The U.S. can "pursue taxation policies that better redistribute wealth and create greater state support for worker unionization and domestic manufacturing. One shining example is Washington
choose to cultivate strong communities. We can choose to place people over politics." National ethos of the United States for many immigrants during the mid-19th to the early 20th
century. In this role, it signified new opportunities for becoming American Dream. The "American Dream" is a phrase referring to a purported national ethos of the United States: that every person has the freedom and opportunity to succeed and attain a better life.[1] The phrase was popularized by James
Truslow Adams during the Great Depression in 1931,[2] and has had different meanings over time. Originally, the emphasis was on democracy, liberty, and equality, but more recently has been on achieving material wealth and upward social mobility.[3] Adams defined it as that dream of a land in which life should be better and richer and fuller for
everyone, with opportunity for each according to ability or achievement. [...] It is not a dream of motor cars and high wages merely, but a dream of social order in which each man and each woman shall 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[4] The tenets of the American Dream originate from the Declaration of Independence, which states that "all men are created equal", and have an inalienable right to "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness", [5] The Preamble to the Constitution's purpose is to, in part, "secure the constitution of Independence, which states that "all men are created equal", and have an inalienable right to "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness", [6] The Preamble to the Constitution of Independence, which states that "all men are created equal", and have an inalienable right to "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness", [7] The Preamble to the Constitution of Independence, which states that "all men are created equal", and have an inalienable right to "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness", [8] The Preamble to the Constitution of Independence, which states that "all men are created equal", and have an inalienable right to "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness", [8] The Preamble to the Constitution of Independence, which states that "all men are created equal", and have an inalienable right to "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness", [8] The Preamble to the Constitution of Independence, which states that "all men are created equal", and have an inalienable right to "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness", [8] The Preamble to the Constitution of Independence in the pursuit of happiness is a supplication of the pursuit of happiness is a supplication of the pursuit of happiness is a supplication of the pursuit of happiness.
Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity".[a] It is said to be a set of ideals including representative democracy, rights, liberty, and equality, in which freedom is interpreted as the opportunity for individual prosperity and success, as well as the chance for upward social mobility for each according to ability and achievement through hard
work in a capitalist society with many challenges but few formal barriers.[citation needed] Evidence indicates that in recent decades social mobility is lower in the US than in many European countries, especially the Nordic countries.[8][9] Despite this, many
Americans are likely to believe they have a better chance of social mobility than Europeans do.[10] The US ranked 27th in the 2020 Global Social Mobility Index.[11] A 2020 poll found 54% of American adults thought the American Dream was attainable for them, while 28% thought it was not. Black and Asian Americans, and younger generations were
less likely to believe this than whites, Hispanics, Native American Dream is often inversely associated with rates of national disillusionment.[6] Some critics have said that the dominant culture in America focuses on
materialism and consumerism, or puts blame on the individual for failing to achieve success, [14] Others have said that the labor movement is significant for delivering on the American Dream and building the middle class, [15][16] yet in 2024 only 10% of American workers were members of a labor union, down from 20% in 1983, [17] The American
Dream has also been said to be tied to American exceptionalism, [18] and does not acknowledge the hardships many American slavery, Native American genocide, their legacies, and other examples of discriminatory violence. [19] This section needs expansion. You can help by making an edit requestadding to it.
(November 2022) The meaning of the American Dream has changed over the course of history, and includes both personal components such as home ownership and upward mobility as well as a global vision for cultural hegemony and diplomacy. Historically, the Dream originated in colonial mystique regarding frontier life. As John Murray, 4th Earl of
Dunmore, the colonial Governor of Virginia, noted in 1774, the Americans "for ever imagine the Lands further off are still better than those upon which they are already settled". He added that, "if they attained Paradise, they would move on if they heard of a better place farther west".[20] The idea of the American Dream is ever evolving and
changing. When the Declaration of Independence was signed on July 4, 1776, the founding fathers believed that this would ratify the role of government and society in the United States. Jim Cullen claims: Ever since, the Declaration of Independence was signed on July 4, 1776, the founding fathers believed that this would ratify the role of government and society in the United States. Jim Cullen claims: Ever since, the Declaration of Independence was signed on July 4, 1776, the founding fathers believed that this would ratify the role of government and society in the United States. Jim Cullen claims: Ever since, the Declaration of Independence was signed on July 4, 1776, the founding fathers believed that this would ratify the role of government and society in the United States. Jim Cullen claims: Ever since, the Declaration of Independence was signed on July 4, 1776, the founding fathers believed that this would ratify the role of government and society in the United States. Jim Cullen claims: Ever since, the Declaration of Independence was signed on July 4, 1776, the founding fathers believed that this would ratify the role of government and society in the United States. Jim Cullen claims: Ever since, the Declaration of Independence was signed on July 4, 1776, the founding fathers believed that the Independence was signed on July 4.
women's rights activists, populists, homosexuals, and anyone who has ever believed that happiness can not only be pursued, but attained. The U.S. Constitution, which marked the other bookend of the nation's creation, lacks the mythic resonances of the Declaration, though it takes little reflection to see that it is the backdrop, if not the foundation,
for all American Dreams. Whatever their disagreements about its scope or character, most Americans would agree that their national government does serve this function; few have doubts that it should.[21] Many well-educated Germans who
fled the failed 1848 revolution found the United States more politically free than their homeland, which they believed to be a hierarchical and aristocratic society that determined the ceiling for their aspirations. One of them said: The German emigrant comes into a country free from the despotism, privileged orders and monopolies, intolerable taxes,
and constraints in matters of belief and conscience. Everyone can travel and settle wherever he pleases. No passport is demanded, no police mingles in his affairs or hinders his movements ... Fidelity and merit are the only sources of honor here. The rich stand on the same footing as the poor; the scholar is not a mug above the most humble
mechanics; no German ought to be ashamed to pursue any occupation ... [In America] wealth and possession of real estate confer not the least political right on its owner above what the poorest citizen has. Nor are there swarms of
public functionaries to devour in idleness credit for. Above all, there are no princes and corrupt courts representing the so-called divine 'right of birth'. In such a country the talents, energy and perseverance of a person ... have far greater opportunity to display than in monarchies. [22] The discovery of gold in California in 1849 brought in a hundred
thousand men looking for their fortune overnight—and a few did find it. Thus was born the California Dream of instant success. Historian H. W. Brands noted that in the years after the Gold Rush, the California Dream of instant success. Historian H. W. Brands noted that in the years after the Gold Rush, the California Dream of instant success.
