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The Change of the American Dream Concept During Donald Trump's Presidency

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Dedication

I dedicate this work to my dear parents who devoted their life to my education without whom I would not be who I am. I hope they are now proud of me.

My thanks and appreciation to my husband. He was very patient to help me to have my degree.

I dedicate this work to all those who encouraged me to do this research despite the difficulties I faced.

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Abstract

The study aims at exploring the concept of the American dream throughout history. The American dream became a little bit more complex than it once was. Besides, it aims at studying the transformation of the dream under the current United States President Donald Trump. His administration suggested executive reforms; it destroyed the dream of many. The research is an attempt to discover the effect of President Donald Trump administration on the dream. Also, the study demonstrates that President Donald Trump became the murder of the American dream. Nowadays, the dreamers' destiny is in the hand of congress. The longer congress waits, the more dreamers will become a subject to immediate deportation.

Key words:American Dream President Donald Trump Administration Dreamers

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General Introduction

President Donald Trump started his election campaign by posting these words: “the American dream is back.” What’s an astonishing phrase to use in an election campaign! President Trump attempted to give hope through his ringing words. Consider that phrase; the American dream has changed radically through the years. The present research attempts to shed light on this issue in a way to pursue the historical development of the American dream which is considered the target of life for many. In addition, the research explains how this issue contributed heavily to the rise of the United States. So, what is the American dream? To what extent did the political leader effect on this concept? And what did the President Donald Trump contribute to the American dream?

Throughout my research, I referred to several books and articles. The major works includes: James Truslow Adams book, The Epic of America and President Donald Trump book, The Crippled America: How to Make America Great Again. The first provides the historical background and the meaning of the American dream, and the second describes the executive orders of President Trump and how it radically affected the American dream. Lorraine Caplan, ‘How Does Geography Influence the Way We Live’, John Kennedy, ‘Society of Diversity’, Roger Darlington ‘A Short Guide to the American Political System’, Neil Ross, ‘Making the American Dream a Reality’ articles give an account on the factors and political view concerning the concept of the American dream and the capacity of achieving it. Thomas J. Donohue, ‘Keeping the Dream Alive’ offers detailed information about the process of saving the dream and the dreamers.

The topic is of great significance as it deals with the basis composing the concept of the American dream. In this study, an attempt has been made to rely on the analytical approach. The term has its roots in the 19th century when the Founding Fathers granted equality to all men. Their principals inspired many people to immigrate to America. This controversial concept was introduced in James Truslow Adams’ book The Epic of America. He encouraged the dreamers to achieve prosperity and not only a better standard of living. The concept has been explored in the careers of different political leaders, such as: President George Washington, Patrick Henry, President Abraham Lincoln, Woodrow Wilson, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, and President Henry Truman, Martin Luther King Jr., President Lyndon Johnson, President Barack Obama, and President Donald Trump. In my research, I have found that the dream today became a little bit challenging than it once was. The shift of the American system

led to the creation of the modern version of the dream. Today, President Donald Trump shaped the destiny of many dreamers. His administration imposed executive orders which suspended immigration and deported many dreamers. They think that President Trump destroyed their dream and turned it into nightmare. However, there are many dreamers still working hard to fulfill the dream.

This study is structured as follows: chapter one traces the course of the American dream through history starting by an account of the Revolution of Independence period then moving forward. I also point to the historical, economic, political, and cultural factors that made the dream achievable and desirable by many from all over the world. Chapter two is devoted to the main theme of my study through which is a collection of different views of political ideals. I also introduced the current president of America, President Donald Trump. Collecting the view of some of political leaders helped in establishing the new vision of the American dream, as well as helped in analyzing the concept from different angles. In the last chapter, I will discuss the major policies of the President Trump administration that shaped the concept of the American dream. Besides, I will propose some efforts practiced to assimilate the negatives of the president administration and its effects on immigrants with some hints on the issue of the so called dreamers.

James Truslow book The Epic of America represents a rich and fertile ground for my thesis as they respond to the quest rose in my problematic and identify the concept of the American dream. Concerning the course of the President Trump administration, I used President Trump book The Crippled America: How to Make America Great Again. The work deals with the president major orders and projects that may contribute the rise of America besides the anti-immigration procedures of President Trump. Other articles of important relevance to my topic are Monterey Herald, "Editorial: The American Dream and Donald Trump" and Vivek Kaul, 'Easynomics: Trump killing the American dream'.if the first is concerned with the President trump attitude toward the American dream, the second tries to have a look at what makes the dreamers crucial in making America a great land.

Chapter One: The Origins of the American Dream

1- The American Dream

The so-called American Dream is one of the most clichéd phrases used to refer to the United States. The idea of “American Dream” has inspired millions of people from all over the world to come to America. The American dream concept is based on liberty, and happiness. It can be defined as what persons consider a perfect life, it can be full of love, money, food, fame, and whatever a person desired, and through hard work she/he may change her/his destiny in a way that other countries simply do not allow people to do. The American novelist, Thomas Wolf said, “... to every man regardless of his birth, his shining, golden opportunity... the right to live, to work, to be himself, and to become whatever thing his manhood and his vision can combine to make him.”¹ It basically means that whatever vision a man may have, let him live that dream and fulfill it. In other words, the quote explains for people that if you can dream you can do anything. You can follow your dreams no matter what you are born into and you should live life to its fullest pursuing those dreams.

1-1-19th Century

In the declaration of Independence, America's Founding Fathers declared: “... we hold certain 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.”² The idea of the American dream has its roots in the Declaration of Independence. The phrase, “the American dream” can mean many different things, but among the most basic interpretation is that America is a land of opportunity and freedom for all who come to it. The idea of the American dream has influenced people to immigrate to this country in search of economic opportunities, political choice, and religious freedom.

The document continued: “that to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed. That whenever any form of government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the right of the people to alter or abolish it, and to institute new

¹ Ben Luthi, “What the American dream is, and what it isn't,” The Desert News, 6 August 2014, <https://www.deseretnews.com/article/865608140/What-the-American-Dream-is-and-what-it-isnt.html> (accessed 1 August 2018)

government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to affect their safety and happiness.”²The Founding Fathers set obvious principles that all men are created equal, and God has not selected anyone to rule over us. God has granted all men certain rights that cannot be taken away by any government. They include life, liberty, and pursuit of happiness. The promise of protection to the person's equal rights is in the promise of liberty and happiness.

1-2-20th Century

James Truslow Adams, an American writer and historian, and the first to introduced the term “American dream” in his 1931 book The Epic of America. To quote his definition of the American dream at length, he referred to it as:

*The American dream is that dream of land in which life should be better and richer and fuller for everyone, with opportunity for each according to 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 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.*³

James Truslow Adams believes that everyone has the dream of achieving economic, religious, and financial prosperity. It is what everyone thought was granted. It means that he was not only pointing towards a better standard of living for the Americans, but also denounces a degree of greed.

Even though, people in America are fortunate enough to have so many opportunities and environment that both allows Americans to expend and

² The congress, “The declaration of independence: the want, will, and hopes of the people,” UShistory.org, Independence Hall Association, 4 July 1995, <http://www.ushistory.org/declaration/document/> (accessed 1 August 2018)

succeed, regardless of what everyone depends on the quality, attitude, accomplishment of their dreams, and the hard work spent in order to get the dream and make it real. According to him, even though everyone has the dream of prosperity but not everyone is going to reach it. He carefully states "with opportunity for each according to his ability or achievement,"³ these words are for the Americans who live on America.

For more description, he stated "who have been successful in achieving their American dream are those who have chosen to follow their dreams regardless of all the odds that faced them."³ Apparently, he meant that the American dream is not for everyone; it is for those people like Martin Luther King, and the rebels of 1776 who chose to stand against the greatest army in the world, and fought for freedom. They shouted: "give me liberty or give me death,"⁴ they just remained hopeful in slim chances of victory. Again, the dream is for those who knew that the road is not easy and they should challenge many obstacles to make their dreams come true. Those who have defined history, the people who chose to resist not to stop or to give up on their dreams. Their experience of suffering gave great lesson, which is strength and inspiration needed to carry out the dreams that can be found in the history of America.

2- The American Political Dream

The revolutionary documents, essays, and speeches that make up the literature of the American political dream have, over the centuries, defined not only American laws, but the nation's identity. Americans are united by a dream of freedom and self-sufficiency, which is, in essence, a political dream; because Americans come from every religion, ethnicity, and race. It is political ideals that bind them. The American political dream is a constant work in progress, a fact made evident after reviewing the literature that spans the centuries beginning with the country's birth. From Patrick Henry's "Give Me Liberty or Give Me Death"⁴ speech to the 1775 Virginia Convention to Barbara Jordan's 1976 Democratic Convention Keynote Address, the ever-changing American political dream is consistently written by persuasive leaders' intent on building, inspiring, and growing a nation of like-minded yet very independent individuals.

³James Truslow Adams, The Epic of America(Digital Library of America, 2015) 317. <https://archive.org/details/in.ernet.dli.2015.262385> (accessed 1 August 2018)

⁴Evan Andrews, "Patrick Henry's "Liberty or Death" Speech," History in the Headlines, 22 March 2015, <https://www.history.com/news/patrick-henrys-liberty-or-death-speech-240-years-ago> (accessed 1 August 2018)

2-1- The Dream of a New Government

Before the American Revolution, American colonists were resisting British rule. After winning the American Revolution, the founding fathers established a government that would serve the independent nation. The speeches and documents that led to the creation of the Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution are more than the country's system of laws; they illustrate its character as a nation.

In 1775, the American colonies were guided toward independence from British rule. Patrick Henry, one of the most influential American Revolution advocates, delivered a speech during the second of five Virginia Conventions. Henry's speech "Give Me Liberty or Give Me Death" is memorable till now thanks to his remarkable influence. This powerful speech, delivered on March 20, 1775, ended with these words:

*Gentlemen may cry, Peace, Peace but there is no peace. The war is actually begun! The next gale that sweeps from the north will bring to our ears the clash of resounding arms! Our brethren are already in the field! Why stand we here idle? What is it that gentlemen wish? What would they have? Is life so dear, or peace so sweet, as to be purchased at the price of chains and slavery? Forbid it, Almighty God! I know not what course others may take; but as for me, give me liberty or give me death!*⁵

After winning the American Revolution, the hard work of creating a system of government for the new nation was near to happen. Instead of one rousing speech, Alexander Hamilton, James Madison, and John Jay wrote a series of eighty-five influential essays between 1787 and 1788. These Federalist Papers, as they are known, became the future interpretations of the United States Constitution. Nowadays, the Federalist Papers are viewed as a guide to understand the motivation and philosophy behind the system of the American government. In the general introduction of the Federalist Papers, Alexander Hamilton writes,

After an unequivocal experience of the inefficiency of the subsisting

⁵ Patrick Henry, "Give Me a Liberty or Give Me Death," history.org, Mars, 1775, <http://www.history.org/Almanack/life/politics/giveme.cfm> (accessed 1 August 2018)

*federal government, you are called upon to deliberate on a new Constitution for the United States of America. The subject speaks its own importance; comprehending in its consequences nothing less than the existence of the UNION, the safety and welfare of the parts of which it is composed, the fate of an empire in many respects the most interesting in the world.*⁶

One of the more interesting essays included in the Federalist Papers, Hamilton objected the inclusion Bill of Rights that lists various protections of the rights of the American people. Hamilton's opposition was based on his belief that the list of those rights would not be sufficient. Though, on September 25, 1789, twelve amendments to the Constitution were brought before the First Federal Congress. Only ten of these were approved, which became the first ten amendments to the Constitution. They were called the Bill of Rights because they defined the liberties and essential rights of Americans that were omitted in the original draft of the nation's legal documents. The First Amendment to the Constitution, in its text, says,

*Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances.*⁷

The promise of the first ten amendments, along with the "unalienable rights" in the Declaration of Independence outlined the basis of the political American dream. It included the rights to be protected against unreasonable search, cruel, and unusual punishment. In addition, it outlined the guarantee of an expected process of law and the right to a speedy trial before an unprejudiced jury. The rights promised in these amendments are referred to political documents and continue to define the American character as well as its moral center.

