

HST 203: U.S. History Sp19 (Escobar)

[Home](#) / [My courses](#) / [HST 203 Sp19 \(Escobar Meta 44706 47037\)](#) / [Week 3](#) / [Forum 1](#) / [American Exceptionalism](#)



Search forums

Forum 1 American Exceptionalism

 [Subscribe](#)

[◀ Censorship & Morality.](#) [American Exceptionalism ▶](#)

Display replies in nested form

Move this discussion to ...

Move

Pin



American Exceptionalism
by [Joe Escobar](#) - Friday, April 12, 2019, 9:40 PM

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, which clearly describes the source and questions you are addressing. Do NOT simply leave it RE: American Exceptionalism

Sum of ratings: [_](#) [Permalink](#) | [Edit](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



Re: American Exceptionalism
by [DAVID Welshman](#) - Saturday, April 13, 2019, 5:25 PM

The poll take by Democrats, Republicans and Independents that the people still believe in the Constitution, Freedom of Speech and Press. Freedom of Religion but mostly the Opportunity to become who you want to be. The class poll was more liberal I feel because they were basing their choices off the President we have now.

My choices did differ because I know and believe that the constitution and all that it stands for, and the rights should never be taken away. Ted Cruz Stated Those that come to America or live in America believe in the promise of America. That the rights of the people do not come from Man but God Almighty. The constitution serves as chains to bind the government.

I believe that our rights should never be taken away. I served my country because I believe that all nations that its people are not being treated justly should be able to live free. I fought in the war and I believe even after loosing some of my brothers that we were there doing good.

Obama, was not in my mind one of the best Presidents but I did my duty when he was commander and chief. However I believe in Donald Trump and so do most military men and women. This country needs to take back just as Trump stated in the Texas Patriots video, and not rub it in other countries faces that we are exceptional. Even when we will be again, once we fix all the damage that democrats have done in government. WE as Americans need to stand together and fight for our constitutional rights, to make sure no one takes them away.

On American excepitional, Charles Murray said its a matter of opinion and the Atlantic coast, midwest in the 19 century made America exceptional. Its the setting, ideallizism, and culture that create this American exceptionaism. That conservatives are attached tot Heritage of the exceptionalism.

Amdre Bacewich, is not anyone I put any stock in at all. To believe that the Iraq war was unnecessary is just plan igornate. That war was very necessary both times we went there to help the people of Iraq. An because this is not a person I value that is all I will say on the matter.

Trump is just saying to not rub it in other counties faces, because when America get back to being the greatest country in the world, it just not nice. He feels we need to take back our jobs, are money, and not keep trading if we can do it here in America. I believe that is very true. Instead of giving jobs to China, lets give them to the poor, veterans, and anyone who can work.

As I read our text in the chapters, I feel that a lot of the history is for us to learn from, on how to do things better. It is what our country was built on, and our rights. We have read of many exceptional man and women in history that I would say display American Exceptionalism.

Sum of ratings:[2 \(1\)](#)

2

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



Speakers on American exceptionalism

by [Dylan Boleyn](#) - Sunday, April 14, 2019, 7:23 PM

of the five speakers in this clip, the one that I agree with most is Charles Murry. I agree with Charles because I agree with his definition of American exceptionalism which is unique setting, unique ideology and American civic culture . these are things that I would agree make America unique. Today a lot of Americas unique setting is disappearing due to industry, the agriculture business , and civilization. For example there are large parts of California that used to be unique but are no longer to the vast fields of all the same crop that is a product of our agro bussiness. Chales makes the point that our government being much more involved with the American people. I would agree Americans from both sides of the spectrum have become very involved with our government because they may not like what our government is doing. An example of this involvement comes from the in-class lectures every political cartoon is a type of involvement people have with the government because of their actions. Finally, American civic culture Charles argues this is on a downslide I would agree while we still have civil places where people life peacefully together there are places like LA and Chicago which are two places that are know for peoples violence toward one another witch to me dose not represent a unique civic culture. To sum this all up like charles said while there may be some parts of American exceptionalism still in our society today a lot of it has disappeared.

Sum of ratings:[2 \(1\)](#)

2

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



Re: American Exceptionalism

by [Luis Gonzalez](#) - Monday, April 15, 2019, 1:46 AM

Typically it appears by looking at the data, that presumably republicans tend to be stronger believers in American exceptionalism then democrats. A Gallup poll was conducted and posted by the (Washington Times) in which only 67 percent of all democrats claimed to be proud Americans. While republicans showed a whopping 92 percent patriotism. Perhaps that's why it came as such a shock when President Trump openly said "I'm going to be honest with you, I don't like that term" (Exceptionalism Video) when asked about it in an interview. he claimed that he didn't want to insult the world by claiming that America was more outstanding then them. He said that he didn't believe that we were there yet and even when we do get there years from now, he still wouldn't say it. "we may have a chance to say it some day but even then I wouldn't, because let's not rub it in". Earlier on in an interview during his presidential campaign Obama claimed he believed in American Exceptionalism, as Greece believed in its own exceptionalism, and Britain in there's. However, as republican Evan Sayet pointed out, "He said yes in a very clever way, which really meant no" "It's not a belief on anything other than the fact that he lives here" (0.51 Exceptionalism 11 minute video). Which honestly makes a lot of sense, Obama wasn't necessarily proud of America at the time, we were still in Afghanistan and the overall international look of the U.S wasn't great. Later on in this same video Charles Murray could be quoted as saying "American Exceptionalism is not etched in stone" he believes there was a time that America was really exceptional, however it may never be that way again. In terms of the political spectrum, he just so happens to fall on the right side, giving us more of that 8 percent of republican outliers who don't seem to be proud of being an American. Though there may be outliers there's still a fairly strong connection between exceptionalism being tied to the republican side of the scale.

Sum of ratings:[2 \(1\)](#)

2

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

Re: American Exceptionalism



by [Gregory Graff](#) - Monday, April 15, 2019, 9:36 AM

The leaders of the early 1900s, knew that America was #1 just by having the statistics to prove it. In class we discussed how America was #1 in things like agriculture, education, and industry. We are #1 in these categories no more but we are by far the #1 in military might, spending more than the 7 next countries combined in 2017. (PeterG.PetersonFoundation) Politicans need to see why we are falling behind in education and make adjustmets based on how countries like Finland operate. Our nations leaders do not use execeptionalism in the same way. The early 1900s had the massive influx of immigrants, which was shown by the graph in the textbook and posted in class. This influx is do to America being #1 in the categories dicussed earlier and the unique restrictions on power. These days leaders of America know how exceptional it is just by the military might, and for some that might be all they need to see America as being great. Charles Murray’s perspective was spot on with his answer of “we used to be” referring to whether he believed America was exceptional. Murray explained how America used to have a “unique ideology” with its limits on government power and how that is not that unique anymore. I like that Ted Cruz is implying we need to help do something about the seventeen year old kid who had to get two jobs to help pay for school. He completely lost me when he says our rights come from God and not man and when he says the American uniqueness is the shining city on the hill, which to me implys being the King of the hill, which would be Earth.

