
Title: The Global Influence and Impact of the American Dream



Robert Hauhart

(Guest Editor)

Professor, Department of Society and Social Justice
Saint Martin's University
5000 Abbey Way, SE
Lacey, WA 98503, USA
E-mail: rhauhart@stmartin.edu

Proposal

The iconic phrase "the American Dream" is universally recognized around the world although its meaning and effects are debated. First used in print in 1931 in James Truslow Adam's *"The Epic of America"*, the phrase has been analyzed, and often adopted, by sociologists, economists, historians, politicians, rhetoricians, journalists, advertisers, and others in ensuing years. Nevertheless, even today, its meaning is variously defined and its effects are reported alternately as either broadly beneficial or principally pernicious or illusory. Moreover, like many concepts, ideas and trends, the American Dream has been exported to and diffused to countries and cultures across the globe.

What, precisely then, is the extent of the influence and impact of the American Dream in the 21st century as a result of globalization? Have social norms, technological innovations, economic relations, and financial practices developed in the United States been adopted by other countries and cultures as part and parcel of these nations' pursuit of the American Dream? What global impacts has the American Dream created? What specific trends, crises, or movements has the American Dream inspired throughout the world and what effect have these trends, crises, or movements produced? Does the American Dream lend itself to supporting, or imperiling, social and economic sustainability? Will the ideas that constitute the American Dream remain vital in the remainder of the 21st century?

This special issue welcomes all the articles that address any or all of these questions from around the world increasing the understanding of current social circumstances globally.