⁶Alexander Hamilton, "The Federalist Papers no.1," FoundingFathers.info, <http://www.foundingfathers.info/federalistpapers/fedindex.htm> (accessed 1 August 2018)

⁷Alexander Hamilton, "The Federalist Papers no.44," FoundingFathers.info, <http://www.foundingfathers.info/federalistpapers/fedindex.htm> (accessed 1 August 2018)

2-2- The Dream of Self-Reliance

Henry David Thoreau, an American philosopher and writer, he is known for his attacks on American social institutions and his respect for nature and simple living. In 1849, he wrote the essay "Civil Disobedience", it is also called as "Resistance to Civil Government". The essay explores the role of man's conscience in a legislative society. In "Civil Disobedience", the philosopher Henry David Thoreau argues that there are two laws: the laws of men, and the higher laws of God and humanity. If the laws of men are unjust, then citizens have every right to disobey them.

In his essay, Thoreau explained his own experience why he refused to pay tax in protest of slavery and the Mexican war. The government decided to ignore his failure to pay taxes. Then, he was arrested and entered the jail. His attacks on social institutions made him a model for civil disobedience, and his essay continues to inform both American and international political thought to this day. He wrote,

Yet this government never of itself furthered any enterprise, but by the alacrity with which it got out of its way. It does not keep the country free. It does not settle the West. It does not educate. The character inherent in the American people has done all that has been accomplished; and it would have done somewhat more, if the government had not sometimes got in its way.⁸

Thoreau was refusing his allegiance to the government. His philosophy in "Civil Disobedience" was motivated in part by his disgust with slavery and the Mexican–American War. It has enjoyed widespread influence, both in the United States and abroad.

2-3-The Dream of Equality for all the Americans

On July 4, 1776, the Declaration of Independence was signed by the leaders of the original thirteen colonies of the United States of America. Among the foremost tenets of the Declaration is the belief that all men are created equal. Despite the ideal of equality that was clarified in the Declaration of independence,

⁸ Henry David Thoreau, "Civil Disobedience, 1849," Virginia.edu, <http://xroads.virginia.edu/~hyper2/thoreau/civil.html> (accessed 1 August 2018)

it continues to be one of the country's most rankling issues. For instance, African Americans have fought for their "inalienable" right to equality since the eighteenth century. Women began asserting their desire for equal rights in the early nineteenth century. In addition to these two groups, there are countless others, including American immigrants are still fighting for what the Declaration claimed. The right of equality is an inherent human right back in 1776. Because of this, political American dream literature is filled with powerful demands for freedom and equality for all Americans.

One of the most influential works that motivated the start of the women's rights movement is "Declaration of Sentiments". The document was written by Elizabeth Cady Stanton in 1848. The text listed eighteen injuries suffered by women at the hands of men, just as the Declaration of Independence had listed eighteen injuries suffered by the king of England. It includes the lack of women's suffrage, participation, and representation in the government; women's lack of property rights in marriage; inequality in divorce law; and inequality in education and employment opportunities. It says,

He has never permitted her to exercise her inalienable right to the elective franchise. He has compelled her to submit to laws, in the formation of which she had no voice. He has withheld from her rights which are given to the most ignorant and degraded men—both natives and foreigners.⁹

The document insists that women should be viewed as full citizens of the United States and be granted all the same rights and privileges that were granted to men. It was marked as one of the first statements of the political and social repression of American women. The rights that American women should be entitled to as citizens, that emerged from the Seneca Falls Convention in New York in July 1848.

Another example, it is one of the American history's most significant speeches of Abraham Lincoln in the American history. He delivered "Gettysburg Address", for the consecration of the Soldiers' National Cemetery. It was a powerful and memorable message about human equality as defined by the Declaration of Independence. Standing on what had been the grounds of the

⁹ Elizabeth Cady Stanton, "Declaration of Sentiments, 1848," HISTORY IS A WEAPON, <http://www.historyisaweapon.com/defcon1/stantonsent.html> (accessed 1 August 2018)

Battle of Gettysburg less than five months earlier; Lincoln framed the Civil War as more than a struggle for the Union, but a struggle to bring true equality to every American citizen:

Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent, a new nation, conceived in Liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.... [W]e here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain—that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom—and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.¹⁰

One hundred years after Lincoln's famous call for equality, on August 28, 1963, Martin Luther King Jr. delivered his "I Have a Dream" speech. King had led equal rights advocates through nonviolent protests. He was considered as the most prominent leader of the U.S. Civil Rights Movement. His speech was the climax of the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom. He defended about the dream of all people of every race, religion, and background to live free in a truly democratic nation. King declares:

I say to you today, my friends, so even though we face the difficulties of today and tomorrow, I still have a dream. It is a dream deeply rooted in the American dream. I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: "We hold these truths to be self-evident: that all men are created equal."¹¹

Indeed, the nature of the political American dream changed, but the subject is sure to continue growing. Americans are united by their dream of freedom and equality, and they will continue to support the foundation of the American dream, which is, of course, inherently political.

¹⁰ Abraham Lincoln, "Gettysburg Address, 19 November 1863," Voices of Democracy, [http://voicesofdemocracy.umd.edu/lincoln-gettysburg-address-speech-text/\(accessed](http://voicesofdemocracy.umd.edu/lincoln-gettysburg-address-speech-text/(accessed) 3 August 2018)

¹¹ Martin Luther King Jr., "I Have a Dream, 28 August 1963," U.S. Constitution, <https://www.usconstitution.net/dream.html> (accessed 3 August 2018)

3- Factors that Made the Dream Possible

Achieving the American dream has been the people's target for a very long time. The majority of the Americans believe that the American dream is possible, but achieving it is another story. It is widely known that by being/coming to America and working hard, people may achieve success. However, this is just oversimplified version, achieving the American dream is more complicated than the typical told story. Indeed, the American dream could be impossible and remains just a dream. But, it is not the case all the time people may make success possible by hard work. So, there are some main geographical, cultural, economic, and politic factors that made the American dream possible.

3-1- The Geographical Factor

The United States has numerous economic advantages deriving from its geography. It is blessed with an incredible strategic location; this unique position is worthwhile to help in making the United States' system stable, durable, and flexible. The most essential aspect of the land is the size of the usable land, its capital and skilled labor in the Northeast: coal, iron; and agricultural land in the South, and so forth. A small country is unlikely to have all that within its borders. In addition to mere size, it shares with Europe a temperate climate and some advantages of navigation and accessibility which facilitated trade with the foreign countries. A large area is likely to have a good variety of natural resources and other endowments. These benefits has historically been a major source that made America a desirable place, The United States has most of what a country needs to prosper, and to be a target for wealth and success for anyone who wants to fulfill his dream by hard work of course. Lorraine Caplan explains the benefits of living in American, he mentions,

*Geography has an incredible influence on how we live. The buildings we build, the food we grow, the clothing we wear, and the kinds of work we do are just a few ways in which geography matters.*¹²

Those who live in the USA may experience more freedom and comfort than those who live in other parts of the world. America is highly praised for their education, diverse crowds, and socially accepting everyone despite their race, religion, or special needs. Many people from all over the world come to America in order to make their dreams came true. The typical way to do this is finding jobs. Lorraine argues that the kind of jobs in America is related to the

geographical location, she says,

*What kinds of work people do are often depends on geography. We cannot fish in the ocean unless we are near it. We cannot grow wheat if we live in swamp. We cannot mine for coal if there are no coal seams or be sherpas if there are no mountains. Many of us today have jobs that can be done in most parts of the world, but geography still has a powerful impact on many.*¹²

3-2- The Civil War

“Most people’s career suffered during the Civil War. War destroyed the property of many, and indirectly caused their death. However some jobs did extremely well during the war.”¹³ This what have said the journalist Connor Loftus about the impact of the American civil war. In a nutshell, the American civil war, 1861-1865, it is often known as the War Between the States. It was a fight between the Northern (Union) and Southern (Confederate) United States. This war was fought because the North wanted to preserve the union and abolish slavery; and the south wanted to keep slavery and protect homes and family.

The American dream in the North was simple yet modern at the same times, they wanted the basic American dream plus they wanted to abolish slavery. In the other side, the South had a more simplistic view as to what they saw as Americans, to have a family and to protect their customs and cultures.

Wilbert Pich states, “As the civil war approached, both sides knew that regardless of the outcome, there was bound to be change in the view of the American dream”¹⁴. According to him, African Americans at this time wereslaves and were forced to work by their owners. They were abused, and their American dream was abolishing slavery. Also, soldiers and sailors in the

¹² Lorraine Caplan, “How Does Geography Influence the Way We Live,”enotes, <https://www.enotes.com/homework-help/how-geography-influence-way-we-live-777417> (accessed 3 August 2018)

¹³ Connor Loftus, “The Civil War, and the American Dream,” Prezi, <https://prezi.com/kavwhauq1fzr/the-civil-war-and-the-american-dream/> (accessed 4 August 2018)

¹⁴ Wilbert Pich, “American Dream and Civil War,” 9 June 2014, Prezi, https://prezi.com/3185utqabl/_american-dream-civil-war/ (accessed 4 August 2018)

United States service, who fought believing in their culture, country, and for whatever they believed in, simply for their American dream.

Eventually, the war was ended after a fight lasted for four years. The time period directly after the civil war was known as the Reconstruction. The biggest result of the war was the defeat of the confederate south, and the end of slavery. The 13th Amendment called for the Abolishment of Slavery, and it was in support of Lincoln's Emancipation proclamation. In addition the 14th and the 15th Amendments were also passed to the constitution, and becoming a law. The 14th Amendment legislated that the federal protection is available to all the United States citizens, regardless of what race, color, and creed they are. The last Amendment to the constitution abolished all restrictions on voting.

The Civil War shattered the American dream for many, though American citizens lived The American dream of a free country administered by a "government of the people, by the people and for the people" that they can influence for the better. Stanford's Richard White, an American historian, analyzes the United States' history from 1865 to 1896 in his book *'The republic for which it Stands: The United States during Reconstruction and the Gilded Age, 1865-1896'*. He wrote,

The "American dream" during this time was about attaining a "competency" rather than great riches. A competency meant having enough to secure independence, security in times of crisis and old age and the means to start children out in life. Previous historians have described Reconstruction and the Gilded Age as a time of individualism. But it was less about individualism than cooperation. These alternate American values are something we forget today.¹⁵

¹⁵Richard White, "The republic for which it Stands: The United States during Reconstruction and the Gilded Age, 1865-1896," Research gate, https://www.researchgate.net/publication/322602029_The_Republic_for_Which_It_Stand_The_United_States_during_Reconstruction_and_the_Gilded_Age_1865-1896_The_Oxford_History_of_the_United_States_By_Richard_White (accessed 4 August 2018)

3-3- The Economic Factor

Natural resources, both renewable and non-renewable are a part of the real wealth of nations. Those resources are readily and naturally available on our planet, and can be used in their natural, undisturbed form. Some of the common examples of natural resources include land, water, coal, wood, sunlight, and oil. All these resources are distributed randomly across our planet, owing to which, every place has a set of its own natural resources, which aid in its economic development.

