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American Exceptionalism

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American Exceptionalism
by Joe Escobar – Friday, April 8, 2016, 11:34 AM

This thread is for discussions on the American Exceptionalism topic.
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

BE SURE to use an informative subject line for your post, something that describes which question(s) you are addressing . Do NOT simply leave it RE: American Exceptionalism

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Re: American Exceptionalism
by Devon Johnson – Sunday, April 10, 2016, 3:16 PM

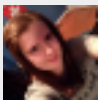
I believe that our nation’s leaders still use the idea of American exceptionalism. In the video Ted Cruz tells his story of achieving his American dream, and that the American dream is a product of American exceptionalism. That without of the exceptionalism that “our rights don’t come from man but from god”– Ted Cruz (sound clip) the American dream becomes impossible. It becomes impossible due to us as Americans not believing in it. If we don’t believe in it then it can’t be achieved. I don’t believe in American exceptionalism exists anymore. I don’t believe in it because as Ted Cruz motioned American exceptionalism was slipping through our fingers, I think that it did slip through but it slipped through a long time ago. Our current president has said that he only believes in American exceptionalism as much as other countries believe in their own exceptionalism. Obama and current Democrat front runner Bernie Sanders is a socialist that believes in big government. That goes completely against American exceptionalism. In the video Charles Murray writer of “American Exceptionalism” said that one of the things that made us exceptional was Americas lack of government control, that we were a country controlled by the people.

I think that there is a chance that exceptionalism can return. With candidates like Ted Cruz running for office I think that American exceptionalism can return to the degree of the leaders from the 20th century. The only difference that I do see is that with the increasing number of Liberals/Democrats in the U.S. exceptionalism won’t be accepted.

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Re: American Exceptionalism
by Aleethia Collins – Thursday, April 14, 2016, 8:51 PM

I agree with what you are saying. Obama’s views America as exceptional because he lives here and not

because he thinks America is exceptional. He also doesn't share the beliefs of what made America great in the first place. Many of his decisions are based upon what will make him popular and not based on standards like the constitution. If we have leaders that keep following the herd and leading by trying to please the majority, America will never return to its former exceptional past.

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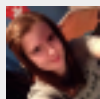


Re: American Exceptionalism
by [Tyler Kabot](#) – Saturday, April 16, 2016, 11:29 PM

Well, wouldn't Obama making popular decisions essentially make Americans happier and increase American Exceptionalism? After all it seems that it is the result of a pride in the country and feeling that it is the best country in the world. One of the reasons it was so alive in the early 1900's was not only the feeling of superiority of whites but also the general optimism that many people felt. The majority of Americans felt their country was the best and that forcing our culture on other countries in order to "civilize them" was right. Americans believed we were saving them from themselves by making them civilized. I would also argue that leaders not following what the majority of America wants would be against the constitution. After all, we live in a democracy where the voice of the majority is supposed to make the decisions. Also, I would imagine Obama's decisions are generally to the "standards of the constitution". He knows it pretty well, he was a constitutional lawyer.

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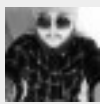


A Changing View of Exceptionalism
by [Aleethia Collins](#) – Sunday, April 10, 2016, 5:30 PM

There seems to be a very large difference between the political leaders in the 19th century and the political leaders of today in their understanding of American Exceptionalism. For instance president Wilson, who believed the democratic values of the United States should be spread across the globe. Or how President Roosevelt believed, that due to the strength in our nation's economy and size it was a duty to accept the role of world power (textbook ch 22). The political leaders at this time believed that the United States was unique and represented what the world was supposed to become. Currently our political leaders have a quite different view. In a response to a reporter, President Obama implied that our exceptionalism was nothing extraordinary and was similar to other countries. He did clarify and stated that he believes America is great based on our founding documents. The fundamental difference between 19th century leaders views and our current leader is that, now our political leaders no longer find American Exceptionalism to be unique and that it no longer holds the same values as it has a 100 years ago.

