

The TIME Article *The History of the American Dream*, written by Jon Meacham illustrates the history of America and the evolution of the American Dream. When the American Dream was first created, it was all about succeeding in life, succeeding in one's career and being able to be happy and free in this country that was founded on the idea of freedom. This was the American Dream of a happier, richer, and better life when America was going through hard times. The Dream is not what it used to be because of the weak economy which is causing the vanishing middle class. For these reasons, the Dream has been evaporating recently and people are worried.

The American Dream has gone through hardship throughout the country's existence, however this Dream is valued in America and the American people care that it is slipping away. Even in these hard times, there were always high hopes to get better. For example, during the Great Depression, the American people desired to improve as a country. In 2008, and even now, America was and is faced with a new problem: the vanishing middle class due to a Great Recession. Because the middle class is being challenged, the American Dream is being challenged. It is more difficult to achieve middle class status due to rising costs and the stagnant income. With the unemployment rates high, it is harder to get a job which indicates that it is harder to earn a decent amount of money to be able to identify as being in the middle class.

In order to know why the Dream is slipping away, people need to know how it evolved, and they need to look at it's roots. The Dream was definitely a reality for white men at the time it was created. For example, Native Americans were kicked out when settlers from England came to Jamestown in 1606. Later in history, African slaves were brought to Virginia so while white settlers were living happy lives, Africans were being used as slaves. The New World was so free and there was so much room even though the only people who could take advantage of this were white men. Over the years, however, America has been working on becoming a more inclusive country and the Dream has become more inclusive.

After Meacham established the history of the American Dream, he goes on to talk about the government's role in helping America and the middle class. Even through tough times, the government always tried to help America and stood by its people whether they were successful in doing so or not. For instance, the New Deal was created by the government to stop the economy from going downwards again. The New Deal gave money to banks to keep them open, even if they failed their clients so that our stock market would not crash. Meacham suggests that the government has to find a way to bring back a healthy economy.

Meacham says that since the government has always supported us, they have to step in and help lower the unemployment rates and the vanishing middle class. The Dream was all about opportunity, but now there is no opportunity to get better with the weak economy. It needs to grow so that more people will be able to identify as middle class. If people cannot get jobs, people cannot earn money for their income to rise.

In conclusion, the American Dream is fading away because of the failing economy which is causing middle class to slowly die out. This is causing more people to stop identifying themselves as middle class and start identifying themselves as lower class because the unemployment rates are high and there isn't a way to earn money. The American Dream cannot function if the American people do not believe that they can rise to the top like they used to; they don't believe in themselves. In the end, Meacham says that it is up to the people of the United States to revive the American Dream because they are the ones who have lost hope in themselves.