

# Cormac McCarthy And The Myth Of American Exceptionalism

American ExceptionalismThe New American ExceptionalismThe End of American ExceptionalismAmerican ExceptionalismA Contest of CivilizationsThe Myth of American ExceptionalismThe Diary of American ExceptionalismThe Roots of American ExceptionalismAmerican ExceptionalismAmerican Exceptionalism?Exceptionally BlessedAnti-Americanism and American ExceptionalismAmerican ExceptionalismExceptional MeAmerican Exceptionalism and the ShoahThe Making of American ExceptionalismAmerican Exceptionalism and Civil ReligionThe Rhetoric of American ExceptionalismAmerican ExceptionalismThe Sissification of America: a Fifty-Year Decline in American Exceptionalism Charles W. Dunn Donald E. Pease David M. Wrobel Ian Tyrrell Andrew F. Lang Godfrey Hodgson Alan Sewell Charles Lockhart Seymour Martin Lipset Rick Halpern Kenneth L. Bradstreet Brendon O'Connor Deborah L. Madsen Jason Gilmore David L. Worthington Kim Voss John D. Wilsey Jason A. Edwards Lall Ramrattan John W. Stevens

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Charles W. Dunn Donald E. Pease David M. Wrobel Ian Tyrrell Andrew F. Lang  
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american exceptionalism provokes intense debates culturally economically politically and socially this collection edited by charles w dunn of regent university s robertson school of government brings together analysis of the idea s origins history and future contributors include hadley arkes michael barone james w ceasar charles w dunn daniel l dreisbach t david gordon steven f hayward hugh heclo marvin j folkertsma william kristol and george h nash while many now argue against the policies and ideology of american exceptionalism as antiquated and expired the authors collected here make the bold claim that a closer reading of our own history reveals that there is still an exceptional aspect of american thought identity and government worth advancing and protecting it will be the challenge of the coming american generations to both refine and examine what we mean when we call america exceptional and this book provides readers a first step towards a necessary understanding of the exceptional purpose progress and promise of the united states of america

for a half century following the end of world war ii the seemingly permanent cold war provided the united states with an organizing logic that governed nearly every aspect of american society and culture giving rise to an unwavering belief in the nation s exceptionalism in global affairs and world history after the collapse of the soviet union this cold war paradigm was replaced by a series of new ideological narratives that ultimately resulted in the establishment of another potentially endless war the global war on terror in the new american exceptionalism pioneering scholar donald e pease traces the evolution of these state fantasies and shows how they have shaped u s national identity since the end of the cold war uncovering the ideological and cultural work required to convince americans to

surrender their civil liberties in exchange for the illusion of security his argument follows the chronology of the transitions between paradigms from the inauguration of the new world order under george h w bush to the homeland security state that george w bush s administration installed in the wake of 9 11 providing clear and convincing arguments about how the concept of american exceptionalism was reformulated and redeployed in this era pease examines a wide range of cultural works and political spectacles including the exorcism of the vietnam syndrome through victory in the persian gulf war and the creation of islamic extremism as an official state enemy at the same time pease notes that state fantasies cannot altogether conceal the inconsistencies they mask showing how such events as the revelations of prisoner abuse at abu ghraib and the exposure of government incompetence after hurricane katrina opened fissures in the myth of exceptionalism allowing barack obama to challenge the homeland security paradigm with an alternative state fantasy that privileges fairness inclusion and justice

a lucid and rewarding synthesis of cultural and western history richard w etulain author of writing western history wrobel makes a fine contribution to the study of myth by analyzing the anxiety or angst americans felt about the frontier in the half century after 1890 this is an excellent book on a big subject executed with much skill western historical quarterly direct admirably brief and crisply written journal of american history

american exceptionalism has been a surprisingly resilient and divisive concept in this magisterial book ian tyrrell shows that while the term is a relatively new one the idea that american identity might be historically and globally distinctive emerged with the nation itself as the country grew the issue became the degree of exceptionality and how it was expressed and as the country became a part of the global order its exceptionalism came increasingly into question how did a purportedly unique nation explain its entanglement with persistent global topics like slavery and racial discrimination labor exploitation settler colonialism and more today even

as demands to honor america s exceptionalism have grown more strident tyrrell argues that the material and moral evidence for it if there ever was any has withered away