and women content to accumulate their modest fortunes a little at a time, year by year
wealth and new means of travel. When looking at immigration in history, it is important to consider the different experiences due to gender as much as due to race. Often, tensions between economic and political agendas come into play. After 1776, the United States became a significant part of the global economy. This paragraph highlights the
complex relationships between global integration and American history: These complicated transnational distinctiveness amid growing global competition. Americans conceived of and responded to these pressures by striving to create national
economic independence because they wanted to maintain political and social independence. Thus there was tension between the economic agendas - such as the enhancement of national security through a strong industrial and financial base. [24] Historian Frederick
Jackson Turner in 1893 advanced the frontier thesis, under which American democracy and the American democracy was the primary result,
along with egalitarianism, a lack of interest in high culture, and violence. "American democracy was born of no theorist's dream; it was not carried in the Susan Constant to Virginia, nor in the Mayflower to Plymouth. It came out of the American forest, and it gained new strength each time it touched a new frontier," said Turner, [25] In Turner's thesis,
the American frontier established liberty by releasing Americans from European mindsets and eroding old, dysfunctional customs. The frontier had no need for standing armies, established churches, aristocrats or nobles, nor for landed gentry who controlled most of the land and charged heavy rents. Frontier land was free for the taking. Turner first
announced his thesis in a paper entitled "The Significance of the Frontier in American History", delivered to the American Historical Association in 1893 in Chicago. He won wide acclaim among historians and intellectuals. Turner elaborated on the theme in his advanced history lectures and in a series of essays published over the next 25 years,
published along with his initial paper as The Frontier in American History, [26] Turner's emphasis on the importance of the frontier in shaping American character influenced the interpretation found in thousands of scholarly histories. By the time Turner died in 1932, 60% of the leading history departments in the U.S. were teaching courses in frontier
history along Turnerian lines.[27] Americanization of California (1932) by Dean Cornwell From out of the darkest years of the Great Depression,[28] freelance writer James Truslow Adams popularized the phrase "Americanization of California (1932) by Dean Cornwell From out of the darkest years of the Great Depression,[28] freelance writer James Truslow Adams popularized the phrase "Americanization of California (1932) by Dean Cornwell From out of the darkest years of the Great Depression,[28] freelance writer James Truslow Adams popularized the phrase "Americanization of California (1932) by Dean Cornwell From out of the darkest years of the Great Depression,[28] freelance writer James Truslow Adams popularized the phrase "Americanization of California (1932) by Dean Cornwell From out of the darkest years of the Great Depression, [28] freelance writer James Truslow Adams popularized the phrase "Americanization of California (1932) by Dean Cornwell From out of the darkest years of the Great Depression, [28] freelance writer James Truslow Adams popularized the phrase "Americanization of California (1932) by Dean Cornwell From out of the darkest years of the Great Depression, [28] freelance writer James Truslow Adams popularized the phrase "Americanization of California (1932) by Dean Cornwell From Out of the Great Depression (1932) by Dean Cornwell From Out of the Great Depression (1932) by Dean Cornwell From Out of the Great Depression (1932) by Dean Cornwell From Out of the Great Depression (1932) by Dean Cornwell From Out of the Great Depression (1932) by Dean Cornwell From Out of the Great Depression (1932) by Dean Cornwell From Out of the Great Depression (1932) by Dean Cornwell From Out of the Great Depression (1932) by Dean Cornwell From Out of the Great Depression (1932) by Dean Cornwell From Out of the Great Depression (1932) by Dean Cornwell From Out of the Great Depression (1932) by Dean Cornwell From Out of the Great Depression (1932) by Dean Cornwell From Out of the Great Depression (1932) by Dean Corn
should be better and richer and fuller for every man, with opportunity for each according to his ability or achievement. It is a difficult dream for the European upper classes to interpret adequately, and too many of us ourselves have grown weary and mistrustful of it. It is not a dream of motor cars and high wages merely, but a dream of social order in
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merely material plenty, though that has doubtlessly counted heavily. It has been much more than that. It has been a dream of being able to grow to fullest development as man and woman, unhampered by the barriers which had developed for the benefit of classes
rather than for the simple human being of any and every class. Adams contended that extreme wealth inequality was among the worst enemies of the American Dream, and said that:[29] So long also as we are ourselves content with a mere extension of the material basis of existence, with the multiplying of our material possessions, it is absurd to
think that the men who can utilize that public attitude for the gaining of infinite wealth and power for themselves will abandon both to become spiritual things. He also said that the American institution that best exemplified the American dream was the Library of Congress; he contrasted it with European
libraries of the time, which restricted access to many of their works, and argued that the Library, as an institution funded by and meant to uphold democracy, was an example of democratic government's ability to uplift and equalize the people that it ruled over and was ruled by in order to "save itself" from a takeover by oligarchic forces. The Library
also offered an opportunity for the whole nation to come together in thoughtful pursuit of a common good, which Adams claimed needed to be "carried out in all departments of our national life" in order to make the American Dream a reality.[29] Martin Luther King Jr., in his "Letter from a Birmingham Jail" (1963), rooted the civil rights movement in
the African-American guest for the American Dream: [30] We will win our freedom because the sacred heritage of our nation and the eternal will of God are embodied in our echoing demands ... when these disinherited children of God sat down at lunch counters they were in reality standing up for what is best in the American dream and for the most
sacred values in our Judeo-Christian heritage, thereby bringing our nation back to those great wells of democracy which were dug deep by the Founding Fathers in their formulation of the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence. The concept of the American Dream has been used in popular discourse, and scholars have traced its use in
American literature ranging from the Autobiography of Benjamin Franklin,[31] to Mark Twain's Adventures of Huckleberry Finn (1884), Willa Cather's My Ántonia,[32] F. Scott Fitzgerald's The Great Gatsby (1925), Theodore Dreiser's An American Tragedy (1925) and Toni Morrison's Song of Solomon (1977).[33] Other writers who used the American Tragedy (1925) and Toni Morrison's Finn (1884), Willa Cather's My Ántonia,[32] F. Scott Fitzgerald's The Great Gatsby (1925), Theodore Dreiser's An American Tragedy (1925) and Toni Morrison's Finn (1884), Willa Cather's My Ántonia, [32] F. Scott Fitzgerald's The Great Gatsby (1925), Theodore Dreiser's An American Tragedy (1925) and Toni Morrison's Finn (1884), Willa Cather's My Ántonia, [32] F. Scott Fitzgerald's The Great Gatsby (1925), Theodore Dreiser's An American Tragedy (19
Dream theme include Hunter S. Thompson, Edward Albee, [34] John Steinbeck, [35] Langston Hughes, [36] and Giannina Braschi. [37] In 2006, Dr. Guiyou Huang from St. Thomas University in Florida wrote a paper regarding the American Dream as a recurring theme in the fiction of Asian Americans. [38] [39] Many American authors added American Dream as a recurring theme in the fiction of Asian Americans. [38] [39] Many American authors added American Dream as a recurring theme in the fiction of Asian Americans.
