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American Exceptionalism

by Joe Escobar - Friday, April 12, 2013, 5:03 PM

This forum thread is for American Exceptionalism posts and replies.

After studying the required materials, address the individual questions in SEPARATE posts.

To make your POSTS, click the reply link in this, MY post.

To reply to another student's post, be sure to click the reply link within in THEIR post.

IMPORTANT - SUBJECT LINES

Since there are multiple questions, BE SURE to use an informative subject line for your post. Don't simply leave it RE: American Exceptionalism

Sum of ratings: -

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America's Exceptionalism then and now

by Michael Maxey - Monday, April 15, 2013, 5:01 PM

One hundred years ago, American Exceptionalism was just blooming in an imperialistic form when we defeated the Spanish and gained new territories, and this idea followed the pretense of colonize, christianize and civilize. It was a time were financial incentives and greed dictated some political motives for imperialism. Now a days, it's not so much about imperialism, but more about the moral obligation to do what is right humanely. Of course here in the United States, are current leaders like President Obama are licking their chops to tear apart the U.S. Constitution so they can do what they please, whereas at the beginning of the 20th century the leaders believed wholeheartedly that the founding fathers believed that a devine being bestowed upon us certain unalienable rights that were written in the Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution, and that is what helped the American people strive for better which in turn helped make America Exceptional occording to Herman Cain. Now todays leaders have either forgotten that fact or just ignored it outright, and as for Obama, I believe he's just saying he believes in American

Exceptionalism just to make himself look good. American Exceptionalism is the product of the American people, not the government and therefore it has no right dictating it, or the will of the American people. I find it appealing to know that American Exceptionalism has transitioned from a imperialistic idea to more of a humanitarian one.

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Re: America's Exceptionalism then and now

by Minfeng Xu - Saturday, April 20, 2013, 1:55 PM

"American Exceptionalism was just blooming in an imperialistic form during the war, but more about the moral obligation to do what is right humanely now." I totally agree this point. Neither like what Obama said american exceptionalism was because he just attempted to curry favour with voters in the election or with some purposes, nor a notion that the United States is quantitatively better than other countries or that it has a superior culture. American exceptionalism is more about a uniquely free nation based on democratic ideals and personal liberty in Americans' mind today, and it is "qualitatively different" compared to other countries. It also shows the nation's values, traditions, and political practice. Moreover, American exceptionalism is belonging to American people, which collects the whole efforts that American people contributed for the country throughout the American history. And it is definitely not created for the government of U.S.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Steadfast Ideals in Changing Times

by Thomas Comings - Monday, April 15, 2013, 9:46 PM

I believe in human exceptionalism and by extension of that, the exceptional nature of a powerful society formed and maintained by great humans. It's hard to see the concept of "American Exceptionalism" being used as a political bargaining chip throughout history -- whether it be justification for invading other nations or more fuel for a bitter bipartisan battle.

As imperialism has changed, as has the use of "American Exceptionalism" to justify societal and government actions. In the modern age, the government doesn't seem to be so obvious as to say anything along the lines of "We're better and so we deserve to invade them" but the current of over-nationalistic vigor as a thin veil for American capital acquisition and political maneuvering stands strong. We place more value in the life of an American citizen than in those of other nations. That only seems right given that we're a segregated world and we have to look out for our own. In that, I think president Obama makes sense in his remarks regarding other nations' own feelings of exceptionalism -- most nations of the world engage in zealous nationalistic behavior and think their country great, placing its interests higher than

all others.

An argument that almost disallows other countries their own feelings of national pride is one that America is the greatest country on Earth. The conservative article offers this quote:

"Truth is eternal, and simply ignoring the truths of the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution won't make them go away."

While great documents that have instilled our society with powerful morals, nowhere in them does it say that American must remain the greatest nation on earth and especially does not prohibit this country from updating policy and adapting to a world that our founding fathers (however intelligent) could never have foreseen.

Though my post was a bit scattered, I leave you with this YouTube clip for the television program, *The Newsroom* regarding "American Exceptionalism" Skip to about 3:15 for the relevant part to start.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q49NOyJ8fNA>

EDIT: There is a few curse words in the clip so keep sensitive ears shielded.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

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Re: Steadfast Ideals in Changing Times

by Barry Sommer - Monday, April 15, 2013, 10:10 PM

"While great documents that have instilled our society with powerful morals, nowhere in them does it say that American must remain the greatest nation on earth..."