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Re: A Changing View of Exceptionalism
by [Devon Johnson](#) – Sunday, April 10, 2016, 6:04 PM

I agree with you Aleethia our current political leaders don't think America is the amazing or "exceptional" country that it used to be. The question that I am left with is. Is it because times have changed and the rest of the world has caught up with us making the U.S. nothing special (exceptional)? Or is it because our leaders are fair weather fans like in the video where Evan Sayet compares Obamas opinion of American exceptionalism to being a Chicago Cubs fan. "Their pretty good and I live here so I like them"?

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Re: A Changing View of Exceptionalism
by [Zachery Brown](#) – Saturday, April 16, 2016, 9:31 PM

Gotta say I agree with everything ya got here! Peoples beliefs on what makes our country great, and what

makes our country not so great have really changed throughout the years. But that goes along with everything that's changed. For instance, the preside rial parties changing names, republican now voting the democratic way in earlier years and vise versa. Everything changes. And everyone's views of what's great and what's not changes as well. American exceptionAlison.

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Technology
by [Tyler Armstrong](#) – Saturday, April 16, 2016, 2:49 PM

I like your last sentence there about how our leaders no longer find American Exceptionalism to be unique. I wonder what the role of technology has played in changing our views. 100 years ago people only had access to the local newspaper for information, and if there was an article saying how America is great blah blah blah then the people believed it. Now access to information is never ending, with internet, videos, photographs, texts, emails, etc. I know there were many factors in changing our views, but its just interesting to think how technology may have influenced it.

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L00618771
by [Thomas Bullock](#) – Saturday, April 16, 2016, 3:31 PM

I whereas technology may play some part in making Americans more skeptical, I believe that the balance of the countries national debt has a greater part to play in cheapening our view of American ExceptionalismI

Sum of ratings: (1)

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America's desire for exceptionalism
by [Tyler Kabot](#) – Sunday, April 10, 2016, 10:04 PM

American Exceptionalism is still alive in our culture today. The presidents of the early 1900's belief in American Exceptionalism was definitely justified by the times. The nation was growing and optimistic and we were becoming a world power. Their was a very strong pride in the country that would remain for decades. The Philippines were an example of America using American Exceptionalism to justify a conflict. The Philippines desired their own independence but because of this belief in American culture being superior (as well as race), McKinley decided America would "civilize" the Philippines. American Exceptionalism seems like a pretty common trend for many of the wars America has become engaged in. Not only the conflicts with the colonies after the Spanish American war, but also our war against communism. Americans feared communism and believed their society to be superior and went to war in Vietnam and Korea because of this fear and feeling of superiority. We even imprisoned our own citizens for their radical beliefs that did not align with our culture. We assert ourselves through force if other choose to not align with our beliefs and customs.

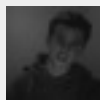
American Exceptionalism is something greatly desired in this years election. One candidate, Donald Trump, is even running his campaign on this belief that because of our recent shortcomings we are not the number one nation in the world but, if he is elected, he can "make America great again". This slogan excites people, especially the conservative audience because of their strong belief in tradition. The American people are angry because of our problems with things like health care, immigration, and the economy in general. They want a candidate that will bring back the glory of an older America that has undoubted dominance throughout the world. I'm not saying Trump is the candidate to make this happen but I believe this is one reason why he is so popular.

Out of the five speakers I would agree with Charles Murray. America needs a revival similar to religious revivals in the past to truly "become great again". The majority of Americans don't seem to care about current issues anymore. Corruption is something well known in politics today but we just take it as it is instead of trying to create change. Once every four years around election time people become more politically involved and want a say in the majority of issues in the United States. The rest of the time they'll just complain or simply tune out the news mostly because they feel the only major political impact they can make is choosing our countries leader. Many Americans feel that their voices are not being heard and that they are not being represented in the political process. I would say that the fact that candidates like Sanders and Trump are so popular is a direct result of the

peoples unhappiness with our current system and desiring for change. Therefore, I would not say American Exceptionalism is very alive today. Both candidates use examples of other countries systems being superior to ours to justify their causes. It seems like recently we are always comparing ourselves to other countries to show problems in our own country. I would say right now we have a desire for American Exceptionalism in our country but not a feeling of it.

