

HST 203: History of the United States Sp14 (Escobar Meta 41237 41238)

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Forum 1

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American Exceptionalism

by Joe Escobar - Friday, April 11, 2014, 11:49 PM

This forum thread is for American Exceptionalism posts and replies.

After studying the required materials, address the questions in your 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

BE SURE to use an informative subject line for your post. Do NOT simply leave it

RE: American Exceptionalism

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America is not imperialist

by Blake Taylor - Monday, April 14, 2014, 10:02 PM

It's true that the United States is no longer an imperial nation by the most basic definition of the word. We aren't seeking to colonize land, claim territories or overtly govern sovereign nations. In this sense, we have a significantly distinct attitude towards foreign policy than did the United States under the McKinley or Roosevelt administrations. However, it can certainly be argued that our continued - and expanding - global military presence constitute imperialism of a different sort.

As we find excuses - civic uprising, economic unrest, sectarian violence - to put boots on the ground in places like Afghanistan, Iraq and potentially Syria, our troop presence there could be classified as a type of imperialism. I mean, we still have the largest and most well-funded military in the world, and by showing up in another country's backyard - even with the best of intentions (peace-keeping, humanitarian,

etc.) - we could certainly appear to be throwing our weight around, thereby influencing said country's economic and political decisions. Our troop presence may be perceived as a covert threat, and suggest to said country's government that whatever decisions are made, should be made with the U.S.'s best interest in mind.

Just as our military presence may be a stick, the carrot in this analogy is our continued foreign aid. According to this very official-looking website (<http://www.globalhumanitarianassistance.org/countryprofile/united-states>), the United States leads the list in international aid. Certainly, we have some altruistic motivation in giving so much humanitarian assistance, but the most crass among us couldn't be faulted for suggesting that we're simply buying allegiance and compliance.

America is indeed exceptional, but as Obama said in France, it's highly likely that most content citizens of other nations would say that their country is exceptional, too. It's hard for me to support the argument that simply because we have some exceptional rights enshrined in our Constitution, we have both the right and the responsibility to act unilaterally on international affairs. As Greenwald pointed out in the Salon article, this seems to be the opinion of most neocons. Frankly, I, like most good liberals, believe that it's because of our exceptionalism that we're obligated to confer with and receive the go-ahead from the UN before taking international action. As Reagan said, we are "a model and hope to the world" and should act as such.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

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Re: America is not imperialist

by Elizabeth Atkerson - Friday, April 18, 2014, 1:23 PM

Blake,

This is a well written and well thought out way to redefine American imperialism. I find it ironic though that you close with a quote from Ronald Reagan who firmly believe in an international military presence. He has been quoted saying, "people forget that we have a military presence not to promote war but to prepare for peace." A concept which lands on the opposite side of the spectrum.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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America is imperialist

by Mitchell West - Saturday, April 19, 2014, 8:31 PM

Blake, you said we are not an imperialist nation but you go on to say that we are indeed imperialist, so i was a bit confused. i agree we are exceptional but i think that while exceptional we are also still imperialistic, we have bases all over the

world, taking up sometimes huge tracks of land that then become "U.S.A soil" which means in theory we are still expanding our land, yes while not claiming territories we are still expanding our country for the bases. and i would like also that i still think we are doing what Roosevelt was fond of saying "speak softly and carry a big stick" our helping with international aid is the speaking softly while our military is our big stick ill even go as far as to say our club

i agree we are exceptional without a doubt but we are still an imperial nation

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

1

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Re: America is not imperialist

by Ren Rasmussen - Saturday, April 19, 2014, 9:23 PM

For all Americans we can't understand how it feels to have the presence of military power from another county on our lands. No war has ever been fought on U.S. soil and I am truly glad for that but until it happens to us we don't know how it feels. That being said I support our cause to spread equality to our world with our involvement of military power. Some of our involvement though is justified with terrorism acts to the United States which is the closest act of war on our soils. This reinforces the quote that "we don't negotiate with terrorism." The U.S. get a bad reputation for our involvement but I would like to see history played out without us "trying" to help these counties. There is so much we can do and the rest we will have to let the country figure out for themselves. To other counties where we have our troops in I will agree that to them we are imperialistic but I personally don't see it in this way. Its a shame to have our troops give there lives for our foreign policy.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

1

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The U.S. is no longer mother of all nations

by Tran Nguyen - Tuesday, April 15, 2014, 1:12 AM

As the United States changed over time, its foreign policy also changed to adapt with the pace of the world.

