



## The Origin, Development and Significance of the American Dream:

### A Reconsideration of F. Scott Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby*

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#### Abstract

This research paper is a critical investigation of the American dream as to its origin, development and significance, with particular reference to F. Scott Fitzgerald's novel *The Great Gatsby*. What prompts this study is the fact that when considering the representations of the American dream most literary media focus on its limited definition which implies every American, be whatever his/her identity may, can be very rich so as he/she will be able to achieve their objectives which seem to be impossible to be brought about without fulfilling it. This materialistic point of view has taken the dream far away from its idealistic roots and moral implications set by the *Utopia* of the philosopher Plato and the English thinker Thomas More, which proposes the possibility of creating an ideal country without evil elements—a country in which justice with all its manifestations prevails. It is an objective alluded to by dramatists and thinkers of the Renaissance such as William Shakespeare who has unfolded it in the voice of Gonzalo in his last romance, *The Tempest*. Therefore, this study is mainly concerned with the historical and critical background of the American dream, with particular reference to *The Great Gatsby* in so far as the latter has gone deep in exploring its definition and validity.

#### المستخلص

يعد البحث إستقراء نقدياً للحلم الأميركي من حيث أصوله وتطوره وأهميته مع إشارة محددة لرواية (غاتسبي العظيم) للكاتب ف. سكوت فيتزجيرالد. ومما حفز الاقدام على هذه الدراسة أن معظم الاوساط الادبية عند تطرقها للحلم الأميركي تركز على وصف محدود له، لأنه يتضمن حلم اي فرد امريكي، مهما كانت هويته، يمكنه ان يصبح غنيا جدا كي يكون قادرا على تحقيق اهدافه التي تبدو مستحيلة دون تحقيق ذلك. أن هذه النظرة المادية للحلم قد جرفت الحلم بعيدا عن جنوره ومضامينه المثالية والاخلاقية التي وضعت في الكتاب الموسوم (المدينة الفاضلة) للفيلسوف افلاطون وكذلك كتاب (يوتوبيا) *Utopia* للمفكر الانكليزي توماس مور الذي اعتمد افكار افلاطون في هذا المجال، والذي يفترض إمكانية تأسيس دولة مثالية خالية من

عناصر الشر بحيث تكون دولة يسودها العدل بجميع أشكاله، وهو الهدف الذي أشار إليه الكتاب المسرحيون والمفكرون في عصر النهضة بإنجلترا، لاسيما وليم شكسبير الذي افصح عنه على لسان شخصية (كونزالو) في مسرحيته الموسومة "العاصفة" التي تعد آخر مسرحية رومانسية له. لذا تنقسم هذه الدراسة بطابع نقدي وتاريخي على خلفية الحلم الأميركي بإشارة محددة إلى رواية (غاتسبي العظيم) وذلك بسبب كون هذه الرواية قد قدمت معطيات معمقة عن تعريف الحلم الأميركي ومدى صلاحيته أساسا لموضوعها الرئيس.

## 1. Introduction

The research paper deals with the American dream and reconsiders its origin, development and significance. Most critical appreciations of F. Scott Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby* focus on the notion that the American dream is the wish of every American citizen to be a wealthy person no matter whatever the means used to achieve it, forgetting the fact that the origin of the dream should be traced back to the Renaissance when idealists such as More who has composed his book entitled *Utopia* that is based on Plato's *Magnesia*. More advocates that there would be an ideal country governed by philosophers who can make it characterized by justice, prosperity and happiness. It is a mere proposition which will never be fulfilled due to the nature of man, especially his negative features. Thus, the American dream develops as a concept usually advocated by American idealists. Hence, there arises the need to critically and historically reconsider the American dream as reflected in *The Great Gatsby*.

