



Search forums

Display replies in nested form

Move this discussion to ...

< Previous (American Exceptionalism)

(Conservatism and Censo...) Next >



American Exceptionalism

by Joe Escobar - Friday, April 12, 2013, 5:04 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: -

Edit | Delete | Reply



knew the meaning, ignored the understanding

by Tyler Kennedy - Sunday, April 14, 2013, 2:12 PM

I think they all knew the meaning, but understood it very differently. Back at the turn of the century we were trying to take land that would be useful to the U.S. for naval bases. The way we took the land was by liberating the natives of said lands from the other imperialist nations, in return for a new ally and a naval base (ch22). However in today's time its only slightly different, now were going after any nation that as at any point in time harbored members of terrorist groups. The gain we get is more allies in the Middle East, which also happens to be sitting on mass amounts of oil.

That being said the U.S. does not practice the same kind of imperialism as it did at the turn of the century. It looks similar but no one wants to call it imperialism. Now instead of liberating a county from foreign rule, we assist the people by providing aids, weapons, training, and in some cases soldiers.

Show parent | Edit | Split | Delete | Reply

Sum of ratings:1 (1)



Things Change, Yet Things Stay The Same

by Jacob Wines - Tuesday, April 16, 2013, 1:19 AM

I believe that most Americans believe that we are exceptional and that the rules don't always apply to big bad America. We have been the big kid on the block for such a long time, there has been no need to change how we do things completely. There has been alterations along the way (we aren't trying to actively expand our country and its influences like we were when trying to branch out to Hawaii ect.) but the formula is still very similar. Which I believe is bad, and good for us. Countries are catching up to us. We aren't standing alone on top of the mountain anymore. This has not, however, deterred us from practicing imperialism (i.e. War-Mongering for oil control, "bringing Democracy to countries") but we go about it in a much different way than we used to.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

[Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



Re: Things Change, Yet Things Stay The Same

by Kristin Sledge - Thursday, April 18, 2013, 8:29 AM

I agree with you completely. I think we aren't coping well as a country with the thought of not being top dog anymore. I think that American Exceptionalism has become a fuel for the fire in almost a negative way.

We want to stay on top and some people would do anything to keep it that way. At what point does Exceptionalism turn to utter arrogance and become a festering sore? Or does that never ending drive to be the best serve a better purpost that I'm just missing? What do you think?

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

[Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



We Are Exceptional...

by Michael Shaw - Monday, April 15, 2013, 11:47 PM

...and that DOES indeed entitle us to certain rights. Since it appears that we are policing the entire planet despite taking a neutral platform on most conflicts that don't directly involve us, and then getting neck-deep in other nation's problems. If we are trying to exceptionalism to enforce imperialism, then we are doing a miserable job.

If we're going to keep getting involved in matters that don't concern us, then we should at least act like a police force and deal with instigators (whether that be a single faction or a country as a whole) swiftly. Otherwise, we should concern ourselves with internal problems before flying out to aid other nations unless they're desperately in trouble.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

[Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



Exceptional America?

by Leah Livesay - Tuesday, April 16, 2013, 12:17 AM

I think when it comes down to it, our country's leaders are not much different than they were back a hundred years ago. When it comes to "leading" America, I feel that they have the same ideas as back then, but they have different ways of acting on those ideas. Things have definitely changed over time when it comes to what our president does. Back many years ago our leaders were taking land that was useful to the U.S., now it seems that all our presidents do is stick their noses in other country's business which leads to us going to war and/or forking out tons of money. I think that overall, America is indeed exceptional. Our presidents decisions may not always be in the best interests for the country's people, we may be in debt way over our heads and we certainly have plenty of other issues, but we still manage to be a powerful country.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

[Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



We're not forcing you, but we're simply not asking either

by Kristin Sledge - Tuesday, April 16, 2013, 8:00 AM

I feel that our government still has a strong history of using American Exceptionalism as a front for Imperialism. We as a country, especially in the chapters we've been reading, have a history of feeling like we're to be the savior of the world. "We should help out others to become more civilised" or even "Without us this country will collapse" all the while ignoring the problems going on at home in the name of Exceptionalism. For how can you be truly exceptional without branching out into other people's business. Don't get me wrong, I have the same superiority complex that America has been boasting about and I feel like we have a pretty great country; but if we focused on our own internal problems instead of what the other countries have going on I think we'd find that other countries are just as capable of Exceptionalism. Perhaps that's what President Obama was really getting at when he made the comment about how American Exceptionalism is the same as Greek Exceptionalism.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

[Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



Different times, same motive

by Brandon Wiskow - Tuesday, April 16, 2013, 8:49 AM

So after looking at the two articles and reading from the book, it seems to me that the president's views on American Exceptionalism seem to fit in with what the current administrations goals are.

The Obama article from Salon had two almost conflicting quotes and I think it is easy to see why his tone switched over the two years between them. Reelection. The first quote was in 2009, shortly after his election, the second was in 2011, just before he was up for reelection. According to the same article (Although I would call into question the validity of the poll) with 80% of the population believing in American Exceptionalism I think he was just trying to win back some votes that he may have lost during his term and not to push some sort of imperialistic agenda. The Herman Cain article is just so far right and heavy with Republican sentiment that I would dread talking to this man because it seems it would be more productive trying to compromise a wall. The whole tone of the article is aggressive and I don't know how much party politics had to do with it but I am pretty sure that any left-ish view expressed by Obama would be condemned by Cain.

