



Into The American Century

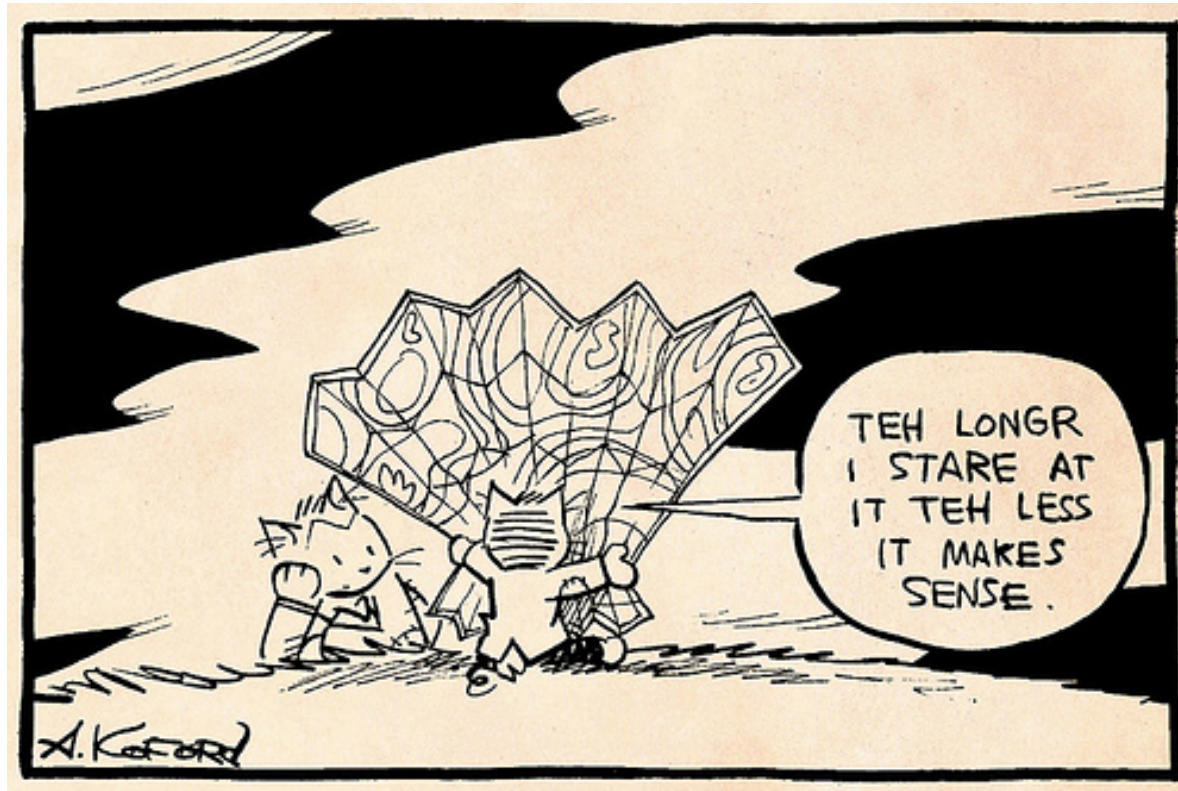
On our way to the American Dream

Class schedule

| Class | Theme |
|-------|--|
| | Introduction |
| 3/22 | The <u>Adverts 250 Project</u> with Assumption students and Professor Carl Keyes |
| 4/5 | Becoming American |
| 4/12 | Immigration in the 19 th Century, with Professor Brendan O'Malley |
| 4/19 | Into The American century |
| 4/26 | Worcester is America |

Readings

| Class | Topics | Primary Readings |
|---|---------------------------|---|
| 1 | Introduction | Professor Carl Keyes and his Assumption students will discuss the Adverts 250 Project . |
| 2 | Becoming America | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Letters from an American Farmer, Letter 3 - What is an American? Complete text in various forms or Letter 3 only by J. Hector St. John Crevecoeur Democracy in America, Volume 1, Chapter IV: The Principle Of The Sovereignty Of The People In America, Alexis de Tocqueville |
| 3 | Where did my America go? | Immigration in America with Professor Brendan O'Malley |
| 4 | Into The American Century | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Second Inaugural Address, Abraham Lincoln Frederick Jackson Turner. "The Significance of The Frontier in American History" The Souls of Black Folks, W.E.B. DuBois (Chapter 2, "Of the Dawn of Freedom") |
| 5 | Worcester is America | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It's Complicated -- the social lives of networked teens, danah boyd |
| We'll add some additional readings for class 5. | | |



Questions?