## 2. Definitions of Key Terms

### A. The American Dream

The American dream may be defined as the hope of every American to enjoy happiness in the new land. Jim Cullin declares that there is no more significant theme than the one that has been called "the American dream" by James Truslow Adams; it is the dream of every American citizen, no matter what his/her entity is, to enjoy "a better, richer, and happier life." (James Truslow Adams in Jim Cullin, 2003). On the other hand, when trying to achieve the dream, the Americans have ignored the moral values and resorted to all sorts of corruption and evil. On the contrary, they have employed every evil means possible to get wealth to achieve their materialistic wishes, sexual and otherwise. Hence, the American dream finds its place in the American mind to have excess wealth for the sake of doing evil deeds, which makes available the kind of happiness that is enjoyed by illegal means accordingly. Hartsell sees that there is only one single motivation that urges the nation of the US, as envisioned in *The Great Gatsby*, which is to bring about "opulence, success and the upward social mobility—the American dream (Wallace Hartsell, 1997).

### B. Utopia

Utopia is defined as an imagined place or state of things in which everything is perfect. It is then a fictional place whose definition according to Latin is "nowhere," indicating that something

does not really exist. Plato sets the rules of the ideal life of his imaginary city called Magnesia. More's *Utopia* envisions an imaginary island in which there is a society governed by ideal rules conducive to human happiness. The book emphasizes its fictitious manifestations. This "Utopia is placed in the New World," and among its representations is "a welfare state" in which everything is perfect ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Utopia\\_book](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Utopia_book)).

### 3. Synopsis of *The Great Gatsby*

*The Great Gatsby* is narrated by a character called Nick Carraway, a young man from Minnesota. He is not only regarded as the narrator of the story, but he also lets himself appear as if he were the author of it. He is the dramatic persona of the story that gives it a tinge of reality. He has got a high opinion of himself on the moral level, and at the same time he scorns Gatsby and briefly mentions him, describing him as something "gorgeous."

In his attempt to have experience in business, Nick moves to New York. The action of the novel starts the moment he starts to live in this place in the summer of 1922 which indicates the Jazz Age in America. He resides in a house in West Egg, a district located in Long Island, an area populated by the rich who have recently acquired their wealth and made their connections with other people living in the same place where they start to decorate their properties. It happens that Nick's neighbor living next door to him in West Egg is an odd person called Jay Gatsby who lives in a palatial house where he used to make optimal parties every Saturday night. Being wealthy and educated, Nick manages to communicate with people living in his place of residence. He goes to Daisy Buchanan, his cousin, to have dinner with her. Her husband, Tom, is his former classmate. Tom and Daisy introduce Nick to the beautiful woman called Jordan Baker. Nick soon makes a kind of romantic relationship with the latter who tells him that Tom loves a woman called Myrtle Wilson living in the valley of Ashes, an in-between area that separates West Egg from New York City. Upon learning this discovery, Myrtle reproaches Tom in a jeering manner. The latter answers her by hurting her nose.

During the same summer, Nick is invited to one of Gatsby's optimal parties during which he meets Jordan Baker. They both meet Gatsby who appears to be a man with a noticeable smile who calls everyone "old sport." Gatsby speaks to Jordan, telling her that he has known Daisy for five years and greatly loved her. His gorgeous parties are in fact an attempt to attract Daisy's attention. Now he wishes that Nick would arrange a meeting with his old beloved, Daisy. So, Daisy is invited to have tea in Nick's house, unaware of the presence of Gatsby whose look at her makes Nick aware of Gatsby's great love for her. Thus, Gatsby and Daisy have ignited this love and started to have an affair.

On the other hand, Tom's suspicions concerning his wife's relation with Gatsby increases until he becomes certain that her relation with him is a fact. Tom, though himself involved in an affair with Myrtle, becomes very nervous when learning of his wife's unfaithfulness. He violently faces Gatsby in a suite in Plaza where he unfolds that fact to him. Now, Tom asserts to

his wife that Gatsby is a criminal who has already made a great amount of money by bootlegging liquors and other illegal deeds, so Daisy announces her allegiance to Tom. It has been discovered that Gatsby's car hits and kills Myrtle, Tom's beloved. Daisy is driving the car when striking Myrtle, but Gatsby claims that he himself has made the accident. Myrtle's husband, George, is informed that Gatsby has made the car accident. The former shoots the latter and immediately commits suicide.