Sum of ratings:[2 \(1\)](#)

2

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



What makes America so intriguing

by [Graciee Robinson](#) - Monday, April 15, 2019, 4:02 PM

After studying the polls I have realized there is so much diversity in our class especially in where we stand on the political spectrum Joe talks about so much in class. From the "Describe you political views" poll 39% are more liberal, 39% are more conservative at 4% chose not to answer out of 52 students. That 4% can change the way this poll goes but for the most part it can go either way. This poll alone shows that people can come to America and have the right to choose what they want to believe and not be discriminated against. Some places do not have that so that would seem very intriguing and a reason to come here. In the "What makes America great?" poll 30% of people chose the answer "The idea that all human beings have a God given right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness." I think America is known for being a place people can come and be free. You can be who you want to be, believe what you feel is right and if you are willing to put in the work you can make your dreams come true here. In a lot of places even today they do not have that. I think this could be another thing that would be intriguing about America.

Sum of ratings:[1 \(1\)](#)

1

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



Re: What makes America so intriguing

by [Gerardo Morales-Martinez](#) - Saturday, April 20, 2019, 4:36 PM

Hi Graciee,

i like your paragraph discussing the poll results I do believe that America is a place where dreams are and if you put in the enough work, youll have a good lifestyle. Correct, but is that the sole reason why we're so great? Although that seems more of an optimistic view of America. Historically speaking, thats not true. It first began with the blacks being slaves, eventually freed when the civil war occurred, and they became free. Yet, that same optimistic view didnt apply to them. Then the wave of catholics began coming in, and then we treated them awfully and so on. Which is caused by the racial nativism at the time and honestly, occurring as one right now. In politics today, our exceptionalism is higher than it has been. The reason which was that in WW1 era, the drive to be an american was so high because our patriotism was growing. Our role in making sure our allies and troops were well fed. We got involved in more nationwide events. But that was back then. I dont believe we are the nation we use to be, we would like to believe that. With that being said, do we feel like we are more fond of american exceptionalism today ? Yes. With the current government set up, it is very strong, but I reiterate, we arent on the larger scale. Our personal battles within the country regarding race and gender is higher than before. Yet, there are some laws that were made against certain people. We have seen it with the Alien-Sedition acts of 1798, Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882, so the counter argument that there is no proof that laws were made against certain people, the proof is above. So to believe that our american exceptionalism is real, then sure, maybe to those who like to have a better view of America. But as seen from within, its not so great.

Sum of ratings:[1 \(1\)](#)

1

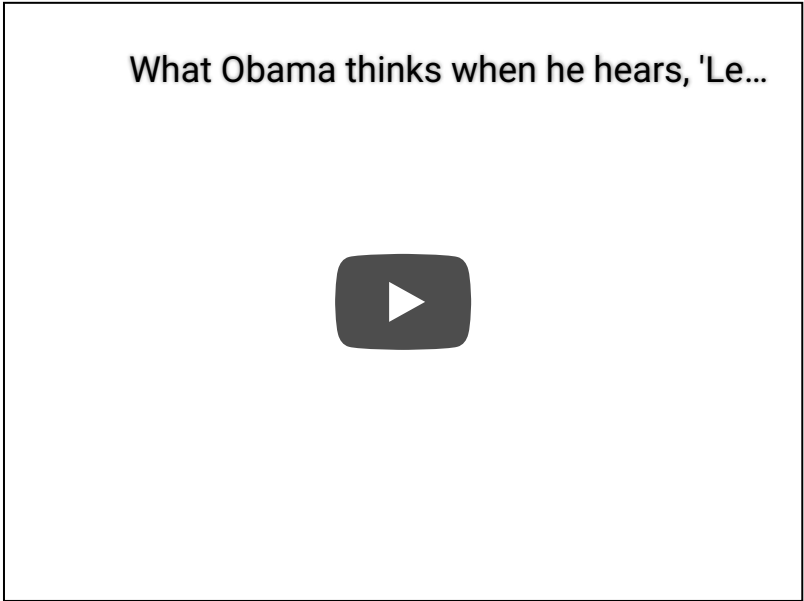
[Permalink](#) | [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



Former Presidents, and the evolution of American Exceptionalism

by [Cameron Lindsey](#) - Monday, April 15, 2019, 5:25 PM

Part 1) Despite the twenty-second blurb we saw of former President Obama, I'd argue *all* of our nation's leaders have entertained & supported the idea of American superiority, or "exceptionalism." I think Herman Cain really missed the point in Obama's response, and far too much has been made of his words in this instance. It is incoherent, arrogant, and naive to suggest that other countries don't also feel that they are exceptional & have reasons to be proud--and this is what Obama is trying to say. Andrew Bacevich's response aligns the most with my feelings on this issue because he's right: all countries feel they are unique, and we should all recognize that not everything in the world has to be about us. For a better idea of how our previous President really feels about American Exceptionalism, here's a good link: [



]

Looking at then vs. now, at the turn of the 20th Century I feel our nation was still in its quest towards worldwide dominance & influence, whereas now we've reached the top, having the largest economy, military, and social influence (entertainment, sports, general pop culture) in the world. So, due to the eras in which they've lived in, our current and past leaders held/hold far different perspectives on American Exceptionalism. For Presidents like Roosevelt, McKinley, and Wilson, they felt we had something to prove and had a vision of America's potential: to become the most feared, respected, and sought-out country in the world. We see specific examples of this in the book (ch. 22, page 593) where we learn that McKinley and Roosevelt adopted Mahan's ideology for building a bigger navy as a stepping stone for establishing an empire. For current leaders, it seems they are trying more to *maintain* our exceptionalism, instead of feeling a need to promote it.

Part 2) Looking at how one's political affiliation might effect their view of AE, I think it really depends on the person, their values, and how susceptible they might be to misinformation and manipulation. On one hand, we have people who prioritize having good & equal access to higher education. Obama often reiterated how he felt having the best universities made us great, and wanted to make it easier for the poor to attend college. On the other hand, Trump has increased national military spending and spoken on the importance of having strong national security, and this is something he feels will make America great. For many (and I'd hope) national security is a top priority, and they align with Trump because he further represents their values.

Both of these are examples of how I think people combine their views of AE with their political affiliation and preferred candidates. They tend to look for their own values, their party's values, and then a leader who promotes these values as examples of why we are great or superior.

Sum of ratings:[3 \(1\)](#)

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



Democrat vs Republican coming together

by [Graciee Robinson](#) - Monday, April 15, 2019, 9:56 PM

I agree that whether you are democrat or republican we can all agree that we live in a good if not great country. This country was founded on a group of people coming to look for a new life where they would not have a dictator and be free to do a they pleased (to an extent). I also agree that how people view America will stem from their beliefs. You can never make everyone happy, if it is a democratic president elected republicans will be mad and if its a republican president democrats will be mad. But I think from this video of former president Obama it shows that we are ALL Americans and we should all be able to come together no matter who the

president is. People always talk about how if we have a president who may not be the best its going to be the end of the world but the president does not have as much power as people think. (Joes lecture) Say a republican president is elected democrats may not agree with what they are doing but republicans might think its great. This is also a matter of being truly educated on what is going on the country and what certain laws actually mean. I feel like people today have a harder time coming together and maybe get a little to sensitive about things. But democratic former president Woodrow Wilson arrived in Europe to attend a peace conference and was met by huge crowds who hailed him as a savior. (Chapter 23 pg 764) All people of all parties came together and were proud to be American and even crowds of people in Europe. All people have their own opinions on what makes a good or great leader/country but its also a matter of being able to listen to each others opinions and being educated on the subjects.

