

# American exceptionalism

Politics



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Throughout the history of America, many historians have referred to America's role in the world as being exceptional. American Exceptionalism is a belief that the United States is significantly different from other countries in the world. Many view America as being exceptional due to the unique way the United States was founded and American's view on liberty.

The founding fathers of America strived to make freedom the backbone of the country. Many of those who immigrated to the states did so due to persecution from their native countries. America was different from any other country because its sole purpose was to be a safe haven for its citizens where one could have freedom. According to Matthew Spalding, "The American Revolution drew on old ideas. The United States is the product of Western civilization, shaped by Judeo-Christian culture and the political liberties inherited from Great Britain" (p. 1). America's founding principles make it exceptional because it placed authority in the hands of the citizens where as most other countries have resorted to governing monarchies, dictators, and even tyrannies.

America's view on providing liberties such as religious freedom, freedom of speech, and the right to live one's own life make it an exception from the rest of the world. Because of this, many believe that America's Exceptionalism makes it superior. "World History In Brief" states, "The nation's federal system led to a fairly weak central government, and many major developments were the result of state action or business initiatives" (p. 419). The lack of regulation in industries allows more businesses to flourish and try new ventures. The financial opportunities America provides for families and individuals is quite high compared to other nations. According to Forbes, "<https://assignbuster.com/american-exceptionalism-research-paper-samples/>

The typical person in the bottom 5 percent of the American income distribution is still richer than 68 percent of the world's inhabitants" (p. 2). The financial success in America definitely contributes to America's Exceptionalism.

One must question whether or not American Exceptionalism really makes it superior than other countries. While the founding principles and way of life might be significantly diverse, historical events in America show that there are flaws in the system. The United States has a history of slavery, racialdiscrimination, and limits on who can vote. While present day America allows for both men and women to vote and has made slavery illegal, the blunders of the past are reminiscent of suppression and limited rights for women and minorities in other countries.

America was founded on principles of freedom unlike any other country. It's differences make it unique throughout the world and a view of American Exceptionalism has been created. While this theory is looked at in a positive light, it's important to also take into account the negative historical events in America. Currently, the United States is still one of the most powerful nations and provides hope to not only it's citizens but also people around the world.