

**THE
AMERICAN
DREAM**



The **American Dream** is a national ethos of the United States, a set of ideals in which freedom includes the opportunity for prosperity and success, and an upward social mobility for the family and children, achieved through hard work in a society with few barriers.

Life should be better and richer and fuller for everyone, with opportunity for each according to ability or achievement regardless of social class or circumstances of birth.

- James Truslow Adams, 1931

The Evolution of the American Dream

Direct Economy (Now)

Work Creatively and Network Honestly

Bureaucratic Economy (1900s)

Work Hard and Play by Rules

Agricultural Economy

Work Hard and Deal Honestly



Conditions



in time of oppression and exploitation when the people imagined, demanded and needed another form of social organization

when economic instability leads to poverty and unemployment

American dream helps the people remaining **in hopeful expectation of better times** instead of giving up on themselves leading a life full of worries and desperation.

American Dream in Literature

- Mark Twain *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* (1884)
- F. Scott Fitzgerald *The Great Gatsby* (1925)
- Theodore Dreiser *An American Tragedy* (1925)
- Toni Morrison *Song of Solomon* (1977)