Sum of ratings:[2](#) (1)

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



Re: Democrat vs Republican coming together
by [Hanah Heurgue](#) - Thursday, April 18, 2019, 5:50 PM

Hi Graciee,

Thank you for sharing your thoughts on the matter. I definitely would have to agree with what you had to say. Yes we are all Americans no matter who the president is and I think a lot of people don't realize that. There also may be some things that people don't agree with but that doesn't mean that America isn't great, if we compare America to SO many other countries we are truly living the best life there is, for example take a look at North Korea where they are in a complete dictatorship, the leader spends all the countries money on guns and military supplies. The people that live there have their lights turned off at a certain time everyday, no access to internet and the access they do have is very heavily monitored, and they can't even leave the country. So really America is one of the greatest places to live, its a place where you can really live out your dreams.

I also really agree with your comment on how people are too sensitive on things, like what happened in the world where we all of a sudden take everything to heart. Why does everything one says have to be taken so seriously.

While I agree that we are all Americans and should be able to come together, I do find it hard to do so when it comes to the differences between a democrat and a republican. It surely is not easy to support someone who has completely different views and ideas then you do so it is just inevitable that people are mad about having a republican or democrat in office.

Thanks again for sharing!

Hanah

Sum of ratings:[1](#) (1)

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



Re: Democrat vs Republican coming together
by [Gerardo Morales-Martinez](#) - Saturday, April 20, 2019, 5:19 PM

Hi Hannah,

I do believe in your third sentence, that we are americans no matter who is the president, it is the law. You're right, in a democracy there are always sides which may see eye to eye on a scarce amounts of things, but democracy is why we are how we are. I do believe we are living a pretty good life if you are comparing us to a straight dictatorship. Why wouldnt we compare it to maybe a little more civilized country? Yes, without a doubt do I believe that if you live here you cam live out your dreams, but it could sometimes be sided to a certain type or group of people. The counter argument that the government is equal for all, is a more optimistic point of view. Yet, Mr. Escobar mention in a previous class that the government favorited private companies and not the common people. Example was the government buying guns from manufacturers for a huge price. Or the example of the drill kits, which in Home depot you could buy for \$200, and they bout them for \$1xxx amount. So the evidence is there. Yet, how good are we as a country, lets compare it to something more on an even playing field. We are ranking 26th in Education according to World Top Project. The countries before of dont necessarily have democracy, yet having the point of view that we are still the some of the best when we are getting beat by Monarchy's in education. Well yeah, we take it to heart at times because its human nature to feel for others or to feel for

certain situations. If we didnt take things seriously, we wouldnt have allowed Hiram Revels to become a Senator, or without Theodore Roosevelt caring about our health, the Meat Inspection Act of 1906 wouldnt have been passed.

I do agree that we should all come together and hope to see eye to eye on all issues, then we wouldnt have any issues in Congress today. Yet, there are just some issues that are more humane that triumph which political party we side with.

Sources: https://worldtop20.org/education-data-base?gclid=EAlaQobChMI9qrf9Ozf4QIVviCtBh38Kw2EEAAYASAAEgLriPD_BwE

Sum of ratings:[1](#)(1)

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



Charles Murray and Andrew Bacevich

by [Jack Swisher](#) - Monday, April 15, 2019, 7:09 PM

After watching the video, as well as reading the short article on president Obama, I agree with Charles Murray, as well as Andrew Bacevich. When 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." This made lots of sense. America is not the way it used to be, and is not as unique as it used to be. Charles Murray has the same view that I do. He too is a believer that the United States “used to be” unique and the greatest country on earth. He now thinks that it will be pretty tough to get America back to how it used to be. The United States was unique in the 19th century because of, the physical setting, ideology and the culture. The physical setting was unique according to Murray because of the frontier, and the Atlantic ocean. He thought that having a small, limited government was unique, and that is not the case today. Today, all three of those are gone. The word unique is interesting on this topic of exceptionalism. Unique can mean a lot of different things to a lot of different people. Andrew Bacevich makes a good point that every nation and every state is unique in its own way. I do not agree with Ted Cruz on the other hand. Mainly on his comment, “come to America with nothing, and achieve everything.” The reason I do not agree with this comment is because of how the immigrants were treated one hundred years ago, and even today.

Sum of ratings:[2](#)(1)

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



Re: Is America Great?

by [Trenton Hough](#) - Monday, April 15, 2019, 7:38 PM

In the class poll, I am among the 12 percent of the class that believes the United States of American is not a great country. I think the word great is too good of a word to use to describe the United States, instead I use the word “good”. I agree with the *What makes America Great* poll. The poll says that 24% of people believe that “opportunity to become who you want to be” (What makes...). This county was founded so people didn’t have to live under the rule of dictatorship and could make their own life choices, but the America we live in today has its flaws. The wealthy people have a path that is much in their favor to great success, while people born in poor house hold must work harder to achieve the same level of greatness. If you have the will and determination there is not a thing that can hold you back from getting where you want to be, and that is what I believe, and 24% of the people surveyed believe, that Makes the United States a good country.

Sum of ratings:[1](#)(1)

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



Re: American Exceptionalism

by [Jackson Blair](#) - Monday, April 15, 2019, 8:17 PM

I believe that one’s political position can really determine how they view American Exceptionalism. According to Washington Post, a Gallup Poll done in 2017 showed that 92% of Republican party members were “extremely proud” to be American, whereas 67% of Democrats reported feeling this way. This was the lowest ever percentage recorded within the Democratic party since the use of Gallup polls (Washington Post article). Personally, I believe the election of Obama sparked the belief within the Democratic party that the United States as a whole was not very exceptional. Many people believe that former President Obama’s position on American Exceptionalism, was nothing short of mediocre and people essentially saw it as him saying it was just a form of patriotism (In Defense Of American Exceptionalism article). I identify politically as somewhat in the middle as I vary depending on the issue. I believe in the idea of American Exceptionalism to an extent, for an example I believe the the U.S. is unique and special considering our freedoms, but I do not believe that the United States should be the great nation of the world because we have problems that should be addressed here before diving into other Nations issues’.

Sum of ratings:

1 (1)

1

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



American Exceptionalism

by [David Pineda](#) - Monday, April 15, 2019, 8:39 PM

The differences between American exceptionalism and the way it used used now compared to how it was used before are big. 100 years ago American exceptionalism was American imperialism and it meant that America was different better than all other countries and the right thing to do is to share that with other nations, by ruling over other nations, because " the United Staes would undertake the solemn mission to "civilize" the filipinos and there by prepare them for independence"(textbook pg 726). It clear that before it meant it was americas duty to govern these nations because they were incapable of doing it themselves. Now American exceptionalism Is the idea that America is unique because the of the way were born, govern ourselves , and the amount of freedom we as of Americans have. in the video about speakers on American exceptionalism Andrew Bacevich states that of "course every nation is unique" its easy to say and understand that the United States is unique from England. He continues to talk about the dangers of believing that.

Sum of ratings:

2 (1)

2

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



Exceptional Humility and Grace

by [Ryan Monett](#) - Monday, April 15, 2019, 8:57 PM

Part 1: An Introduction of Exceptionalism

American Exceptionalism has become, once again, a very popular term that is currently being used in discussion politically.

