



ANGLOPHONE COUNTRIES: CIVILIZATIONS AND CULTURES

Week 2

Dr. Thomas Mantzaris



Outline of today's session

- The US context: Turning points in American history
- Ideological foundations: Myths and promises
- From the American Dream to the Great Depression

The American Revolution

April 19, 1775 – September 3, 1783:
American Revolutionary War

July 4, 1776: Declaration of Independence

1844-1877: Westward Expansion

1869: Transcontinental Railroad

May 28, 1830: Indian Removal Act (or, “The Trail of Tears”)

The American Civil War (April 12, 1861 – May 9, 1865)



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THIRTEEN COLONIES

The Westward expansion

- The Gold rush and California
- Economic opportunity
- Railroad expansion
- Manifest Destiny



The Founding Fathers

- George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, Alexander Hamilton, John Jay and James Madison

A quill pen is positioned horizontally across the top of the image, resting on a parchment document. The parchment is aged and yellowed, with some text visible, including 'CONGRESS, JULY 4, 1776' and 'States of America'. A semi-transparent dark box with a white L-shaped corner is overlaid on the left side of the parchment, containing the title and a quote.

The Declaration of Independence

“We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness”



The Statue of Liberty

Give me your tired, your poor,
Your huddled masses yearning to
breathe free,

The wretched refuse of your
teeming shore.

Send these, the homeless,
tempest-tossed to me,

I lift my lamp beside the golden
door!



E pluribus unum

- “Out of many, one”
- Symbolism
- Thirteen letters

The American Dream

- “From rags to riches”
- Upward mobility
- Hard work and the promise of success
- Opportunity
- “city upon a hill”

The American Dream in popular culture: *House of Cards*



The Newsroom (opening scene)





*THE PURSUIT OF HAPPYNESS (2006)
REVOLUTIONARY ROAD (2008) AND THE
GREAT GATSBY (2012)*



WALL STREET CRASH OF 1929 (BLACK TUESDAY, OCTOBER 29)





Task

- Think of an example of popular culture where one (or more) of the concepts we have discussed in today's session are echoed.
- Share your idea in class next week!