The United States was blessed with an unusual abundance of six natural resources. It has a large land mass; it is bordered by two large coastlines that provided food and later ports for commerce, and thousands of acres of fertile land, thanks to the Great Plains. Also, it had abundant fresh water, and it was once under a great sea that created the oil and coal. In addition, it was easily accessible via ocean or land which made it attractive to immigrants who created diversity in the population.

Large Land Mass: The geography and geology of the United States provided a massive comparative advantage in building the economy. Only Australia and Canada have both similar size landmasses that are not bordered by enemies, as China and Russia are. This large landmass under one nation allows economies of scale in government and businesses. This advantage lowers the cost of providing services and products.

Coastline: “America has 95,471 miles of shoreline, including the Great Lakes, which border 26 of the 50 states. The coast contributed \$222.7 billion to gross domestic product, creating 2.6 million jobs in 2009 Almost three-quarters of these jobs are related to tourism and ocean recreation. But, the highest paying sector is oil drilling, which pays \$125,700 per worker. The ocean also provides other industries, including ship and boat building, transportation, and shoreline construction”¹⁶ That is the central findings of research by Kimberly Amadeo, which looks at the impact of the natural resources on economic development.

America is fortunate to have a large coastline. Countries that have little access to the sea find that both exports and imports are more expensive. Commerce in landlocked countries is dependent upon the fancy of another government. America's large coastline meant no hostile governments bordered it. This allowed the United States to develop peacefully without the need to incur large war costs.

Farmland: Unlike Australia and Canada, the United States had temperate climates combined with fertile soil. The early settlers found rich soil on the Great Plains. This is the 502,000-square mile area between the Mississippi River and the Rocky Mountains. Basically, the plains are an agricultural area producing wheat, cotton, corn (maize), sorghum, and hay and raising cattle and sheep. The Great Plains states also produce much mineral wealth leading the nation in mineral production.

Water: Lakes, rivers, and streams provide 80 percent of the water used in America. “The electric power industry uses an astonishing 41 percent. Water cools electricity-generating equipment, but it is returned. Agricultural irrigation uses 31 percent, but it is not returned. Families, businesses, and industries use the rest.”¹⁶ According to “Water Use” by the United States Geologic Survey, “only 20 percent has to be pumped out of the ground to irrigate the semi-arid Great Plains.”¹⁶

Oil, Coal, and Gas: Coal, natural gas, and oil—supply the vast majority of our energy needs, including more than two-thirds of United States electricity generation. They have powered American economy.

In Kimberly’s study, she asserts,

America has the world's largest reserves of coal, at 491 billion short tons or 27 percent of the total. This abundant source of energy helped fuel U.S. growth during the Industrial Revolution. It was used to drive steamships and steam-powered railroads. After the Civil War, coke, a derivative of coal, was used to fuel the iron blast furnaces that made steel. Soon after that, coal ran the electricity generating plants. It still does¹⁶

The United States had huge reserves of oil that were easily accessible. As World War I brewed, the United States converted its coal-burning Navy ships to oil. That made ships faster, extended their range, and allowed easier refueling. Oil was also easily available on the West Coast, allowing the Navy to extend its reach across the Pacific. Oil made possible many innovations, including cars, trucks, tanks, submarines, and airplanes.

American natural gas has altered the energy by Generating the power needed for homes and businesses, providing the building blocks for

¹⁶ Kimberly Amadeo, “How Natural Resources Boost the U.S. Economy,” 07 April 2018, the balance, <https://www.thebalance.com/how-natural-resources-boost-the-u-s-economy-3306228> (accessed 6 August 2018)

manufacturing, and making the nation and its allies more secure. In addition, it helps in propelling the new generation of clean transportation on our roads, oceans, and waterways.

3-4-The Cultural diversity

America has more immigrants than any other country. It has 43 million migrants. Most of the people who came had the courage and flexibility needed to survive in a new country. That's one reason Americans are more willing to take risks. It's created lots of innovation, especially in technology. As a result, Silicon Valley is the world's leading tech center.

The U.S. Embassy's write-up, "Society of Diversity," quotes President John F. Kennedy, who was the grandson of Irish immigrants. Kennedy summed it up well when he called America, "a society of immigrants, each of whom had begun life anew, on an equal footing. This is the secret of America: a nation of people with the fresh memory of old traditions who dare to explore new frontiers...."¹⁷

Cultural diversity is when differences in race, ethnicity, age, ability, language, nationality, socioeconomic status, gender, religion or sexual orientation are represented within a community. The community can be a country, region, city, neighborhood, company or school. The group is culturally diverse if a wide variety of groups are represented. Cultural diversity has become a hot-button issue when applied to the workplace.

People with different backgrounds have different interpretations of events. They contribute unique perspectives. That allows the group to look at problems from all angles and create innovative results.

In a study about the benefits of immigrants towards the United States economy, the researcher ended with the following results,

When it works, diversity increases profits. Each year, DiversityInc selects the 50 most diverse companies. The 43 that were public corporations were 24 percent more profitable than the S&P 500. They made up just 7 percent of the Fortune 500 but generated

¹⁷John Kennedy, "Society of Diversity," qtd.in the balance, <https://www.thebalance.com/how-natural-resources-boost-the-u-s-economy-3306228> (accessed 6 August 2018)

22 percent of its total revenue. How does diversity drive profitability? The European Union Commission studied 200 companies in 2003. It found three areas where diversity mattered:

Marketing – Having a diverse workforce builds trust in your brand with a diverse target market.

Operations – Valuing diversity cuts costs by reducing turnover and absenteeism. It also avoids legal expenses. How? It enhances employee engagement by showing the company understands and respects different cultures. Valuing diversity also gives the company freedom to go after the most talented people, regardless of differences.

Innovation – Diversity within a product development team is very powerful. When it's in sync with diverse target markets, the team creates new products that satisfy the markets' needs. That's because a diverse workforce better understands diverse markets. For example, Daimler/Chrysler found the best mix for a product development team was heterogeneous. It was 50:50 male/female. It had a gradual age distribution rather than peaks. No more than half of any team was any one ethnic group or nationality.¹⁸

3-5- The political factor

The United States is a representative democracy. The US Government is divided into three clearly defined branches: the president and his cabinet (the executive), the US Congress (the legislature), and the courts (the judiciary). The separation of powers is designed to provide a system of checks and balances which prevent any individual or group from gaining too much control.

The United States political system has many advantages which are not available in other countries; it is well described in these words,

The great benefit of this system is that power is spread and

¹⁸ Kimberly Amadeo, "How Immigration Affects the Economy and you," 25 July 2018, the balance, <https://www.thebalance.com/how-immigration-impacts-the-economy-4125413> (accessed 6 August 2018)

counter-balanced and the 'founding fathers' - the 55 delegates who drafted the Constitution - clearly wished to create a political system which was in sharp contrast to, and much more democratic than, the monarchical system then in force in Britain. The great weakness of the system is that it makes government slow, complicated and legalistic which is a particular disadvantage in a world - unlike that of 1776 - in which political and economic developments are fast-moving and the USA is a - indeed the - super power.¹⁹

The US political system was built on Enlightenment ideas freedom of speech, freedom of conscience, and a desire to challenge the old European orders. In fact, the founding fathers engaged in a rigorous political structure that has been tested through tough times as the period of the civil war. Those Enlightenment ideals, those inspiring visions that made the Constitution and the Bill of Rights a reality are the principals of the American dream. In the same sense,

The fact that people from across the world want to come to America to fulfill their dreams, to join a society that they see as dynamic, exciting and full of potential, is testament to the great potential of America to improve lives and offer opportunity for all. It is the drive of the American public, both migrant and native, that our political leaders need to start adopting. It is this aspirational spirit that politicians should be judging their own achievements against.²⁰

However, political parties make the American Dream impossible. Many Americans believe that there are losing their American Dream. So in order to make the American Dream possible for as many Americans to achieve, people cannot count on the promise of the politicians anymore. The American writer Geela argues,

The concept of The American Dream (as we know it now) is not only a marketing concept but it is also used by politicians for

²⁰ Neil Ross, "Making the American Dream a Reality," spiked, http://www.spiked-online.com/newsite/article/making-the-american-dream-a-reality/16756#.W28M_98xLIV (accessed 6 August 2018)

¹⁹ Roger Darlington, "A Short Guide to the American Political System," Roger Darlington World, <http://www.rogerdarlington.me.uk/Americanpoliticalsystem.html> (accessed 6 August 2018)

*getting votes and keeping constituents happy. In the cut-throatworld of politics where the stakes are high, politicians are driven by their own self-serving agendas. As such, the different political parties have their own agendas when it comes to helping certain members of society achieve the American Dream.*²¹

²¹ Geela, "The Politics of the American Dream," streetdirectory.com, http://www.streetdirectory.com/travel_guide/7943/self_improvement_and_motivation/the_politics_of_the_american_dream.html (accessed 7 August 2018)

Chapter Two: The Political Development of the American Dream

Michael Ford, the Founding Director of Xavier University's Center for the Study of the American Dream. Ford has a 37-year career in politics, government and business at all levels of American public life. He declared that

The American Dream is an ingrained idea, not a partisan ideology nor a corporate objective. The important thing about the Dream, based on our national survey work at the Center for the Study of the American Dream, is that a strong majority of American adults still believe in the Dream (72%), but to an astonishing degree they have lost confidence in the institutions traditionally seen as Dream guardians. 82% are disgusted with “all politics”. 79% have lost trust in “big business”; 78% distrust “government” and 72% distrust the traditional media.¹

The American Dream theme have been explored in the careers of numerous political leaders, including President George Washington, Patrick Henry, President Abraham Lincoln, President Woodrow Wilson, President Franklin D. Roosevelt, President Harry S. Truman, Martin Luther King Jr., President Lyndon Johnson, President Barack Obama, and President Donald Trump.

1- President George Washington

President George Washington (February 22, 1732 – December 14, 1799) was an American soldier, farmer, land investor, politician, and statesman who served from 1789 to 1797 as the first President of the United States, and became known as the "Father of His Country". President Washington served as a general and commander-in-chief of the Colonial Armies during the American Revolutionary War (1775-83). He led the colonial forces to victory over the British and became a national hero. Also, he was among the nation's Founding Fathers. During his presidency, he ruled in a legacy of strength, integrity and national purpose. Less than three years after leaving office, he died at his Virginia plantation, Mount Vernon, at age 67.

¹Michael Ford, “The American Dream, Politics, and the Protesters,” HUFFPOST, 14 December 2011, https://www.huffingtonpost.com/michael-ford/the-american-dream-politics-and-the-protesters_b_1010153.html (accessed 7 August 2018)

During President Washington's time, the dream for Americans was freedom. They wanted to get rid of the British rule and form a nation in which they could do or say as they pleased. A nation that could make decisions not based upon a king, but a government ran by the people and for the people. He gave them freedom, and the American dream born in the light of freedom. President Washington, himself was making his dream come true. In the French and Indian war, he served as colonel and won many battles which helped the colonies in victory. After, when he became the commander in chief, he did not only lead America to freedom, but also won the hearts of the Americans. The American Revolution covers an important moment in American history; it is the moment when the American dream was born.