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What is the promise of America, Mr. Cruz?

by [Shane Cooney](#) – Monday, April 11, 2016, 4:31 PM

The American Dream isn't as alive as we'd like to believe. I think politicians at the turn of the 20th century pushed the American Exceptionalism idea because, like Charles Murray stated, America was truly exceptional back then, especially in comparison to other developing and developed countries. For example, America's military size grew rapidly from being the fifth largest in 1898, to being the third largest in 1900. Our population and our economy were growing as well, and they were growing quickly. I agree with Charles Murray in that, the United States today isn't the same, though.

I disagree with a lot of the speakers in the video. Believing America is a great country is one thing, but believing it to be the best country in the world seems to be a stretch—I also believe this belief curbs the want to become even better. We rank first in incarceration rates, according to a study done by the International Centre for Prison Studies; even beating out China by well over a million prisoners. In 2014, the United States ranked 14th in education according to a study done by Pearson. The United States ranked 26th in childhood well-being according to a study done by UNICEF in 2013. These are only a few examples, but I think there is evidence that we aren't the best country in the world. It's easy to preach about liberty and justice for all, but I don't think any informed American can say that the United States achieves these goals.

American Exceptionalism really boils down to the individual's definition. The jingoists described in Chapter 22 believed in American Exceptionalism, but they considered it to be more revolved around power. I think a lot of politicians today share their beliefs. The United States has one of the most powerful militaries in the world, and certain politicians would like to use it as a means to maintain this idea of American Exceptionalism. Politicians today, such as the man wearing the hat that reads "Make America Great Again," believe in American Exceptionalism passionately; maybe even ignorantly.

Progressivism pushes for change, and change can be good, despite what Herman Cain and other conservatives believe. Our nation is still young and growing, and there is always room to become better. We can't just say we're the best nation on earth, especially when there are still injustices alive within our nation's borders. If we make claims about American Exceptionalism, we, as a nation, have to back it up.

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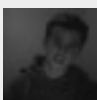
Re: What is the promise of America, Mr. Cruz?

by [David Huard](#) – Thursday, April 14, 2016, 12:50 PM

I think that American Exceptionalism is not just a matter of a handful of statistics and studies from European and UN organizations, and it's not just about military power either. Americans have many liberties that citizens of most other countries do not. Freedom of speech, the right to bear arms, and protection against unwarranted search and seizure just a few examples. While these rights have been under assault with acts such as the Patriot Act and the NDAA 2012(allows for indefinite detention of US citizens without trial by the Army), there is still definitely more individual freedom in the United States than in most other nations.

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Re: What is the promise of America, Mr. Cruz?

by [Shane Cooney](#) – Thursday, April 14, 2016, 2:59 PM

I'm not denying that America has more freedom and liberty than a lot of other nations. But that's in comparison to DEVELOPING nations. In comparison to nation's that are already developed (e.g., Canada, England, Germany, France etc.), we're essentially the same. At the turn of the twentieth century, we certainly were exceptional compared to all of those countries. But many other now developed nations soon adopted the same values that we share (values involving morality and fundamental human rights).

I'm not saying America isn't exceptional, I'm just saying we aren't as exceptional as we claim to be.

