



## ORIGINAL RESEARCH REVIEW

### The Myth of the American Dream and its Ramifications in F. Scott Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby*

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The roaring twenties in the United States of America were decisive years for Americans in the transformation their country was about to undergo by the end of the decade. In this article, the researcher will discuss the very definition of the American dream and how the latter was adopted by F. Scott Fitzgerald in his novel *The Great Gatsby*. The researcher will further explore the failure of the American dream in the novel, mainly depicted in the protagonist Jay Gatsby. This failure was one of other reasons which culminated in the Economic Crash in 1929. In the end, the researcher will discuss how the Economic Crash was a divine punishment to America.

**Keywords:** Roaring Twenties, United States of America, The Great Gatsby, Economic Crash, American Dream.

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### Introduction

After World War I (1914-1918) the entire world had gone through a global transformation. The United States of America was no exception as it had indirectly participated in the war next to what was called “Allies” of the western bloc, against the communists of the eastern bloc. After the war was finished, Americans went through a mania in almost all fields; thus becoming destination number one for what was called the American dream. The latter was the highest objective for both American people and many other nations as well.

Like many authors, F. Scott Fitzgerald approached the concept of the American dream through his novel *The Great Gatsby*. In his novel, he depicted how the American society was like during what is known as “the roaring twenties.” Using the descriptive style of Imagism<sup>1</sup> he drew a rather detailed description of the American society and how material it had become. Everything was allowed when it came to making wealth; that is why there had emerged a type of newly rich people who were called back then “new money” and whom Gatsby was a part of. On the other hand, there were what was called “old money;” those whose families were already rich and who had inherited their wealth from one generation to the next. Daisy’s husband Tom Buchanan was the wealthiest man in the novel and who was part of old money.

Gatsby and Daisy were in love. However, after Gatsby was gone to participate in the war, Tom Buchanan managed to snatch Daisy and got her to marry him. Nobody knows how, yet Gatsby comes back after five years with an enormous wealth that no one knew where and how he got it. There were of course rumors that Gatsby was a bootlegger<sup>2</sup> and that is how all of a sudden he became rich. Astonishingly, Gatsby was not married all these years since Daisy had left him. Not only that, his new colossal mansion was just across the river from Tom and Daisy’s mansion.

As someone who had managed to attain his American dream, Gatsby would invite hundreds of people whom hardly knew him every week. These people were invited to attend Gatsby’s lavish parties in his colossal mansion every week for no reason but hoping that one day Daisy might drop in and finally be able to meet her. Gatsby was so hopeful and noble in his quest to meet Daisy and be reunited once again and make up for the lost times, all the way bearing people’s harsh criticism for having dirty money.

Through his lavish parties, the reader comes to know how American people were going through a state of mania. There were no manners, no conscience and definitely no principles; only experiencing life’s pleasures to the maximum thus becoming

<sup>1</sup> **Imagism:** A movement which emerged during early 20<sup>th</sup> Century primarily in the U.S. The Imagist School was first concerned with poetry alone; then it impacted other literary genres. Imagism advocated the use of detailed descriptive style.

<sup>2</sup> **Bootlegging:** A term believed to have been coined during the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century; it means the illegal traffic, manufacture and sale of alcohol beverages. It is likely that the term was coined after “bootleggers” used to hide alcohol flasks in their boot tops.

materialistic par excellence. Fitzgerald did not make any judgments neither on Gatsby nor on American people; he merely described both. However, to some extent, Fitzgerald leads the reader to believe that the state of mania America was going through during the roaring twenties would somehow bring desolation and would never be unforgiven by god; the latter was embodied in doctor T.J. Eckleburg's eyes.

Furthermore, Fitzgerald chooses his protagonist Jay Gatsby to be the very incarnation of the American dream, together with the green light at the end of Daisy's dock to be the symbol of his quest. However, in the end of the novel Gatsby is shot dead by Myrtle's husband George Wilson who was convinced by the cunning Tom Buchanan that it was Gatsby who had murdered his wife. The readers are somewhat surprised that the protagonist who resembles hope in the novel is killed by the cunning Tom whose Daisy was the only one responsible for Myrtle's tragic death.

Myrtle's car crash is truly Fitzgerald's prophecy of the Great Economic Crash<sup>1</sup>. Thus, somehow Fitzgerald's prophecy had come true just four years after his novel was published in 1925. Moreover, with Gatsby's death Fitzgerald implies to his readers that the American dream and hope were gone with him; thus his death was a kind of bad omen for America.