I believe America to be truly exceptional, and believe that our Constitution and Declaration of Independence to be exceptional. There is no other to compare such an amazing ideological foundation of principal and governance in human history. I would like to ascribe to the belief of American Exceptionalism in terms of grace, however. I do not feel that greatness (and what makes one truly exceptional) must promote itself. The virtues of grace and humility should be paramount if one is to live as an example of American Exceptionalism. Greatness just simply "is" - it doesn't need to strut itself.

With that being noted, I feel the basis of our Constitution and our Declaration of Independence make it very clear America is exceptional. Our human rights, our economic power, our leadership in global affairs, our liberty, our justice, our freedoms, our very democracy IS exceptional. Some other countries do things better than America in certain areas. Some get healthcare better than us, some are safer, some are happier, some do *some* stuff better than we do. Does anyone do all things better than America? No. Part of improving our country is seeing areas where we can improve and not just sticking our nose down on other countries. We show our exceptionalism by our ability to not just lead, but with grace and humility that there are some things we can do better without any interference with our Constitution and Declaration of Independence. In fact, any improvements must espouse such virtues of these truths.

--

Video on American Exceptionalism, Escobar.

Herman Cain, Article.

Sum of ratings:

2 (1)

2

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



American Exceptionalism: How leaders use AE (American Exceptionalism) differently than past leaders

by [Devin Burris](#) - Monday, April 15, 2019, 9:58 PM

I think that the leaders of the United States use American Exceptionalism in a way similar to 100 years ago. They use it to gain political advantage, and use it as a basis to justify their platforms and projects. However, I believe that today's leaders are more careful around the topic of AE. At 1:10 in the AE video, Evan Sayet points out Obama's rather "political" answer. I believe that this is due to America's separation of church and state over time. I think that today's leaders are more willing to say that America is qualified to be *the* world power because of it's military, or it's economy, or another version of AE that isn't so reliant on religion. In short, today's leaders still believe in American Exceptionalism, just a different variety.

Sum of ratings:1(1)

1

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



Exceptionalism Similarities/Differences of Presidents Now/Then

by [Gregory McGinnis](#) - Monday, April 15, 2019, 11:10 PM

What I see that is similar in regards to american exceptionalism is that every leader back in the early 1900's wanted to enhance America to become to strongest nation on earth, economically, morally, and spiritually. The same goes for the leaders of today the 21st century. The difference is how each leader goes about implementing those ideals into the fabric of the nation and its people who live within it.

Yes the leaders of the U.S. today 21st century still use exceptionalism as they did back in the early 1900's. It is just wrapped in a different packaging, but the rhetoric is basically the same. They rally people behind their cause, whether its for health care or higher wage for workers. They speak a certain way to the masses hoping to get their approval to get elected or, for legislation which they want passed, but when in office they simply do what they want up until there becomes a fuss in the public eye about it. Charles Murray, I believe has a good point of view when he stated the size of the government from back in the 19th century and the grasp it has now (21st century) on all aspects of life is virtually night and day. The reach the U.S. Govt has nationally over its citizens is basically limitless.

Sum of ratings:1(1)

1

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



What Makes America Great?

by [Hanah Heurgue](#) - Tuesday, April 16, 2019, 3:11 PM

When I look at the poll results of about 70 people that our history 203 class took compared to the poll results of over 1000 people on barna.com about what makes America great I see some similarities and some differences. 21% of the people in the barn survey said that the freedom of speech/ freedom of press is what makes America one of the greatest. Over on our history class side we were asked what freedom we think is to be at most risk in America today, 27% of people chose freedom of speech to be at risk next to 25% of people who said having the freedom to bear arms was at risk in America. I found this to be interesting that in the barna poll which was taking in 2017 about a quarter of the people who took the survey stated that having the right of freedom of speech is one the things that makes America so great comparing that to now just 2 years later in 2019 where also a quarter of people said that freedom of speech is now something America is taking away from us.

Now this might be taking a wrong turn but I think now the fact that we think we are losing our freedom of speech has a close relation to police brutality and also the mass school shootings. As many people have seen time and time again in several states if a black person gets pulled over and tries to fend for themselves it has not turned out good for them, so now you have several black people who just shut up when they are getting talked to by other authorities with fear of speaking up because they don't want those repressions, now granted this is not true with every black person and every cop, I think that this is more about weeding out the bad cops. Now when I think of the mass school shootings I am thinking of the recent biggest one in Florida where actually several people did get to use their freedom of speech and speak out and say what they wanted to say, but like always speaking out on what you believe can not go well, because there will always be people who disagree and want to make you feel like your wrong. I have had several classes at school where I want to speak up and say something but I am too afraid to so I just keep it bottled up because I have that fear of someone disagreeing and making me feel like I am in the wrong even though it is my right to be able to speak freely.

Finally the other thing I wanted to point out was that in our class poll we had the question of what makes America great and the highest percent was 31% of people said that "the idea that all human beings have a God-given right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Now in the barna poll the highest percent was 24% who said that that the

opportunity to become who you want to be is what makes America so great so I thought it was interesting that in 2017 over 1000 people said the same thing as now in 2019 where about 70 people said that being able to become who we want is the best thing America has to offer.

Sum of ratings:[2](#) (1)

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



Trumps view on American Exceptionalism

by [Trenton Hough](#) - Tuesday, April 16, 2019, 7:37 PM

President Trump is asked about American Exceptionalism, and how to grow it in the short video. His response differs from most presidents before him, and many Americans. He says he doesn't like the term American Exceptionalism because it isn't a nice term to use and it is saying we are better than everyone else. (Trump doesn't believe in American Exceptionalism video) I think President trump is wrong. American is a unique country that has many benefits that most other counts don't have witch intern makes us "better" than them. We can set our own future, decide what we want to do with our lives, and we have the freedom to say what we want and to believe what we want. America has freedom and that alone makes us exceptional. In a Gallup poll taken recently it found that 75% of all American are proud or very proud to be an American. (The Washington Times). If you were to ask any of the 75% of Americans what they thought about American Exceptionalism, you would here the same things repeated: freedom, our rights, the limited government. These aspects of our county are what made this county such a would power. When trump is answering the question about American Exceptionalism, he says "I'd like to make us exceptional" (Trump doesn't believe in American Exceptionalism video). I think he has the right idea but the wrong wording. I would have said make us more exceptional, we are a good country but there are always things that we can fix to make us even better. Getting homeless veterans off the streets, moving families out of poverty, and eliminate the hate within our border would make this country greatly exceptional.

Sum of ratings:[2](#) (1)

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



Disagree!

by [Jack Swisher](#) - Thursday, April 18, 2019, 8:28 PM

Trenton, I have to disagree with you on your view, and I have to agree with president Trump. Yes, America is unique, but define unique? On Merriam-Webster.com, unique is defined as, "the only one". Well if you look at what America brings to the tabel, other countries have some of these "unique" traits as well. The United States is not the only country with freedom, Australia, Canada China, just to name a few. Next, the United States and limited government. What time period are you talking about here? Because in my opinion, limited government has not always been in tact in America. During the World War one, there were many examples of the government not being so limited. The draft, because of the lack of soilders volunteering, the government demanded that you serve in the military if your name is drawn. (I am not against the draft, just stating an example) Also, what about the crazy tax increase during world war one? Finally, your comment on the United States being a world power. I will agree with you partially. At the turn of the 20th century, the United States was a global power. They developed a great navy, and were expanding their economy really well over seas. On page 720 on chapter 22, it says how "by 1898 the United States navy ranked 5th, and by 1900 it was up to 3rd." Now, I will disagree with that statement. According to buisnessinsider.com, the United States ranks 27th in health care, as well as education. What about the huge debt that the country has.