Did the Census Bureau reveal information about Japanese-Americans in World War II?

<https://www.snopes.com/fact-check/census-bureau-japanese-americans/>



It's personal

The Historians Versus the Genealogists

Both read the same Bible and pray to the same God, and each invokes His aid against the other. It may seem strange that any men should dare to ask a just God's assistance in wringing their bread from the sweat of other men's faces, but let us judge not, that we be not judged. The prayers of both could not be answered.

Abraham Lincoln
Second Inaugural Address

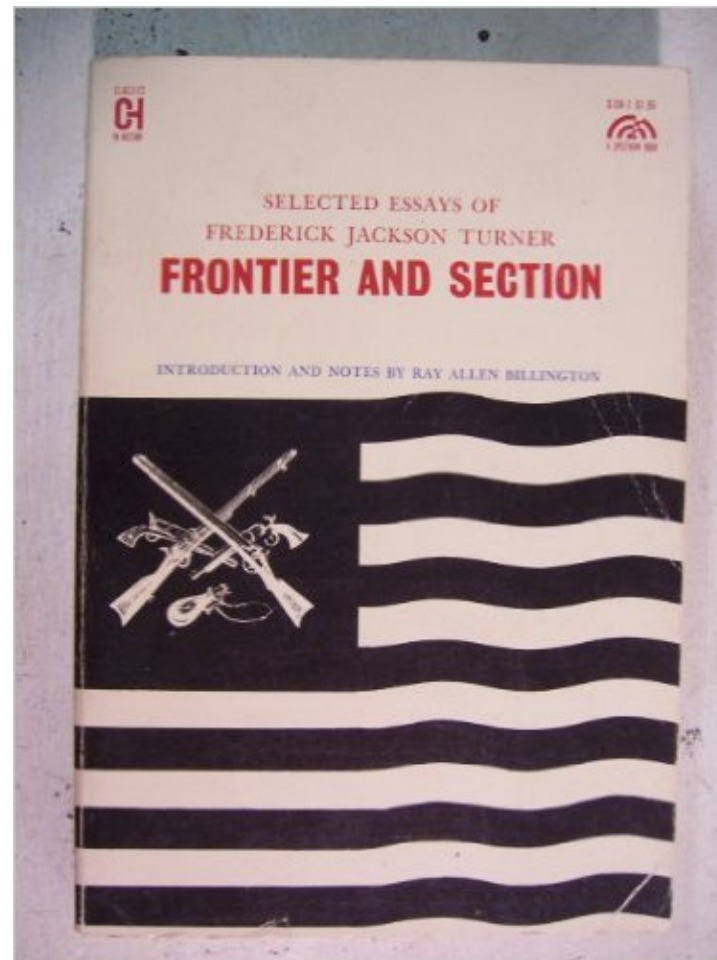
With malice toward none, with charity for all, with firmness in the right as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in, to bind up the nation's wounds, to care for him who shall have borne the battle and for his widow and his orphan, to do all which may achieve and cherish a just and lasting peace among ourselves and with all nations.

*Lincoln
Second Inaugural Address*

The frontier will drive us crazy

By living in or near the woods, their actions are regulated by the wildness of the neighbourhood. ...This surrounding hostility immediately puts the gun into their hands; ...and thus by defending their property, ... a hunter wants no neighbour, he rather hates them, because he dreads the competition.

-- Crèvecoeur



Frontier and Section

The significance of the frontier and section in
American history

We are more like Europe, and our sections are becoming more and more the American version of the European nation.

