

The American Dream

Definition (dictionary.com)

noun

1. the ideals of freedom, equality, and opportunity traditionally held to be available to every American.
2. a life of personal [happiness](#) and material comfort as traditionally sought by individuals in the U.S.

Origins of the term

- First coined by James Truslow Adams in 1931 "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."
- It is present in the The Declaration of Independence, "all men are created equal."
- It encompasses the right and the choice of upward mobility and social success, regardless one's socioeconomic and cultural background.
- It has been present in the American **imaginery** ever since its conception.

Extra material:

Deepening the American Dream- pbs

<http://www.pbs.org/moyers/journal/americanream/>