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The Bad Side of American Exceptionalism

by [Shane Cooney](#) – Thursday, April 14, 2016, 4:48 PM

Additionally, I think there is, to some degree, bogus religiosity associated with American Exceptionalism. And this belief that the United States is "the greatest nation on Earth," leads to a substantial amount prejudice and discrimination. Xenophobia and Islamophobia are prevalent in the United States. What makes us so much better than other people? What makes Americans better than people in different nations? Democracy isn't a new idea, nor is capitalism (even though we really have a mixed economy). Our constitutional rights are great, but the rights of many individuals in the United States are infringed upon daily. I think American Exceptionalism is a great ideology for the white majority; the people who really benefit from the "American Dream." I don't know, maybe I'm looking too deeply into this and analyzing implications that may be there. Just some food for thought.

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Re: Liberty vs Power in American Exceptionalism

by [David Huard](#) – Monday, April 11, 2016, 5:13 PM

In the video of speakers on American Exceptionalism, there seemed to be a trend of America being both the most free nation, and the most successful. However, America's success as a world power has grown inversely with its liberty. In order for a country to be powerful, it has to gain said power by taking it from the citizenry. A notable example of this process is the Sixteenth Amendment, allowing for a federal income tax. In conclusion, proponents of American Exceptionalism want to have their cake and eat it too, by making America out to have both the most liberty for its citizens and the most power for its government, when in fact this is impossible.

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Re: Liberty vs Power in American Exceptionalism

by [Aleethia Collins](#) – Saturday, April 16, 2016, 8:53 PM

I agree with what you are saying that America can't have both a powerful government and the most liberty for its citizens. With a strong government, freedom can be lost from the people and that freedom is an important part of American Exceptionalism. Just like in the video, as Charles Murray states, government is not as limited as it has been in the past. Our nation may be more successful due to our large government, but this large presence is hindering citizens liberty and is resulting in a loss of a valuable component that made America very unique from other nations.

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Re: American Exceptionalism

by [Carter Ellis](#) – Monday, April 11, 2016, 5:25 PM

After reading the article it is clear to me that Obama does support and believe in american exceptionalism. Its hard for me to pick a side of the spectrum on this because i think there are good and bad things about both sides.

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Am I in?

by [Thomas Bullock](#) – Monday, April 11, 2016, 8:41 PM

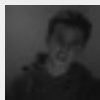
it says that everything is hidden and there aren't any questions. I may be unable to see the questions, is there supposed to be more to go off of than just the topic title?



Has American Exceptionalism actually done any international good?

by [Tyler Armstrong](#) – Monday, April 11, 2016, 9:07 PM

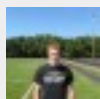
From the beginning exceptionalism has been used as an excuse for Americas international gain. Whether the President was conservative or liberal does not play much of a role. From Roosevelt invading the Philippines for navy ports, to Bush invading Iraq for oil, presidents have used exceptionalism to play on the hearts of Americans for selfishly motivated reasons. Countless times Presidents have invaded countries with exceptionalism as the focal point, including the Philippines, Cuban, Vietnam, Iraq, and now Libyan war, the questions beg to be asked: When has exceptionalism caused more good that harm? Have any of our wars actually made a lasting and sustainable impact upon other countries? And while it may make us feel “warm” inside to go out an help others, should we knowing what the cost will be?



Re: Has American Exceptionalism actually done any international good?

by [Shane Cooney](#) – Wednesday, April 13, 2016, 6:08 PM

I agree, Tyler. If we look at the history of the United States' involvement waging war to "fight for democracy" it often times leaves the other country in worse conditions than it started. We've overthrown multiple regimes (Ghadaffi and Hussein ring any bells?) with no success of those countries becoming the ideological democracy the United States had hoped for. We are certainly a great country, but I don't think American Exceptionalism has caused any good in foreign affairs, and it definitely muddles foreign policy. The concept of American Exceptionalism doesn't just affect the United States domestically, it has a global impact and with that comes global consequences.