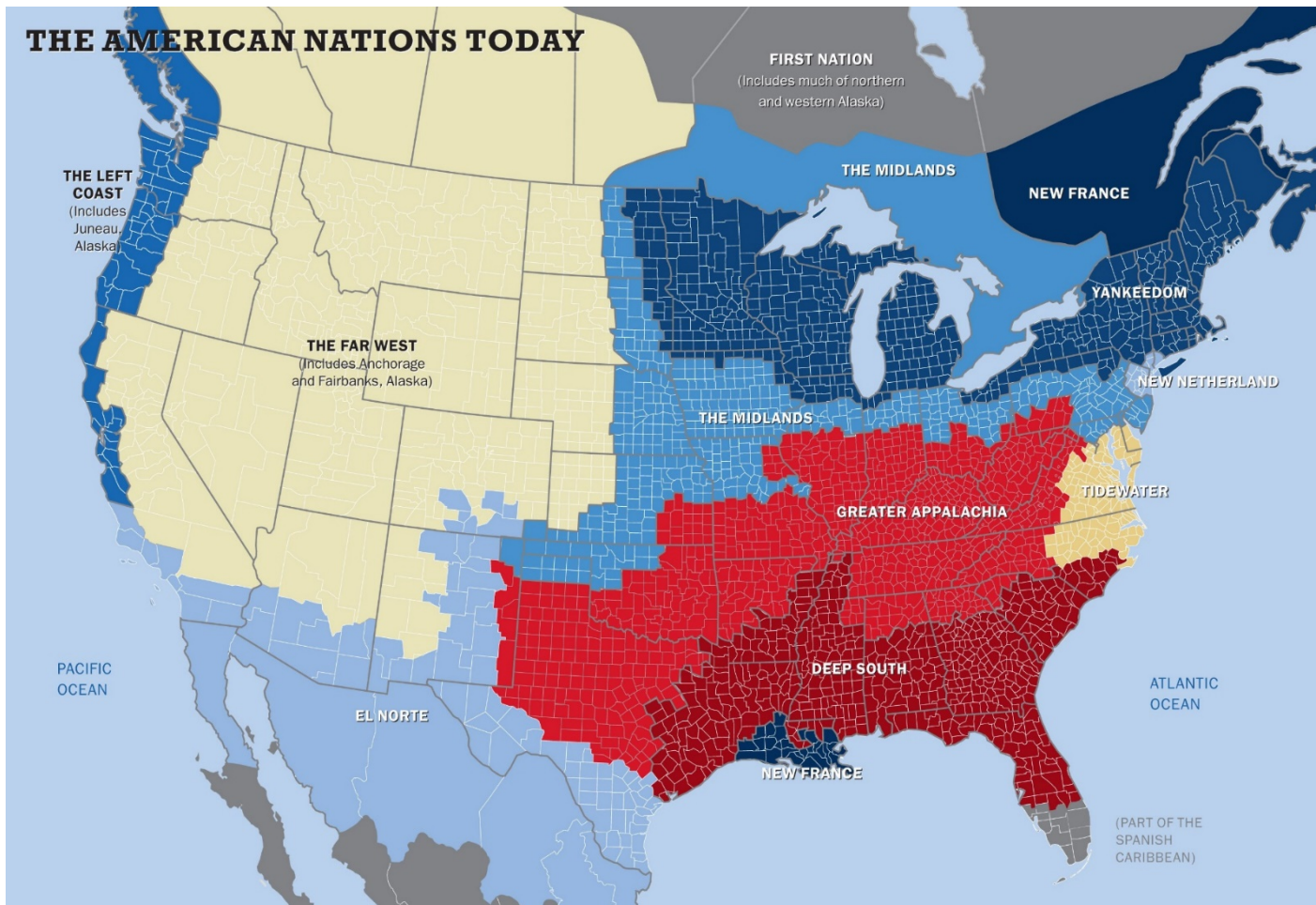
F.J. Turner
"The Significance of the Section in American History"

Thus American development has exhibited not merely advance along a single line, but a **return to primitive conditions** on a continually advancing frontier line, and a new development for that area.

The Significance of the Frontier
Frederick Jackson Turner

The competition of the unexhausted, cheap, and easily tilled prairie lands compelled the farmer either to go west and continue the exhaustion of the soil on a new frontier, or to adopt intensive culture.