A small funeral for Gatsby has been made by Nick who then deserts Jordan and returns to the place from which he comes, for he feels that the kind of life Gatsby leads and the people surrounding him are disgusting. He comments on the emptiness of moral representations and the decadence of the behavior of the rich. He comes to the conclusion that Gatsby's dream and all his wealth are corrupted, and that the American dream of enjoying a happy and innocent life is nothing but seeking money mostly by illegal means. It is true that Gatsby's dream is what prompts him to be wealthy; yet, his dream and the dream of all those surrounding him come to an end. It turns to be a failure. At the end of the novel Nick compares Gatsby to a meritorious successor of Dutch sailors who once landed on America, in search of a happy life—a significant notion which links the book with More's fictional Utopia society placed in the New World.

#### **4. The American Dream: A Historical Background**

The world of imagination is created in Shakespeare's last dramatic romance entitled *The Tempest* in which a debate is made by some characters, especially Gonzalo, about the actual world of humans in the New World. They have discussed the idea of utopianism on many and various levels—religious, social and political—as explicated by More and Plato, who have advocated a visionary country perfect in all aspects of life which is basically void of crime, offence, war, hatred, and whose people enjoy a peaceful and happy life. This visionary state of life can by no means be made existent in this world due to human nature: "A Utopian society could not exist with the individuality that nature has bestowed on the human race. As long as humans remain unique in their state of mind, utopia is a mere fantasy. Utopia is a nonexistent, but absolutely perfect place... Utopia was a place of absolute perfection" (Vinisha Varughese, 2012). In the play, Gonzalo's utopia is supposed to be the perfect one, but the utopia of the other characters is interpreted according to their likes and dislikes. This indicates that Shakespeare may want his spectators to consider the idea that there could be a utopian community: "Gonzalo's utopia is very much like the one described by More" (Vinisha Varughese, 2012). Due to the corruption and the treacherous characters, together with the conflict between good and evil depicted by Shakespeare, it seems that Shakespeare tries to say that the existence of utopia is a dreamy contemplation.

People in Shakespeare's time, the Renaissance, dreamed of exploring untrodden lands. The English, the Spanish and the French had competed to explore and settle in what was called at that time the New World represented by what is called nowadays as the northern and southern

Americas on the one hand and Australia on the other. Those immigrants of the three nationalities aspire for becoming rich through what was known at the time as the gold mines available in the new lands. Edward Dowden comments in this regard, saying: "Dreams of unexplored regions excited the imagination of Spaniard and Englishmen in later Renaissance" (Dowden, 1889: 12). Therefore, Shakespeare attempts to address this dream to satisfy the audience's curiosity and wonder while exploring an imaginary and enchanted island as if in a dream shared not only by the audience but also by the human society of the island that is represented by the characters of his romance entitled *The Tempest*. The latter play has as its setting a world that cannot be sensed except in a dream—it is a world controlled by an omniscient power represented by Prospero who attempts to create a utopia out of the island, at least a utopia with the minimum representations of idealism. As such, he discovers that he has imposed his dictatorship upon most of the society members of the island, even his daughter Miranda for whom he has chosen a husband, a prince and a future king, so that he will be a forefather of kings. Besides, among the society members of the island are some conspirators whose crimes have been discovered, and who have ultimately been forgiven due to Prospero's prudence. As a conclusion, even the dream world of the suggested utopia of the island, a fictitious setting, can by no means be achieved. Nevertheless, Shakespeare manages to entertain the audience by the dreamy world even though the dream turns to be a failure:

Shakespeare seems to be inducing in us this sense of the unreal to give a shimmering effect to his curious and delightful object he offers us. It [*The Tempest*] gives us the peculiar sense of detachment which it seems to be one of his objects to achieve—if an effect on his audience was, as he wrote, at all in his mind. Every now and again the people in the play are deluded as to what they see, or see only what they wish to see, or even see what is not there. All the time there is a suggestion of universality, of living in a dream world.