ideals to their work as a theme or other reoccurring idea, to get their point across.[40] There are many ideals that appear in American Dream is attainable, and everyone can succeed with hard work and determination. John
Winthrop also wrote about this term called American exceptionalism. This ideology refers to the idea that American exceptionalism. This ideology refers to the idea that American exceptionalism. This ideology refers to the idea that American exceptionalism. This ideology refers to the idea that American exceptionalism. This ideology refers to the idea that American exceptionalism. This ideology refers to the idea that American exceptionalism.
of the American idyll (left) and the reality of his life in the wilderness (right), where he is menaced by a mountain lion, a big snake and wild Indians who are scalping and disembowelling someone).[42] The American Dream has been credited with helping to build a cohesive American experience, but has also been blamed for inflated expectations.[43]
Some commentators have noted that despite deep-seated belief in the egalitarian American Dream, the modern American wealth structure still perpetuates racial and class inequalities between generations.[44] One sociologist notes that advantage are not always connected to individual successes or failures, but often to prior
position in a social group. [44] Since the 1920s, numerous authors, such as Sinclair Lewis in his 1922 novel Babbitt, and F. Scott Fitzgerald, in his 1925 classic, The Great Gatsby, satirized or ridiculed materialism in the chase for the American dream. For example, Jay Gatsby's death mirrors the American Dream's demise, reflecting the pessimism of
modern-day Americans.[45] The American Dream is a main theme in the book by John Steinbeck, Of Mice and Men. The two friends George and Lennie dream of their own piece of land with a ranch, so they can "live off the fatta the lan" and just enjoy a better life. The book later shows that not everyone can achieve the American Dream, although it is
possible to achieve for a few. A lot of people follow the American Dream to achieve a greater changes with technological advances, availability of infrastructure and information, government regulations, state of the economy, and with the evolving cultural values of
American demographics. In 1949, Arthur Miller wrote Death of a Salesman, in which the American Dream is a fruitless pursuit. Similarly, in 1971 Hunter S. Thompson depicted in Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas: A Savage Journey Into the Heart of the American Dream a dark psychedelic reflection of the concept—successfully illustrated only in
wasted pop-culture excess.[46] The novel Requiem for a Dream by Hubert Selby Jr. is an exploration of the pursuit of American success as it turns delirious and lethal, told through the ensuing tailspin of its main characters. George Carlin famously wrote the joke "it's called the American dream because you have to be asleep to believe it".[47][48]
Carlin pointed to "the big wealthy business interests that control things and make all the important decisions" as having a greater influence than an individual's choice. [47] Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist and leftist activist Chris Hedges echoes this sentiment in his 2012 book Days of Destruction, Days of Revolt: [49] The vaunted American dream, the
idea that life will get better, that progress is inevitable if we obey the rules and work hard, that material prosperity is assured, has been replaced by a hard and bitter truth. The American dream, we now know, is a lie. We will all be sacrificed. The virus of corporate abuse—the perverted belief that only corporate profit matters—has spread to
outsource our jobs, cut the budgets of our schools, close our libraries and unemployment. The American Dream, and the sometimes dark response to it, has been a long-standing theme in American Dream, and the sometimes dark response to it, has been a long-standing theme in American Dream, and the sometimes dark response to it, has been a long-standing theme in American Dream, and the sometimes dark response to it, has been a long-standing theme in American Dream, and the sometimes dark response to it, has been a long-standing theme in American Dream, and the sometimes dark response to it, has been a long-standing theme in American Dream, and the sometimes dark response to it, has been a long-standing theme in American Dream, and the sometimes dark response to it, has been a long-standing theme in American Dream, and the sometimes dark response to it, has been a long-standing theme in American Dream, and the sometimes dark response to it, has been a long-standing theme in American Dream, and the sometimes dark response to it.