100 years ago, American Exceptionalism is a pride that Presidents McKinley, Roosevelt, and Wilson bore during their presidencies. To show American power, to lighten up other countries with Christianity, to protect uncivilized people from themselves were top priorities for these President.

Media was also a big supportive source for the American Exceptionalism with the "yellow journalism" and its sensational characteristic. "Yellow journalism" was, in a sense, propaganda that was not uncommon at that time. The shocking headlines and exaggerated facts had yet only built up a false patriotism leading to "A Splendid Little War," but also encouraged the world should be fixed by Americans.

On the hand of the recent leaders such as George Bush, American Exceptionalism has been died off considerably. During his early presidency in 1989, President Bush declined to get involved in stopping a mass killing operated by Chinese government toward peaceful protests (<http://millercenter.org/president/bush/essays/biography/5>), despite for the call of action from some Congressmen. As the Noriega war, President Bush did not get involved until American citizens were harm by Noriega dictatorship. When Berlin Wall was torn down symbolized the U.S. victory over the Soviet, President Bush showed "lack of enthusiasm" to keep a healthy relationship with Russia. All of these examples show that President Bush values to keep peace with other nations, as long as they will be economical or safety benefit to America, rather than try to be the best nation of the world.

As the technology grew, as well as the need of knowing facts instead of sensational news, media have been no longer supportive any politicians or government systems. Readers get to see different aspects on one single event when freedom of speech and modernized journalism blossom.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

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American Exceptionalism, is it true?

by Mitchell West - Tuesday, April 15, 2014, 7:53 AM

American Exceptionalism, is it true that we are exceptional?

while reading the texts i found a 3 strong points that made me think about if we are really exception. the first point what in the defense of american exceptionalism in which Obama is quoted as saying "the Brits believe in British exceptionalism and the Greeks believe in Greek exceptionalism" this brings up the point that our exceptionalism is nothing special. which doesnt make any sense to me. yes there is nationalism, and believing that you might be the best but history has proven that while both the british and greeks improved on the social and politican systems they were still using an old system as a base while America was building the base up from nothing and then built the rest of the system on that. so while i believe that others believe that there country is the best i think is this nothing more than a case of nationalism and not exceptalism.

the second point talked about how progressives wished to destroy it, which according to our readings about progressives in the 20th century made me a little confused. how can giving minority, blacks, and women equal rights destroy our exceptionalism? i can understand if they were stripping our power away but they weren't, they were trying to make us even more exceptional by doing stuff that almost no one else was. so in that regard they aren't destroying but building us up. the progressives were truly helping us become who were are today, but as with any ideals some can fall off target and lead us astray but for the most part they made us struggle for Freedom for everyone which was rare back then and even now it is still special.

finally, do we use our exceptionalism to practice imperialism, i believe so. we have

military bases around the globe that we dont need, seizing sizable chunks of land in order to make them and to have a stronger gripe on the world, we go to war to protect our interests or to seize control of resources. we are still an imperial power, that hasn't changed. what has changed is the size of that power. we are much bigger today than 100 years ago so in that regard our exceptionalism is nothing special but it still shows off America and draws attention to what does.

Are we exceptional, i believe so. is there any qualities that make us less so, yes but everyone has them. is American Exceptionalism special, absolutly.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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American Exceptionalism More Than 100 Years Later

by Robert Johnson - Tuesday, April 15, 2014, 8:06 AM

To me it seems like there are some similarities, and perhaps some differences concerning the ideas of American Exceptionalism the leaders of America had in the early 1900's, and the country's leader's of today.

One example, in chapter 22 on p.758, we can read about The Roosevelt Corollary. Here it is written that Roosevelt declared the United States possessed a right to intervene in domestic affairs of nations in the Western Hemisphere to quell disorder and forestall European intervention. Another example to me can be found in the conclusion of this same chapter, p.767. Near the bottom of the page I read that Roosevelt believed the size, economic strength, and honor of the United States required it to accept the role of world power and policeman. Wilson's belief's then follow that it was a mission of America to spread democratic values to the farthest reaches of the earth.