Re: American Exceptionalism: Left vs. Right

by [Jeb Harper](#) – Monday, April 11, 2016, 9:15 PM

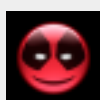
I would say for the most part all political parties agree that America is exceptional and kind of stands out compared to other countries on earth but i think what differs is there view of why. It seems like conservatives tend to think the reason america is exceptional is because they think the people and our culture are pretty much better than others. While liberals tend to think were exceptional because of our government and the way its run.



Socialist President

by [Tyler Armstrong](#) – Saturday, April 16, 2016, 2:36 PM

I agree that in a very general way you are right, and if I had to broad stroke the way the two sides see exceptionalism I would say something similar. But I also think it is very interesting that if the liberals think our country is great for the way the government is run, then why is Bernie Sanders winning the popular vote? His entire platform for presidency is based on changing a lot about how the government is run.



My perspective on America's exceptionalism

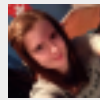
by [Long Chen](#) – Monday, April 11, 2016, 10:04 PM

For my understanding, America's exceptionalism represents America and differ from other nations. one thing that I can tell America is different from other nations is the idea of freedom. I think that is also the reason why America wants to advocates other countries to change. I am from China. I have experienced those two countries. I like Americas' exceptionalis, especially on freedom. In US, citizens have rights to say ewvry thing about their government and president. But it is impossible in China. People cannot say negative things about the president even they don't like the president. People are likely to get in troubles if they spread negative opinions on Chinese governmeant and leaders. Chinese governmen blocks Facebook, YouTube, Google in order to prevent Chinese

citizens get to know the truth of Chinese government. I think Americans feel proud about their country is freedom and rights. I hope China can make their citizens to have freedom of speech in the future.

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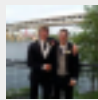
Re: My perspective on America's exceptionalism

by [Aleethia Collins](#) – Saturday, April 16, 2016, 7:47 PM

I agree with you on the fact that freedom is one important aspect of American Exceptionalism. From the beginning America was unique and our leaders believed in our exceptionalism. President Roosevelt believed that America was a superior nation and that it was destined for supremacy in aspects such as economic and political affairs (textbook ch22). Political leaders back then truly believed that America was the best and that it was our duty to change the world. Leaders today do seem to feel less strongly about American Exceptionalism, and maybe that is because other countries have seemingly caught up with us. Though still other countries, such as China do not have the same freedom as we are guaranteed. I feel our leaders today should have the same mindset as in the past, in wanting to spread American ideology across the globe.

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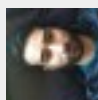
Re: American Exceptionalism

by [Michael Ehrenfelt](#) – Monday, April 11, 2016, 11:43 PM

There is a definite difference or understanding of American Exceptionalism between the leaders today and the leaders one hundred years ago. The leaders back then, Roosevelt especially, thought of America as "The" great nation and worked tirelessly to vault the country into the ranks of the world's great powers. "He believed Americans were a racially superior people destined for supremacy in economic and political affairs" (pg. 734). That was a quote straight out of our book *Liberty, Equality, Power* from Roosevelt himself. For the President in present day to say "I believe in American exceptionalism, just as I suspect that the Brits believe in British exceptionalism and the Greeks believe in Greek exceptionalism." it really does imply that we are just like everybody else and that there is nothing special about America. The problem I have with some of the speakers though is they really don't go in depth of what context Obama said that under. For example, we don't know what the buildup of the interview or conversations had on him and what underlying messages could have then brought forth his response.

Sum of ratings: 2 (1)

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Similarities of Exceptionlism over the last 100 years.

by [Jesse Dunlap](#) – Tuesday, April 12, 2016, 6:00 PM

There are similarities between the leaders McKinley, Roosevelt , and Wilson with todays leaders. In that both a hundred years ago and today believed American Exceptionalism set us apart from the rest of the world, and we had an obligation then to help shape the world to our ideals of democracy. You can see in our textbook that Rosevelt was a big proponent of Imperialism by spreading American military might into the Pacific and Atlantic. Based on the belief that we were special in our views of freedom and that we needed to conquer and then educate the other nations into our uplifted ideology. Today we have leaders like President Bush that told us we had a responsibility and a duty to invade other nations not only for our protection. But to free them from oppression, share with them our culture of freedom and democracy, and teach them how to hold elections. In this way our nation decided that their way of doing things was inferior and our way was the preferred and uplifted way of how to structure your culture and society.