Dream. For example, Easy Rider (1969), directed by Dennis Hopper, shows the characters making a pilgrimage in search of "the true America" in terms of the hippie movement, drug use, and communal lifestyles.[51] Scholars have explored the America" in terms of the hippie movement, drug use, and communal lifestyles.[52] Hillary
Clinton,[53] Benjamin Franklin, and Abraham Lincoln.[54] The theme has been used for many local leaders as well, such as José Antonio Navarro, the Tejano leader (1795-1871), who served in the legislatures of Coahuila y Texas, the Republic of Texas, and the State of Texas, and the State of Texas.[55] In 2006, then U.S. Senator Barack Obama wrote a memoir, The
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Audacity of Hope: Thoughts on Reclaiming the American Dream. It was this interpretation of the American Dream for a young black man that helped establish his statewide and 2012 elections. [58] Political conflicts, to some degree
have been ameliorated by the shared values of all parties in the expectation that the American Dream will resolve many difficulties and conflicts. [59] The ethos today implies an opportunity for one's children to grow up and receive a good
 education and career without artificial barriers. It is the opportunity to make individual choices without the prior restrictions that limited people according to their own language; the editors typically promoted the American Dream.[60]
 Lawrence Samuel argues: For many in both the working class and the middle class, upward mobility has served as the heart and soul of the American Dream, the prospect of "betterment" and to "improve one's lot" for oneself and one's children much of what this country is all about. "Work hard, save a little, send the kids to college so they can do
 better than you did, and retire happily to a warmer climate" has been the script we have all been handed.[61] A key element of the most salient features of the interview data: parents—regardless of background—relied heavily on the
American Dream to understand the possibilities for children, especially their own children, especially e
better than the previous generation."[63] "A lot of Americans think the U.S. has more social mobility than other western industrialized countries. This [study using medians instead of averages] makes it abundantly clear that we have less. Your circumstances at birth—specifically, what your parents do for a living—are an even bigger factor in how far
you get in life than we had previously realized. Generations of Americans considered the United States to be a land of opportunity. This research raises some sobering questions about that image." Michael Hout, Professor of Sociology at New York University, 2018[64] Hanson and Zogby (2010) report on numerous public opinion polls that since the
 1980s have explored the meaning of the concept for Americans, and their expectations for its future. In these polls, a majority of Americans consistently reported that for their family, the Americans consistently reported that for their family, the Americans consistently reported that material goods. Majorities state that working hard is the most important element for getting ahead.
 However, an increasing minority stated that hard work and determination does not guarantee success. [65] In 2010, most Americans predicted that achieving the Dream with fair means would become increasingly difficult for future generations. They were increasingly pessimistic about the opportunity for the working class to get ahead; on the other
 hand, they were increasingly optimistic about the opportunities available to poor people and to new immigrants. Furthermore, most supported programs to make special efforts to help minorities available to poor people and to new immigrants. Furthermore, most supported programs to make special efforts to help minorities available to poor people and to new immigrants. Furthermore, most supported programs to make special efforts to help minorities available to poor people and to new immigrants.
[66] Most Americans perceive a college education as the ticket to the American Dream. [67] Some recent[when?] observers warn that soaring student loan debt crisis and shortages of good jobs may undermine this ticket. [68] The point was illustrated in The Fallen American Dream.
 from its historical origins to its current perception.[69] A 2020 poll found 54% of American Dream was attainable for them, 28% believed it was not, and 9% rejected the idea of the American Dream entirely. Younger generations were less likely to believe this than their older counterparts, and black and Asian Americans
less likely than whites, Hispanics and Native Americans.[12] Wealth inequality in the United States increased from 1989 to 2013.[70] Research published in 2013 shows that the U.S. provides, alongside the United Kingdom and Spain, the least economic mobility of any of 13 rich democratic countries in the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and
 Development (OECD).[71][72] Prior research suggested that the United States shows roughly average levels of occupational upward mobility is lower in more unequal countries (like the United States).[75] Jo Blanden et al. report, "the idea of the U.S. as 'the
 land of opportunity' persists; and clearly seems misplaced."[76] According to these studies, "by international standards, the United States has an unusually low level of intergenerational mobility: our parents' income is highly predictive of our incomes as adults. Intergenerational mobility in the United States is lower than in France, Germany, Sweden
Canada, Finland, Norway and Denmark. Research in 2006 found that among high-income countries for which comparable estimates are available, only the United States."[77] Economist Isabel Sawhill concluded that "this challenges the notion of America as the land of opportunity".[78][79][80]
Several public figures and commentators, from David Frum to Richard G. Wilkinson, have said that the American Dream is better realized in Denmark, which is ranked as having the highest social mobility in the U.S., 50% of a father's income position is inherited by his son. In contrast, the amount in Norway or
Canada is less than 20%. Moreover, in the U.S. 8% of children raised in the bottom 20% of the climbed to the top 20% as adult, while the figure in Denmark is nearly double at 15%.[86][87][88] In 2015, economist Joseph Stiglitz stated, "Maybe we should be calling the American Dream the Scandinavian Dream."[89] A 2023 paper written by academics
at Bocconi University, the Rockwool Foundation, and Stockholm University found that "Intergenerational poverty in the U.S. is four times strong as in Australia and the UK," and that an American child who grows up in poverty has "a 43 percentage point higher mean poverty exposure during early
 adulthood (relative to an adult with no child poverty exposure)," the highest of the five countries and exceeding the next highest by over 20 percentage points. The researchers found that "the persistence of poverty is strongly connected to tax rates and what they call transfer insurance effects, which can be considered as akin to a social safety net,"
and that the "U.S. is the archetype of a liberal and residualist welfare state, featuring stratified access to higher education, and a comparatively weak welfare state to insure against risks in adulthood," as well as that "exposure to childhood poverty is particularly severe in the US."[90] A
2017 study stated that the UK, Canada, and Denmark all offered a greater chance of social mobility from the bottom and downward mobility from the top according to the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago, with social mobility
nationwide appearing to have declined since 1980.[92] Social mobility can also vary widely geographically according to a 2014 paper, with the Southeast and lower East North Central states ranking near the bottom.[93] In the United States, home ownership is sometimes used as a proxy for achieving the promised prosperity; home ownership has
 been a status symbol separating the middle classes from the poor. [94] Sometimes the American Dream is identified with success in sports or how working class immigrants seek to join the American become less likely to believe in the attainability of the