Sum of ratings:[2](#) (1)

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



Exceptionalism in Idea VS. in Reality

by [Zach Edmiston](#) - Tuesday, April 16, 2019, 11:40 PM

The idea of American Exceptionalism is, I believe to be, a near perfect idea (the positive foundations of it), with an imperfect practice. The idea itself of America being a unique country, and every citizen within a democracy containing inalienable rights; and having access to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness is the stuff that utopias are made of. However, due to human nature, I think that idea in itself is nearly impossible to abide by in it's fullest extent. Having a constitution that blatantly and clearly explains our rights as human beings is a (fairly) unique one, and even more so when we start encroaching before the age of the 1900's. I do believe that Americans are and were some of the most free people on the planet, and in my opinion freedom itself is a fantastic example of American Exceptionalism; but in some instances, that idea had/has been muffled, and in others it was only for specific groups of people, allowing the negative side of American Exceptionalism to rear its ugly head.

I think that the idea of American Exceptionalism and Imperialism cannot coexist at the same time for the most part, as American Exceptional hearkens toward ideas of freedom, liberty, equality, and protection; whereas imperialism “a policy of extending a country's power and influence through diplomacy or military force.” (google definition of imperialism) seems to speak toward the idea of taking from others, in some cases with the use of a military. If we go with a strictly diplomatic route of imperialism, I think it can be parallel with American Exceptionalism much more fluently; however, I find the idea of American Exceptionalism to be much more in line with the ideas and standards of isolationism, as we are able to keep, maintain, and defend our values and purity of ideas without taking from or encroaching on others in the process, and as history continued, more and more examples of this begin to come to the forefront. “After 1900, however, the United States assumed a more aggressive role, seizing land, overturning governments it did not like, and forcing its economic and political policies on weaker neighbors in order to turn the Caribbean Sea into what policymakers called (with the example of ancient Rome in mind) an American Mediterranean.” (textbook, page 731-732)

America’s examples of imperialism and annexation are not strictly the only corruptions of American Exceptionalism to be found, though I think it was the beginning of a showing of how fluid that idea can be within the hearts and minds of people. As we discussed in class on 4/16, the tensions of racial inequality are another example of times that American Exceptionalism tended to take a negative connotation upon itself. No matter how the story is spun or who the teller of it is; the idea of blacks (or any other race of people) being lynched or segregated is a terrible thing, but also a great example of how American Exceptionalism is NOT always a great thing, despite the foundation of our country being established on very positive and equal foundations between peoples. The idea of black veterans coming home from protecting the country and peoples, only to find themselves victims of lynch mobs and hung to death, is a very stark contrast to what this country is meant to stand for, and it is a great stain upon the idea of American Exceptionalism; and it begins to create a rift between what American Exceptionalism SHOULD be, and what history proved that it began evolving into at the turn of the 1900’s.

Sum of ratings:[3 \(1\)](#)

3

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



American Exceptionalism: interpretation based on political ideologies and party affiliations.

by [Jason Fitzsimmons](#) - Wednesday, April 17, 2019, 7:07 AM

The idea that the United States of America “had” or has a unique destiny to foster democracy personal freedom and civilization has certainly evolved since the founding of the nation. The idea has many machinations depending on the era and political/ideological leanings of the commenter. Joseph Stalin apparently coined the exact term “American Exceptionalism” attached to a critique of the American Communist Parties revisionist analysis citing that “the American political climate was unique making it an exception to certain elements of Marxist theory”(“American exceptionalism.” Wikipedia). 40th president Ronald Regan was a faithful disciple of this concept, in his speeches often quoting John Winthrop, “We shall be as a city on a hill”, referring to his belief that American Exceptionalism is in view of the world and subject to judgment (Anderson. Pg 143). Regan a Republican and conservative maintained that American Exceptionalism was based on America as a place founded on an idea rather than ethnic heritage, religion or race and where someone with courage can come and be truly free. Depending on where one falls on the political spectrum clearly influences a grand narrative such as American Exceptionalism. Modern leftists speak of the US as not living up to liberal democratic ideas and the right seem to think Americans don't need to. The concept is not static and holds quite differing interpretations based on agenda, party platforms and the political currents of voters.

Sum of ratings:[2 \(1\)](#)

2

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



Exceptional Polling, Exceptional Ideals

by [Ryan Monett](#) - Wednesday, April 17, 2019, 12:49 PM

In reviewing some of the material, what I found interesting is how party affiliation also strikes in how proud a member of American society remains.

It is not surprising that 92% of Republicans are "very" or "extremely" proud to be Americans. What I found most interesting is how far Democrats belief of being the same dropped to it's lowest recorded levels. 67% of Democrats is a fairly low number, lower than the previous record in 2007 (during the Iraq war, housing crises and down

economy). One would think that pride in one's country would be a manifestation of simply being an American, right? Apparently not. It appears as though how well our political party is doing (at least on the left) shows what level of pride in being an American. However, I take great pride in America regardless of whom is in office. America is far more than the President, Congress, and our Courts:

"Exceptionalism requires something far more: a belief that the U.S. follows a path of history different from the laws or norms that govern other countries. That's the essence of American exceptionalism: The U.S. is not just a bigger and more powerful country — but an exception."

Similarly, let's look at the top five responses on Barna.com for what makes America great:

- 1) Opportunity to become who you want to be
- 2) The Constitution
- 3) Freedom of Speech / The Press
- 4) Freedom of Religion
- 5) Democracy

In correlation between belief in how proud one is to be an American, shouldn't it stand that the above ideals are far more than just one party? These ideals (not just one, but ALL of the above plus so many more) should stand as a truth that America IS exceptional, and that regardless of party, should make us all proud to be Americans.

--

Sources:

Harper, Jennifer. "Persistent Patriotism: 92% of Republicans 'Extremely Proud' to Be American." *The Washington Times*, 3 Apr. 2017, www.washingtontimes.com/news/2017/apr/3/inside-the-beltway-92-of-gop-extremely-proud-to-be/.

Tyrrell, Ian. "What, Exactly, Is 'American Exceptionalism'?", *The Week*, 21 Oct. 2016, theweek.com/articles/654508/what-exactly-american-exceptionalism.

Sum of ratings:[2 \(1\)](#)

2

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



Today's American Exceptionalism

by [Alexander Marx](#) - Wednesday, April 17, 2019, 10:17 PM

In regards to Imperialism and American Exceptionalism, a lot has changed between the early 1900s and now. There have always been attempts to justify expansion of the economy and military, and the exhaustion of the frontier created a dilemma for those who have seen the nation constantly grow. Frederick Jackson Turner states it well in his essay regarding the frontier, inquiring on how the nation can continue to prosper with the completion of western expansion (Textbook p. 719). Turner talks about the idea of conquering wilderness which has contributed to the shaping of the nation and it's people. Regardless of criticizing the morality of considering land inhabited by indigenous peoples "wilderness", if this is how it was seen by Americans of that time then the impact of running out of land is well stated by Turner.