(Bonamy Dobree, 1965: 170)

## 5. The Incipient Appearance of the Term "American Dream"

It is generally accepted that the American dream is a matter of failure, for class and economic inequality, racism and the love of money, the source of all evil according to the Bible, still permeate through the entire United States. Hence, happiness has not been extended to the majority of American citizens left with low social mobility for which Fitzgerald has offered a vivid picture in his magnum opus *The Great Gatsby*, which has been indicated by what Sarah Churchwell calls as the "*Gatsby curve*" ([Sarah Churchwell](#), 2012).

The concept of the American dream has become a common term related to the US as a land of opportunities. It is rooted in the [Declaration of Independence](#) which proclaims that all people are born equal with the right to live happily, who can enjoy freedom, happy life and welfare. Historically, the dream was created in the mysteriousness related to [frontier life](#). As the Governor of Virginia, John Murray, wrote in 1774, the Americans "for ever imagine the Lands

further off are still better than those upon which they are already settled." He added that, "if they attained Paradise, they would move on if they heard of a better place farther west." (John Murray, in James MacPherson, 2016). On the other hand, while the Declaration seems to be dazzling in that it hides an everlasting desire for conquer, a will to attain more lands regardless of the fact that a great number of indigenous people are living on them. In consequence, the American dream is only a new version of many old ones underlying conquest and the desire to occupy other nation's lands and usurp their natural yet precious resources: As a matter of fact, the cause of the American dream started in the fourth century AD. When the Anglo-Saxons and other Germanic tribes had invaded what was called at the time as Britain. They were those invaders who came from the lands near to North Sea and the Jutland's peninsula, whose main concern in life was killing. In this place they find their delight, for it gives them the opportunity to blunder the properties of the murdered. The invaders lived "along the shores of the North Sea from the mouth of Rhine to the peninsula of Jutland," and they have been described as "men delighted in bloodshed, in revenge, and in blunder" (Moody & Levett; 1964: 1), who invaded Britain which was inhabited by the Celts who "were of an impetuous character, imaginative, and curious to learn" and who struggled "against the pirate bands of the Jutes, Saxons and Angles which appeared in increasing numbers upon their coasts" ((Moody & Levett: 4-5). Those invaders were attracted by the wealth and fertility of the country and civility of its inhabitants. They came to slay/enslave the Celtic population, or drive them into the western half of the island, or across the sea into Brittany demolishing all traces of civilization set in their way ((Moody & Levett; 1964: 6).

Fitzgerald envisions the American dream sustained by all kinds of evil—fraudulence, for instance. At the time when *The Great Gatsby* was published, the phrase "the American dream" was not popular. However, It appeared in a popular novel entitled *Susan Lenox: Her Fall and Rise* (1917), which remarks that a great number of Americans can get wealth which is universally dreamed and hoped of. The phrase also appeared in Walter Lippmann's article entitled "Education and the White-Collar Class" (1923) in which he criticizes the fact that education has been restrictively limited to a certain class, which contributes to the failure of the American dream. The idea of the American dream has virally spread in 1931 with the publication of the book entitled *The Epic of America* by James Truslow Adams, that exposes the following information:

the American dream of a better, richer and happier life for all our citizens of every rank, which is the greatest contribution we have made to the thought and welfare of the world. That dream or hope has been present from the start. Ever since we became an independent nation, each generation has seen an uprising of ordinary Americans to save that dream from the forces that appear to be overwhelming it.

(James Truslow Adams, in Churcwell, 2012)