American dream as income inequality increases.[96] A 2022 study in the same journal found that exposure to "rags-to-riches" narratives in entertainment make American people by a Boston-based organization, Populace, the American Dream has
 shifted its narrative from fame and wealth to personal factors such as secure retirement, financial independence, parenthood and finding fulfillment in their work. [97] Ownby (1999) identifies four American Dreams that the new consumer culture of the early 20th century addressed: The "Dream of Abundance", offering a cornucopia of material goods
to all Americans, making them proud to be the richest society on earth. The "Dream of a Democracy of Goods", whereby everyone had access to the same products regardless of race, gender, ethnicity, or class, thereby challenging the aristocratic norms of the rest of the world where only the rich or well-connected were granted access to luxury. The
 "Dream of Freedom of Choice", with its ever-expanding variety of good allowed people to fashion their own particular lifestyle. The "Dream of Novelty", in which ever-changing fashions, new models, and unexpected new products broadened the consumer experience in terms of purchasing skills and awareness of the market, and challenged the
 conservatism of traditional society, culture, and politics. Ownby acknowledges that the American Dreams of the new consumer culture radiated out from the major cities, but notes that they quickly penetrated the most rural and most isolated areas, such as rural Mississippi. With the arrival of affordable automobiles such as the Ford Model T in the
 1910s, consumers in rural America were no longer forced to only buy from local general stores with their limited merchandise and high prices, and could instead visit cheaper, better-stocked shops in towns and cities. Ownby demonstrates that poor black Mississippians shared in the new consumer culture, and it motivated the more ambitious to move ambitious ambitio
 to Memphis or Chicago.[98][99] The aspirations of the "American Dream" in the broad sense of upward mobility have been systematically spread to other nations since the 1890s as American business, religious missionaries, philanthropies,
Hollywood, labor unions and U.S. government agencies, she says they saw their mission not in catering to foreign elites but instead reaching the world's masses in a democratic spirit ... In the emerging litany of the American dream
what historian Daniel J. Boorstin later termed a 'democracy of things' would disprove both Malthus's predictions of scarcity and Marx's of class conflict." It was, she says "a vision of global social progress".[100] Rosenberg calls the overseas version of the American Dream "liberal-developmentalism" and identified five critical components: (1) belief
that other nations could and should replicate America's own developmental experience; (2) faith in private free enterprise; (3) support for free or open access for trade and investment; (4) promotion of free flow of information and culture; and (5) growing acceptance of [U.S.] governmental activity to protect private enterprise and to stimulate and
regulate American participation in international economic and cultural exchange.[101] Knights and McCabe argued American management gurus have taken the lead in exporting the ideas: "By the latter half of the twentieth century they were truly global and through them the American Dream continues to be transmitted, repackaged and sold by an
 infantry of consultants and academics backed up by an artillery of books and videos".[102] In West Germany after World War II, says Reiner Pommerin, "the most intense motive was the longing for a better life, more or less identical with the American dream, which also became a German dream".[103] Cassamagnaghi argues that to women in Italy
after 1945, films and magazine stories about American Dream. New York City especially represented a sort of utopia where every sort of dream and desire could become true. Italian women saw a model for their own emancipation from second class status in their patriarchal society.[104] The American dream regarding home
 ownership had little resonance before the 1980s. [105] In the 1980s, British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher worked to create a similar dream, by selling public-housing units to their tenants. Her Conservative Party called for more home ownership: "HOMES OF OUR OWN: To most people ownership means first and foremost a home of their own ...
We should like in time to improve on existing legislation with a realistic grants scheme to assist first-time buyers of cheaper homes."[106] Guest calls this Thatcher's approach to the American Dream has been the emphasis on individualism as extolled by
Margaret Thatcher and epitomized by the 'enterprise' culture."[108] Since the fall of communist leader Boris Yeltsin embraced the "American way" and teamed up with Harvard University free market economists Jeffrey Sachs and Robert Allison
 to give Russia economic shock therapy in the 1990s. The newly independent Russian media idealized America and endorsed shock therapy for the economy.[110] In 2008 Russian President Dmitry Medvedev lamented the fact that 77% of Russia's 142 million people live "cooped up" in apartment buildings. In 2010 his administration announced a plan
for widespread home ownership: "Call it the Russian Dream", said Alexander Braverman, the Director of the Federal Fund for the Promotion of Housing Construction Development. In 2010, Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin, worried about his nation's very low birth rate, said he hoped home ownership would inspire Russians "to have more
babies",[111] Main article: Chinese Dream Shanghai in 2016 The Chinese Dream describes a set of ideals in the People's Republic of China. It is used by journalists, government officials and activists to describe the aspiration of individual self-improvement in Chinese Dream Shanghai in 2016 The 
scholars,[112][113] a translation of a New York Times article written by the American journalist Thomas Friedman, "China Needs Its Own Dream", has been credited with popularizing the concept in China.[113] He attributes the term to Peggy Liu and the environmental NGO JUCCCE's China Dream project,[114][115] which defines the Chinese
Dream as sustainable development.[115] In 2013, China's new paramount leader Xi Jinping began promoting the phrase as a slogan, leading to its widespread use in the Chinese media.[116] The concept of the Chinese media.[116] The concept of the Chinese media.[116] The concept of the Chinese media.[117] In 2013, China's new paramount leader Xi Jinping began promoting the phrase as a slogan, leading to its widespread use in the Chinese media.[118] The concept of the Chinese media.[118]
and women in post-reform China, such as rural immigrants who moved to the urban centers and improved their living standards and social life. The Chinese people during the era of social transformation and economic progress. The idea was put forward by Chinese Communist Party
General Secretary Xi Jinping on November 29, 2012. The government hoped to revitalize China, while promoting innovation and technology to boost the international prestige of China. In this light, the Chinese Dream, like the American Dream, like the Dream Dream, like the Dream Dream, like the Dre
 Brown, writing in 2019, over 90% of Chinese families own their own homes, giving the country one of the highest rates of home ownership in the world.[117] Achievement ideology American way Empire of Liberty Four Freedoms New Dream ^ "Posterity" is a now-archaic term referring to one's descendants. ^ Bain, Brittney (Winter 2021). "The State
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 presentation from Destination Freedom Retrieved from ""The American Dream is that dream of a land in which life should be better and richer and fuller for everyone, with opportunity for each according to ability or achievement." This is the first public American Dream definition from historian James Truslow Adams' best-selling book "Epic of
of the fortuitous circumstances of birth or position." While the term "American Dream" was officially coined in 1931, its vision was laid out by our Founding Fathers as described in the Declaration of Independence.