In Chapter 22, it was pretty clear that the presidents had a strong belief in American Exceptionalism. America was expanding and catching up with the other world powers in the imperialism "game" so anything they could do to keep up support would be worth it. McKinley had his dealings with Spain, Roosevelt saw to the construction of the Panama Canal, and Wilson was reluctantly pulled into World War 1. In each instance there is examples of American Exceptionalism being used.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

Show parent | Edit | Split | Delete | Reply



An Exceptional Nation

by Matthew Thompson - Tuesday, April 16, 2013, 8:56 AM

I would like to start this off with saying that I am glad I was born in the United States. We are blessed with the opportunity to do just about anything we want to do in life. "If you work hard enough, you can accomplish anything" seems to be the general view of our nation. It's the 'American Dream'. Or at least used to be. We sort of set ourselves atop a golden pedestal as a shining example to the rest of the world on how to get things done.

Unfortunately, right now things are a little bit more dismal. We may be one of the 'wealthiest' nations in the world, but our income is so unequally distributed amongst our citizens its almost laughable. We are also one of, if not *the* nation most in debt. That seems a little bit hypocritical doesn't it? How can we be an example to the rest of the world if we owe so much money to the rest of the world's nations?

As an end note, I highly recommend watching this clip about the distribution of wealth in the United States. It was very enlightening for me, and I hope be at least of some value to the rest you. <http://mashable.com/2013/03/02/wealth-inequality/>

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

Show parent | Edit | Split | Delete | Reply

Re: An Exceptional Nation

by Leah Livesay - Thursday, April 18, 2013, 8:35 AM



Matthew-

I'm glad that you brought up our country's debt problem, because it is a problem. I am glad that I was born and raised in the U.S. as well, but this country definitely has it's faults. We do have opportunity here to do the things we want, for the most part, the country isn't living in poverty, we have decent healthcare, organizations that help the poor, etc. However, the U.S. is in debt up to their ears. There are still people here who do not have homes, food, healthcare, clothing, and our country continues to spend millions/billions on things like repairing roads, building new buildings, and many other less important things. The U.S. spends money like it grows on trees, and it's going to nip us in the but really good one day!

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

1

Show parent | Edit | Split | Delete | Reply



Re: An Exceptional Nation

by Jesse Nichols - Saturday, April 20, 2013, 2:01 PM

Matthew

I too am thankful to have been born in the United States and to have the endless opportunities that comes along with that. Its good that you mentioned our nation's debt, becuae its a serious problem that only getting worse. Our nations debt problem is very similar to when many people get their first credit card. They max out their spending limit and get themselves over their head in debt. Now when this hapens a normal person would realize that they have a spending problem. But whats our government's conclusion to the debt crisis we are in? We need to spend more money, because that will solve the problem! haha

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

1

Show parent | Edit | Split | Delete | Reply



Re: American Exceptionalism

by Zhongheng Wang - Tuesday, April 16, 2013, 9:36 AM

I want to say that America is really a the greatest country. The freedom and social. America is special. I agree with what obama said in Lybia. Even though I'm a foreigner, I can't say that i totally understand american exceptionalism. I know all the Americans except what obama said. Looking back to the history the leaders of America are all doing the same thing. Leading america to what people want it to be. this is the american exception.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

Show parent | Edit | Split | Delete | Reply



Keeping America Exceptional

by Matt Blackshear - Wednesday, April 17, 2013, 9:13 PM

First off for Obama's quot about how he sees American exceptionalism like how the Brits see British exceptionalism was just off. If you saw it the same as other countries wouldn't that make you equals? You need to this country as better than other countries. We have a certain great history that no other country has that makes us exceptional.

The leaders from back a hundred years to now are basically the same. Its the job and duties they have now that have changed. Back when Mckinley, Roosevelt, and Taft were presidents, they were building America up to what it is now. On the spectrum they would be much further down on the imperialistic side than presidents today. Presidents back then were making new allies, gaining new territory, and coming up with new Acts left and right. Presidents today are moreso keeping things afloat. Making sure that America is still exceptional and not letting it slip, rather than continuously building it up.

I think we almost use exceptionalism as an excuse to get what we want. Like from afghanistan and Iraq. Are we using them more for their resources or are we actually helping a maller nation help establish itself in self governing? The difference between those is what helps makes us exceptional.

We also need to lead be example. I agree fully with Matthew Thompson on our debt problem. How is that exceptional? Leaders today need to keep our exceptionalism afloat and keep us remaining to be the best nation.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

Show parent | Edit | Split | Delete | Reply



The greatest nation in the world

by Jesse Nichols - Saturday, April 20, 2013, 12:18 PM

The leaders of our country today and the leaders of our country 100 years ago are very similar, but one of the major differences is that now we are not actively looking to expand our territories like we were a 100 years ago when we were setting up naval bases around the globe. To this day our government still uses American Exceptionalism to practice Imperialsim. Just look at whats going on in Iraq and Afghanistan. Because we view ourselves as better than the middle eastern people. We get involved in other nations politics in an attempt to help them become "more civilized". Maybe Woodrow Wilson wasn't the only one with the "Jesus Complex"?

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

Show parent | Edit | Split | Delete | Reply

You are logged in as Joe Escobar (Logout)

 Moodle Docs for this page