F.J. Turner



One nation, more or less

American Nations: A History of the Eleven Rival Regional Cultures of North America -- Colin Woodard (Summary on Business Insider)

See also The Nine Nations Of North America (PDF) by Joel Garreau

| | N | Inter-County Migrants | Interstate Migrants |
|---------------------------|-------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| Age 20-29 in initial year | | | |
| 1850-60 (Ferrie sample) | 1,158 | 49.5% | 26.2% |
| 1860-70 (Ferrie sample) | 466 | 38.2 | 17.8 |
| 1870-80 (Ferrie sample) | 3,602 | 54.7 | 30.1 |
| 1971-81 (NLS Young Men) | 1,866 | 41.7 | 21.5 |
| Age 45-59 in initial year | | | |
| 1850-60 (Ferrie sample) | 529 | 21.2 | 10.6 |
| 1860-70 (Ferrie sample) | 347 | 20.5 | 8.4 |
| 1870-80 (Ferrie sample) | 2,124 | 34.5 | 21.5 |
| 1966-76 (NLS Mature Men) | 3,503 | 16.0 | 8.1 |

Table 2. Geographic Mobility (White, Native-Born Males Age 20-29 and 45-59 in Initial Year).

Where is home?

Moving within counties and to others states in the late 19th century



“...the problem of the Twentieth Century is the problem of the color line.”



A Great and Difficult Progressive: W.E.B. Du Bois of Massachusetts

For this much all men know: despite compromise, war, and struggle, the Negro is not free. In the backwoods of the Gulf States, for miles and miles, he may not leave the plantation of his birth; in well-nigh the whole rural South the black farmers are peons, bound by law and custom to an economic slavery, from which the only escape is death or the penitentiary

W.E.B. DuBois
Of the Dawn of Freedom

One ever feels his twoness,—an American, a Negro; two souls, two thoughts, two unreconciled strivings; two warring ideals in one dark body, whose dogged strength alone keeps it from being torn asunder.

W.E.B. DuBois
The Souls of Black Folk

[O]ne will see that between these two worlds, despite much physical contact and daily intermingling, there is almost no community of intellectual life or point of transference where the thoughts and feelings of one race can come into direct contact and sympathy with the thoughts and feelings of the other

W.E.B DuBois

America at home at the start of the 20th century

White



Black



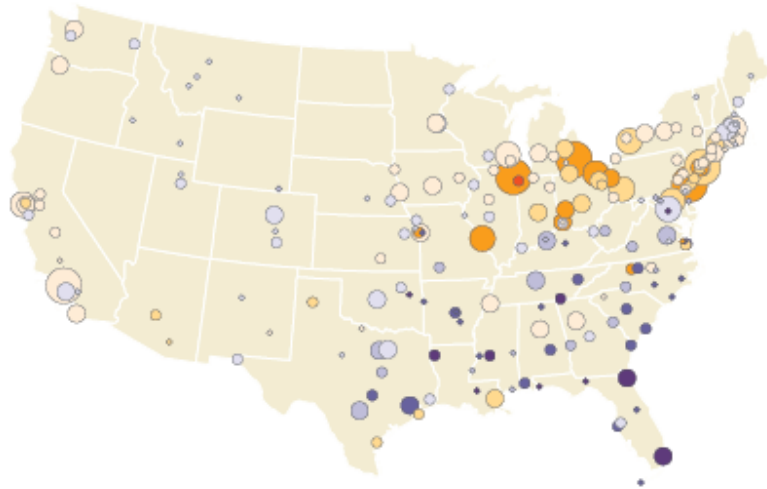
New Englander, whether boy or man, in his long struggle with a stingy or hostile universe, had learned also to love the pleasure of hating; his joys were few.

Education of Henry Adams

The new American, like the new European, was the servant of the powerhouse, as the European of the twelfth century was the servant of the Church, and the features would follow the parentage.