It seems that the American dream is born dead in its first appearance to point to a failure, not a benign promise of a better life for all citizens in so far as capitalism interferes to make money by illegal means. Churchwell says that it is not chance that gives rise to the popularity of the dream during the great depression, that Fitzgerald is quite aware of the failure of the dream during its publication, and that there are still people who would like to make their dream come true during the time when *The Great Gatsby* proves its “initial commercial and critical failure...[and] which would not be hailed as a masterpiece until the 50s, once hindsight had revealed its prophetic truth” (Churchwell, 2012). The practice of adultery by almost all the significant characters involved in the American dream—the dreamers who want to be rich—is only made for the sake of getting fortune. In the novel, adultery is conducive to getting wealth and vice versa, which suggests a corrupted world and a “a larger world of broken promises and betrayals of faith ... [and that] only discontent and bitterness await, resentment on a mass scale” (Churchwell, 2012). A very eligible adjective to describe the character of Gatsby is the term “Great,” which is often used to modify great countries such as Great Britain and great kings such as Alfred the Great, or great heroes and so on. Thus, the use of the term “great” to describe a character like Gatsby is not made haphazardly, for there are many people who possess great amounts of money at the time they are not called great. Therefore, one can suggest that the name *great* Gatsby can be symbolic of the *great* US that has, like Gatsby, acquired a great amount of money throughout legal and illegal means. Like Gatsby, its ambitions and aspirations for money and greatness is limitless. This idea can be substantiated by Fitzgerald’s remark that “Gatsby’s greatness comes from his having impulsively, anxiously, and absolutely committed himself to an illusion that transcended all limits” (Frederick J. Hoffman in Fitzgerald, 2009: 93).

## 7. The Exposition of the American Dream in *The Great Gatsby*

*The Great Gatsby* is a highly symbolic novel. After the funeral of Gatsby, Nick begins to reflect on the situation of that man when he “first picked out the green light at the end of Daisy’s dock” (Fitzgerald, 285) and implemented the dream in his mind which he could hardly comprehend. Significantly, concerning the green light which is symbolic of Gatsby’s *green* dream, the narrator ends the novel with a significant remark underlying the core of this study: “so we beat on, boats against the current, borne back ceaselessly into the past” (Fitzgerald, 285). The reference to the first European Dutch settlers in America and the reference to the idea that Gatsby’s dream is rooted in ancient past are significant hints to the fact that the European immigrants who first settled in America had in mind their dream to live a happy life. The following passage is said by Nick which is part of his final comments on Gatsby’s dream:

And as the moon rose higher the inessential houses began to melt away until gradually I became aware of the old island here that flowered once for Dutch sailors’ eyes—a fresh, green breast of the new world. Its vanished trees, the trees that had made way for Gatsby’s house, had once pandered in whispers to the last and greatest of all human dreams....



As America is considered the New World for the new European settlers, ancient Britain or Britannia as it is called by the Roman empire when ruling it as a garrison is considered the New World for the new settlers represented by the Anglo-Saxons, the Danes, the Gales, the Jutes and Scandinavians. Both New Worlds have been occupied and usurped by means of all kinds of evil—murder, violence, fraudulence and the like by the same races. The new settlers in Britain have enjoyed a happy life on account of the millions of victims whom they have killed for the sake of happiness. The new settlers in America are the posterity of their ancestors who have occupied the Roman Britannia. They have killed millions of the red Indians for the sake of fulfilling their dream of living a happy life. In consequence, Gatsby is symbolic of all those who have achieved their dreams by illegal means and killing, for one of Gatsby's means to achieve his dream is killing as indicated in the novel concerned. The Dutch coming to live in America are representative of all those immigrants who have assumed their presence here by means of killing in hopes that they try to make a new beginning in a place where they can make their dreams come true, which are just like the green light that once fascinated Gatsby's eyes. Andrew Nightingale finds a solution to the question why Fitzgerald compares Gatsby's dream to the dream of the Dutch sailors, for Nick says " ... I became aware of the old island here that flowered once for Dutch sailors' eyes—a fresh, green breast of the new world." Nightingale thus declares:

The Dutch who are mentioned here were immigrants who ventured into the New World to find a better life. They had undertaken a long and arduous journey at great risk in order to rebuild their lives, start anew. As such then, the word has great symbolic significance: it is a symbol for a fresh start, a metaphor for something new and untarnished, it is an image of hope.