So very true, and the one constant regarding civilizations and societies. As "exceptional" as we believe ourselves to be, and having the desire to spread this far and wide provides no guarantee that those concepts will be considered or embraced. All societies believe they are the exception, and believe their viewpoint is the right one despite indicators to the contrary. The founding documents of our republic provided a new and novel framework for uniting disparate men in a common ideal; think Washington and Jefferson, they were opposites in what constituted the proper government, and butted heads over their viewpoints but in the end they know that their ideas of what the USA should be were congruous. They pledged their lives and sacred honor for the benefit of all, knowing at least their dream would outlast themselves, if not their descendants.

Even great societies have a limited lifetime, the average timeline from birth to death of the great ones average 450 years. If we take 1607 as the first year of what we know now as America, then we have been around for 406 years, long

enough for the clock to run down and our time as a great civilization to come to an end. We cannot stop the decline, we can only accept it and try to cushion the fall as best we can. There are no guarantees, that is correct. There are options, however and we need to be realistic in discussing the future when we are no longer the dominate power on the planet.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

3

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Re: Steadfast Ideals in Changing Times



by Francisco Reyes - Monday, April 15, 2013, 11:16 PM

Even though there is no document that expands the idea of American exceptionalism. In 1913 with the Inaugural address from Woodrow Wilson to presidency he stated that "We have squandered a great part of what we might have used, and not stopped to conserve in exceeding the bounty of nature, without which our genius for enterprise would have been worthless and impotent." I believe that even though Americans were financially stable at the time, Wilson fore saw that in the future we might dwindle in economical strength if we did not learn how to take care of our countries resources. This statement was a very wise statement that proves to be very true in our day and age. So yes, I agree that even great societies have a limited lifetime and we never know when our American society will fall apart.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

2

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Re: Steadfast Ideals in Changing Times



by Thomas Comings - Thursday, April 18, 2013, 12:11 PM

Your points are well taken, though I don't think it's quite fair to proclaim 1607 as the birth of the America we know. I would rather mark it closer to the anti-colonial revolution and the foundation of a truly execeptional society seperate from the old ties of European tyranny. I think that American Experiment was and is a truly amazing endeavour and that we have seen unparralleled progress and based on our foundation of ideals. That being said, we can't use the thought of "American Exceptionalism" to ignore real problems that face our nation, nor to downplay the progress of other nations who are indeed exceptional is different ways.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

2

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Re: American Exceptionalism



by Robert Sappington - Monday, April 15, 2013, 11:08 PM

Short Answer

I believe that American leaders in the past believed in American Exceptionalism. This is why we tried to spread the American way, though other parts of the world. I also think that recently or in the last 10 years, American Exceptionalism has become or is becoming "wrong." I do think it's a good thing to believe in American Exceptionalism, and not entirely sure why it's becoming bad to believe we are the best. The US does not use American Exceptionalism to spread imperialism today. Although I believe we are trying to spread Liberty to people. I believe we are using Internationalism, through use of Americas Power (economic and military), to spread our American Exceptionalism, but without directly stating it.

Essay

This topic is a very huge and complex issue. There is no immediate right or wrong answer, but a lot of opinions that can be back with fact either way. I think there are many different ways this argument can go and relate to American Exceptionalism. I believe that the leaders of the past knew of American Exceptionalism at the time and reinforced it. At the time they openly showed it with American Power, while attempting to spread American Liberties. I also believe that today's leaders accept American Exceptionalism, but are more "politically correct," in the sense of using Power, trying not to infringe on other countries liberties in the process, or our own, unless they have to.

Leaders of the Past:

In the past, or at first, the only Wars the USA fought was to set its own borders or to expand. Excluding the American Revolution, the fighting consisted with Native Americans, Mexicans, and the Spanish. Once 1890's rolled around and the U.S. census said the frontier was gone, then the U.S. looked to expand abroad. The U.S. expanded to Islands close to the mainland, and off the coast of Asia. As the book says, "It demeaned the peoples of the Philippines, Puerto Rico, Guam, Cuba, and Colombia as inferior and primitive and denied them the right to govern themselves." (2) This just shows our leadership believed in American Exceptionalism (1) a little too much. Enough that, we thought these people were inferior to us. Is this because of American Exceptionalism?