protects the idea and pursuit of the American Dream. It states, "We hold these truths to be self-evident, 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 Founding Fathers wrote into law the revolutionary idea that the "pursuit of Happiness." The Founding Fathers wrote into law the revolutionary idea that the "pursuit of Happiness." The Founding Fathers wrote into law the revolutionary idea that the "pursuit of Happiness." The Founding Fathers wrote into law the revolutionary idea that the "pursuit of Happiness." The Founding Fathers wrote into law the revolutionary idea that the "pursuit of Happiness." The Founding Fathers wrote into law the revolutionary idea that the "pursuit of Happiness." The Founding Fathers wrote into law the revolutionary idea that the "pursuit of Happiness." The Founding Fathers wrote into law the revolutionary idea that the "pursuit of Happiness." The Founding Fathers wrote into law the revolutionary idea that the "pursuit of Happiness." The Founding Fathers wrote into law the revolutionary idea that the "pursuit of Happiness." The Founding Fathers wrote into law the revolutionary idea that the "pursuit of Happiness." The Founding Fathers wrote into law the revolutionary idea that the "pursuit of Happiness." The Founding Fathers wrote into law the revolutionary idea that the "pursuit of Happiness." The Founding Fathers wrote into law the revolutionary idea that the "pursuit of Happiness." The Founding Fathers wrote into law the revolutionary idea that the "pursuit of Happiness." The Founding Fathers wrote into law the revolutionary idea that the "pursuit of Happiness." The Founding Fathers wrote into law the revolutionary idea that the "pursuit of Happiness." The Founding Fathers wrote into law the revolutionary idea that the "pursuit of Happiness." The Founding Fathers wrote into law the revolutionary idea that the "pursuit of Happiness." The Founding Fathers w
 of Happiness" is not just self-indulgence. Rather, it drives ambition and the desire to contribute to the well-being and success of society as a whole. The American Dream provides the opportunity to pursue one's own happiness under an equal, fair and just democracy. With the legal protection of these values, an attractive society was laid out for those
 aspiring for a better life. A society based on these principles offers everyone the right to live life to its fullest however he or she sees fit. For the American Dream to thrive, the Declaration of Independence introduced, "no taxation without representation." Meaning that the government of the United States would operate as a Democracy, rather than a
 Monarchy. Under a democracy, leaders are elected by the people and for the people and for the people and not the opinion of a leader. Finally,
the Declaration of Independence states that a nation must be allowed free trade. The Founding Fathers believed that the best way to ensure national progress is to protect citizens' right to improve their lives. This is the essence of the American Dream during the Colonial Era was fueled by religious beliefs of the Puritans who
left England to escape persecution. The Puritans believed that life was a continual battle between good and evil. And the only way for good to win out over evil was through ambition and hard work. The religion taught that success on Earth would lead to rewards in heaven. The main theme in literature throughout the 17th and 18th centuries is largely
 based on religious and Puritanical beliefs. However, the topics of slavery, the American Revolution, and political and cultural change are also prevelant during this time. According to colonial literature, the Pilgrim's believed that they were the "new Israelites" or God's chosen people who would be protected on their journey to the "promised land."
They believed that coming to North America was part of God's grand plan and success was contingent on the faithfulness of the Puritans. During the 1700s, Benjamin Franklin led the charge in encouraging American colonists to create wealth through hard work and frugality. His annual magazine, Poor Richard's Almanack, used common sense - not
 religion - along with wit and humor to motivate readers to accomplish the American Dream through industry. Franklin believed that the overall betterment of society in America was around 1619 when a Dutch ship carrying enslaved Africans arrived in Jamestown. In
 1865, nearly 250 years later, the Constitution's Thirteenth Amendment abolished slavery in the United States. The majority of popular literature during this time period conveniently left out the issue of slavery and described America as a place free of oppression and full of opportunity to become independent, self-interested landowners. Thousands of
 letters between John and Abigail Adams from 1762 to 1801 document enormous social, cultural and political change in America. During this time, Adams served in the Continental Congress, as vice president to George Washington, and eventually as the second President of the United States. These letters chronicle important moments before, during,
and after the American Revolution, including the Declaration of Independence signifying the beginning of democracy in America. The 19th Century American Dream included ideals of individualism and self-interest, mostly driven by American Dream included ideals of individualism and self-interest, mostly driven by American Dream included ideals of individualism and self-interest, mostly driven by American Dream included ideals of individualism and self-interest, mostly driven by American Dream included ideals of individualism and self-interest, mostly driven by American Dream included ideals of individualism and self-interest, mostly driven by American Dream included ideals of individualism and self-interest, mostly driven by American Dream included ideals of individualism and self-interest, mostly driven by American Dream included ideals of individualism and self-interest, mostly driven by American Dream included ideals of individualism and self-interest, mostly driven by American Dream included ideals of individualism and self-interest, mostly driven by American Dream included ideals of individualism and self-interest, mostly driven by American Dream included ideals of individualism and self-interest, mostly driven by American Dream included ideals of individualism and self-interest.
 United States of America in 1776, the nineteenth century saw an influx of immigrants from around the globe. Many desperate to escape poverty in war-torn Europe with hopes of starting a new life in America. The Civil War, a period of industrialization that seemed to almost instantly change American economy and culture. Rather than a mindset of
cooperation, competitiveness set in as Americans fought over their share of development and wealth in their hard-won country. These hundred years experienced rapid expansion and the notion of the "self-made man" took on a new, powerful meaning. While the Civil War obliterated many American's dreams, the survivors became advocates against
racial and gender discrimination. The 1800s began with a desire to explore the vast, rugged wilderness west of the colonies. This "frontier" mindset triggered the removal and displacement of Native Americans and eventually the race for California gold. With the exploration of the frontier out west, the wilderness became less "wild" and therefore,
less feared. Ralph Waldo Emerson replaced the often feared term wilderness, with the word "nature." Emerson rejected traditional religion and materialism and proclaimed that nature was the root of endless human possibility and fulfillment. The Transcendental movement supported the individualistic mindset of this century. Many participants of
the movement became well-known social reformists, particularly anti-slavery and promoters of women's rights. In the 1900s, the diverse backgrounds of people in America had never been greater. The economy experienced record highs and extreme lows, with the devastation of WWI, followed by the Great Depression hitting America's interests hard
in the late 1920s and 1930s. Just as America's economy was recovering from the downturn, Hitler and the Nazi regime ignited WWII in Europe, forcing the Allies to step in. America's economy was recovering from the downturn, Hitler and the Nazi regime ignited WWII in Europe, forcing the Allies to step in. America's economy was recovering from the downturn, Hitler and the Nazi regime ignited WWII in Europe, forcing the Allies to step in.