One hundred years later, the idea of American Exceptionalism seems to have changed quite a bit with the end of the frontier long behind us. More than ever it seems to provoke the thought of opinions to garner popularity as opposed to stemming from a necessity to expand the success of the nation. Former President Obama's response to being asked his opinion on the topic was a very politically correct response, and being in a foreign country I find it hard to blame him. It simply does not seem factual or appropriate to imply that the United States is simply better than another country in his position when it may be hard to find the facts to back it up. On the other hand, the response to Obama's answer by Herman Cain holds a view of America being the greatest nation on earth not from statistics but based on the values of the country's foundation and of the individual, while referencing the rights bestowed upon the people by God (The American Spectator). These contrasting views speak to me as being attempts to gain support from the appropriate side of the spectrum. Senator Ted Cruz in his talking point spent some time

discussing the American Dream, saying it has enabled millions of people all over the world to have the opportunity to come to America with nothing and achieve anything (10:25 Speakers on American Exceptionalism Video). This reminded me of a point referenced in class several times on America's stance on immigrants, with some saying we are open and welcoming to immigrants from all around the world. History has shown time and time again that not everyone is welcome by the people's standards, and these statements like the one made by Cruz seem to be more of a pandering to supporters, a "pat on the back" of sorts, to try to justify American being the greatest nation on Earth. There seems to be a stark contrast in the idea and purpose of American Exceptionalism today, as opposed to the early 20th century.

Sum of ratings:[3 \(1\)](#)

3

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



American exceptionalism poll
by [Dylan Boleyn](#) - Thursday, April 18, 2019, 9:41 PM

When comparing the student poll and the poll from Barna I see some similarities and some differences the first major similarity is that America is great because of the idea that all humans have the right of liberty and the pursuit of happiness. In other words, you can be who you want to be. I think what this shows is that many Americans don't feel as though they are somehow restricted which probably has something to do with the freedoms we are given. when continuing to compare the two surveys I found that the second biggest similarity was freedom of speech with both in the 20 percent range. this tells you that a lot of people feel that it is important that as people we can speak when we feel the need. there are also some differences between the two surveys not a lot of the students who participated in the poll felt america is great because of freedom of religion with only 8 percent choosing this response whereas on the banra survey there was 20 percent. I found this interesting as I feel as though freedom of religion is very important I feel that everyone should have a right to what they believe in. What this indicates to me though is a majority of collage students care more about free speach and less about religion because free speech can be more relevant when you are in college. Having your voice heard as a college student can be very impactful and having your voice heard is the one of the many impactful ways to make change. I think college students of today lean more in the direction of making change to our world. one result from the student survey that stood out to me was that fact that 15% of the people that responded did not know or where unsure if America is a great nation. initially to me this looks like a straight forward question America either is or isn't great. When thinking about it further it can be hard to decide since there a both good parts and bad parts of our nation I think to really answer this question you have to way out the good and bad although some people land in the middle and thats where you get your 15%. anyway thats all I have to sya about this poll for now feel free to comment on anything that you differ within any part of this post and thanks for reading what I have to say.

Sum of ratings:[2 \(1\)](#)

2

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



Trump & American Exceptionalism
by [Cameron Lindsey](#) - Thursday, April 18, 2019, 10:07 PM

It's a bit challenging for me to really care too much about/give any credit Trump's claims about America not being exceptional. Since the beginning of his political career (2016-present) his rhetoric has been based on convincing Americans that we aren't great and are being bullied by other nations, and with his vote he will be the hero to turn things around and save our country. So, of course he was going to say this. He wasn't going to coin "Make America Great Again" and then go on air and say that we're already great. This would have been contradictory to his entire campaign. In my eyes, this was a strategic answer and nothing else. Is anyone else buying that he's humble and doesn't want to insult inferior nations? Didn't he refer to countries in Africa as "shithole countries?" (<https://www.pbs.org/newshour/politics/trump-asks-why-u-s-would-want-to-admit-more-immigrants-from-shole-countries>) He said it, not me.

I have a hard time believing Trump actually thinks America is unexceptional, seeing that this is the country that has allowed him to make a fortune inheriting long-money and cheat taxes; become President while bragging about sexual assault, mocking disabled people, employing campaign chairmen who are all now going to jail, and hushing escorts; and to live a life without ever having to worry about things most of us do. Of course, this doesn't mean that he can't be genuinely concerned or displeased with the state of our union, debt situation, immigration policy etc., and I don't want to make this tooo much about my own political displeasure. I still have to get my shots in while I can ;)

My point is: nothing this guy does/has done is normal--and therefor I see no reason to be surprised that he has an irregular stance on AE. One thing he has done is changed the status quo, and the status quo up until this Presidency has always been to maintain that we are an exceptional country.

Sum of ratings:

1(1)

1

[Permalink](#)

|

[Show parent](#)

|

[Edit](#)

|

[Split](#)

|

[Delete](#)

|

[Reply](#)



Re: Trump & American Exceptionalism

by [Hanah Heurgue](#) - Saturday, April 20, 2019, 6:54 PM

Hi Cameron,

I am so glad someone finally said exactly what I was thinking, it goes to show how in the polls about what we are losing as a country was our freedom of speech, and the reason I didn't want to say anything about our president was because I was too afraid to speak up, I didn't want the terrible backlash that most trump supporters give back to people like me(all from my experience). The biggest thing I have always wondered about Trumps winning slogan of "Make America GREAT Again," is the GREAT part, when in the hell was America so great that you want to make it back to that. What does Trump want us to go back to to when America was great. <https://www.msnbc.com/the-beat-with-ari/watch/holder-to-trump-exactly-when-did-you-think-america-was-great-1466354755913> If you skip to the end of this video the man talks about how that phrase just doesn't even make sense, there was never a time we were "great" and Americas whole thing is being able to adapt to new things and make those things great.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uVQvWwHM5kM> This second video is just straight up funny and completely proves what I am talking about. These people at a trump rally are asked "when was America great" All of them have answers such as when America was founded or post world war 2 and then the people doing the interview mention the parts about you know slavery, and women not being able to vote. All of these things just prove that I don't think anyone really knows when America was great, not even Trump himself.

Finally, while others might not share the same opinion its still out there and people can not deny that trump was not a politician before all this and I'm still not sure he really is.

Thanks for sharing again!