Comparing:

I believe in the past that McKinley, Roosevelt, Taft, and Wilson all valued and believed in American Exceptionalism. Americans judged their country by Power (4) and Liberty (3), and believed in it. (5) And yes, it's debated because of Liberty wasn't equal to all in the US. But back then (1890s-1910s), "McKinley, Roosevelt, Taft, and Wilson all placed limits on American expansion and avoided, until 1917, extensive foreign entanglements and wars." I think this was because of America's Exceptionalism. The idea was we had the Power and Liberty to do as we wanted, without Europe.

Today:

It only appears that recently American Exceptionalism might of started changing. During Bush's early presidency, Americans had no issues with going into Afghanistan, because terrorist tried to damage our Power and Liberty. Americans were behind Bush all the way. Then when Iraq came along, the debate to this day still rages whether it was about Power(Oil) and/or Liberty(Freedom for Iraqi). It's still debated, thus starting Americans question their Exceptionalism.

I believe that President Bush believed in America's "Exceptionalism" and wanted to protect Americas Liberty by using America's Power, thus protecting our "better way of life". I believe he did this by what has been now called the Bush Doctrine.(7) This policy leaned more towards using Power to ensure Liberty to Americans and later to other countries. I think this is because he fully believed in American Exceptionalism. As Bush once said, "America is a strong nation, and honorable in the use of our strength. We exercise power without conquest, and we sacrifice for the liberty of strangers."(8) I believe this is where American Exceptionalism started to become more "Politically Correct" or at least where people started saying our way might not be the best, at least for everyone.

As for today though, the U.S. seems to judge itself on a world scale of Power and Liberty, not just as the U.S itself. Meaning, we (most Americans) try to judge everyone (all people and countries) as equal in Power and Liberty. Thus, while I think most Americans believe in American Exceptionalism, we are now starting to accept other countries own Exceptionalism.

When President Obama said, "I believe in American Exceptionalism, just as I suspect that the Brits believe in British Exceptionalism and the Greeks believe in Greek Exceptionalism."(6) I think he is referring to each country thinking that each country is the greatest, in their own way. This is the "politically correct" thing to do, to appease to the world. I think that's why Herman Cane had an issue. Americans used to say, we are the best country in the world, while trying to prove it. (My personal experience traveling, Americans tend to have this attitude, whether they realize it or not.) But somewhere, not sure where, but it has become "offensive or wrong" to be, or at least say/brag about being the "best." I disagree with this approach, though I think this is what has happened. This appears to become an issue, or at least brought into the spotlight, when the war on Terror started.

When talking about American Forces more recently, Obama is more careful: "To overcome extremism, we must also be vigilant in upholding the values our troops defend — because there is no force in the world more powerful than the example of America." (9) Instead of stating Americas the best, he says we are the "example." I believe this is a shift the President's view on American Exceptionalism and more towards avoiding American Exceptionalism, because it can be considered "offensive."

Does the government of the United States still use Exceptionalism to practice imperialism, as it did at the turn of the 20th Century? If yes, in what form or way? If no, what is the difference?

The United States is leaning away from Exceptionalism slightly, (that is, saying our way of doing things is better) though overall I still think we still are Exceptionalists. But I do not believe that we use Exceptionalism to practice imperialism today. If anything we practice Internationalism (10) today, because of Exceptionalism, and being more “politically correct.” This way America can still bring liberty to all, without being “offensive.” So no, there is a difference.

The Difference:

With Imperialism, a country (USA) stays in the country and governs it. (Example from past: Philippines), controlling almost all aspects of it. The occupier wants to force change with every aspect of their life, on the occupied. “Whereas Internationalism you create economic and political cooperation to benefit all, not just the home country.”(10) Modern Example of the U.S.’s role is with Colombia. We don’t control the country; we only create economic, military and political cooperation to benefit all, which is combating drugs. Once the goal is met, the occupier/helper leaves.

“Internationalists feel obliged to assist the world through leadership and charity.”(10) So I think we switched from trying to make other countries conform to our “better” way of life, to instead showing them the “highlights” and parts that they can benefit in using. Like in the past the US spread religion to the Philippines, where as today the US spreads Capitalism, medical institutions, or infrastructure.

Over all U.S. leaders today still believe in America Exceptionalism, but no longer force our views or ways onto other countries, and encourage them instead.

Sources

(1)Exceptionalism: is the perception that a country, society, institution, movement, or time period is "exceptional" (i.e., unusual or extraordinary) in some way

(Source: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Exceptionalism>)

(2) “Liberty, Equality, Power” Our Textbook; Page 767

(3)Liberty is the value of individuals to have control over their own actions.