this first biography of a palestinian writer also provides a moving account of the ways ordinary individuals are swept up by the floodtides of both war and peace the idea that the united states is destined to spread its unique gifts of democracy and capitalism to other countries is dangerous for americans and for the rest of the world warns godfrey hodgson in this provocative book hodgson a shrewd and highly respected british commentator argues that america is not as exceptional as it would like to think its blindness to its own history has bred a complacent nationalism and a disastrous foreign policy that has isolated and alienated it from the global community tracing the development of america s high self regard from the early days of the republic to the present era hodgson demonstrates how its exceptionalism has been systematically exaggerated and in recent decades corrupted while there have been distinct and original elements in america s history and political philosophy notes hodgson these have always been more heavily influenced by european thought and experience than americans have been willing to acknowledge a stimulating and timely assessment of how america s belief in its exceptionalism has led it astray this book is mandatory reading for its citizens admirers and detractors

if we could first know where we are and whither we are tending we could better judge what to do and how to do it so said abraham lincoln as he contemplated the great issues of containing slavery and preserving the union this book is written to show where we are and whither we may be tending by explaining our current political controversies in context of where we have been at similar crisis points in the past it is written as a distilled essence of american history explained in the words of the people who made it it focuses narrowly but intensively on six periods of quantum change that moved us into new political and economic directions i want

readers to understand the meaning of our history without bogging down in the trivia of it since it appears that we may be at another turning point in our history it may provide insights into our future direction americans who made us such an exceptional nation expressed their doubts about our future candidly but they maintained their faith in our exceptional destiny during our bleakest hours and theirs here in their words is the diary of american exceptionalism

is america unique one of our major political analysts explores the deeply held but often unarticulated beliefs that shape the american creed a magisterial attempt to distill a lifetime of learning about america into a persuasive brief by the dean of american political sociologists carlin romano boston globe

the idea that american historical development is different from that of other nations is an old one yet it shows no sign of losing its emotive power exceptionalism continues to excite beguile and frustrate students of the american past the essays in this volume explore the ways in which the process of class formation in the united states can be said to be distinctive focusing upon the impact of liberal political thought race and immigration and the role of the war time state they challenge particularist and nation centred modes of explanation comparing american historical development with italian south african and australian examples the essays reinvigorate a tired debate

representative bradstreet s biblical approach and his grasp of our founding history make this book a must read for those who want to understand american exceptionalism and our way forward representative lee chatfield speaker of the house michigan house of representatives america is indeed an exceptional nation america is the dreamed for destination for immigrants throughout the world desiring to take part in the american dream certainly america s exceptionalism is the natural product of many things but there is a main cause that most americans today simply do not

own up to and if america s exceptionalism is to continue we need to understand what caused it in the first place if we do not understand or if we are unwilling to embrace that main cause of our success we are destined to lose it all

this book argues against the tendency to see america as the worst or best nation and instead presents a case for seeing anti americanism as a counterproductive prejudice there are many reasons to criticise american policies politics and even society but a crucial distinction must be drawn between criticism and prejudice charting the development and adaptation of this anti american tradition o connor maintains that it is important to contextualise it within the particularities of the american experience and the global reach of the united states influence and power he argues for a move away from stereotypes and caricatures towards more specific and profitable discussions about american actions and policies offering precise and useful ways of understanding anti americanism and american exceptionalism that place the terms in their relevant political contexts this volume is a useful and engaging resource for those researching or studying american politics and ideology foreign policy american culture and international relations

american exceptionalism provides an accessible yet comprehensive historical account of one of the most important concepts underlying modern theories of american cultural identity deborah madsen charts the contribution of exceptionalism to the evolution of the united states as an ideological and geographical entity from 1620 to the present day she explains how this sense of spiritual and political destiny has shaped american culture and how it has promoted exciting counter arguments from native american and chicano perspectives and in the contemporary writings of authors such as thomas pynchon and toni morrison

donald trump has forged a unique relationship with american exceptionalism parting ways with how american politicians have long

communicated this idea to the american public through systematic comparative analyses this book details the various ways that trump strategically altered and exploited the discourse of american exceptionalism to elevate not the nation but himself personally professionally and politically jason gilmore and charles rowling call this trump s exceptional me strategy and they document how it made trump different from every president in modern american history beginning with the 2016 election the authors show how trump broke with tradition and instead of championing american exceptionalism he actively portrayed the nation as an un exceptional mess in need of a saviour placing blame at the feet of politicians both democrats and republicans for america s decline trump set himself up to be seen as the one person who could make america exceptional again the authors then document how throughout his presidency and the 2020 presidential election trump sought to convince americans that he was the exceptional president making the case at every turn how american exceptionalism had returned under his presidency and that he and he alone was to thank for it gilmore and rowling illustrate how from the outset trump s conception of american exceptionalism had almost nothing to do with the country s institutions ideals or its people