I think it is commonly known that former President Bush Thought that leading the way for democracy across the globe was America's place. In the material for this forum I read about President Obama's belief that being exceptional is a standard, but not a licence for America to enforce its will upon others.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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The Development of American Exceptionalism Over the Years

by James Price - Tuesday, April 15, 2014, 9:29 PM

Over the years many aspects of American Exceptionalism have stayed the same. Herman Cain's statements that the "American story [is] one of tenacity and triumph" and that American Exceptionalism "allows us to enjoy the economic and social mobility that other countries envy" (In Defense of American Exceptionalism) would fit nicely with President Roosevelt's view of American Exceptionalism, although ideas

about who should benefit from the economic and social mobility have changed some. Also, President Taft's "dollar diplomacy" concept (textbook p. 764) still plays a large role in the way American Exceptionalism is practiced today.

American Exceptionalism has also undergone some changes the biggest of which is how inclusive it now is. Roosevelt's idea of American Exceptionalism included a belief that "[white] Americans were a racially superior people" (textbook p. 757). Now American Exceptionalism includes all Americans not just white Americans.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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American Exceptionalism

by Joseph Foley - Wednesday, April 16, 2014, 12:33 AM

American Exceptionalism

Obviously, an exceptionalist mentality has been the fuel for the United States political and military endeavors over the last century. I think it is equally obvious, that exceptionalism has become engrained in America's popular culture.

When I think of American exceptionalism, my mind first wanders to where I see it manifest in today's culture. Americans are raised being told that our country is #1, and that we set the tone for the rest of the world. Our competitive society tells us to be number one, just like America. The national pride is glorified in all forms of media.

Much of our society is addicted to the media, which is a perfect place to advertise our exceptionalist mentality. Ford, Budweiser, and even Kraft, tell us on their commercials that we live in the best country in the world. The American pride concept is a strong selling point, and riddled with exceptionalism. We have seventy-two ounce sodas, three-car garages, S.U.V's, hot dogs, and the home shopping network. We go big with everything, and we are proud of it.

Professor Escobar brought up an interesting point in regard to American professional sports. Most professional sports leagues in the U.S. refer to their champion, as the world champion. Despite no other countries being involved in the league, we have the audacity to call ourselves the best in the world. Whether it is baseball, liberating countries, or finding terrorists, America appears to feel entitled to decide the rules and outcomes.

The prideful stereotype of Americans has become known internationally in the tourist world. Many countries complain of American tourists being arrogant, entitled, and rude. Many Americans act as if the world revolves around the U.S., even while visiting foreign countries. (not unlike many of our military campaigns) If that does not scream exceptionalism, I don't know what does.

Having taken History 201 and 202 with Professor Escobar, it has been intriguing to watch this new wave of pride and entitlement sweep over the U.S, and globe, in the study of the twentieth century. During our country's first century, we had many ups and downs, on our way to becoming a global powerhouse. Once we reached the top,

we did everything we could to stay there. Despite losing ground financially, educationally, and many other areas in recent years, we still insist that we are number one. As long as you stay away from foreign media, you will continue to hear the same message.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

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Re: American Exceptionalism

by Robert Johnson - Thursday, April 17, 2014, 9:06 AM

I would have to agree with you on this subject. Even our dollar has an exceptional status in that it is the world currency reserve, in which allows our government to print more money when they want to, whether there is gold to back it or not, who else in the world enjoy's this status, or takes advantage of it besides exceptional America ?

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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The dollar

by Dalyn Stram - Thursday, April 17, 2014, 3:56 PM

Let's just keep in mind that printing money with no sort of hard backing to it will probably wind up being our economic downfall. Any country can print paper money when they want to (and most probably do - it's not just an American thing). The Federal Reserve has evolved into something that needs to be curtailed.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: The dollar

by Robert Johnson - Thursday, April 17, 2014, 5:28 PM

Well I'm not so sure about any country having the right to print money all legal style, any time they choose with out it being backed, and putting it into circulation. Seems to me that all country's around the globe would have all the cash they wanted without effect on the exchange rate.