(<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Liberty>)

(4)Power:

Power as a goal of states or leaders

Power as a measure of influence or control over outcomes, events, actors and issues

Power as reflecting victory in conflict and the attainment of security

Power as control over resources and capabilities

Power as status, which some states possess and other do not.

([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Power_\(international_relations\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Power_(international_relations)))

(6) <http://spectator.org/archives/2011/03/03/in-defense-of-american-excepti>

(7) Wikipedia: (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bush_Doctrine)

(8) Wikipedia:

http://en.wikisource.org/wiki/George_W._Bush's_Third_State_of_the_Union_Address

(9) Wikipedia:

http://en.wikisource.org/wiki/Barack_Obama%27s_First_State_of_the_Union_Address

(10) Internationalism is a movement which advocates a greater economic and

political cooperation among nations for the theoretical benefit of all. Partisans of this movement claim that nations should cooperate because their long-term mutual interests are of greater value than their individual short term needs.

(Source: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Internationalism_\(politics\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Internationalism_(politics)))

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Whether U.S. uses exceptionalism to practice imperialism now or not?

by Minfeng Xu - Tuesday, April 16, 2013, 12:51 AM

At the end of the 19th century or at the beginning of 20th century, the presidents of McKinley, Roosevelt, and Wilson were used to use war to prove exceptionalism of U.S., which was also refer to imperialism. Nowadays, the exceptionalism in U.S. is a lot more different than the past. President Obama implied, "American Exceptionalism is nothing terribly special and instead simply chalked it up to the romanticism of patriotism." This means the concept of U.S. Exceptionalism is simply a spirit of humanitarian instead of imperialism. Further, this spirit cannot be control or use by government to invade to others countries. Moreover, exceptionalism is more like a God-given right, and it suppose to belong American people. Therefore, U.S. is not using exceptionalism to practice their imperialism, but present other American spirit to the rest of the world

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Exceptionalism, a bias opinion?

by Brenda Contreras - Tuesday, April 16, 2013, 12:13 PM

In order to run a country, or anything, it is important to not have a biased opinion. President Obama said that he thinks that America is exceptional, and that all other countries think they are exceptional as well. Its like thinking your school is the best in the country, or your neighborhood is the best one in town, or even that your town is the best one in the state. Its the ethnocentric idea that our country is the best country. Every Culture is a learned behavior, in elementary school, I remember being taught how the United States was so wonderful and glorious in history. This is what made me believe in American Exceptionalism before I even knew what it meant. As you get older, the world gets bigger, and you learn things about different people and their cultures, and realise that everyones culture is exceptional in their own way.

My grandparents could agree with Herman Cain to some extent. My grandfather believed in American Exceptionalism. It's the reason he came to the United States because of "the unparalleled freedoms and boundless prosperity" that inspires and innovates. Cain states that "unfortunately, some politicians have either forgotten or chosen to ignore the glory of our founding." Maybe he forgot that this nation is a nation of immigrants, maybe this is what makes the United States Exceptional. I

would disagree with Cain when he mentions that we have “God-given rights that can never be taken away.” The rights that we are given are the rights we inherited from the generations before us. They fought for the things we have now, freedom of speech, women having the right to vote, integration. I love freedom of speech, without freedom of speech, I wonder if we would see the images i have linked at the bottom.

Some similarities that I have noticed concerning the country’s leaders of yesterday and today, is that they all have good intentions. Former President George W. Bush and William McKinley both wanted to “free” a nation, but we still have conflicts with Cuba and Iraq. They both believed in American Exceptionalism, this country is the land of the free and we deserve to fight for our freedom, and protect it. A couple of months ago, I stumbled upon this video of some television episode, there is a man that is asked what makes the United States the best country in the world. One of the men responds by saying that it isn’t the best country in the world, and then goes on to give examples to support his point. When he is finished though, he starts to describe why we once were exceptional.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YI7Oq8y-jXA>

Sources:

[The spectator.org](http://www.the-spectator.org)

Images:

<http://2.bp.blogspot.com/-yKQPCofqv4c/UJu8ujKgNhl/AAAAAAAAIcM/RbBUVLAvR4k/s1600/Romney+Obama+>

<http://3.bp.blogspot.com/-GSS8vBqeSSA/UJpbt4BghtI/AAAAAAAADZ0/8Oxc5Eoewo/s640/imagine-how-stupid-you-are-going-to-look-in-40-years.jpg>

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Re: American Exceptionalism

by Agina Hale - Wednesday, April 17, 2013, 8:38 PM

So, we were number one! We had an amazing military, number one in education and our economy was booming. What happened? A lot of things happened between then and now, but we walk around with the same air of confidence. It’s not that no one has told us we still aren’t number one, we just don’t listen. We take things for granted in our country. We live in a permanent state of entitlement. The RIGHT to education, to a drivers license, a job, food and everything we are used to.