this dissertation analyzes the rhetoric of the united states holocaust memorial museum as a site that constructs articulates and advances an ideology of american exceptionalism the critical thrust of the project is to demonstrate how the museum produces a narrow set of terministic screens for understanding american connections to the european holocaust that make it difficult to productively engage problematic instances of u s history such as slavery and the genocide of the native americans to this end the study focuses on public debates surrounding the founding and placement of the museum the narrative of the museum s permanent exhibit the physical exhibits that shape american exceptionalism and the ways in which visitors respond to the museum story in comment books the argument unfolds in 5 stages the first stage

examines the ways in which public debate during the museum's planning stages took up the issue of the propriety of a holocaust museum in the u s and then addressed where the museum would be located and what kind of narrative would be consistent with placing the museum in close proximity to the national mall stage two explores the museum's insistence on a strictly defined and overly simplistic narrative that marks the participants in the shoah as victims perpetrators or liberators stage three focuses on the narrative of the museum's permanent exhibit where the museum interpellates visitors as witnesses without providing a clear sense of what the act of witnessing entails in the fourth stage citizenship is made passive by exhibits that evoke a sense of tragedy and atrocity that exists over there in europe and whose victims are other and outside the bounds and protection of american style liberal democracy stage four shifts focus from the narrative as articulated by museum curators and towards the way visitors respond to the museum in comment books and in particular on the most common response by museum visitors that they feel sad sadness i argue is a problematic public emotion that represses civic action the project concludes in stage five by discussing ways in which exhibits might be added that would widen our terministic understanding of the past so as to allow for a more productive consideration of the ways in which and the topos of atrocity implicates the politics of genocide

why has the labor movement in the united states been so weak and politically conservative in comparison to movements in western europe kim voss rejects traditional interpretations theories of american exceptionalism which attribute this distinctiveness to inherent characteristics of american society on the contrary she demonstrates the american labor movement had much in common with its english and french counterparts for most of the nineteenth century only with the collapse of the knights of labor the largest american labor organization of the century did the u s movement take a different path

the idea of america's special place in history has been a guiding light for



centuries with thoughtful insight john d wilsey traces the concept of exceptionalism including its theological meaning and implications for civil religion this careful history considers not only the abuses of the idea but how it can also point to constructive civil engagement and human flourishing

the american experience has been defined in part by the rhetoric of exceptionalism this book of 11 critical essays explores the notion as it is manifested across a range of contexts including the presidency foreign policy religion economics american history television news and sports the idea of exceptionalism is explored through the words of its champions and its challengers past and present by studying how the principles of american exceptionalism have been used adapted challenged and even rejected this volume demonstrates the continued importance of exceptionalism to the mythology sense of place direction and identity of the united states within and outside of the realm of politics instructors considering this book for use in a course may request an examination copy [here](#)

the publication of alexis de tocqueville s democracy in america has kindled interest across disciplines to appraise the exceptional nature of u s activities in general however all the published works have not focused their analyses from an economic point of view while economics was for some a dismal science following thomas carlyle s characterization of malthus demographic model it has increasingly become the queen of the social sciences for more practitioners the book fills a gap in the literature by describing the american contributors as precursors and genuinely exceptional economists we present their works within the state of the nation in which they advance their discipline one is treated to both qualitative and quantitative theories in the opening chapter budding theories that became established theories of economics and finance are investigated in chapters ii and iii when president john adams was confronted with m turgot s criticisms of the american government he

resorted to a historic survey of types of government from ancient greece to the middle ages similarly we have included a final chapter chapter iv to present the argument for american exceptionalism in the domain of political economy and economic law over the ages

the sissification of america a fifty year decline in american exceptionalism is a nonfiction narrative which addresses current events within the context of comparing america s vibrant history to its contemporary era the book specifically examines how the federal government and some of our nation s public and private institutions have gradually led the nation down a precipitous fifty year decline of virtues that once made america unique in world history this intriguing book focuses on american virtues consisting of a spirit of independence and rugged individualism a thriving work ethic honesty capitalism competition excellence in education limited government godliness and a judaic christian rectitude of impeccable character while these virtues are still evident in america today they exist to a much lesser degree when compared to the years between 1620 and 1961 the seven chapters of this book touch upon many topics that correlate directly with these unique american virtues and their declining influence upon society such as the demise of common sense the continual assault being waged upon the individual rights and freedoms of all americans the squelching of states rights by the leviathan federal government the breakdown of the traditional family unit due to fatherless homes the feminization of our culture the feminization of america s public schools and the feminization of our nation s men and boys last but certainly not least the controversial issues confronting america s public schools and teachers be prepared to experience a wild roller coaster ride as you read the sissification of america a fifty year decline in american exceptionalism

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