In 1789, the First President, George Washington addressed the First speech. President Washington enforced the need for the Constitution to unify and strengthen the Americans, concluding that,

Having thus imported to you my sentiments, as they have been awakened by the occasion which brings us together, I shall take my present leave; but not without resorting once more to the benign parent of the human race, in humble supplication that since he has been pleased to favour the American people, with opportunities for deliberating in perfect tranquility, and dispositions for deciding with unparelled unanimity on a form of Government, for the security of their Union, and the advancement of their happiness; so his divine blessing may be equally conspicuous in the enlarged views, the temperate consultations, and the wise measures on which the success of this Government must depend.²

2- Patrick Henry

Patrick Henry (May 29, 1736 – June 6, 1799) was one of the Founding Fathers of the United States and the first governor of Virginia. A symbol of America's struggle for liberty and self-government, Patrick Henry was a lawyer, patriot, orator, and an orator and major figure in the American Revolution.

² George Washington, "First Inaugural Address, New York, April 30, 1789," Presidential Address and Message, <http://etc.usf.edu/lit2go/132/presidential-addresses-and-messages/5159/first-inaugural-address-new-york-april-30-1789/> (accessed 7 August 2018)

He was well known for his speech to the Virginia legislature in which he famously declared, “Give Me Liberty, or Give me Death!” His words fired up America’s fight for independence. In March 1775, Henry spoke to a Virginia convention considering a breakaway from British rule. He said,

*It is in vain, sir, to extenuate the matter. Gentlemen may cry, Peace, Peace-- but there is no peace. The war is actually begun! The next gale that sweeps from the north will bring to our ears the clash of resounding arms! Our brethren are already in the field! Why stand we here idle? What is it that gentlemen wish? What would they have? Is life so dear, or peace so sweet, as to be purchased at the price of chains and slavery? Forbid it, Almighty God! I know not what course others may take; but as for me, give me liberty or give me death!*³

British are taking over American and its citizens within the country, but America is “rebellious” against British. When discussing about American’s “rebellious” against the British, Patrick Henry analyzes the citizens of American are fighting against the British in “Give Me Liberty or Give me Death”: “The millions of people, armed in the holy cause of liberty, and in such a country as that which we possess, are invincible by any force which we against us.”²⁴ In time of Colonies, American was getting taking over by the government British. Henry will define the American Dream by living in freedom within the country and not being controlled by cruel government. Therefore, living in freedom is the American Dream for American citizens.

Americans have gone against the British and made many speeches to go against their governments. In America the colonist were trying to rule by themselves with no help from the British. The Founding Fathers where trying to fight for their freedom. Patrick Henry's American Dream is that we are free and have liberty.

3- President Abraham Lincoln

President Abraham Lincoln (February 12, 1809 – April 15, 1865) was the 16th president of the United States of America. President Lincoln led the United States through the American Civil War, it is the bloodiest war and perhaps it is greatest moral, constitutional, and political crisis. In doing so, he

³Henry Patrick, “Give Me Liberty or Give Me Death, 23 March 1775” LibertyOnline, <http://libertyonline.hypermall.com/henry-liberty.html> (accessed 7 August 2018)

preserved the Union, abolished slavery, strengthened the federal government, and modernized the economy.

He was a man of principles who believed in the essential virtue of democracy for resolving conflict of which he fought for so much and at one point. President Lincoln believed slavery was morally wrong and against the founding principles of the United States, he said, "As I would not be a slave, so I would not be a master. This expresses my idea of democracy. Whatever differs from this, to the extent of the difference, is no democracy."⁴ President Lincoln was very smart. He observed nature with a lot of closeness which enabled him later to accomplish his American dream.

In the President Lincoln's speech on slavery and the American dream during the 1858, President Lincoln advances the fundamental truth to which all creatures are entitled, declaring that even a slave kept in ignorance "does constantly know that he is wronged."⁴ And he uses economic logic against slavery, arguing that in freedom "the weak . . . grow stronger, the ignorant, wiser; and all better, and happier together."⁴ President Lincoln also says of those who strive "to prove slavery a very good thing, we never hear of the man who wishes to take the good of it, by being a slave himself."⁴

In this manuscript, a fragment from President Lincoln's speech, he invokes the nation's founding principles to stress the injustice of slavery, and in the course defines the American Dream, declaring, "Most governments have been based, practically, on the denial of the equal rights of men, as I have, in part, stated them; ours began, by affirming those rights."⁴

For President Lincoln, government had a moral obligation to provide economic opportunity for the people, especially the poor. Accordingly, he stood for positive government intervention in the economy in the form of a national bank and various public works. In articulating this thesis, Boritt used "the American dream," or simply "the dream," as shorthand for a cluster of primarily economic values that recurred in the sayings and doings of President Abraham Lincoln. President Lincoln himself never used such terms, but that in itself is no critique. Boritt's economic "dream" was a powerful heuristic device. Thus, according to Gabor S. Boritt, the leading historian of President Lincoln's economic thought,

⁴Abraham Lincoln, "Speech Fragment on Slavery and the American Government, 1857-1858," Gilder Lehrman, <https://www.gilderlehrman.org/content/lincoln-speech-slavery-and-american-dream-1858> (accessed 7 August 2018)

*Lincoln was possessed by the optimism of Western Civilization, reborn in the Renaissance, grown to maturity in the Enlightenment, and triumphant in nineteenth century America, which saw man as the master of his own destiny.*⁵

President Abraham Lincoln dream came true when he abolished slavery in the U.S. With time discrimination and segregation came to an end. Racism only remained in many older North Americans while the young ones continued to interact with different races. Civil Rights Act allowed anybody from any race to study in the U.S with no discrimination. Equality was considered first. Most migrants moved in to the U.S in search of different freedoms and opportunities. President Abraham Lincoln remained a hero and one of the greatest U.S presidents after giving freedom to the slaves.

On April 14, 1865, President Abraham Lincoln was shot by well-known actor and Confederate John Wilkes Booth at Ford's Theatre in Washington, D.C. He died in the early morning hours of April 15, 1865. President Abraham Lincoln remains the nation's greatest president. While his nearest rival President George Washington played a fundamental role in creating the American Union, it fell to President Lincoln not only to save it, but also, as he declared, "to make it, and to keep it, forever worthy of the saving."⁶ Though President Lincoln stressed that his politics represented simply a continuation of the fathers' principles, as president he embraced a new birth of freedom for the nation. Eradicating the source of slavery is a challenge his idols President Washington and President Jefferson deliberately avoided. The President Lincoln preserved the American republic and made it worth preserving.

⁵ Abraham Lincoln, "Economics and the American Dream: A Reappraisal, Winter 2001," Journal of the Abraham Lincoln Association, <https://quod.lib.umich.edu/j/jala/2629860.0022.106/--lincoln-s-economics-and-the-american-dream-a-reappraisal?rgn=main;view=fulltext> (accessed 7 August 2018)

⁶ Abraham Lincoln, "Preserving Liberty, 1861," Abraham Lincoln Online, <http://www.abrahamlincolnonline.org/lincoln/speeches/liberty.htm> (accessed 7 August 2018)

4- President Woodrow Wilson

President Woodrow Wilson (1856-1924), the 28th U.S. president, served in office from 1913 to 1921 and led America through World War I (1914-1918). President Wilson is often ranked by historians as one of the nation's greatest presidents. President Wilson tried to keep the United States neutral during World War I but ultimately Congress declared war on Germany in 1917. President Wilson is an advocate for democracy and world peace. After the World War I, he negotiated a peace treaty "Fourteen Points," that included a plan for the League of Nations to ensure world peace. Although the Senate rejected, the United States membership in the League, President Wilson received the Nobel Prize for his peacemaking efforts. President Wilson also created the Federal Reserve and supported the 19th Amendment, allowing women to vote.

President Woodrow Wilson played a determinant role in shaping the peace. A journalist wrote,

In January 1918 the U.S. president, Woodrow Wilson, set out his peace proposals in the "Fourteen Points." The general principles were open covenants openly arrived at, freedom of navigation, equality of trading conditions, the reduction of armaments, and the adjustment of colonial claims. Wilson also proposed "a general association," which became the League of Nations, but his more specific suggestions were concerned less with unity among nations than with national self-determination. His aim, in effect, was to secure justice, peace, and democracy by making the countries of Europe more perfect nation-states.⁷

President Woodrow Wilson is remembered as a progressive for his economic reforms. He transformed the basics of American foreign policy from isolation to internationalism, and succeeded in making the Democratic Party a "party of reform." Moreover, he was able to shape public opinion during his presidency. Under his leadership, Congress enacted the most cohesive federal program of the nation's economy. Up to that time: banking reform under the auspices of the Federal Reserve System, tariff reduction, federal regulation of

⁷ Richard J. Mayne, "History of Europe," Britannica.com, <https://www.britannica.com/topic/history-of-Europe/The-Great-War-and-its-aftermath#ref311353> (accessed 7 August 2018)

business, support for labor and collective bargaining, and federal aid to education and agriculture.

President Wilson was open-minded about immigration. As a presidential candidate, he needed immigrant votes to make the change. He genuinely believed that if immigrants saw themselves as fully American, the United States would be free of the ethnic conflicts that caused so much conflict in the Old World. The president spoke out on immigration; He encouraged the dreamers to come to the land of the achievable dreams. America was created to unite mankind by those passions. On June 1915, he spoke,

No doubt you have been disappointed in some of us. Some of us are very disappointing. No doubt you have found that justice in the United States goes only with a pure heart and a right purpose, as it does everywhere else in the world. No doubt what you have found here did not seem touched for you, after all, with the complete beauty of the ideal which you had conceived beforehand. But remember this: If we had grown at all poor in the ideal, you brought some of it with you. ... And if some of us have forgotten what America believed in, you, at any rate, imported in your own hearts a renewal of the belief. That is the reason that I, for one, make you welcome. You dreamed dreams of what America was to be, and I hope you brought the dreams with you. No man that does not see visions will ever realize any high hope or undertake any high enterprise. Just because you brought dreams with you, America is more likely to realize dreams such as you brought. You are enriching us if you came expecting us to be better than we are.⁸

5- President Franklin Delano Roosevelt

President Franklin D. Roosevelt, in full President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, commonly known as President FDR, (born January 30, 1882, Hyde Park, New York, U.S.—died April 12, 1945, Warm Springs, Georgia). He was the 32nd president of the United States (1933–45). President Roosevelt led the United States through two of the greatest crises of the 20th century: the Great

⁸ Patricia O'Toole, "A President Speaks Out On Immigration," *The American Scholar*, 25 June 2012, <https://theamericanscholar.org/a-president-speaks-out-on-immigration/#.W00XTdYxLIU> (accessed 7 August 2018)

up Depression and World War II. A whole generation of Americans grew knowing no other president, President Franklin D. Roosevelt was the only United States president to be elected four times, Roosevelt died in office in April 1945. from "The Presidents of the United States of America," by Frank Freidel and Hugh Sidey, in the words of the writers,

*Assuming the Presidency at the depth of the Great Depression, Franklin D. Roosevelt helped the American people regain faith in themselves. He brought hope as he promised prompt, vigorous action, and asserted in his Inaugural Address, "the only thing we have to fear is fear itself."*⁹

Americans celebrate President Franklin D. Roosevelt as the president who led them out of the Great Depression of the 1930s and through the greatest global conflict in history. He greatly expanded the powers of the federal government through a series of programs and reforms known as "New Deal". These economic reforms were proposed in order to address the Great Depression. The greatest crisis in American history since the Civil War, 13 million Americans were unemployed and hundreds of banks were closed. He formed a "Brain Trust" of economic advisers who designed the "alphabet agencies" such as the AAA (Agricultural Adjustment Administration), the CCC (Civilian Conservation Corps), the NRA (National Recovery Administration), and other many agencies.