We expect that if we don't have these things, there will be someone to get us these things. I won't go so far as to say that we have lost the work ethic entirely, but it's skewed.

We stopped relying on ourselves, and we lean more on our government to take care of us. I think we lost the can do american spirit. Once we got to the top, we stopped trying to succeed, or even hold our place. I know that it's a cliché, but if you compare the attitudes between our grandparents generation and mine-there are stark differences. We have kept the individualism and rebelliousness but left out the desire to truly make ourselves better, and most of us have lost the desire to care about our community.

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Re: American Exceptionalism

by Veronica Wilkens - Thursday, April 18, 2013, 10:46 PM

"The RIGHT to education. . ."

You are so right, and yet where is our education? A job and yet unemployment is so high... Food, but without a job (or the education to get a job) how do you buy it? These all feel like government oriented questions, but this is a democracy! Where are the people standing up for our children's rights to education and our own rights for employment? Oh wait, theres that sense of entitlement. We seem to be lost in this slump of "oh they'll get it taken care of for us".

I also feel like these generations seem to be getting less and less patient. So my question is, when does our sense of entitlement end because we run out of patience and get tired of waiting for someone else to do it for us?

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: American Exceptionalism

by Brittani Cotton - Friday, April 19, 2013, 5:02 PM

When parents were responsible for what their children did, the children went to school, did their chores, etc. They showed respect for teachers/school faculty. Now it's "easier" to have the government run the schools and our lives. Some things have to start at home, like respect, morals, and so forth. These are some things that the government should not be accountable for, because it should start at home.

The US used to be #1 in everything, including education, but now we are

down to past #25. Our dollar isn't worth anything in foreign countries anymore. Why is it that we have to have a passport to go to Mexico, but they can come here without one?

"Food, but without a job (or the education to get a job) how do you buy it?"

Most young adults want to stay home because they want their parents to continue supporting them. So, they'll take classes just so they can get the government funding to get by. But, if you look hard enough, you can get at least a part-time job. How many young American men (and women) don't want to go out and get a job fearing they might get a little dirty. Most of those jobs go to the non-American citizens (on visas, etc).

Bottom line is, we need to take our country over again, education, children, jobs, etc.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Holy Generalization, Bat Boy!!!!



by Ruby Kalamas - Saturday, April 20, 2013, 3:20 PM

Brittani,

A lot of Americans do think that we're special, exceptional even. There are plenty of valid reasons to disagree with that stance, but pointing out that parents and students are lazy isn't a good one.

I found a few different reasons to disagree with your post. Holy moly!

First, I don't believe that parents are no longer responsible for what their children do. Your entire argument seems to be a huge generalization. I mean, let's at least get specific about the 'type' of parents you are referring to, because I highly doubt you think that *all* American parents let the government raise their kids for them. This is a highly complex, multifaceted subject, and you cannot just cast a blanket statement on it like that.

I'd like to see some data showing the connection between 'welfare' kids and their behavior. How did you make the connection where 'good' parents that are fully involved in their children's morality, upbringing and education produce better behaved, more respectful children? Where is this statement even coming from? Does that mean that parents today do not raise their kids? Are you referring to all parents, or just parents that receive state assistance?

Secondly, on the issue of parents- since when did the government start controlling the morality of America's children? I'm pretty sure that most parents still teach their kids right from wrong, and give them chores, etc.. I'm sure that the government has an influence on

children's behavior and lives, as it has an influence on all of our lives, but it seems to me like you are drawing a connection here that is very weak and poorly supported and explained.

To play the devil's advocate, I'll bring up a law in Oregon and let the reader judge where the 'right' is in it.

Oregon public schools fine parents now if their child doesn't attend school regularly in primary education. (See Source 1). Attendance in school is now compulsory for Oregon K-12 students. If a kid misses more than 8 days in a term, the parent may receive a fine. They may face more severe punishment if the infractions continue.