In listening to Ted Cruz talk about American Exceptionlism its apparent he believes that our uniqueness for freedom and our responsibility to spread it to the rest of the world, comes from a higher power. Which in turn indicates that we have a special purpose separate from other nations to use our might and influence to help others rise into our ideals. It seems to be the same case with McKinley back during the American Philippine war when he knelt down to ask God for wisdom on how he should proceed in their affairs. He was enlightened that our nation should use force to take the island for their best interests and to spread religion, freedom, and

education to a lesser culture in his view. I believe these two views coincide with the exceptionalist view that our nation has a special mission to uphold its ideals and make sure the rest of the world is on board with those same principles in an effort to bring humanity into a more prosperous peaceful way of living.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

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American Exceptionalism Agree to Disagree

by [Laura Steger](#) – Wednesday, April 13, 2016, 8:31 PM

Politics in my opinion, is frustrating. It is crazy how some people get so worked up about certain things and how government can have so many problems. After hearing what the five speakers had to say on American exceptionalism, it again, confirmed my frustration. It amazes me how worked up people get on subject matters that in my opinion are not important. In my opinion why are we focusing on a topic that is not relevant to helping are people. Is the idea of American Exceptionalism really that important in the grand scheme of things?

For the sake of this forum, I agree with what Andrew Bacevich and Obama had to say on American exceptionalism. I agree with Bacevich in the sense that yes the U.S. is unique and great, but we are not better than any other nation. But by most political standards these days (Cain, Cruz), the notion of exceptionalism is that we are better than other nations. Excuse me? No country or state or person is better than one another. Who are you to say that you are better than Australia? Herman Cain and Ted Cruz are entailed to their own opinion but for them to say the U.S. “is the greatest country in the world” is very extreme. It is no wonder why most nations don’t like Americans, they think we are stuck up.

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Re: American Exceptionalism Agree to Disagree

by [Tyler Kabot](#) – Wednesday, April 13, 2016, 9:33 PM

I wouldn't say it's wrong for Cain or Cruz to say that America is better than another nation. This is not unwarranted and is fact. America is a far better nation than third world countries as well as many other first world countries. Saying that a thriving country like America is equal to a collapsing government like Venezuela is simply ignorant to the events that occur in other countries. That being said I believe American exceptionalism can be taken too far. I think disregarding things other countries do better than us is wrong but it is not wrong to say that we are better than a struggling country such as Iraq. It may not sound nice but it is just a fact. We need to acknowledge our privilege and be realistic about our place in the world.

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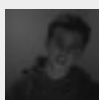
Seriously?

by [Tyler Armstrong](#) – Saturday, April 16, 2016, 2:29 PM

How can you say the United States is not better than ANY other nation? That is such a generalized and absurd statement it borders on lunacy. Every day I read about people being burned to death, about mass murders and mass rapes, about food and water shortages to the point of starvation. But what does "better" even mean? In layman terms, I would have to say it means which country would you prefer to live in. And I would prefer the United States to many other countries who are facing serious atrocities today.

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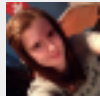
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Re: Seriously?

by [Shane Cooney](#) – Saturday, April 16, 2016, 4:23 PM

I don't think anyone is saying that the United States isn't better than ANY other nation. But you have to look at the United States comparatively. We can't compare our nation's democracy to nations with dictatorships, autocracies or absolute monarchies. If asked which country I would prefer to live in, given the choice between the United States and a developing nation, of course, I would choose the United States. But if the choice was between the United States, and let's say Canada, the decision would be much harder. We are exceptional in many respects, but the belief that we are the most exceptional, hegemonic nation of the world, I would argue, is incorrect.