In this paper, the researcher will attempt to introduce the background of the American dream both in general and in Fitzgerald's novel. Following the methodology of close-reading and text analysis, the researcher will further explore the philosophy of bootlegging and how it helped create a whole new stratum in America called "new money," as a way to attain a piece of the American dream. In this article, the researcher will attempt to answer the following questions: to what extent was the American people corrupt for the sake of reaching the alleged American dream? Was Gatsby truly an incarnation of the American dream? Or was he another American nightmare who had collected their wealth through criminal activities? And, finally, how was the myth of the American all destroyed with the death of Jay Gatsby?

### 1. Background of the American Dream:

The concept of American dream has been a central theme of study for the past decades up until nowadays. Yet, the concept had first existed during the early 17<sup>th</sup> century when the pilgrims or puritans decided to migrate to a new land. By 1630 a group of puritans under the leadership of John Winthrop (1587-1649) settled in Massachusetts Bay Colony; it was then when these puritans had caught a glimpse on the American dream in New England (America). On that basis, New England became the Promised Land for the puritans; a land where they could reestablish their church, make wealth and simply to have a fresh start.

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<sup>1</sup> **Great Crash:** A severe economic depression which impacted almost all the industrial world (mainly U.S.) in the famous stock market crash of 1929.

Thus, the Pilgrim Fathers<sup>1</sup> were the first ones to lay the foundation of the American dream where it is possible for anyone to start over. However, despite the fact it was catapulted by religious endeavors, the American dream has developed over the course of history to encompass political, social as well as financial freedom. In his book *The American Dream: A Short History of an Idea That Shaped a Nation* (2003), Jim Cullen argues that the notion of the American dream has developed to stand for “religious transformation, political reform, educational attainment, sexual expression: the list is endless” (Cullen 2003, 7).

American dream can simply be defined as the opportunity for everyone to make wealth and retire rich and young, on the condition that they work hard. This definition was as well endorsed by Thomas Jefferson in his Declaration of Independence<sup>2</sup> where he laid the foundation of the American dream in the first American constitution; that every citizen residing in America possessed the right for wealth, education and the pursuit of happiness.

Furthermore, it is believed that it was James Truslow Adams who first coined the term “American dream” in his book *The Epic of America* (1931). In his book he defines the American dream as:

A land in which life should be better and richer and fuller for every man, with opportunity for each according to his ability or achievement. [...] It is not a dream of motor cars and high wages merely, but a dream of a social order in which each man and each woman shall be able to attain to the fullest stature of which they are innately capable, and be recognized by others for what they are, regardless of the fortuitous circumstances of birth or position (Adams 1931, 374).

Thus, based on Adams’s definition the American dream is everyone’s right for freedom; financial, political and religious as long as they work hard for it. This freedom is not only restricted to American-born citizens but extends to those foreign immigrants who chose to migrate to America believing in the opportunities they might find there. Consequently, they ought to be treated based on the quality of the hard work they can offer.

## 2. The American Dream in *The Great Gatsby*:

The American dream is a central theme in Fitzgerald’s *The Great Gatsby*. Fitzgerald employed several items to refer to the American dream during the 1920s. But, most importantly, Fitzgerald approached the theme with a slight contempt to the spreading philosophy of consumerism in America. Indeed, during 1920s Americans were driven by a sudden rush to buy anything just to please the rising demands of the material world. Fitzgerald’s contempt in the novel is demonstrated

<sup>1</sup> **Pilgrim Fathers:** In colonial America, the early settlers and founders of the first permanent colony of Plymouth, Massachusetts in the New World (U.S.) in 1620.

<sup>2</sup> **Declaration of Independence:** Considered as the first draft of the American constitution. It was adopted by the Second Continental Congress in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, written by Thomas Jefferson on July 04<sup>th</sup>, 1776.

through “the valley of ashes.” The latter is portrayed as the dumping ground of the greedy materialistic world which crushed the souls of hundreds of poor lives:

This is a valley of ashes—a fantastic farm where ashes grow like wheat into ridges and hills and grotesque gardens where ashes take the forms of houses and chimneys and rising smoke and finally, with a transcendent effort, of men who move dimly and already crumbling through the powdery air (Fitzgerald 1993, 16).

