

AMERICA: EXCEPTIONAL or EVIL?

“ORIGINS”

“unique”, different	“arrogant”
beginning of the “new” world	our “greatness” the “fruit of evil”
a “refuge” from world’s oppression	<i>we</i> are the oppressors – “enemy”
founded on “noble” principles	self-righteous pride, hubris
being “different” made it successful	“different” leading to pride/arrogance,
Founders self-less, political geniuses	Founders elitist exploiters, oppressors
“City on a Hill” - role models for world	stereotypical “ugly, stupid American”
individual Life, liberty, pursuit of happiness	needed, collective social justice
The American Dream	the World’s “Nightmare”
egalitarian, individualistic “content of character”	elitist, arrogant, narcissism

POLITICS

experiment in <i>self-government</i>	imperial domination violating foreign sovereignty
ending feudal tyranny around world	<i>hypocritical</i> tyranny, victim-izing the world
God-centered; religious freedom	<i>betrayal</i> of “promise” - “sold soul to the devil”
“divine-ly” inspired, inalienable rights	human-centered economic interests

SOCIETY

Constitutional “civil” rights	racial-social segregation and institutional bigotry
government of “laws”, not men	“property is 9/10 of the law” (i.e. justice)
All people created equal	“income inequality the biggest issue of our time”
tolerance (fueled by individualism)	our “collective sins”- racism, sexism, capitalism
“E Pluribus Unum” - out of many, one	xenophobia, homophobia
pluralism (freedom of <i>choice</i>)	need for “political correctness” (<i>conformity</i>)

RACE

race-less – color-blind ideals	Ameri-KKKa - racist, even “genocidal” history
world’s most color-blind society	institutionally racist (e.g. “white privilege”)
slavery, racism not uniquely American	founded with, perpetuated slavery
abolitionist movement <i>led</i> by U.S./British	“King” cotton – slave economy
unique- fought Civil War to <i>end</i> slavery	segregation continues after war (1865-1963)
slavery <i>still</i> exists in Africa, around world	slavery a continuing American legacy

CULTURE

immigrant friendly, accepting world’s “rejects”	xenophobic (fear of “outsider”)
cultural “melting pot”	cultural “arrogance”, false superiority
”white man’s burden” and “blessings”:	the “burden”, hypocrisy of exceptionalism
wealth, democracy, technology, medicine	made world “slaves of the machine”
law, education	“white man’s greed created a world in need”

ECONOMICS

equality of *opportunity* (rags to riches) *inequalities* of wealth; oppression of 1%
private enterprise enriched untold millions *crony capitalism* enriched robber barons
industrial revolution – economic *miracle* industrialized economic *exploitation*
raw materials, material progress & *development* environmental *degradation*
unprecedented wealth creation for untold millions “*gluttons*” for world’s resources
world’s poor find *promised land* to middle class exploits poor; *perpetuates* poverty
our “poor” are “rich” in most of the world “rich man’s war, poor man’s fight”
industrialization fed immigration sweatshops feed our *consumerism, consumption*
a *golden* age of economic expansion a *gilded* age – gold on outside, *ugly* on inside
escape from “Old World” of feudal tyranny “*One World Order*” globalized tyranny

WEALTH

scapegoated by global jealousy, envy, hate bringers of pain, death, destruction
when U.S. prospers, the world prospers we are not “center of the universe”
 “A high tide raises all boats” corporate greed – military-industrial complex
 most *generous* nation on earth *greediest* nation on earth
billions in “foreign aid”; disaster relief foreign “aid” to dictators, elites

FOREIGN RELATIONS

we do not start, we “finish” wars unilateral intervention but never “finish the job”
peace-seeking, leader of “free nations” wars for oil, *military-industrial complex*
world’s “*policeman*-protector” “war-mongering” *cowboys* – reckless and violent
self-less fighting tyranny around world gunboat-dollar diplomacy – *selfish* interests
U.S. military – “a force for good” militarism – a force for evil
moral diplomacy -“Save the world for democracy” “Bush lied, people died.”
 reluctant, selfless global liberators *willing, selfish imperial conquerors*
isolationist, anti-“empire” *interventionist*, “meddling”, world domination
ending WW I – “Save world for democracy” U.S. industry profit\$ from war
WW II stops Nazi-Japanese fascism U.S. corporations help subsidize Hitler
becomes world “*superpower*” militaristic threat of *nuclear holocaust*
Cold War leader preventing spread support anti-communist dictators around world
freedom from communist tyranny CIA overthrows of *popular*-elected leaders

CONCLUSIONS

a *strong* America makes world *better* a *weak-er* America makes world *better*
a *weak* America makes world *worse* “leading from behind”; the *burden* of power
making *best* of a *bad* world accepting “superpower” is “pact with the devil”
by doing nothing or “appeasing” evil, exceptionalism brings *exceptional problems*
 leads to *more* evil we *perpetuate* evil – stop it

Lincoln - the world’s *last, best hope*” *transformation* – “Change we can believe in”
needed “*restoration/reconstruction*” needed “*de-construction*” of flawed founding
of original ideals, values & past success stop violating our founding principles

FINALLY ...

REALIZE, accept our “EXCEPTION-ALITY”? **or** *RECOGNIZE*, reject our “EVIL”?