Less Exceptional Aspects

by [Aleethia Collins](#) - Thursday, April 14, 2016, 8:13 PM

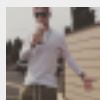
With regards to the speakers in the video clip, I felt like I agreed with a lot of the points they were making. One in particular was Charles Murray. He states that American Exceptionalism is not as defined as it had been in the past. For example, the limited government that was present in American life at the time, was so drastically different than any other country. That aspect made us unique and exceptional. Today government has a much greater role, and what Murray is saying with this example is that many aspects that made us exceptional in the past are no longer present today, resulting in a decline of American Exceptionalism. This is why I believe our leaders today have less of a feeling of exceptionalism then our leaders had in the past.



Re: Less Exceptional Aspects

by [Tyler Armstrong](#) - Saturday, April 16, 2016, 4:35 PM

That a very interesting point. I never thought about how bigger government might result in the lessening of American Exceptionalism today. I wonder how the problems people began noticing in the 60's with the government might have influenced a decrease in exceptionalism.



My belief.

by [Zachery Brown](#) - Saturday, April 16, 2016, 12:47 PM

After watching the Obama Speech and reading the article of American Exceptionalism, I cant but agree, as well as disagree with some of the points given here. I do believe that, to a certain extent, the idea of American Exceptionalism is right and okay. In that when there are other countries in desperate need of Assistance and help, and call out for help to solve whatever problem they are facing. Yes I do believe that America should take the reigns and do whatever is possible to help them out. Although, I personally also noticed, and it may because I am quite left of center, that a lot of this American Exceptionalism, seems to be forced upon, and ends up hurting the country worse. That seems more Imperialistic to me. To me American Exceptionalism, isn't destroying lives and homes of others to pave a better way for the American People or Government. That is Imperialism, to me at least. Although what it could be is defending friendly countries and what not from dictatorship, terror, or going to famine areas of the world to try and help feed the hungry etc. That is my idea of American Exceptionalism. I can definitely imagine those that are far right of the spectrum using this, "American Exceptionalism as an excuse to be extremely conservative and hold tight to values that may not be important anymore, to even using it as an excuse for racism. All in all I do think that American Exceptionalism is a great thing. But can easily not be if abused, and corroded.



Re: My belief.

by [Tyler Armstrong](#) - Saturday, April 16, 2016, 3:37 PM

I am slightly confused as to your take on exceptionalism. At first you state that we should take the reigns in countries that need our help, and then contradict that by saying all we will do is end up hurting the country. I agree with the latter, because every time we end up going to help a country, it seems to hurt them more in the outcome. It also seems like there is some ulterior motive that will benefit the United States more than help the other country, like Oil in Iraq. I also agree that exceptionalism has been used for imperialism to a point, but imperialism seems to indicate that the United States wants to conquer other nations, which we have not done since taking California and Texas from Mexico.



American Exceptionalism
by [Thomas Bullock](#) – Saturday, April 16, 2016, 8:08 PM

American Exceptionalism was a prized aspect from the start of our country. grasped firmly by the founding fathers and as it was passed from generation to generation. it mattered greatly to the people at in the 1900's. recently, however, it has been thrown aside and degraded to a matter of little significance. according to the current president of the US, it has been attached to the personal beliefs and whims of the individual is of little significance, and is no longer upheld by the government. but what might have caused this fall from prominence? why does it mean so little to people today?