Roosevelt University, founded on the influence of President Franklin and President Eleanor Roosevelt on the meaning and future of the American Dream. It is mentioned that,

*As perhaps few other political leaders since, Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt perceived the fragility of the American Dream. They realized that it would remain unfulfilled for millions of Americans unless the government — which they defined as the people — played a vital role in the economy and protected political as well as economic rights . . . It illuminates a path forward for a nation in which so many find the American Dream an elusive reality.*¹⁰

⁹"Franklin D. Roosevelt," The White House, <https://www.whitehouse.gov/about-the-white-house/presidents/franklin-d-roosevelt/> (accessed 7 August 2018)

¹⁰Margaret Rung, "The Roosevelts and the American Dream," American Dream Reconsidered Conference, <https://americandreamconference.com/2017/09/07/the-roosevelts-and-the-american-dream/> (accessed 7 August 2018)

President Franklin Roosevelt was president in an era when America needed a strong leader. America needed someone to guide her and help her get back on her feet because of the Great Depression. In that time Americans were losing faith in the American dream but President Roosevelt helped them to believe in their dreams one more time. A journalist asserts that,

Even though the new deal didn't get rid of the depression entirely, Roosevelt helped people to believe in the American dream during the Great Depression because he came up with the New Deal and the New Deal regulations brought hope that America could prosper again. The New Deal influenced people to work hard and to fulfill their American Dreams. Roosevelt gave Americans the hope that America could be America again. The New Deal was like the first step for many Americans to reach the goals of their American Dreams and that they could succeed in life.¹¹

6- President Harry S. Truman

President Harry S. Truman,(born May 8, 1884, Lamar, Missouri, U.S.—died December 26, 1972, Kansas City, Missouri). He was President Franklin Delano Roosevelt's vice president for just 82 days before President Roosevelt died and President Truman became the 33rd president. When he became president, he told reporters, "I felt like the moon, the stars, and all the planets had fallen on me."¹² He led his country through the final stages of World War II and through the early years of the Cold War. He is most known for putting an end to World War II in the Pacific by dropping the atomic bomb on Japan. He is also known for the Marshall Plan, the Truman Doctrine, and the Korean War.

Along his journey of presidency, he helped begin the American dream of the 1950's when he brought hope and peace to the American society. Thanks to his decision of bombing Japan, the war that killed millions of Americans finally ended. A historian explained How President Truman affects the American dream, he asserts,

¹¹ "Influence on the American Dream," FDR: His Influence on the American Dream and American Literature, <https://844676561659266116.weebly.com/influence-on-the-american-dream.html>(accessed 7 August 2018)

¹²"Harry S. Truman," The Independent, 20 January 2009, <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/presidents/harry-s-truman-1451147.html>(accessed 7 August 2018)

President Truman made a fatal decision when he authorized the dropping of the atomic bomb. I think that Truman made the decision in order to protect the American Citizens. By dropping the a-bombs the United States Armed Forces saved a projected 1 Million lives. If we would have invaded Japan then many families wouldn't be complete, fathers would be killed and families would be torn apart. President Truman also affected American life by his work in civil rights. He desegregated our armed forces and integrated the work force as well. In my opinion, President Truman protected the American Dream. He made it so millions of people could go on with their lives and to attempt to achieve their American Dreams. Also, by desegregating the work and armed forces he made the American Dream more achievable to minority races in America. President Truman also did he best to protect democracy in his fight against communism. So not only did President Truman help save lives but he made it so more people had the opportunity to actual attempt to achieve the American dream.¹³

7- Martin Luther King Jr.

Martin Luther King, Jr., original name Michael King, Jr., (January 15, 1929-April 4, 1968) was born Michael Luther King, Jr., but later had his name changed to Martin. Martin Luther King, Jr. was a social activist and Baptist minister who played a key role in the American civil rights movement from the mid-1950s until his assassination in 1968. He continues to be remembered as one of the most influential and inspirational African-American leaders in history. The following fragment is a brief description of the king, in the words of the author,

Drawing inspiration from both his Christian faith and the peaceful teachings of Mahatma Gandhi, Dr. King led a nonviolent movement in the late 1950's and '60s to achieve legal equality for African-Americans in the United States. While others were advocating for freedom by "any means necessary," including violence, Martin Luther King, Jr. used the power of words and acts of nonviolent resistance, such as protests, grassroots organizing, and civil

¹³“Truman and the American Dream,” Weebly.com, <https://trumanandtheamericandream.weebly.com/index.html> (accessed 7 August 2018)

*disobedience to achieve seemingly-impossible goals. He went on to lead similar campaigns against poverty and international conflict, always maintaining fidelity to his principles that men and women everywhere, regardless of color or creed, are equal members of the human family.*¹⁴

Martin Luther King Jr. was never left behind for fighting for the American Dream. Being a Baptist minister, he was in the war front fighting discrimination against the blacks. All he wanted was racial equality among the Americans. In his speech "I Have a Dream", he talked about slavery. All he meant was the equality among the American people. His speech of "I Have a Dream" to the Americans has achieved the American Dream. The fight for the racism has been achieved equality between the blacks and the whites. In his own word he said,

*I have a dream that one day the state of Alabama, whose governor's lips are presently dripping with the words of interposition and nullification, will be transformed into a situation where little black boys and black girls will be able to join hands with little white boys and white girls and walk together as sisters and brothers.*¹⁵

In addition, the King was against crime to the humanity, he was against the Vietnam War. In his speech titled "Beyond Vietnam" he openly declared that he was against United States involvement with the Vietnam War. He said,

If we continue, there will be no doubt in my mind and in the mind of the war that we have no honorable intentions in Vietnam. It will become clear that our minimal expectation is to occupy it as an American colony and men will not refrain from thinking that our maximum hope is to goad china into a war so that we may bomb her nuclear installations. If we do not stop our war against the people of Vietnam immediately the world will be left no other alternative than to see this as some horribly clumsy and deadly game we have

¹⁴ "About Dr. King," The Martin Luther King Center, <http://www.thekingcenter.org/about-dr-king> (accessed 7 August 2018)

¹⁵ Martin Luther King Jr., "I Have a Dream, 28 August 1963, Washington DC," Stanford University, <https://kinginstitute.stanford.edu/king-papers/documents/i-have-dream-address-delivered-march-washington-jobs-and-freedom> (accessed 7 August 2018)

*decided to play.*¹⁶

In this speech, he didn't miss the wealth and poverty topic, to him, U.S needed some moral changes in which he declared,

*A true revolution of values will soon look uneasily on the glaring contrast of poverty and wealth. With righteous indignation, it will look across the seas and see individual capitalists of the West investing huge sums of money in Africa, Asia, and South America, only to take the profits out with no concern for the social betterment of the countries.*¹⁷

Politically, his prediction about his four children living in a nation where a black will rule came to be accomplished, the Barrack Obama. Martin Luther King Jr. left a legacy behind for fighting equality and human rights. King sought equality and human rights for African Americans. Now, he is mostly remembered for protesting in many events such as the Montgomery Bus Boycott and the 1963 March on Washington, which helped bring about such landmark legislation as the Civil Rights Act and the Voting Rights Act. King was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964 and is remembered each year on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, a U.S. Federal Holiday since 1986. A reporter wrote about him, he said,

*During the less than 13 years of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s leadership of the modern American Civil Rights Movement, from December, 1955 until April 4, 1968, African Americans achieved more genuine progress toward racial equality in America than the previous 350 years had produced. Dr. King is widely regarded as America's pre-eminent advocate of nonviolence and one of the greatest nonviolent leaders in world history.*¹⁷

¹⁶ Martin Luther King Jr., "Beyond Vietnam, 4 April 1967," Stanford University, <https://kinginstitute.stanford.edu/encyclopedia/beyond-vietnam> (accessed 7 August 2018)

¹⁷ "About Dr. King," The Martin Luther King Center, <http://www.thekingcenter.org/about-dr-king> (accessed 7 August 2018)

8- Lyndon Baines Johnson

President Lyndon B. Johnson, in full President Lyndon Baines Johnson, (born August 27, 1908, Gillespie county, Texas, U.S. He died January 22, 1973, San Antonio, Texas). He is the 36th president of the United States (1963–69). Johnson is a moderate Democrat leader in the United States Senate. He launched an ambitious slate of progressive reforms aimed at creating a “Great Society” for all Americans. During his administration, he championed in many programs such as Medicare, the Voting Rights Act and the Civil Rights Act. Those programs had a profound and lasting impact in health, education and civil rights. Despite his impressive achievements, Johnson’s legacy failed to lead the nation during the Vietnam War. He declined his retirement to the Texas ranch in January 1969.

President Lyndon Johnson has a rich biographical figure that made him one of the major historical subjects. The White House crew was fascinated by him. For instance, Doris Kearns Goodwin, an assistant in the office of President Lyndon Johnson during his last year in the White House. She was fascinated by the man; his character, his enormous energy and drive, and his manner in an endless pursuit of power. As a member of his White House staff, she soon became his personal confidante Doris wrote numerous books including “Lyndon Johnson and the American Dream”. Her book was hailed by the New York Times as “the most penetrating, fascinating political biography I have ever read.” She described the president as true leader when she wrote,

A true leader is a man who can get people to work together on the points on which they agree and who can persuade others that when they disagree there are peaceful methods to settle their differences.¹⁸

Obviously the focus of this book, President Lyndon Johnson was one of the most powerful men in American political history. According to her, President Lyndon Johnson was a true leader, the protector and the savior of the American dream, she wrote,

The biggest danger to American stability,” Johnson argued, “is the politics of principle, which brings out the masses in irrational fights for unlimited goals, for once the masses begin to move, then the whole thing begins to explode. Thus it is for the sake of nothing less than stability that I consider myself a consensus man.¹⁸

During his presidency, his height of power as president allowed him to develop and use his superior skills of persuasion, manipulation, and negotiation to achieve not just his own personal and political goals, but to literally push his programs through Congress and brought remarkable change. Miss Kearns strongly believed in him, according to her his success was thanks to his faith in the capacity of the American society. She said,

The very qualities that had led to Johnson's political and legislative success were precisely those that now operated to destroy him: his inward insistence that the world adapt itself to his goals; his faith in the nation's limitless capacity; his tendency to evaluate all human activity in terms of its political significance; his insistence on translating every disruptive situation into one where bargaining was possible; his reliance on personal touch; his ability to speak to each of his constituent groups on its own terms. All these gifts, instead of sustaining him, now conspired to destroy him.¹⁸

9- President Barack Obama

President Barack Hussein Obama (born August 4, 1961) is a successful civil rights attorney and politician who served two terms as the 44th President of the United States from January 20, 2009, to January 20, 2017. A member of the Democratic Party, Not only was President Obama the first African-American president, he was also the first to be born outside the continental United States. During his presidency, President Obama passed several bills such as Protection and Affordable Care Act, The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. His primary legislation sought to extend welfare support and help the economy to recover from the Financial and Economic Crisis of 2009. He is widely regarded as a charismatic speaker, frequently speaking on the ideals of hope and optimism.