(Andrew Nightingale, 2018)

The posterity of the Danes and of other tribes represented by the now British people has extended its invasion to include most parts of the world. [Jasper Copping](#) declares that the extent of the British rule comprises "almost a quarter of the atlas" ([Jasper Copping](#), 2102). He further unfolds the size of the British rule all around the world:

A new study has found that at various times the British have invaded almost 90 per cent of the countries around the globe. The analysis of the histories of the almost 200 countries in the world found only 22 which have never experienced an invasion by the British. Among this select group of nations are far-off destinations such as Guatemala, Tajikistan and the Marshall Islands, as well some slightly closer to home, such as Luxembourg. ([Jasper Copping](#), 2102)

The posterity of the British that is represented by modern Americans has its own portion of the global occupation of the other countries to feed on their resources: "The military of the United States is deployed in more than 150 countries around the world, with over 300,000 of its active duty personnel serving outside the United States and its territories" (Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia).



The social relationships comprise various activities whether in fictitious arts or in actual life among which parties and celebrations are the happiest ones. The extravagant parties made in Gatsby's house are symbolic of the corruption of the characters involved in the American dream: "Lavish alcohol, expensive attire and electrifying music can only hint at the luxury of every party and the current corruption of society" (Wallace Hartsell, 1997). Throughout those parties, corrupt social relationships are arranged for the sake of making communications with new people to enjoy the jazz music and dance, who are representative of the social decadence, greed and fraudulence. Daisy has married Tom for the sake of getting wealth and achieve her wishes. Tom, on the other hand, makes an illicit relation with Myrtle, George's wife who likewise dreams of getting wealth from Tom. Gatsby has an affair with Daisy whose greed pushes her to this illicit relationship to get more and more wealth. Gatsby himself has collected a huge yet dirty amount of money to achieve depraved relations with Daisy. Because of their corruption, none has achieved his/her dream which turns to be a failure both on the ethical and material level. In consequence, Gatsby has lost his reputation before he is killed. Daisy has returned to her husband. It appears that Gatsby has been humiliated by Tom. Gatsby's friends appear to be false. In the end, Gatsby's character turns to be symbolic of the corrupted American dream. The moral implications portrayed in *The Great Gatsby* are no more than dirty means to achieve prosperity which turns to be a failure on the ethical level.

#### **8. The Significance of the American Dream in *The Great Gatsby***

The American dream, as a matter of fact, appears to be both constructive and destructive. It is constructive because it prompts Gatsby to make a great amount of money. But, this money has been obtained by illegal means; that is, he has committed murder and harmed and forged many facts, so that he will be able to enjoy the happiness he wants. Similarly, the great countries represented by Britain and US, on the allegorical level, have gained wealth on the account of the other countries in which they have practiced all kinds of violence, wars, killing, stealing and the like, so that they can make available the kind of happiness they prefer for their nations. On the other hand, the dream is destructive on the part of the occupied countries which are made to suffer from human loss because of wars, materialistic loss, stealing their precious natural resources, and moral disintegration. Moreover, they are made to be governed by thieves as is the case in Afghanistan and Iraq. In a word, it is the dream of the Vikings that is rooted in their first step to destroy Rome first and to occupy Britannia next to steal their wealth, land and resources.

Likewise, the modern Americans, the posterity of the old killers, have failed to achieve equality, justice and happiness throughout legal means. These benign features have been forgotten, and people have turned their aspirations and ambitions towards all kinds of sins and crimes to achieve the goal of being rich.

In consequence, the American dream is of no significance on the level of morality. It is only significant for those fraudulent, crooked, deceitful, defrauding, double dealing and false people trying to achieve their selfish aims.

