

## 3.2 America: the land of opportunity

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### THE AMERICAN DREAM

- America as the "land of opportunity"  
→ anyone who works hard enough can make their fortune
- vision of a fair and equal society
- "rags to riches" → made possible by new inventions and technological progress
- reality today: the American Dream is not really achievable for most people → gap between rich and poor is too wide

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### THE MELTING POT

- 1st 3 waves of immigrants: mainly from Europe; since 1930 → more from Central/South America and Asia
- "melting pot": new immigrants should be assimilated into American life to form a national identity
- society today: "salad bowl" or "mosaic" = separate parts make up a whole

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### MANIFEST DESTINY

- America was destined by God to create a great nation
- pioneers settled in the west  
→ spreading American values
- belief in the greatness of America → defeat by Vietnam damaged pride
- "make America great again"  
→ exploitation of patriotic feelings

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### IMMIGRATION TODAY

- no more "open door" policy → a limited number of visas and green cards are now issued
- Issues with undocumented immigrants:
  - they live in fear of deportation
  - children born in the US are citizens: could be separated from deported parents
  - belief that those who have lived in the US for a long time should be given citizenship
  - many Republicans want stronger crackdowns on illegal immigrants and a significant reduction in immigration in general

### IMPORTANT VOCABULARY

achievement	Leistung	to detain	festhalten	from rags to riches	vom Tellerwäscher zum Millionär
assembly line	Fließband	displaced person	Vertriebene/er		
cheap labour	billige Arbeitskräfte	famine	Hungersnot	residency permit	Aufenthaltserlaubnis
to deport	abschieben	frontier	das Grenzland	settlement	Siedlung
		manifest	offenbar	starvation	Hungertod