President Barack Obama himself is a child of the American dream. The Dream is based on equal opportunities, opening to everyone the possibility of belonging to this unique nation. His father coming from Kenya, President Obama is the proof that the American dream is not limited to immigrants from

¹⁸Doris Kearns Goodwin, "Lyndon Johnson and the American Dream," goodreads, <https://www.goodreads.com/work/quotes/86228-lyndon-johnson-and-the-american-dream> (accessed 7 August 2018)

Europe, but can also be reached by immigrants from Africa. As a mixed race African American, he struggled to realize his goal of that ‘young preacher from Georgia’ as he referred to when accepting the nomination as Democratic Party candidate. He was a child of a single mother, supported by her parents. He has also gone through the difficulty of growing up from family break-up, which it can be overcome by education and perseverance. Also, his personal hardship was transformed into a source of strength in political self-representation. The American Dream was a credible narrative for President Obama because his life symbolized it. In his speech ‘Reclaiming the American Dream’, he narrated his own story, he said,

*These are dreams that drove my mother. A single mom - even while relying on food stamps as she finished her education, she followed her passion for helping others, and raised my sister and me to believe that in America there are no barriers to success - no matter what color you are, no matter where you're from, no matter how much money you have.*¹⁹

He was previously a United States Senator from Illinois and a member of the Illinois State Senate. He gained a reputation as one of rising stars in the Democrat Party. His book ‘Obama: The Audacity of Hope’ became a best seller and increased his national profile. In the aftermath of the Iraq war, his reputation was enhanced by his previous opposition to the war. He declared that,

*Hope in the face of difficulty, hope in the face of uncertainty, the audacity of hope: in the end, that is God’s greatest gift to us, the bedrock of this nation, a belief in things not seen, a belief that there are better days ahead.*²⁰

¹⁹BarackObama, “Reclaiming the American Dream, 7 November 2007,” CNN Politics, <http://edition.cnn.com/2007/POLITICS/12/21/obama.trans.americandream/>(accessed 7 August 2018)

²⁰ Barack Obama, The Audacity of Hope: Thoughts on Reclaiming the American Dream(Hardcover Crown Publishing Group: October 17, 2006), qtd. inGeorgeTown University, <https://berkleycenter.georgetown.edu/quotes/barack-obama-on-god-s-gift-of-hope-at-the-2004-democratic-national-convention>(accessed 7 August 2018)

In President Barack Obama's speech on reclaiming the American Dream, he states that the differences that divided the Americans such as race, religion, wealth, geography, or opportunity are what make America unique. And that all Americans share the same American Dream. He promised the American society to offer them the same opportunities to live and fulfill their dreams. He stated that,

*But as I've traveled around Iowa and the rest of the country these last nine months, I haven't been struck by our differences - I've been impressed by the values and hopes that we share. In big cities and small towns; among men and women; young and old; black, white, and brown - Americans share a faith in simple dreams. A job with wages that can support a family. Health care that we can count on and afford. A retirement that is dignified and secure. Education and opportunity for our kids. Common hopes. American dreams.*²¹

During his presidency, Obama believed that everyone should benefit from the American Dream that became difficult to fight for. However, he prevented the immigrants from living their dream, and not only made their dream impossible but it became a nightmare. Obama holds the record for deporting more immigrants than any president, with more than 2 million deportations over eight years. Statistically, more people were deported from the U.S. during the administration of President Barack Obama than during that of any other president. The study states,

*During the third and final presidential debate on 19 October 2016, Republican nominee Donald Trump remarked that President Barack Obama "has moved millions of people out ... millions of people have been moved out of this country." As of 2015, more than 2.5 million undocumented persons had been deported by immigration authorities since President Obama took office in 2009, a total which was statistically record-setting. During the two terms of Obama's predecessor, President George W. Bush, just over 2 million people were deported.*²²

²¹BarackObama, "Reclaiming the American Dream, 7 November 2007", CNN Politics, <http://edition.cnn.com/2007/POLITICS/12/21/obama.trans.americandream/> (accessed 7 August 2018)

²² "Where More People Deport Under the Obama Administration Than Any Other?," Snopes, <https://www.snopes.com/fact-check/obama-deported-more-people/> (accessed 8 August 2018)

10- President Donald John Trump

10-1- Birth and Life

President Donald John Trump (born June 14, 1946) is the 45th and current President of the United States. Before entering politics, he was a businessman and television personality.

President Trump was born and raised in Queens, New York City, to German immigrant parents. He received an economics degree from the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania. He took charge of his family's real estate business in 1971, renamed it to The Trump Organization, and expanded it into Manhattan.

He became the oldest and wealthiest person ever to assume the presidency, the first without prior military or government service, and the fifth to have won the election while losing the popular vote. He remarkably won the Presidency in his first ever run for any political office. President Trump has been married to his wife, Melania, for twelve years, and they are parents to their son, Barron. President Trump also has four adult children, Don Jr., Ivanka, Eric, and Tiffany, as well as nine grandchildren.

10-2- Wealth and Interests

"It was good for me,"²³ President Donald later commented. "You know, being the son of somebody, it could have been competition to me. This way, I got Manhattan all to myself."²⁴ His business interests expanded, taking in hotels, casinos, President Trump Shuttle airline and a mega-yacht. For President Trump, the key attraction of his work was often in negotiating a deal.

President Donald J. Trump defines the American success story. Throughout his life he has continually set the standards of business and entrepreneurial excellence, especially in real estate, sports, and entertainment. In 2012, President Trump declared his own net worth at around \$7 billion. From 1996 to 2015, President Trump owned part of Miss Universe beauty pageants. Then, President Trump sold his interests later in 2015. Also, in 2003, President Trump became the executive producer of the NBC program 'The Apprentice'. It was one of the most popular TV programs.

²³ "Donald Trump Biography," Biography Online, <https://www.biographyonline.net/business/donald-trump.html> (accessed 8 August 2018)

In addition, President Trump is also an accomplished author. He has written more than fourteen bestsellers including *The Art of the Deal* (1987), *Surviving at the Top* (1990), *The Art of Survival* (1991), *The Art of the Comeback* (1997), *The America We Deserve* (2000), and *How to Get Rich* (2004). In his first book ‘*The Art of the Deal*’, he considered the business as a classic art, he declared that,

*I don't do it for the money. I've got enough, much more than I'll ever need. I do it to do it. Deals are my art form. Other people paint beautifully on canvas or write wonderful poetry. I like making deals, preferably big deals. That's how I get my kicks.*²⁴

10-3- Politics

Before winning the U.S. presidency, President Trump never held any elected or appointed government office. In June 2015, he announced his presidential candidacy in a speech at President Trump Tower. President Trump ran his campaign under the slogan “Make America Great Again.” He spoke out against political correctness, illegal immigration and government lobbyists, while promising to cut taxes, renegotiate trade deals and create millions of jobs for American workers. In May 2016, he won the election defeating 16 candidates, including Jeb Bush, Chris Christie, Ted Cruz, Marco Rubio and John Kasich.

President Trump was elected president as a Republican. Trump has also self-identified as a Democrat, like in a CNN interview with Wolf Blitzer in 2004. "In many cases, I probably identify more as Democrat,"⁴⁷ President Trump said, and at the time he was a registered Democrat. He continued:

It just seems that the economy does better under the Democrats than the Republicans. Now, it shouldn't be that way. But if you go back, I mean it just seems that the economy does better under the Democrats. ...But certainly we had some very good economies under Democrats, as well as Republicans. But we've had some

²⁴ JuliaMullaney, “Revealing Secrets Behind Donald Trump Tumultuous Relationship With His Father,” CheatSheet, 27 March 2018, <https://www.cheatsheet.com/health-fitness/revealing-secrets-behind-donald-trumps-tumultuous-relationship-father.html/> (accessed 8 August 2018)

*pretty bad disaster under the Republicans.*²⁵

He spoke out against political correctness, illegal immigration and government lobbyists, while promising to cut taxes, renegotiate trade deals and create millions of jobs for American workers. In May 2016, he won the election defeating 16 candidates, including Jeb Bush, Chris Christie, Ted Cruz, Marco Rubio and John Kasich.

In the first days of his presidency, President Trump issued a number of executive orders called ‘back-to-back’. Those orders helped him to make good on his campaign promises, and other orders aimed at returning policies and regulations that were excluded during President Obama administration. Some of President Trump executive orders include his supreme court nomination; steps toward building a wall on the Mexico border; a travel ban for several mostly Muslim countries; the first moves to dismantle the Affordable Care Act; and the United States withdrawal from the Paris Climate Agreement.

²⁵LaniSeelinger, “Was Donald Trump A Democrat? The Republican President Has A Complicated Political History,” Bustle, 3 May 2018, <https://www.bustle.com/p/was-donald-trump-a-democrat-the-republican-president-has-a-complicated-political-history-8934344>(accessed 8 August 2018)

Chapter Three: President Donald Trump and the American Dream

1- President Trump Attitude Toward the American Dream

The American dream means freedom, mutual respect and equality of opportunity. It had more to do with morality than material success. However, President Trump have suggested promising plan. It involves owning a beautiful home and a roaring business. The meaning of the term changed through time as culture changes, and as opportunists try to redefine to their own advantage.

1-1-President Trump View on the American Dream

“Sadly, the American dream is dead. But if I ever get elected president, I will bring it back, bigger and better than ever.”¹

That is what President Donald Trump proclaimed when he announced his candidacy for the president of the United States. It seemed an astonishing beginning for an election campaign; people were told that this dream of prosperity was under threat, but President Trump promised to save it. Throughout his campaign, President Trump also promised to put America first, and worked under the slogan make America great again. He chose carefully the right words to give hope to the Americans, and for sure to gain more votes.

In 2015, President Donald Trump wrote ‘Crippled America : howtomakeAmericagreatagain’, a 169 page book outlining his political vision and campaign agenda to ‘make America great again’, President Trump clarified his future hopes and projects for America, letting readers know that above all he is a man of business with a success story that encapsulates the American dream. He brings up some valid points regarding the current state of the American congress and its ineffectiveness, stresses the dangers of risingUnemployment rates, and warns up the issue of immigration.

¹SusanPage, “This Time, Donald Trump says he’s running,” USA TODAY, 17 June 2015, <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/elections/2015/06/16/donald-trump-announcement-president/28782433/>(accessed 8 August 2018)

By the time he won the election, he delivered his first State of the Union address in the House chamber of the U.S. Capitol to a joint session of Congress, Jan. 30, 2018 in Washington. President Donald Trump sought to unite a deeply divided nation with his call for a “new American moment” during his State of the Union. Throughout his speech, he announced many major reforms that are likely to give a boost to the United States economy such as tax cut, calling for unity, and immigration policies. He said,

*There has never been a better time to start living the American Dream. So to every citizen watching at home tonight — no matter where you have been, or where you've come from — this is your time. If you work hard, if you believe in yourself, if you believe in America, then you can dream anything, you can be anything, and together, we can achieve absolutely anything.*²

President Trump also linked his "America First" slogan. Mr. Trump emphasized the threat posed by immigrants, linking immigration to crime and the destruction of communities. Mr. Trump said,

*The United States is a compassionate nation," he said. "We are proud that we do more than any other country anywhere in the world to help the needy, the struggling and the underprivileged all over the world. But as president of the United States, my highest loyalty, my greatest compassion, my constant concern is for America's children, America's struggling workers and America's forgotten communities.*²

It was a typically speech, touching on issues including bringing down the price of prescription drugs, trade deals, infrastructure spending and the fight against Islamic State.