## 9. The American Dream and its Reflections on the Modern World

*The Great Gatsby* is a novel always significantly associated with not only modern American fiction, but it also assumes its ubiquitous presence all over the world, especially the literary media and universities teaching literature, due to its significance and universal theme of the American dream which shows a temporary triumph of immorality over the virtuous world. This novel becomes part and parcel of the American literary heritage, whose influence on modern and post-modern fictional arts is tremendous. Not only does the novel become most popular, but also its hero, Gatsby, becomes one of the most famous fictional characters of modern fiction: "Gatsby and the novel in which he lives have become firmly fixed in popular culture, in academic evaluation of literary achievement, and—perhaps most telling and most important—in the literature of other writers" (Richard Anderson in Fitzgerald, 2009: 105). It is no wonder that the character of Gatsby accounts for the symbolic implications that give significant interpretations for world-wide phenomena that have influenced and changed many and various aspects related to the modern world—social, political, economic and military. Most of the commentaries on Gatsby have been "directed toward exploring the nature of Jay Gatsby as an embodiment of mythic and symbolic meaning" (Richard Anderson in Fitzgerald, 2009: 110). He is symbolic of any project that has been built up outside the moral and lawful domain. His failure comes in line with universal common sense as to the idea that anything that has been based on vulnerable basis underlying pretense, deception, or insincerity will not last for long; it will inevitably collapse in the same way Gatsby falls to his end: "the American dream underwent the changes, so its meaning changed to mean corruption and dishonesty which shattered the real image of its beauty. (Пафеев С. К. Б. 2016).

Significantly speaking, it is taken for granted that Gatsby is symbolic of the US that has been allured to capture the world throughout its fraudulent methods, for Nick has related Gatsby's depraved dream to the dream of America "where the dark fields of the republic rolled on under the night" (Fitzgerald, 2009: 285). These representations can be taken as a warning to the US against a sudden collapse due to its crimes that were, are and will be committed to kill millions of people all over the world in the name of democracy and the kind of *spring* such as the Arabian *spring* which she has cynically devised to serve her purpose of governing the world by letting its dwarfs (agents and traitors) to execute its devilish plans of usurping other nations' resources. The wars launched by America against innocent nations living in Vietnam, Somalia, Afghanistan, Iraq and other countries have changed the rosy prospective of the American dream into a black picture abhorred by the entire nations of the world. This fact has been pointed out by both modern and post-modern studies concerning modern fictional arts:

The masterworks of “modernism” and “postmodernism” writers have drastically altered the soulful image of the American dream when it comes to the wars that were viewed by numerous Americans as heroic and spirited protection to their ideals of independence and democracy. But after both wars, it became clear that wars were just bloodshed a horrible slaughter of mankind which had nothing to do with romanticism and heroism. It even killed people’s passion and sentiment for each other and sowed the seeds of disillusion, disappointment, and mistrust. They were very destructive for the dearly loved deal of the American dream. (Пабеах C. К. Б., 2016)

## Conclusion

As a conclusion, the American dream can be traced to the first settlers of Britain who dreamed of invading it for its rich natural resources and fertile soil and fine climate when compared with the icy environment of the invaders’ land, the northern part of western Europe represented by Germany, Scandinavia, and the northern part of France, Normandy. Those tribes that came to Britain and acclaimed its possession produced a posterity with the same genetic aspirations; that is, their main concern is to feed on the blood of other nations.

During the Renaissance, there developed the concept of the ideal country that was based on Plato’s notion that there could be an ideal country which was thought to be established by the invaders of the New World who had discovered that they could not achieve anything unless they kill and blunder in the same way their ancestors did in the past. Thus, the dream to establish an ideal country had vanished into the air. Rather, it was replaced by another dream whose essence was that any American could be very rich in case he worked hard through forgery, killing and fraudulence. Hence, the Americans found it impossible to achieve this dream unless they practiced all forms of evil. This is the essence of the American dream as reflected in *The Great Gatsby* whose titular protagonist tried to achieve his dream—the reunion with his beloved, Daisy, whom he loved and made a symbol of his damned dream, for her name was associated with the image of roses, so the dream could be described as being rosy, which was impossible to be achieved. All the dreamers in the novel failed to achieve their dream. Even those who have made a great amount of money by illegal means have lost everything including their lives.

It is important to notice that Fitzgerald seems to present an apocalypse and a revelation implying the ultimate collapse of the United States—a collapse similar to the one that has beheaded *great Gatsby* whose greatness is symbolic of the greatness of the US, which has been achieved by all means of evil. The entire world has lost its faith in the false ideals of this country which, like *Gatsby*, has lost its reputation. Therefore, it is made clear that modern Americans have been headed in the same directions, aspirations and ambitions of their ancestors—the ancient pirates who once invaded and killed the innocent Britons.

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