I'm pretty sure that the U.S is the only exception, who can can legally do so without permission and/or having the gold to back it, and they don't need to ask anyone, the dollar is the only world currency. That's exceptional to me.

As far as this winding up to be the economic downfall of America, I think it already has to a degree.

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Re: The dollar

by Dalyn Stram - Friday, April 18, 2014, 12:34 AM

Any country can print their own currency. Not every country can print American dollars, if that's what you were talking about. And based on just some quick internet searching (so this could be wrong), no country today is backed by the gold standard. Isn't terribly surprising.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: The dollar

by Robert Johnson - Friday, April 18, 2014, 12:10 PM

I admit this was a case of my believing what I can now see, was completely wrong information found online, or at least my misunderstanding of it, with out doing further research first. I think now, it must have been a sales scheme all along.

Now after doing so, clearly to me I was incorrect about the entire thing. Just as I am glad to stand corrected here, I'm also glad I brought it up, because now I know better. I appreciate the correction.

Thank You

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: American Exceptionalism

by Dalyn Stram - Friday, April 18, 2014, 11:57 PM

"Most professional sports leagues in the U.S. refer to their champion, as the world champion. Despite no other countries being involved in the league, we have the audacity to call ourselves the best in the world."

Maybe I'm nitpicking here, but hey, it's conversation...I'm a pretty big sports guy,

and if we're being honest, America IS where the best players come to play their respective sports. At least in regards to the NFL, MLB, NHL, and NBA, they truly are the highest level leagues in the world. Now if you want to talk about a sport like soccer, it's a different story. Maybe it's a little cocky throwing the "World Champion" title in there, but frankly, it's true.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

1

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Imperialism: America does that.....



by Zachary Ogborn - Wednesday, April 16, 2014, 3:23 PM

I see 'American Exceptionalism' as being present throughout our nations history, just with a different title. This collective sense of superiority may have had its roots in what we refer to as Patriotism or early Nationalism, but I really see the american people portraying themselves as being EXTREMELY Exceptional during the turn of the century and continuing (perhaps in subtle waves, if you will) up to our modern day in age. I say this because I can see the proof. I see our Nation 'piggy backing' off of its early 20th century/WWI era mentalities, practices, and politics, leading itself into a current 'Imperialistic' way of domestic/foreign policies without the title "empire" attached to it.

I can only speak for what I have experienced, but during our Nations engagements over seas *during the past decade* (Afghanistan, Iraq, Pakistan, Yemen) I have become aware of a facet of american exceptionalism forcing its way into our daily lives. (I bring this up only because I didn't grow up during WWI or WWII, The Korean War, The Cold War, Bosnia/Croatia, etc...) I see Individuals expressing that they have the duty to spread our Capital driven economy to the far reaches of the middle east in the name of Democracy or Freedom, I see others claiming that our western culture is the most fair and accepting. To me, this seems exactly how an 'Empire' practices its polices and spreads its ideals, just look at *Star Wars*. I also see that America doesn't have the traditional Imperialistic qualities such as a Monarch or widespread Domestic repression. Nonetheless, I plainly see that Americans are *practicing* Imperialism... It's just evolved to hide its ugly face.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

3

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Exceptionalism is expected but no longer an overall belief.



by Katie Birrenkott - Thursday, April 17, 2014, 12:00 PM

Today it could be said that American Exceptionalism is something that politicians feel are forced upon them in being Americans. Just as Obama said, American's feel exceptionalism just as he believes Brits and Greeks feel exceptionalism, as if it is engraved into our soul and mind when being born into America. This is not true. Many people in America today in comparison to 100 years ago do not believe in American exceptionalism, such images posted online with sayings such as the following photo:



Now it could be said that some of this may be true, for instances highest health care rates leans more along the true side than false. It is not mentioned though that we also have (or soon to be had) one of the best health care in the world. A simple comparison like that cartoon that Escobar showed in class comparing US health care to Cuba's would show this. Not all of these are actually a negative, but it just shows that people are too busy comparing America to the rest of the world and trying to conform rather than succeed on their own, further showing that exceptionalism is not truly believe anymore.