During the roaring twenties, American values which once constituted a great nation where freedom and equality were highly revered, now changed tremendously. During the twenties, the definition of freedom itself had changed; people now were free based on the wealth they had, even when that wealth was dubious. In *The Great Gatsby*, people esteemed others based on the colossal wealth they had owned. Gatsby’s colossal mansion demonstrated his massive wealth and power and that is why people from everywhere rallied to attend his weekly parties even when they suspected that his fortune was achieved through dirty criminal activities. The truth was that it did not matter whether Gatsby was a dirty or honest businessman, what mattered was that he was a multimillionaire and that is it.

Gatsby understood well the philosophy of the materialistic world; he knew that he was worth nothing five years ago when he was still with Daisy. However, after he left for the war Daisy was married to the wealthy Tom Buchanan. That is why Gatsby was determined to be a self-made millionaire; he knew that only then he could make Daisy love him again. Yet, despite his noble quest of being reunited with Daisy once more, his massive wealth was highly suspicious.

Moreover, Fitzgerald does not exclusively relate the American dream to Gatsby alone, rather and as argued before that the American dream was everyone’s quest. In the novel, everyone seem to have his/her American dream; Gatsby’s American dream was not only the wealth but also to win Daisy to his favor. As for the rest of the characters in the novel, Tom Buchanan’s American dream was to have as many mistresses as possible including Myrtle; whereas the latter’s American dream was to live in Tom’s upper world and not with her mechanic husband George Wilson who “wasn’t fit to lick [her] shoe” (Fitzgerald 1993, 23). Daisy’s American dream was to continue living in the world of aristocracy with the occasional pleasure of being wanted by two of the wealthiest men in the novel; Tom and Gatsby.

In his novel Fitzgerald depicted how the American dream was the primary reason for creating a whole new stratum called “new money” who were trying to win respect and self-esteem just like “old money.” However, the “new money” like Gatsby were often treated as inferior to the “real” aristocracy by means of wealth possession, and also through every day’s lifestyle details. For instance, when Tom talks about Gatsby he mocks his dressing style as being overly pompous; he incredulously comments: “An Oxford man! [...] like hell he is! He wears a pink suit” (Fitzgerald 1993, 77).

Despite being mocked by Tom, Gatsby continues to wear a pink suit which tells something about his character, that regardless of his wealth he was still a passionate man; a man who cherished colors. Besides, in the language of colors; pink usually symbolizes love and tenderness and it is so much to be said about Gatsby’s personality. On the other hand, Tom, the representative of the “old money” often

wears white suits which also says something about his personality. The white color reflects the lack of emotions and feelings of the white aristocrats and it is also so much to say about the character of Tom Buchanan.

Furthermore, in his novel Fitzgerald offers an indication to the importance of one's environment in determining the quality of character for the rest of his/her life. The reader cannot help but notice Gatsby's recurrent expression of "old sport." The latter he, clearly, picked it up from the milieu where he grew up. Now and even when he transformed to be a millionaire he still seems to be attached to his favorite expression and feels no shame in using it even with the true aristocrats.

Therefore, Fitzgerald was definitely aware of the theory of naturalism; that one belongs to his/her milieu which is a hard thing to discard. The same thing can be said about Tom Buchanan who was portrayed as a hard and vulgar man. Daisy confesses to Tom how "hulking" and "brute" he was saying: "that's what I get for marrying a brute of a man, a great big hulking physical specimen" (Fitzgerald 1993, 10).

In *The Great Gatsby* the theory of naturalism is stressed by the old proverb "the means justify the ends." Thus, finding the opportunity, regardless of the consequences, and then taking the chance. This principle is demonstrated by Gatsby when he was talking to Nick about Wolfshiem who was a famous gambler and one of Gatsby's business associates. Gatsby tells Nick that Wolfshiem was "the man who fixed the World's Series back in 1919" (Fitzgerald 1993, 49). Then, he adds that "he just saw the opportunity. Why isn't he in jail? They can't get him, old sport. He's a smart man" (Fitzgerald 1993, 49).

In addition, Fitzgerald seems to foretell the downfall of the rich aristocracy by the working class. He ironically stresses the prediction through Tom's words, saying: "It's up to us [white race] who are the dominant race to watch out or these other races will have control of things" (Fitzgerald 1993, 11). Thus, Fitzgerald successfully depicted the domination of the working class in the next few years that followed.