²Donald John Trump, “State of the Union Address, House Chamber, 30 January 2018,” News, <https://www.nbcnews.com/storyline/2018-state-of-the-union-address/trump-there-has-never-been-better-time-start-living-american-n842706>(accessed 8 August 2018)

1-2- Trump's Anti-Immigration Policies

Immigration to the United States is the international movement of non-U.S. nationals in order to reside permanently in the country. Lawful Immigration has been a major source of population growth and cultural change throughout much of the U.S. history. Because the United States is a settler colonial society, all Americans, with the exception of the small percent of Native Americans, can trace their ancestry to immigrants from other nations around the world.

In absolute numbers, the United States has a larger immigrant population than any other country, with 47 million immigrants. The economic, social, and political aspects of immigration have caused controversy regarding such issues as maintaining ethnic homogeneity, workers for employers versus jobs for non-immigrants, settlement patterns, impact on upward social mobility, crime, and voting behavior.

The survey Economic Impacts of Immigrationsuggested that immigration to the United States is beneficial to the US economy³. With few exceptions, the evidence suggests that on average, immigration has positive economic effects on the native population, but it is mixed as to whether low-skilled immigration adversely affects low-skilled natives. Studies also show that immigrants have lower crime rates than natives in the United States. Research shows that the United States excels at assimilating first- and second-generation immigrants relative to many other Western countries.

Illegal immigration to the United States is the entry into the United States of foreign nationals in violation of United States immigration laws and also the remaining in the country of foreign nationals after their visa, or other authority to be in the country, has expired. These foreign nationals are referred to as 'illegal immigrants', 'undocumented immigrants' and 'unauthorized immigrants' in American discourse.

Immigration policy and, specifically, illegal immigration to the United States, was a signature issue of United States President Donald Trump's presidential campaign, and his proposed reforms and remarks about this issue generated much publicity. Official estimates of the number of illegal immigrants in the United States range from 11 and 12 million. President

³ "Economic Impact of Immigration: A Survey," NBER, January 2011,<http://www.immigrationresearch-info.org> (accessed in 7 August 2018)

Trump has repeatedly characterized such immigrants as criminals, although multiple studies have found they have lower crime and incarceration rates than native-born Americans. In fact, the President Trump was an immigrant. In one of his speeches, he declared that,

*My parents came from one of those countries but proudly took an oath of allegiance to the United States and took on the responsibilities of everything that being a citizen comes with. They never took a thing from our federal government. They worked hard, paid taxes, and rose from nothing to take care of and provide opportunities for their children. They taught their children to do the same. That's the American Dream.*⁴

The image of America as a place that welcomes immigrants and refugees has often been more inspirational than real. But the aspiration has been an important piece of America's reputation around the world as an open nation, a generous people, a promised land. But, these days are over by the coming of the President Trump and his executive administration.

In his campaign, he promised to build a substantial wall on the United States-Mexico border. President Trump has also expressed support for a variety of anti-immigration proposals including "limits on legal immigration and guest-worker visas", and "pause" which President Trump says that it will reduce immigration levels.

One of President Trump's most controversial early executive orders, issued on January 27, implemented his promised "Muslim ban," or as it came to be known the travel ban. It is executive orders which temporarily suspended immigration to the United States from seven Muslim-majority countries in the interest of national security. In March, president trump issued a second executive order; it was designed in order to drop Iraq from the list of targeted countries and narrowed the categories of persons whose travel would be affected.

A study published in Social Science Quarterly in May 2016 tested President Trump's claim that immigrants are responsible for higher levels of violent and drug-related crime in the United States. It found no evidence that links Mexican or illegal Mexican immigrants specifically to violent or drug-

⁴MontereyHerald, "Editorial, Jan. 14, 2017: The American Dream and Donald Trump," Monterey Herald, 13 January 2018, <http://www.montereyherald.com/opinion/20180113/editorial-jan-14-2017-the-american-dream-and-donald-trump>(accessed 8 August 2018)

related crime. It did however find a small but significant association between undocumented immigrant populations (including non-Mexican undocumented immigrants) and drug-related arrests.

2- President Trump is killing the American Dream

The American dream is under threat in the last decades. Today, President Donald Trump made it worse. Nowadays, many Americans disagree with his executive policies against immigrants and the dreamers. They saw him as the killer of the American dream in the land of opportunities and prosperity. In addition to the administration cruel reforms, he has lack of interest in public education. So, the dream is no longer a perfect version as long as President Donald Trump excluding minorities and underestimating the poor.

Amanda Friesen, an Assistant Professor in Political Science, Her research interests involved the areas of political psychology, religion and politics, gender and politics, and behavior genetics. According to her, President Donald Trump views on the American dream inspired only the wealthy Americans. Amanda Friesen argues that,

One of the themes of the 2016 election cycle is voter frustration with and alienation from party and political elites. The tension lies in non-wealthy Americans somehow “identifying” with Donald Trump, a man who is essentially famous for being rich. Certainly, scholars and analysts have identified underlying currents of fear and anxiety, authoritarian personalities, and white nostalgia in Trump supporters. Insightful pieces, from the perspective of those who know or have lived among Trump fans, point to the left and other elites misunderstanding these groups of folks struggling economically and culturally.⁵

Vicente Fox was president of Mexico from 2000-2006, he believes that President Trump has put international relations at risk and ended the

⁵ Amanda Fraisen, “Trump’s supporters share his idea of the American dream. And it’s all about Vegas, baby,” LSE USCentre, <http://eprints.lse.ac.uk/67763/1/blogs.lse.ac.uk-Trumps%20supporters%20share%20his%20idea%20of%20the%20American%20dream%20And%20its%20all%20about%20Vegas%20baby.pdf> (accessed 8 August 2018)

American dream for hundreds of thousands of Americans and non-Americans. On 24th, April, 2018 the Newsweek journal published his article ‘the American Dream is Dead, and Donald Trump Killed it’, he mentioned,

*Recently, he went bonkers and in just 280 characters launched the worst threats he has ever addressed to our country. He has called Mexicans rapists, criminals, and the worst of the worst. He has threatened to pull out of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and deport hundreds of thousands of young Dreamers. Why? Because he feels like it.*⁶

Along with many politic experts, the author Kashana Cauley believes that the President Trump administration and its anti-immigration policies are hastening the demise of the American dream. She stated,

*Mr. Trump’s immigration policies are yanking the dream from many aspiring Americans. In 7-Elevens undergoing sudden immigration raids. In ICE detention centers where a 12-month-old baby was kept separately from his asylum-seeking parents. In the news that President Trump plans to deport 60,000 people to Haiti and 200,000 to El Salvador, the most dangerous country in the world. All that, along with the 800,000 “Dreamers” allowed to live here under the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program who are waiting on Congress and the courts to see if they will be permitted to stay.*⁷

The author Kashana Cauley is blaming President Trump for losing faith in the American dream. She argues that the American dream is no longer a perfect vision as long as it tended to exclude the minorities and underestimate the poor. She stressed,

The American dream is being yanked out of people’s hands as they are physically shipped elsewhere, in many cases separated from the families that have always been a key part of this vision. It’s being taken out of their pocketbooks as the debt that will be incurred by the permanent tax cuts for the rich. It’s being stolen by diminishing

⁶VicenteFox, “The American Dream Is Dead, and Donald Trump Killed It,” Newsweek, 24 April 2018, <https://www.newsweek.com/vicente-fox-american-dream-dead-and-donald-trump-killed-it-opinion-896894> (accessed 8 August 2018)

*opportunities to obtain a quality public education.*⁷

Amir Muhammad, a Staff Reporter of Western Herald. He criticized the President Trump's educational policies and its heartless effect for some of the children who came to this country as young as five or six years-old; American culture is all they know. Getting deported back to their homeland would destroy their career as well as their American dream. He mentioned,

*The American dream means that you can come here and make something of yourself regardless of your background and the Trump administration wants to take that away for hundreds of thousands of people. Western Michigan University students are in danger of not being able to finish their educations if their DACA time runs out.*⁸

In addition, the professor Vivek Kaul designed his research 'Easynomics: Trump killing the American dream', in which he stated that Mr. Donald Trump is attacking at the heart of the system that has fuelled the American dream; a system which has already been weakened by many other factors. He said,

*The American president, Donald Trump, through his recent statements is trying to get the United States into a global trade war. The reason for this lies in the fact that the United States imports more from other countries, than it exports. Trump wants to set this right.*⁹

⁷ Kashana Cauley, "Trump Is Killing the American Dream," The New York Times, 22 January 2018, <https://www.nytimes.com/2018/01/22/opinion/trump-killing-american-dream.html> (accessed 8 August 2018)

⁸ Amir Muhammad, "OP: Donald Trump is Killing the American Dream," westernherald.com, 12 September 2017, http://www.westernherald.com/opinion/article_4a2e78f8-973b-11e7-a6c4-4b94672a8a79.html (accessed 8 August 2018)

⁹ Vivek Kaul, "Easynomics: Trump killing the American dream," Bangalore Mirror, 13 June 2018, <https://bangaloremirror.indiatimes.com/opinion/columns-views-pet-puja-queer-issues-dialogue-gardening-greenskeeper-opinions/easynomics-trump-killing-the-american-dream/articleshow/64563630.cms> (accessed 9 August 2018)

3- The American Dream Today

In the 1920s, the definition of happiness shifted from the Founding Fathers' dream of opportunity to the acquisition of material things. At that time, the American dream was the aspiration of the age. At the same time, it was a pursuit of happiness driven by greed was not attainable. That's because someone else always had more.

Over the past 50 years, lots of things have changed in the United States. A child's chance of earning more than his or her parents has risen. Also, among the 35 richest countries in the world, the US now has the highest infant mortality rate and the lowest life expectancy.

There isn't one villain or one pivotal moment, but there really were several different things that started happening at the same time, and they fed off each other.

For instance, the government gave companies much more power. It weakened labor unions, which consequently undermined support for a real program for job retraining in the face of automation, and in the face of global trade. There were several things like this that made sense at the time, but in retrospect, they started a chain of events that led to disaster.

We may say that the American Dream is possible today; it just depends on how people define it. The American Dream is about success in terms of what anyone wish for. Compared to many other countries in the world, America is a place where people have the opportunity to determine their own success. The American Dream is also about getting an education, building a family and to reach happiness and satisfaction. In fact, it has a different meaning for each one, but I'm sure we can all agree that the American Dream includes hope for a richer life with freedom and opportunity.

The majority of Americans believe that it is more difficult to achieve the American Dream than it was a decade ago, due primarily to the high costs of education and healthcare.

3-1-Is the American Dream Still Alive?

Work hard and you will make it. That's been the promise of the American dream for a long time. In a lot of ways, this country still offers anyone from any background a shot. The dreamers are working hard to ensure success; they are fighting the different obstacles stand in their way. Since America is a prosperous country, many people hope to immigrate to this country. So, for many the American dream still alive and it can be turned into reality.