100 years ago, our countries leaders truly believed in American Exceptionalism. In the days of imperialism, American leaders believed that we had a more "exceptional" view on the world and therefore felt the need to enlighten the world on the ways of Americans by teaching them of our values or become part of our country like Roosevelt's belief that our economy, size, and pride showed the US as a world power. However, people do not want to be an imperialist state like 100 years ago nor do they believe in exceptionalism like then, which is shown in the news everywhere with the fear of war in other areas of the world to fix their problems when the US has problems itself that need to be fixed.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

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Always double check

by Dalyn Stram - Thursday, April 17, 2014, 4:48 PM

I checked out the source of the information that is posted on the flag, and it's interesting to note that right off the bat, the author of the paper (James Speth) is being incredibly dishonest with you. "America: The best country in the world at being last". Really? The WORLD? If you read his article (which I did), you find out that the stats he used were only compiled from 20 OECD member countries. 20 countries...out of 196 in the world. So in reality, America isn't even close to being as bad as that graphic makes us out to be. Also, you have to be careful with stats. You see a graphic like that and I have a bad feeling most people would accept it as true without actually looking up the stats for themselves. For example, I notice lots of people criticizing the school systems these days. It's true that the stats in comparison to the rest of the world aren't too good. However, when you factor in the fact that America believes in offering education to ALL our children, while other countries restrict it and won't put every child in a school, you realize that as a result the stats greatly favor those countries while superficially making America look really bad (not that we don't have problems with our public schools; we do).

Another example: the OECD (which is what Speth used as his data source) found that the United States ranked 28th in the percentage of 4-year olds enrolled in early childhood education (69%). But what about all those parents who believe children at that age should be home with their family? Studies have shown that early childhood education bears no relationship to better learning later in one's education. So...early childhood education really doesn't matter, yet the OECD and Speth do studies on it and use it to supposedly show how America is such a terrible place compared to the rest of the world. It's incredibly dishonest in my opinion. Also, according to the OECD, America ranks behind only Canada, Israel, Japan, and Russia in higher level education attainment...notice how Speth and that graphic didn't bother mentioning anything positive like that? Their goal was to present the democracy and capitalistic system of America as falling short, and they weren't going to present any evidence or stats that showed otherwise.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

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Purpose of the graphic

by Katie Birrenkott - Thursday, April 17, 2014, 5:50 PM

My purpose of posting that image was actually to show how false it was and that people out there still think like that, people who are opposed to American exceptionalism and try bringing out the worst of America, when it's not even true facts. I only used the health care as my example from the flag because it is the most current topic.

If you read closer to my post, it actually is talking about the falsity of that image and trying to show by posting my link at the bottom that it is a socialist site.

Sum of ratings:1 (1) Show parent | Edit | Split | Delete | Reply



Re: Purpose of the graphic

by Dalyn Stram - Thursday, April 17, 2014, 6:12 PM

I gotcha, the purpose of my reply was just to piggyback off what you were already hitting on and examine the graphic from my own point of view.

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IN DEFENSE OF AMERICAN EXCEPTIONALISM/ Herman Cain

by Joseph Foley - Saturday, April 19, 2014, 12:09 AM

IN DEFENSE OF AMERICAN EXCEPTIONALISM/ Herman Cain

I find myself falling in the middle of the political spectrum, and with certain topics, I will even lean to the left, or to the right. Over the last decade, I have grown equally disappointed with candidates from either party. I found both articles covering Exceptionalism to be politically biased, and filled with the ad hominem fallacy of argument that defines our media.

A couple of points particularly stood out to me in Cain's article, "IN DEFENSE OF AMERICAN EXCEPTIONALISM." The article starts with, "There is no denying it: America is the greatest country in the world." The strong sense of American pride, and self-proclaimed world leadership, is not unlike the patriotic propaganda offered (Committee on Public Information) to the masses during WWI.

Cain questions Obama's un-exceptional definition of exceptionalism, "In saying this, the president implied that American Exceptionalism is nothing terribly special and instead simply

chalked it up to the romanticism of patriotism”. The fact that we measure one another’s exceptionalism is odd to me, but also an obvious sign of how important a role exceptionalism plays in present-day America. If you don’t appear to emit an adequate level of exceptionalism, you might be viewed as un-patriotic, or un-American.