Sum of ratings:

1(1)

1

[Permalink](#)

|

[Show parent](#)

|

[Edit](#)

|

[Split](#)

|

[Delete](#)

|

[Reply](#)



Re: Trump & American Exceptionalism

by [DAVID Welshman](#) - Saturday, April 20, 2019, 10:39 PM

so I just want to put my impute in for a second. The shit hole country part that you mentioned, have you ever once been to a third world country? I don't think you have. On the other hand I have, I've been to more then one. Now to understand what he means by a shit hole country. NO RUNNING WATER NO POWER NO BATHROOMS ETC. in the middle east the wipe there butts with there left hand, why because they don't have toilet paper. Most countries in Africa are the same way. How do I know this? well I have been there. What most American's don't understand is that "Trump" wants the United STATES to have pride again. everyone nowadays complains about everything. There used to be a time in our history when the people of this great nation thought highly of our self's that we could take on the world and no one would mess with us no matter what. As for all the other "facts" as you believe "sexually assault, hushing hookers, etc" Most of that was already proven not true. The stormy Danelle's incident was a total fake. The muller report has been released and everything that was accused of "trump" has been proven to be false, yet the dems still push and push and push. The question is "why"? I will tell you "why" I think they wont quit. Because they lost control. They lost all gip on everything they wanted. Now the dems have crazies running all over the place asking for stuff that isn't even possible. Think of ehat would happen if we don't have cars anymore, or everything is just free. If those things happen there would nothing be a united states of American. we would fall just like every other empire before us "ROME". While I was in Afganistan we were under Obama, there was a day when we got attacked and because of the rules that he had set for US troops, we had no support on our own and left there. Also under Obama military personal were paid less then the people that worked at Mcdonalds. So it comes down to this, people are not perfect, people make mistakes in there pasts, so why judge a man on his past instead of his actions of today? Look at all the good he has done with the unemployment and fixing the heath care system and the military. Even the bored, Why let people who havnt come in legaly have a job that me or you should have? Todays issues are not the same as the past nor will the futures issues be the same as the present. But I can say I am dam proud to be a American and to have served my country with honor and I would do it again in a heart beat. America is a "GREAT NATION".

Sum of ratings:

1(1)

1

[Permalink](#)

|

[Show parent](#)

|

[Edit](#)

|

[Split](#)

|

[Delete](#)

|

[Reply](#)

Time to move on



by [Gerardo Morales-Martinez](#) - Friday, April 19, 2019, 2:32 PM

Well, 100 years is a lot of time in which things can change. Ideas and values change as well. I do believe that our nation's leaders do still have some of the American Exceptionalism from a century ago. Although, it has changed over time in the proper ways. In the article by Herman Caine, the biase from his perspective is easy to tell. Having read this, one can infer that he obviously strongly disagrees with president Obama. But he’s not alone nowadays. I believe that our current leaders are fond of American Exceptionalism. Keep in mind, our current leaders, may be not back when president obama was president. Evan Sayet attacks Obama on the point that he lives here, so his answer must be yes to the question he was sked. Although I don’t disagree with what Evan said, there is some truth. I believe that every country believes in their Exceptionalism. Mexico might believe that, Canada might believe that, but why should we be the only country who has to rise above others. Maybe because of the era in which WW1 occurred, where we made it our duty to feed other countries and be there for the allies. Yes, that was a good thing because we now had entered into the global scale, but like I asked in class about a week ago, I think we’ve peaked as a nation. We are no longer the leading country in the world, we might have lost that a while ago.

Then President Obama’s answer was right and justified. Every country has the right to believe that they are the best, and they should. We must realize times have changed, ideologies and aspects of our country has changed. We must try to move on instead of trying to live the glory days of back then.

Sum of ratings:[1 \(1\)](#)

1

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



Re: Time to move on
by [Zach Edmiston](#) - Friday, April 19, 2019, 10:47 PM

I agree with this stance very much. I believe that there can be a healthy does of both sides of this argument. America can be great, and the idea of American Exceptionalism can still hold strong, as Murray said, we are an exceptional country with exceptional aspects, but I believe that the core concept is based on patriotism, which I think every country has more than a right to say about their own respective countries. We all love the country that we live in and were born inn, and while i'm not huge fan of Obama or his policies, I think he made a decent point with his response, stating that every countries people likely view themselves as exceptional.

Sum of ratings:[0 \(1\)](#)

0

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



Re: Time to move on
by [Gregory McGinnis](#) - Saturday, April 20, 2019, 7:46 PM

Hello Gerardo

A couple thoughts, as with anything, everyone has their thoughts of whats right and wrong, allowed or not allowed. With that being said, the United States of America is currently the strongest nation on the planet, and is therefore held to a certain global standard because, well frankly it has it's hands in the global cookie jar, that cookie jar being almost every other nation on the planet in some way or another, due to treaties, corporations, agreements, secret agencies sending people around to secure what the U.S. deems important or the like. I suppose my point is, to be held to that standard, it kind of comes with the territory of the actions that take place with said state(s). The difference in this case is America tends to be in the spot light far more due to its significant influence around the world. It would make no difference, if China, Iran, Cambodia, or Peru for that matter was the big bully of the world. Now i'm using that as a metaphor because I could go on and on, but the proverbial hold their feet to the fire for their actions speech would be relatively the same in the current state of affairs which we live.

American Exceptionalism, I agree with you that every country/state believes in its own and should. If it didn't it would simply lose its "mojo" for lack of a better word, its society would slowly degrade and thus most likely end up as a stateless nation with little "pull" in the global stage. I found an article which the writer David Bromwich on <https://www.thenation.com/article/its-time-rethink-american-exceptionalism/> writes about being exceptional, or making exceptions for yourself. He makes the argument, that someone who has "gone off the rails" thinks the rules don't apply to him, and that he is a danger to others and perhaps to himself. People who act on such a belief don't as a rule examine themselves deeply or write a history of them self to justify their understanding that they are unique. He states very little effort is involved in their willfulness. Finally, he says such exceptionalism, indeed comes from an excess of will unaccompanied by awareness of the necessity for self-restraint.

I say that, to say this: a state is run by the people of that state and the inner-workings that the people of that state develop with the other states. Pile that in with the fact that people are by nature greedy, by greedy I mean, MOST people in this hypothetical situation I will lend, would take as much food as they could if they were starving, to get back to feeling full and content. So it is therefore that states with the biggest economies and militaries would eventually push their (policies/rules/agreements etc..) will upon the less fortunate states that would have to agree to their terms, or eventually perish. Anyway, in a nut shell basically i'm saying it's a dog eat dog world, and the most powerful/hungry dog usually wins what they want, just like an alpha male in a tribe. The question is,what happens when their is more than one alpha male sharing the same meal?

Note: i'm not saying everyone is that way in the hypothetical situation, but a rather large amount of people globally I would suggest would revert back to their "human instincts" and fend for themselves.

Sum of ratings:[2 \(1\)](#)

2

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



class survey analysis
by [Jack Swisher](#) - Friday, April 19, 2019, 9:18 PM

The class results from the first forum are pretty similar with the barna.com survey. I consider, the opportunity to become what you want to be and the god given right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness to be the same. Those two choices were at the the top of both polls, coming in at 30 percent of the vote in our class, and 24 percent of the vote in the barna.com survey. Religious liberty came in second in our class poll with 16 percent of the vote, and freedom of liberty for the opposing poll was tied for third at 20 percent of the poll. This is surprising to me in a way, because according to a pastor of a church that I attended, "Lane county is the least religious county in the country." Not all students in this class are going to be from Lane county though, including myself, but I feel as if a good percentage of students at this college are from this area. The third place finisher in our poll was, the ethic of self government and personal responsibility. This was not surprising where this topic landed in terms of percentage of votes because 36 percent of the vote on political affiliation was liberal, and 37 percent was conservative. The biggest one that stood out to me was the percentage of votes received on the topic of miliary. The class poll came out at 11% of the total vote on our record of defending freedom, while the Barna poll had a 9 percent vote on military strength. I disagree with these results on this topic, I personally believe that topic should be a number one, or number two in percentage of voting. That bias could be because I am conservative, but even right before the turn of the 20th century, people were pushing for a more powerful military by assembling a Navy that was ranked 3rd in the world by 1900. (page 720 chapter 22) Finally, the question "do you agree that America is a great nation?" The final total was 75 percent of the class saying they thought that America is a great nation. This was similar to the democratic view, as well as Americans as a whole in the article president patriotism. "Democrats on the patriotic meter: 67 percent said they were proud, along with 73 percent of independents. Among all Americans, the number was 75 percent." I think this result is from the mix of political views that the class has, there is no one side that stands out from percentage of the votes.