Going back to the aforementioned theory of naturalism, Fitzgerald seems to fully comprehend its basics by placing each character right where they belong. When it comes to Jay Gatsby, Fitzgerald does indeed build a nearly perfect character; in the sense that Gatsby represents the incarnation of the American dream during 1920s and also in that he was the result of his time. In this respect, Gatsby can safely be said to be both the product and victim of the material world; in their book *From Puritanism to Postmodernism: A History of American Literature* (1991), Ruland and Bradbury argue that Gatsby was the "corrupt product of his material world" and at the same time he was "the victim of its massive carelessness" (Ruland and Bradbury 1991, 299).

### 3. Failure of the American Dream:

The absence of the Protestant ethics and values which had once constituted the American dream by means of hard work and self-integrity led to the failure of the American dream during 1920s. The American dream now became only about how to

earn as much money as possible regardless of where it came from. In his article "Fitzgerald's the Great Gatsby" Nathan Cervo explains this phenomenon arguing that:

America is the land of opportunity, but all the opportunities that really matter are basically criminal in character, like bootlegging. To spin off from this a bit, it may be truly said that in America, no noncriminal ever becomes rich. By "crime" I mean not only the illegal, but the immoral; that is, breaches of decency, like honesty and trust, and a fair product for a fair price (Cervo 2005, 169).

Based on Cervo's comment on the American dream during 1920s, it becomes clear how the majority of the "new money" had accumulated their wealth. However, it should be noted that not all members of the "new money" were involved in criminal or illegal businesses; yet the majority had one aspect in common and that they almost lacked the ethics and values which had once laid the foundation of the American dream, the fact which had led to the downfall of the American dream in the Great Economic Crash of 1929.

The downfall of the American dream meant that the dream became corrupt. The American dream which had been founded by the early Puritans was definitely different than that of 1920s; the concept of the American dream shifted from ideals like hard work and faith in god to wealth accumulation and social status. Americans during 1920s believed that money was the most important regardless of the means to get it; when they thought that money could buy anything then the social status became everything regardless of one's ideals.

In his novel, Fitzgerald used Gatsby as the embodiment of the American dream; thus when Gatsby's means to reach Daisy were wrong in the first place, then the entire dream became wrong. In the car crash that caused Myrtle's tragic death, Gatsby did not care about the way Myrtle was killed; rather all he cared about was that Daisy was alright and how she might get out of that trouble. Therefore, Gatsby was as careless and selfish as Daisy was and that is what caused his death by Myrtle's husband George Wilson.

Furthermore, Gatsby's corrupt means by which he accumulated his massive wealth together with his narrow-selfish vision of only reaching Daisy were the primary reasons which led to his demise; thus his American dream was lost forever. Quite astonishingly, Fitzgerald portrayed Gatsby as someone who had already realized that, by pursuing Daisy he was risking everything that he spent a lot to get; however he seemed to be willing to risk it all for the sake of reaching Daisy.

Gatsby was so obsessed with being reunited with Daisy one more time, to the point where he failed to see that he was on the verge of losing his empire he spent so much to build. In fact, Fitzgerald proved to be somewhat ambiguous in building the character of Gatsby. On the one hand, the reader to his novel will notice that Gatsby was just as cruel, selfish and cold-hearted as anyone else determined to make massive wealth. On the other hand, the reader will also notice that Gatsby was not that cruel and cold-hearted since he was willing to risk his entire empire for Daisy till the end by dying in her stead.

Towards the end of the novel, Nick Carraway explains how Gatsby was so overwhelmed by his dream; how he must have felt it so close that he was blind to

see he was straying from the path: "He had come a long way to this blue lawn and his dream must have seemed so close that he could hardly fail to grasp it. He did not know that it was already behind him" (Fitzgerald 1993, 115).

In this sense, Gatsby can be said to have been a dreamer par excellence. Such a man so determined to revolutionize his entire world is not likely to risk everything for Daisy whose feelings for him did not seem to be reciprocal. However, Gatsby was a dreamer and despite the odds were against him with Daisy; yet he convinced himself that his American dream would never be complete without her.

Moreover, in his novel Fitzgerald implies to the reader that the culture of consumerism of 1920s was among other reasons which had led to the demise of the American society. As it has been discussed in the aforementioned paragraphs, the social status and how much money one possessed were of the utmost importance for Americans during 1920s. It is why there emerged a sudden rush in the culture of consumerism where people were deliberately exaggerating in their purchases.

Gatsby was a good example used by Fitzgerald to better portray the culture of consumerism during 1920s. In fact, the so-called "new money" were purposefully exaggerating in the things they bought to manifest their true wealth and social status. In his article "The Theory of the Leisure Class," Thorstein Veblen explains this phenomenon arguing: "to gain and to hold the esteem of men it is not sufficient merely to possess wealth or power. The wealth or power must be put in evidence" (Thorstein 1899, 36).