I understand that America is a protestant country, but I like to think that the separation of church and state is genius concept. I have no issues with religion, and I respect all faiths, I think that the separation of church and state can aid in protecting peoples of various faiths. Cain breathes a heavy layer of Christianity into his article, and that immediately limits his audience. He says,” 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. We know that God, not government,..... We see American Exceptionalism not as an empty cry for nationalism, but instead, the blessings of God that keep our nation strong, independent, and free.” The article’s pitch is linked to our countries long history of exceptionalism, and Christian roots. I would prefer politicians, or those interpreting their gibberish, to stay away from religion.

As I mentioned, I found large holes in both articles, but they were grand displays of exceptionalism in today’s America. American exceptionalism has existed for generations; I see it more as a societal wide mentality. It has morphed with new politicians and presidents, but it is as real today, as it was 100 years ago.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

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America IS exceptional

by Dalyn Stram - Saturday, April 19, 2014, 1:04 AM

I'll try and keep this short. I've been to several countries literally around the world. My mom grew up on the opposite side of the planet. I've had experiences outside of this country that were truly paradigm shifting. With that being said, I don't think any one country is inherently better or worse than any other. It's what the people do which defines a country. I don't think American culture is any better than, for example, the Thai culture which my mom grew up with and which I had the privilege of experiencing firsthand. I simply love American culture because I grew up with it. But from a purely political perspective, I absolutely believe America is exceptional. No, we don't have a perfect history (which country does?). Yes, we've done some terrible things (which country hasn't?). But the history of America has been a history of improvement. Albeit a slow improvement at times, but improvement nonetheless. We have a living Constitution which we can change when need be. America was a unique experiment drawing from people and ideas around the world. We didn't really copy any one country. We tried something new. We believed in the inherent rights of the individual (drawn largely from religion and the idea that God creates us with such rights while at the same time doing something fairly new and attempting to keep

religion out of the government as much as possible.). We drafted a Constitution filled with checks and balances to deny any one person or branch of government from gaining too much power or abusing the rights of the people and states (sadly our government has been throwing checks and balances and the Constitution out the window for over 100 years now). We believe we control our lives. Class envy has no place here (really, let's stop all that nonsense). Most countries had long histories of classes and caste systems; we tried to eliminate those. We believe in the power of the individual to rise to nearly anything they desire. Neighborliness, personal responsibility, innovation, entrepreneurship, creativeness, coming together to solve problems as communities large and small...the list could go on. I won't say we were the first to try some of these ideas, because we weren't. But I would look at world history and make the claim that freedom and individual rights are radical ideas. Those things have been all too scarce throughout the centuries. Freedom and letting individuals decide how to live their own lives haven't really been the status quo in the past. No, America wasn't totally free to begin with either (slavery, no women's vote, etc), but somehow we've put together a bunch of ideas that used to be thought of as crazy and we're making it work. For me personally, international travel has really made me appreciate America so much more. It's too easy to forget sometimes just how special this place is. We have so many things which we take for granted that other countries would probably kill for, from individual rights to our political system to material goods to beyond. I really can't come to any other conclusion than to say that America is indeed an exceptional country.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

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Re: America IS exceptional

by James Price - Saturday, April 19, 2014, 2:17 PM

I agree with you that America is exceptional and that that fact doesn't make it better or worse than any other country, but I disagree with your statement that "class envy has no place here." I would argue that class envy has been always existed in this nation because people have always divided themselves into classes and defined themselves by what class they belonged to. Examples of this could be the union strikes discussed during the term and the current 99% movement. From a conservative point of view both of these events can be at least partially attributed to class envy. I don't believe that this fact makes us any less exceptional as a country, I just see it as part of our social behavior which is unavoidable.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Classes

by Dalyn Stram - Saturday, April 19, 2014, 10:48 PM

I think class envy and defining yourself by class are two different things.

The 99% movement is actually a perfect example, that was what I was thinking of when I made that statement in my post. The 99% movement is nothing but class envy, and I would argue it's pretty close to simply hatred of those defined as "rich". I see dividing yourself into a class as simply recognizing where you stand in regards to income. Class envy, on the other hand, is dangerous. It splits the country apart and turns us against each other, and unfortunately, it's usually not inherent among the people; most often it's politicians and the media feeding it to us to accomplish their own political agendas and policies and gain more power by dividing us. Sadly, our own president has fueled a lot of this class envy.

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