Sum of ratings:[2 \(1\)](#)

2

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



The Past, Present and Future of American Exceptionalism
by [Zach Edmiston](#) - Friday, April 19, 2019, 10:33 PM

After reading both the article and watching the 11 minute clip, I think it brings an interesting dichotomy to the idea of American Exceptionalism both in the past and today. I believe that in general, the idea of American Exceptionalism has taken on a very different tone than it used to, while still retaining its essential core. Back in the 1900's, the idea with Roosevelt seemed to center along the racial line, and that the anglo-saxon race was the superior one, and that idea in and of itself was enough to warrant America in making whatever decisions that it see fit in the foreign landscape. "Roosevelt worked tirelessly to vault the country into the ranks of the world's great powers. He believed that Americans were a racially superior people destined for supremacy in economic and political affairs." (Textbook page 734) I don't believe that that viewpoint exists to this day in any capacity, no public official (let alone a president) who wants to keep their job has any business bringing the idea of superior races into the mix, we fight political battles in different ways in this generation, mostly in a war of ideals and ideas.

Wilson viewed things differently, butt ultimately came to a similar conclusion. He didn't seem to center around the idea of race quite as much, however, he did seem to lift the idea of democracy above that of other governmental systems. "Woodrow Wilson, who became president shortly after Madero's assassination in 1913, refused to recognize Huerta's "government of butchers" and demanded that Mexico hold democratic elections." (textbook

page 742) Wilson still stood behind the idea of American Exceptionalism, and that a government should be forced to instill democracy; which, would therefore insinuate the idea of democracy above all. I am definitely not arguing against democracy being the superior governmental system, but it shows that our presidents were willing to go to great lengths to put our forms of government and other systems on peoples of different countries, under the assumption that America was special, and therefore worthy to instill its morals and customs on others.

I believe that while the concept certainly exists still to this day, the connotation of the phrase has been shifted somewhat. The speaker that I relate to the most in the forum clip was certainly Charles Murray, as I believe in many of the points that he brought up. The idea that America is a country with exceptional qualities, we have somewhat diverged from the original concepts that are associated with the term, one major factor being a very limited government. I do not believe that American Exceptionalism is limited to simply one or two factors, and that is why I believe that America is still an Exceptional country, retaining many of our former greatness from the times of the 1900's. However to deny that we have regressed in some ways is simply silly, and that is why I think that slogans such as MAGA during the Trump campaign made such an impact, and ultimately why I think Clinton fell somewhat short in drawing out the patriotism of the people. Trump nor Clinton or Sanders believed in a lack of American Exceptionalism, however I think what gave Trump a huge advantage was his constant reinforcement of patriotism, claiming that while America is still a great country (similar to Murray's stance), we do have aspects of exceptional nature that we have striven from; and I believe that drew the love of patriots all around, and was, and will continue to be in the future, a huge influence on the future, and the American people's view of American Exceptionalism.

Sum of ratings:[3 \(1\)](#)

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



American Exceptionalism part 2
by [Gregory Graff](#) - Saturday, April 20, 2019, 7:56 PM

In my opinion you can't answer the question of whether America is Exceptional or not with just a simple yes or no. No different than being able to say I am fully liberal or fully conservative. It depends on the topic. I honestly hate the fact that people feel they need to choose a side and believe in everything that side believes in. Both sides believe the other is ignorant of knowing something they do.

Sum of ratings:[0 \(1\)](#)

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



What Makes America Great
by [Alexander Marx](#) - Saturday, April 20, 2019, 8:38 PM

The class poll and the poll from barna.com relate pretty closely. When it comes to what makes America great, I believe the most consistent answer has always been the one on the top of both polls, no matter how it is phrased: The opportunity to become who you want to be. Other popular answers emphasize the constitution and it's limiting of government, which in turn conveys the idea of self-government and personal responsibility. I found it very difficult to pick two answers due to them all being integral parts of our country and how they all contribute to America being great. Nothing stood out to me as a a huge contrast between our class poll and the one from barna.com. While the constitution ranked second with 21% in the barna.com poll and only 7% in ours, it is made up for in our poll by the qualities of self-government and personal responsibility, which to me strongly convey the purpose of our constitution.

There are a couple of qualities that stand out to me where I question the true meaning of those who chose them. For example, I believe there can be a double standard associated with freedom of speech and freedom of religion. As a non-religious citizen, I believe in the freedom of all religions that encourage positivity and the well being of oneself and society, be it Christianity, Islam, Judaism etc. Like all religions, to me the most important aspect is what you take from it and how you apply it to your life. As history has shown in the persecution of Catholic immigrants as discussed in class regarding American nativism, and with today's negative view of Muslims that is held by some, I can't help but think there are people highly devoted to their religion who would claim to support the freedom of religion but in actuality would wish to suppress other religions in their country. This also ties in with the value of freedom of speech, where some claim to support it but wish to shut down others who would speak against them in one way or another.

Sum of ratings:[2 \(1\)](#)

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

most conservatives love America.



by [Jack Swisher](#) - Saturday, April 20, 2019, 9:17 PM

I think that someone’s political identification makes a huge impact on their acceptance/rejection of exceptionalism. Besides Donald Trump stating that he is not in favor of America being exceptional, I think we can all agree that conservatives will say that they think America is exceptional over most liberals. It is true in the article from the Washington Times. “It is a happy finding for the GOP: A new Gallup poll reveals that 92 percent of Republicans are “extremely” or “very” proud to be an American. Things are not so fervent among Democrats on the patriotic meter: 67 percent said they were proud, along with 73 percent of independents. Among all Americans, the number was 75 percent. “The percentage of Democrats saying they are proud is the lowest Gallup has measured to date, falling below the previous low of 74 percent recorded in January 2007.” Liberals push for change, and a bigger government, while conservatives are more patriotic and are okay with how things have always been. America to me was exceptional at the turn of the 20th century, now I am not sure if that is the case. America was expanding their foreign economy, building a strong navy, as well as being very patriotic. During world war one, there are countless examples of the citizens believing that America is exceptional. Through war bonds, organizing industry and securing labor. Jobs were through the roof at this time, so that brought a sense of pride to the Americans, “Unemployment, which had hovered around 8.5 percent in 1915, plunged to 1.2 percent in 1918.”

Sum of ratings:[2 \(1\)](#)

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

◀ [Censorship & Morality](#)

[American Exceptionalism](#) ▶

◀ [Chapter 23 Quiz](#)

Jump to...

[CLICK HERE for Forum 1 Materials & Questions](#) ▶

Moodle Docs for this page

You are logged in as Joe Escobar (Log out)
HST 203 Sp19 (Escobar Meta 44706 47037)
[Get the mobile app](#)