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Everyone can view themselves as Exceptional.
by [Jesse Dunlap](#) – Saturday, April 16, 2016, 8:10 PM

I agree with Obamas view from the video clip that there is American Exceptionalism, Just like the Brits view them selves as exceptional and the Greeks. We are not the only nation with high ideals for freedom and a higher standard of living. If anything can be said about some other nations some do it better in terms of investing in citizens and their wellbeing. This notion put forth by Evan Sayte (video clip) on C-span that we must view ourselves as something better than the rest of the world is one I don't agree with. The view that because we have Impressive roots from early on in the founding of this nation that we will continue to have impressive actions simply because of that is a false hope. This nation is an exceptional one but I disagree with the speakers that put forth the idea that we are above everyone else in terms of our governance and responsibility to police the rest of the other nations.

The view of Andrew Bachvich (video clip) that every nation is unique in terms of its culture and polices is one that I agree with. He stated that he was hopeful after the Iraq war that America would take a harder look at our Exceptionalism, if it was our job to instruct the rest of the world and what our responsibility is in terms of changing anothers culture. We should take a stand in many issues in the world but steer clear of the belief that we can do no wrong if what we are doing is always right. That belief stems from a culture that our nation being the shining example to lesser forms of society is trouble for those who like the way in which they govern and live. To sum up I agree with Obama and Andrew Bachvich that all nations have a form of exceptionalism in our present time and we should learn from each others diversity.

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Cain twists definition of American Exceptionalism
by [Justin Cox](#) – Saturday, April 16, 2016, 10:36 PM

In his post on spectator.org, former Presidential Campaign and Pizza mogul Herman Cain seeks to criticize President Obama's comments on American Exceptionalism. Cain suggests that by saying he believes in American Exceptionalism in the same way "Brits believe in British Exceptionalism and Greeks believe in Greek Exceptionalism," President Obama is abandoning the mentality of American Exceptionalism. Frankly, I agree Cain in this regard. Obama's answer was a non-answer and anyone who was a firm believer in American Exceptionalism would supply a far more impassioned response to an easy question. An example of this mentality is displayed by Evan Sayet in the 11_exceptionalism.mp4 video.

However, Cain also redefines American Exceptionalism in an interesting way. Cain writes "American Exceptionalism is the standard that our laws reflect the understanding that we are afforded certain God-given rights that can never be taken away." This definition is different than the more common one that "America is uniquely qualified to lead the world." Cain's redefinition seems to serve his chief criticism of Obama's laws, that they are overly burdensome on the rights on citizens.

In short, Cain seems to have seized on a poor answer from the President that sounded less than patriotic as a means to criticize him on broader policy differences. The correlation is weak and relies on Cain's convoluted redefinition.

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American Exceptionalism is alive and well

by [Justin Cox](#) – Saturday, April 16, 2016, 10:57 PM

The classic attitude of American Exceptionalism is not a thing of the past. The firm belief that America and her people are viewed most favorably by God and, therefore must serve a divine purpose, helped rifle the industrial might of our nation in successful support of WW1 and WW2 and still impacts our foreign policy to this day.

In 2003, when the evidence that Saddam Hussein of Iraq possessed "weapons of mass destruction" offered by the U.S. Administration of President George W. Bush, was inconclusive to many nations around the world, Americans had little trouble firmly supporting their President's military ambitions. The attitude of American Exceptionalism seemed to fill in the logical gaps non-Americans couldn't overcome.

Often, foreign-policy isolationists exclaim that America "can't police the world forever." The obvious inference in that statement is that, currently, America does police the world. The U.S. Navy patrols and protects nearly all the oceans of the globe. This naval force allows the U.S. to insure safe passage of the trade goods of all its allies.

Our military power also allows us to guarantee the security of almost all of our allies. These security agreements protect western Europe through NATO, Japan, South Korea, Saudi Arabia, Israel and others.

Americans today are citizens of the nation with the most powerful military in history, a military it uses to achieve its citizens' goals. This tremendous power might unsettle non-Americans but Americans, exceptional as they believe they are, see this role as their county's destiny.

American Exceptionalism remains a common philosophy among Americans and has an impact on American foreign policy to this day.

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