It's not an easy question to answer, especially in the current times full of uncertainty in work and in life. Nowadays, all we hear about is the challenging nature of life in the United States. And it feels as though the American dream is a distant memory of a past that we are trying so hard to grasp onto.

There's no question that the dream is at least a bit more challenging to achieve today than it once was. Immigrants have long been drawn to our freedoms, whether that meant building a better life for themselves or a better invention for others. America's business history is full of entrepreneurs who, finally able to pursue their passions, contributed handsomely to the economic engine that is the United States.

Sanford I. Weill expressed that The American Dream is still alive and obtainable. Many people have a definition of what the American Dream that is obtainable in their minds. People all have unique individual lives. One of the reasons that the American Dream is still alive is that there are so many opportunities every day. Sanford explained,

I think the American Dream says that anything can happen if you work hard enough at it and are persistent, and have some ability. The sky is the limit to what you can build, and what can happen to you and your family.¹⁰

¹⁰ Sanford I. Weill, "Sanford I. Weill Quotes," BrainyQuote, https://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/sanford_i_weill_283101 (accessed 9 August 2018)

3-2- The Dreamers of America

There has been a determined Democratic pushback. Congress said they had agreed with President Donald Trump to protect such people, known as Dreamers, via legislation and increased spending on border security.

The dreamers represent diverse communities. Yet they share something in common. They were all brought to this country as children by parents who wanted to provide a better life for their families. Each one of them spent time in his young life without documents. Their stories grew up in different states, their lives took different paths. But this country gave them the opportunity to get an education, to work hard, to gain citizenship and to eventually run for office. It is that opportunity that makes America beautiful.

Daca is a federal government program created in 2012 under Barack Obama to allow people brought to the US illegally as children the temporary right to live, study and work in America. Those applying are vetted for any criminal history or threat to national security and must be students or have completed school or military service. If they pass vetting, action to deport them is deferred for two years, with a chance to renew, and they become eligible for basics like a driving license, college enrollment or a work permit.

Those protected under Daca are known as “Dreamers” – by the time President Trump announced his decision to rescind the program, the dreamers had been granted approval. To apply, they must have been younger than 31, when the program began, and “undocumented”, lacking legal immigration status. They must have arrived in the US before turning 16 and lived there continuously. Most Dreamers are from Mexico, El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras and the largest numbers live in California, Texas, Florida and New York. They range in age from 15 to 36, according to the White House.

The Daca program was a compromise devised by the President Obama administration after Congress failed to pass the so-called Development, Relief and Education for Alien Minors (Dream) Act, which would have offered those who had arrived illegally as children the chance of permanent legal residency.

3-3-Dreamers are keeping the dream alive

United States President Donald Trump has reasserted his opposition to legalizing the status of hundreds of thousands of undocumented immigrants brought to the United States as children. Those undocumented immigrants that became known as dreamers, they came to American in order to chase their dream.

During last year's divisive election, Trump promised to rip up Daca immediately and make the deportation of the US's estimated 11 million undocumented persons a top priority, along with his threats to ban all Muslims from entering the US and to build a wall along the border with Mexico. He has not yet successfully executed any of these threats.

The administration announced that it would begin "an orderly, lawful wind down" of Daca, including "the cancellation of the memo that authorized this program", the dreamers stood against the orders telling them not to enforce deportation of Dreamers. President Trump gave Congress six months to come up with a legislative solution. Because President Obama created the Daca program as an executive policy decision, President Trump had the power simply to reverse the policy. He indicated that the government will "generally not take actions" to remove law-abiding Daca recipients.

Under the President Trump administration, new applications under Daca will no longer be accepted. For those currently in the program, their legal status and other Daca-related permits (such as to work and attend college) will begin expiring unless Congress passes legislation allowing a new channel for temporary or permanent legal immigration status and dreamers will all lose their status.

Technically, as their statuses lapse they could be deported and sent back to countries many have no familiarity with. It is still unclear whether this would happen.

In addition to immigration advocates and most Democratic politicians, a majority of national politicians in the Republican Party reportedly did not want Trump to scrap Daca, including such prominent figures as House speaker Paul Ryan and Arizona senator John McCain. A prominent group of evangelical leaders wrote to President Trump telling him that Dreamers "are leading in our churches and our communities".

3-4-Protect the Dreamers Program

If you work hard and play by the rules, you will move up. That is the gist of the American dream. In President Donald Trump's view, however, hundreds of thousands of "Dreamers" who arrived as undocumented children were breaking the rules. Roughly two-thirds of Americans disagree, including virtually every business leader of note and many leading Republicans. If Congress fails to protect the Dreamers, President Trump can blame them.

The failure of the congress raised national campaign to protect the Dreamers who used to be the Childhood Arrivals. The program defers the deportation of undocumented immigrants who came to America when they were children and makes them eligible to work. It protects the lives of 800,000 young people in America. They go to school, have jobs, have started businesses, and have served in the military and, for most of them; America is the only country they have ever known. In September, President Donald Trump rescinded DACA, giving it an end date of March 2018.

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce is asking Congress to act by the end of the year to protect the Dreamers. This issue is a matter of principle and fairness. Most Dreamers have been in the U.S. for as long as they can remember, they know no other home. The congress took the decision to protect the dreamers, the congress acted as it follows,

The Justice Department announced in September that it would end the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program in March 2018. DACA gives temporary legal status to nearly 800,000 young people who were brought to the U.S. illegally as children through no fault of their own. In announcing the end of this program, President Trump started a six-month countdown for Congress to come up with a permanent solution for the Dreamers.¹¹

Just as important, protecting Dreamers is critical for the United States economy. Hundreds of thousands of these young people contribute their talents to the United States economy in integral ways. Some DACA recipients have already lost their legal status. The longer Congress waits, the more Dreamers will lose their ability to work in America legally and become subject to immediate deportation. This will cause serious disruptions in the

business operations of the companies that employ them, which is why many business leaders have spoken out and demanded action on this issue.

In some cases, Dreamers not only work for American companies. They launch American companies. Javier Velazquez is a 21-year-old entrepreneur who started a digital marketing business, Uproot Online, which employs six Americans. He told his story at a recent event at the Chamber.

I'm proud to create jobs for Americans and help our economy grow by paying taxes," Velazquez said. "I now help more than 100 small businesses in the U.S. and Canada grow their digital footprint." But Velazquez knows that without congressional action his days of contributing to the country he loves are numbered. "I won't be able to continue operating my company or help small businesses compete in their local economies."¹¹

Sessions accompanied the administration's directive to end DACA last year with an appeal to Congress to pass a bill which would protect dreamers. Immigrants' rights activists mobilized immediately, advocating for the attachment of protective measures for DACA recipients to other bills.

Due to the significant impact of implicit racial biases on policy attitudes, we recommended expanding the scope of mobilization efforts. That is, to meaningfully increase support in favor of a DREAM Act among progressive voters, a diverse, broad-based leadership effort from the Democratic Party has to emerge.

Activists additionally hope that Congress can pass a clean Dream Act that protects the DACA eligible without additional restrictions on immigration as well as funding for security and law enforcement.

To get a clean Dream Act passed, individuals must take immediate action to hold their representatives accountable, not only in the streets, but on the phone, on the internet, and by any other means possible.

¹¹Thomas J. Donohue, "Keeping the Dream Alive," U.S. Chamber of Commerce, 04 December 2017, <https://www.uschamber.com/series/your-corner/keeping-the-dream-alive> (accessed 9 August 2018)

If the Trump Administration removed protections from Dreamers, thousands of young Americans would be forced back into the shadows. Families would be torn apart; jobs would be lost; academic careers would be interrupted; communities would be made less safe. The companies invested in these Dreamers already. Their potential must be respected and they should have the chance to succeed and return that investment by contributing to the country as citizens.

If Congress doesn't act soon, the American Dream will come to an end, along with the dreams of 800,000 others like him. Losing these young people would be a tragedy not just for them but for American businesses and the entire economy. Congress must set aside its differences and take decisive action to protect the dreamers once and for all.

General Conclusion

The idea of the American dream has influenced people from all over the world to immigrate to this country. They travel there in search of economic opportunities, political choice, and religious freedom. The concept has changed over the course of history; scholars have explored the theme of the American dream in the careers of numerous political leaders. For instance, during President George Washington's time the dream for Americans was freedom. He fulfilled this dream by establishing an independent nation. Also, President Abraham Lincoln changed the destiny of the African-Americans by abolishing slavery. Last but not least, the current president of the United States Donald Trump brought controversial reforms which were not accepted by the majority. Each one of them gave a different view and fulfilled the dream of the majority. But, President Trump brought new values that shaped the meaning of the American dream. Now, the dreamers are struggling to make their dreams come true. So, the American dream became a little bit more complex than the typical told story.

The researcher has attempted to show that the American dream is a crucial part in the American history. The dream has attracted million of immigrants from a variety of distant lands and cultures. In this research, the researcher tried to prove that the immigrants or the dreamers are striving to stay in America and fulfill their persistent dreams. Some people, already there in America, chase their own dream by wanting to be more successful. Others who immigrate to this country chase their own dream by giving up everything just to get there and have the opportunity to succeed. Immigration, specifically illegal immigration to the United States became a signature issue of United States President Donald Trump's presidential campaign. President Trump limited the flow of immigrants by imposing executive reforms to put an end to this issue.

My analysis finds the reason why America is a desirable place and a perfect place for living the dream. The United States of America is a blessed land with incredible and strategic location; this unique position is worthwhile to help in making the system of the United States stable, durable, and flexible. It is widely known that by being/coming to America and working hard people may achieve success. However, this is just the oversimplified version. Achieving the American dream is more complicated than the typical told story. Today, it became harder mission due to President Trump executive

orders. The dreamers of America are facing difficulties and obstacles in the process of achieving their own dreams. President Trump is threatening the American dream. If Congress doesn't act soon, the American Dream will come to an end. Losing the dreamers of America would be a tragedy not just for them but for American businesses and the entire economy. Congress must set aside its differences and take decisive action to protect the Dreamers.

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Abstract :

The study aims at exploring the concept of the American dream throughout history. The American dream became a little bit more complex than it once was. Besides, it aims at studying the transformation of the dream under the current United States President Donald Trump. His administration suggested executive reforms; it destroyed the dream of many. The research is an attempt to discover the effect of President Donald Trump administration on the dream. Also, the study demonstrates that President Donald Trump became the murder of the American dream. Nowadays, the dreamers' destiny is in the hand of congress. The longer congress waits, the more dreamers will become a subject to immediate deportation.

ملخص:

لقد تطور مفهوم الحلم الأمريكي عبر التاريخ إلى مفهوم أكثر تعقيدا من ذي قبل. إن هذا البحث يهدف إلى دراسة تطور هذا المفهوم، و خاصة أثناء فترة حكم الرئيس الحالي دونالد ترامب الذي اقترح مجموعة من المشاريع و القوانين التعسفية و التي أدت إلى تخييب آمال الكثيرين و تدمير أحلامهم. إن هذا البحث بحث شامل يتمحور حول دراسة هذه الإدارة التعسفية و تأثيرها في إنهاء الحلم المتعلق بالشعب الأمريكي خاصة و الحالون عامة. و عليه فان مصير هذه الأحلام بيد الكونغرس، فان لم يوفر لهم الحماية اللازمة فسيقوم الرئيس دونالد ترامب بترحيلهم و تحويل أحلامهم إلى كابوس.