In this scenario, if the Oregon government stepped out and did not intervene with these families, do you think the children would "show respect for teachers/faculty" and have better morals? Maybe these kids would just stop going to school altogether, and their parents would sit there and watch and not give a sh*t.

Or maybe the fault lies within our government, and our crappy public schools, and not *some parents attempting to just pawn their kids off on the state to look after.

Like I said before, I think this is a very complex issue, and saying that parents (which the way it was worded at least implies MOST parents) let the government raise their kids more than they do is the wrong way to do things is far too simplified. The solution of "let's just get rid of government involvement in parenting" is not going to fix it either. Let's be honest, it's not like riding a bike, you can't just take the training wheels away and walk off. It's just not that simple.

My next point has to do with your statement of **America being #1**. When were we #1 in everything? We used to have the most wealth, the biggest navy, but I don't think that we have ever been #1 in all aspects that a country could be judged by. We also continued to discriminate (and some still do!) a large percentage of our population during that time. Certainly not #1 when it comes to treating our fellow Americans or humans with dignity and respect.

Also, I don't see what being #1 has to do with Mexicans not needing passports to get into the U.S.. By the way, that is simply NOT TRUE!

Also, I thought you would like to know that up until March of 2010, Americans didn't need a passport to get into Mexico. They could just walk right over the border! How about that? We can also stay there for up to 180 days before we need to actually get a visa! (See source #4)

Mexicans not only need a passport to get into the U.S., but they have to apply for and receive a temporary visa if visiting for more than 180 days. Depending on the length of their stay and what they plan on doing while they're here, the hoops to jump through get even more complicated. America has a long history of trying to keep unwanted immigrants out. It wasn't until 1965 with the Hart-Cellar Act that we put a limit on Western Hemisphere immigration (That would include Mexico)(See source #2 and #3) Apparently there are 1.4 million Mexicans waiting to receive visas to come to the U.S. LEGALLY!

Now, I really don't see the connection between our drop from #1 to #whatever connected to our immigration laws concerning Mexico. I think that our drop from #1 and the value of the American Dollar have WAY more factors than just Mexican citizens coming to America whenever they please (as you stated) without a passport. I don't even see an argument really in this statement, let alone a connection between your two somewhat points.

Thirdly, about **student taking classes** to slack off and be lazy, I think this is yet another broad generalization. To say that MOST young Americans fit into this category is truly appalling. I'm sorry, but I cannot believe that. In fact, according to my source #5- out of undergraduates in 2008, 7.4% made money with work study. That doesn't even include students who had jobs outside of school. Here's that statistic. Out of kids who graduated in 2012 and were enrolled in college, 38% of them were either working as well, or looking for work. 69.2% of part time students were working, and 33.9% of full time students were actually working and going to school.(See source 6)

So, no- I don't believe you that most students are just leeching off of the system and taking classes so they can sit on their asses. Apparently a lot of those students work and go to school!

To address your comment that those jobs these students should be working are going to non-citizens. Let's see, let's compare those statistics, shall we? In 2011, 8.9% of workers 16 and older in the U.S. weren't citizens. That's roughly 12.5 million people out of 140.4 million people working(See source 6).

Now, out of the 10 million kids in either high school or college (age 16-24) 38.4% of them were working. That means that 3.84 million students also have jobs. So that only leaves 6.16 million students going to either high school or college that aren't also working. (See source #5).

I would have to argue that perhaps you are right that most students don't have jobs. According to these statistics, most of them aren't working. I don't see any reason to believe that it's because they

'don't want to get their hands dirty'. It would seem that students, according to source #5, are actually more inclined to join the workforce than young people that don't go to college! How about them apples? Maybe young people that don't continue their education "don't want to get their hands dirty"? Maybe we should encourage ALL young people to go to college, and then we might actually get MOST young people in the workforce!

Perhaps those working and in college actually want to go to school, and they get jobs to keep their loans at bay, and try to not have to take any loans!

Maybe a big chunk of the students that don't work are truly invested in going to school, and don't work because they want to fully focus on their studies? Maybe they're going to school so they don't have to work some crappy service industry job!

It also looks like, according to source #6, 30% of non-citizens 16 or older work in the service industry. That's almost twice the percentage than native born workers in the same industry! Surprise! Americans don't like flipping burgers at McDonalds!

So, in my opinion, your bottom line isn't well supported, and I think that some research should be done before generalizing multiple groups of people in one post in such a degrading way.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

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