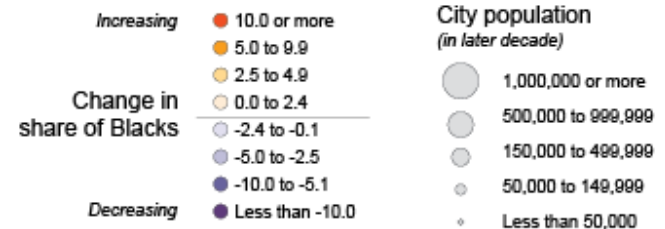
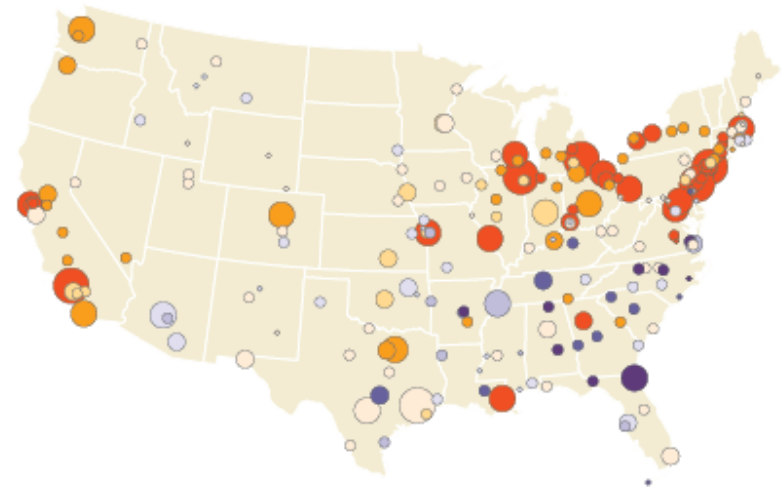
Education of Henry Adams

The First Great Migration: 1910-1940



The change in share of Blacks in cities is based on the percentage point difference in the percent of population that was Black in the later time period compared to the earlier. For example, 18.3 percent of the population in Gary, IN was Black in 1940 but was just 2.3 in 1910, which represented a 16.0 percentage-point change in the share of Blacks in the city. It was the largest change in share during the First Great Migration. By the end of the Second Great Migration, Newark, NJ had realized the largest increase in Black population share, with the Black proportion of the city rising from 10.6 in 1940 to 54.2 in 1970.