by the terror of modern warfare resulting in disillusionment and doubt toward traditional beliefs and the ideals of the American Dream. F. Scott Fitzgerald's first novel, This Side of Paradise (1920), describes the "new" American Dream. F. Scott Fitzgerald's first novel, This Side of Paradise (1920), describes the "new" American Dream as a quest to find one's own identity. "It was always the becoming he dreamed of, never the being," writes
 Fitzgerald. The arrival of the Great Depression magnified the increasing gap between wealthy and poor American's. Criticism toward the government's failure to look after the poor were abundant as dreams of prosperity were overpowered by the need to simply survive. For many dreamers, the Great Depression signaled the end of the American
 Dream. American's in the twentieth century carried the burden of massive loss due to multiple wars. The 1960s brought the Vietnam War where many people finally verbalized the notion that "war has no winners." Mainstream American culture is thrown to the wayside by many and the redefining of the American Dream continued. The nature of the
 American Dream was no longer mainstream ideals, but what lies on the edges of society. Another decade brings yet another shift in the picture of the American Dream. During the1980s, the dream of success shifted away from having a family, home, and job and toward money, fame and power. The final two decades of the twentieth century American
 Dream follows a similar theme: change. The effects of the 1991 Rodney King assault, trial and riots in Los Angeles dug up long-buried cracks in the foundation of the America. These issues were previously ignored as to not disrupt
 the comfortable ideals of the mainstream American Dream. The American Dream has been a long-time model of prosperity for both America, looking for equal opportunity and a better life. Historian Emily Rosenberg came up with five
components of the American Dream that began showing up in nations around the world. These five components include: Belief that other nations should replicate America's development. Faith in a free market economy. Support for free trade agreements and culture. Promotion of free flow information and culture. Acceptance of government
 protection of private enterprise. The notion of the American Dream continues to be a theme across the nation and around the globe. Whether these dreams brought triumph or despair, American's keep on dreaming his or her own version of the Dream. Has the American Dream today moved away from the vision set forth by our Founding Fathers?
 Many argue that it has, while others remain optimistic in the evolving definition of what the American Dream is today. A number of U.S. presidents around the turn of the Dream. In fact, during Hillary Clinton's presidential campaign in 2008, she
laid out her American Dream Plan. This plan included homeownership, college, retirement, and health insurance for children. Obama went on to pass the Affordable Care Act, which expanded the right to healthcare for children. Obama went on to pass the Affordable Care Act, which expanded the right to healthcare for children.
the American Dream for many. In reality, the recession only injured the materialistic Dream. The New American Dream is returning to the basic values of our Founding Fathers. The Center for a New American Dream imagines, "... a focus on more of what really matters, such as creating a meaningful life, contributing to community and society,
 valuing nature, and spending time with family and friends." Three factors are said to have made the American Dream possible: A large land mass under one government Benign neighbors Abundant natural resources A new crisis has emerged as the impact of climate change is becoming more prevalent. Science has proved a rising rate of global
 warming resulting in a call for lower levels of consumption and a greater reliance on natural resources. Extreme weather, rising sea levels, increasing health risks, and food inflation is already costing the U.S. government billions of dollars, thus slowing economic growth. Therefore, a vision for a new American Dream is needed in order to endure this end of the U.S. government billions of dollars, thus slowing economic growth.
 new crisis. The Founding Fathers of this nation could not have foreseen an American Dream that didn't offer the right to clean air, water, and plenty of natural resources. But the vision of our Forefathers included rights to be "self-evident." With an entire population united by language, political system, and values, America's strength only seems to
 grow with the differences of its citizens. A diverse population gives companies in the U.S. a competitive advantage, with more innovative ideas compared
to a small, homogenous population. The U.S. continues to enjoy the benefits of cultural diversity. Thanks to the vision of our Founding Fathers, everyone has an equal right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of one's own happiness. The Declaration of Independence makes no attempt to define happiness or lifestyle. Rather, it protects the right for everyone
to have the same opportunity to pursue their personal vision of the American Dream. It fosters a belief in free enterprise where people can create and own businesses that operate without government control. It promotes a free market economy where products, prices and services are decided by the market and not the government. Giving everyone
an equal opportunity to create wealth however they see fit. "Hope will be found by understanding that diversity is the essence of the American Dream and why we need each other to fulfill it." Ilhan Omar "When we make college more affordable, we make the American Dream and why we need each other to fulfill it." Ilhan Omar "When we make college more affordable, we make the American Dream and why we need each other to fulfill it." Ilhan Omar "When we make college more affordable, we make the American Dream and why we need each other to fulfill it." Ilhan Omar "When we make college more affordable, we make the American Dream and why we need each other to fulfill it." Ilhan Omar "When we make college more affordable, we make the American Dream and why we need each other to fulfill it." Ilhan Omar "When we make college more affordable, we make the American Dream and why we need each other to fulfill it." Ilhan Omar "When we make college more affordable, we make the American Dream and why we need each other to fulfill it." Ilhan Omar "When we make college more affordable, we make the American Dream and why we need each other to fulfill it." Ilhan Omar "When we make college more affordable, we make the American Dream and why we need each other to fulfill it." Ilhan Omar "When we make the American Dream and why we need each other to fulfill it." Ilhan Omar "When we make the American Dream and why we need each other to fulfill it." Ilhan Omar "When we make the American Dream and why we need each other to fulfill it." Ilhan Omar "When we make the American Dream and why we need each other to fulfill it." Ilhan Omar "When we make the American Dream and why we need each other to fulfill it." Ilhan Omar "When we make the American Dream and why we need each other to fulfill it." Ilhan Omar "When we make the American Dream and why we need each other to fulfill it."