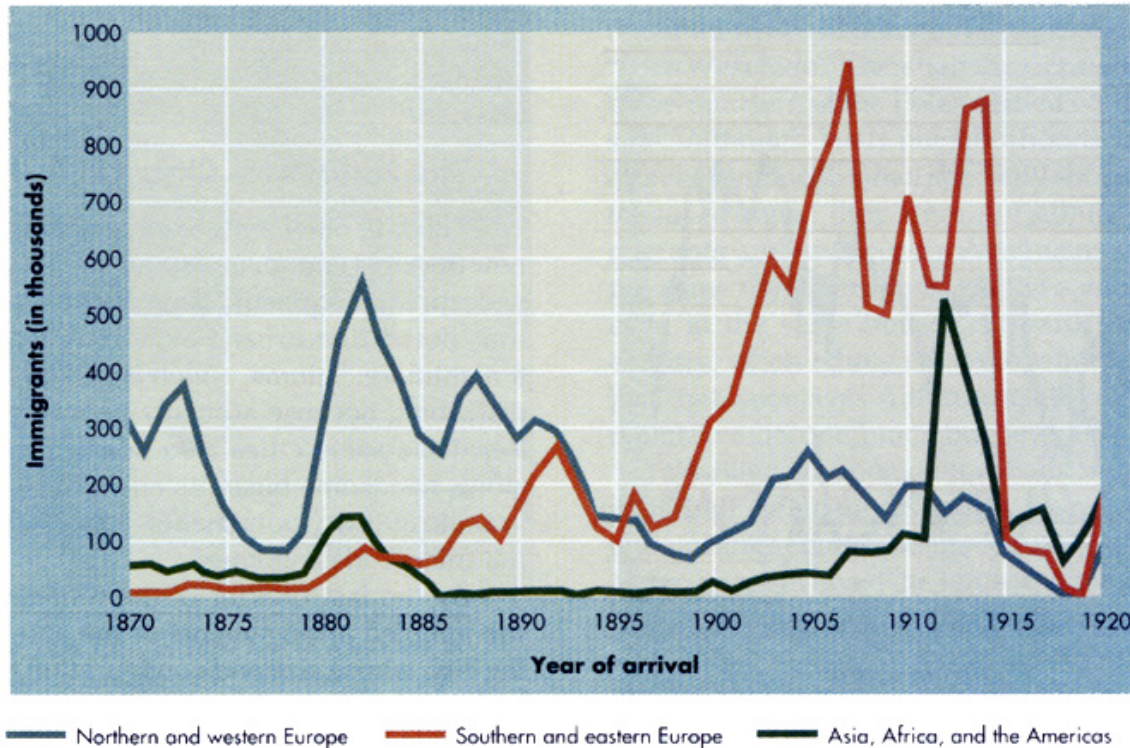
The Second Great Migration: 1940-1970



The Great Migration

As immigration slowed, the Great Migration begins

Immigration to the United States, 1870-1920



Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census.

The era of the immigrant

"Give me your tired, your poor, Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free" except for "idiots, imbeciles, epileptics, alcoholics, poor, criminals, beggars, any person suffering attacks of insanity, those with tuberculosis, and those who have any form of dangerous contagious disease, aliens who have a physical disability"





The expansion of the franchise

From the beginning of that long westward march of the American people America has never been the home of mere contented materialism. It has continuously sought new ways and dreamed of a perfected social type

Frederick Jackson Turner

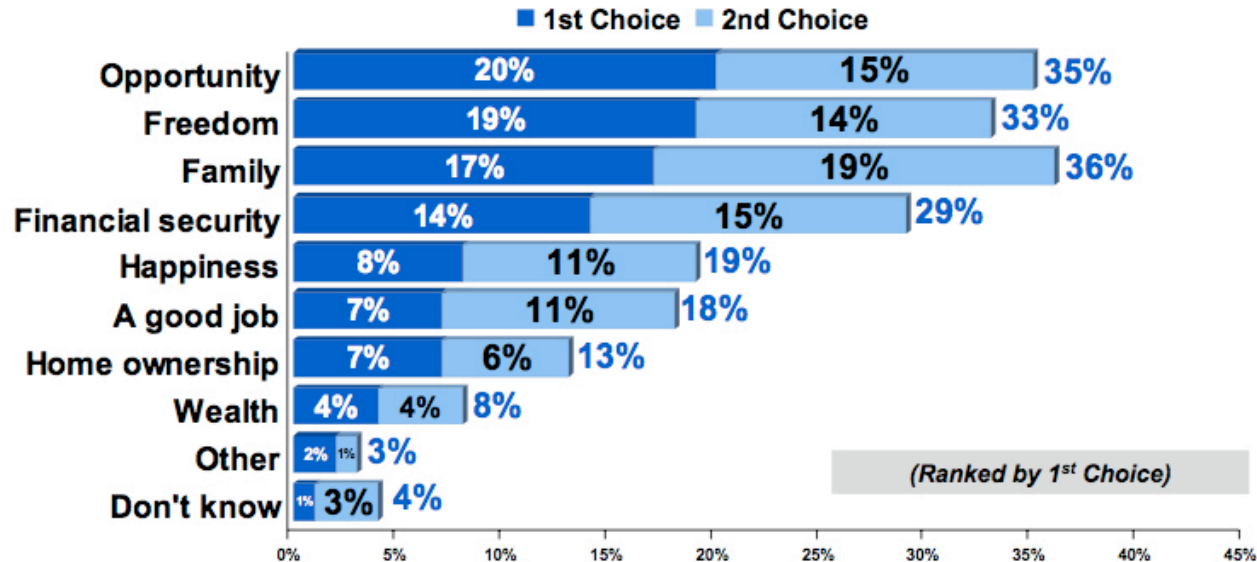
"The American Dream is that dream of a land in which life should be better and richer and fuller for everyone, with opportunity for each according to ability or achievement. ... It is not a dream of motor cars and high wages merely, but a dream of social order in which each man and each woman shall be able to attain to the fullest stature of which they are innately capable, and be recognized by others for what they are, regardless of the fortuitous circumstances of birth or position."

–James Truslow Adams

The Epic of America, 1931

Americans most commonly define the American Dream in terms of opportunity, freedom and family.

When you think of the American Dream personally, which of the following words comes first to mind—not in terms of what anyone else believes the Dream is, but what you think it is?



The American Dream

American Dream in Decline?

My brain hurts!



Questions?