 workforce and our entire economy are strongest when we embrace diversity to its fullest, and that means opening doors of opportunity to everyone and recognizing that the American Dream excludes no one." Thomas Perez, U.S. Secretary of Labor "A basic element of the American Dream is equal access to education as a lubricant of social and
 economic mobility." Nicholas Kristof, Journalist "I am the epitome of what the American Dream basically said. It said you could come from anywhere and be anything you want in this country." Whoopi Goldberg, Actress and Comedian "The promise of the American Dream requires that we are all provided an equal opportunity to participate in and
contribute to our nation." Charles B Rangel, U.S. Congress "To me, the American Dream is being able to do what you want to do is incredible freedom." Maya Lin, Architect "For many, the American Dream has become a nightmare." Bernie Sanders, U.S. Senator "I have spent my life judging the distance
between American reality and the American Dream." Bruce Springsteen, Musician "The promise of the American Dream requires that we are all provided an equal opportunity to participate in and contribute to our nation." Charles B Rangel, U.S. Congress "My father worked in the Post Office. A lot of double shifts. All his friends were in the same
 situation - truck drivers, taxi cab drivers, taxi cab drivers, grocery clerks. Blue collar guys punching the clock and working long, hard hours. The thought that sustained them was the one at the center of the American Dream." Gary David Goldberg, Writer "To realize the American Dream, the most important thing to understand is that it belongs to everybody. It's a
 human dream. If you understand this and work very hard, it is possible." Cristina Saralegui, Journalist "There are those who will say that the liberation of humanity, the freedom of man and mind is nothing but a dream. They are right. It is the American Dream." Archibald Macleish, Poet "I say to you today, my friends, so even though we face the
difficulties of today and tomorrow, I still have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: "We hold these truths to be self-evident: that all men are created equal." Martin Luther King, Jr. "The faith that anyone could move from rags to
riches - with enough guts and gumption, hard work and nose to the grindstone - was once at the core of the American Dream is a phrase we'll have to wrestle with all our lives. It means a lot of things to different people. I think we're redefining it now." Rita Dove
Poet What is the American Dream today? This Thanksgiving, may we reflect on what the American Dream means to all of us, both individually and collectively. May we celebrate our diversity, show gratitude and respect to our Forefathers who paved the way for every American to have the freedom to define, pursue and achieve the Dream. They may
not have called it the American Dream but for centuries people have gone to America in search of freer, happier, and richer lives. But is today's American Dream a mythical concept or still a reality? Isabel Belarsky's tiny Brooklyn apartment fills with the sound of her father's voice. Sidor Belarsky sings an Aria in Russian and 90-year-old Isabel, her lips
 painted an elegant red, sways gently to the song coming from her stereo. Isabel speaks with pride about her father's talent and his success as an opera singer: Albert Einstein was such a fan she says that he invited Sidor to accompany him on his speaking engagements and would ask him to sing to the audience. How the Belarskys came to be in
 America is an extraordinary tale that Isabel loves to tell. "It was the Mormons!" she says, laughing. "They couldn't be more different from us Jews!" two the Belarskys to escape from Stalin's Russia in 1930. "Our dream was being in
 America," Isabel says. "They loved it. My mother could never think of Russia, it was her enemy and my father, he made such a wonderful career here."Image caption, Isabel Belarsky's family escaped to America in search of freedom - to them the American
 Dream meant liberty. But Isabel says it promised even more. "The Dream is to work, to have a home, to get ahead, you can start as a janitor and become the owner of the building." The American Dream is not written into the constitution but it is so ingrained in the national psyche that it might as well be. Many point to the second sentence in the
Declaration of Independence, external - the "certain unalienable rights" that include "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness" - as the "official" version of the phrase. But it was actually relatively recently - in 1931 - that the term was popularised, when historian James Truslow Adams wrote in The Epic of America that the Dream means "a better,
richer, and happier life for all our citizens of every rank". The concept of the American Dream has not stayed static. For European immigrants, like Isabel, fleeing persecution. But somewhere in the middle of the last century, the dream changed. As America's post war
 economy boomed the new arrivals wanted more than freedom - they wanted a share of the prosperity as well. In the 1950s, TV commercials featured twinkly housewives proudly showing off kitchens filled with gleaming appliances. The quest for liberation became a quest for Coca Cola. TV shows played their part in pushing the new economic Dream
 starring perfect families in houses with picket fences and two cars in the driveway. As the century wore on, the materialistic slant of the dream overtook the political side. Dallas and Dynasty suggested this was a country where it was possible to become not just rich, but filthy rich. Image caption, Cheyanne Smith was shocked at the deprivation that
greeted her in AmericaBut without the inspiring glue of freedom the dream became vulnerable to more prosaic things - like economic downturns. We met 18-year-old Cheyanne Smith at the "Make The Road New York" community centre in Bushwick, Brooklyn. She arrived in New York from the Caribbean seven years ago. Having watched endless
American TV shows as a child she thought she knew what to expect when her family moved to Brooklyn. Instead, the deprivation of one of New York's poorest neighbourhoods shocked her. "I thought this is not American because this is not American TV shows as a child she thought she knew what I see on television," she says. Like Cheyanne, 18-year-old Franscisco Curiel is also ambitious. He came from
Mexico City three years ago to go to college here but he's worried that Brooklyn's schools aren't going to give him a good enough education. "The system is broken, we can't get the superior education that they supposedly want to give us," he says. Through the centuries America's immigrants have endured terrible hardship and sacrifice so that they
and their children can get ahead. Perhaps it's not surprising to hear the multiple, low paid jobs that their parents must do simply to get the rent paid and put food on the table. What is startling is that these bright, ambitious youngsters just don't believe that talent and hard work are enough to ensure
they will ever have a shot at that mythical American Dream. This article is part of a week-long series exploring the past, present and future of the American Dream. You can watch Katty's TV report on Monday's BBC World News America on PBS and the BBC World News channel.
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