In order to impress, not only Daisy, but almost everybody Gatsby bought a massive mansion in West Egg right across from Daisy Buchanan's mansion in East Egg. Gatsby's mansion was massively well-constructed for no other reason than to impress everybody around him, including Daisy. This tradition of exaggeration was a common characteristic of the culture of consumerism during 1920s in America; and Gatsby was no exception.

Nick Carraway describes the majesty of Gatsby's mansion saying: "it was a factual imitation of some Hotel de Ville in Normandy, with a tower on one side, spanking new under a thin beard of raw ivy, and a marble swimming pool, and more than forty acres of lawn and garden" (Fitzgerald 1993, 5). Later on, and in order to further impress him, Gatsby reaffirms to Nick that "it took [him] just three years to earn the money that bought it" (58).

Another thing which contributed into the downfall of Gatsby together with the whole community of the "new money," was the eternal difference between the "old rich" and the "new rich." In the novel, Gatsby was as rich as Tom or perhaps even richer; however Gatsby was always treated as an outsider. His colossal mansion, massive wealth, marble swimming pool, important friends, aquaplane and fancy education (oxford) did not grant him the green pass into the "old rich" club. In the eyes of Tom Buchanan, Gatsby resembled the vulgarity of the newly-rich people; an abomination of the industrial revolution.

In his novel, Fitzgerald demonstrates this eternal distinction between Tom Buchanan as the symbol of the "old rich" and Jay Gatsby as the symbol of the "new rich," when comparing the lifestyles of both. Tom's mansion, for example, is described to be fairly simple and even more elaborate than expected (Fitzgerald



1993, 6). However, Gatsby's mansion is described as majestic through the extravagant light of the mansion for example. Nick Carraway expresses his amazement to the extravagant way Gatsby's mansion was lit, almost to the point where he thought the whole peninsula was on a blaze:

When I came home to West Egg that night I was afraid for a moment that my house was on fire. Two o'clock and the whole corner of the peninsula was blazing with light, which fell unreal on the shrubbery and made thin elongating glints upon the roadside wires. Turning a corner, I saw that it was Gatsby's house, lit from tower to cellar" (Fitzgerald 1993, 52).

Therefore, Gatsby's gaudy and exorbitant style reflects his relentless endeavors to be a part of the "true money" society. Unfortunately, Tom and even Daisy Buchanan who represent the "true money" society seem never to accept the likes of Gatsby and what they represent. This action may be seen as their way of protecting their way of life; that outsiders like Gatsby would never be welcome in their world.

Daisy whom Gatsby risked everything to be reunited with was also not ready to leave the world of true aristocracy represented by Tom. Undoubtedly, Daisy loved Gatsby; but surely she loved Tom more. In this sense, Daisy's love for Gatsby was a mere journey in the past to satisfy certain needs that were not quenched. Instead, her love for Tom was not perhaps driven by the same desire as for Gatsby; yet it meant a secure and firm position in the world of true aristocracy.

In addition, Fitzgerald uses automobiles as another element to manifest the wealth of the rich people. During 1920s, automobiles were the breaking revolution in the world of technology and wealthy people made sure to add that technology to their expensive collections. In the novel, rich people like Gatsby and Tom were not using automobiles only as a means of transportation; but also as a way to exhibit how wealthy they were. Automobiles were merely another expensive toy wealthy people could afford.

Again the difference between Tom (old money) and Gatsby (new money) was seen in their distinctive taste of cars. Gatsby's car was a monstrous yellow customized Rolls Royce which reflected by which means he had accumulated his wealth. Whereas, Tom's car was a blue coupé which was expensive but more subtle and modest compared to Gatsby's. However, both Gatsby and Tom shared the common belief that automobiles were an expensive luxury that needed to be obtained.

### **Conclusion:**

As a conclusion, Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby* was brilliantly well-constructed. In the novel, the reader could clearly notice how the author made numerous successful prophesies. One of the prophesies strangely came true only four years after the novel was published in 1925. Indeed, in his novel, Fitzgerald foresaw the downfall of the American society through the fall of Jay Gatsby. Therefore, the global Economic Collapse of 1929 can be considered as a punishment of god to America.

During 1920s Americans lived carelessly and recklessly, therefore the global crisis of 1929 was viewed by many as an automatic act of divine vengeance. Thus, the American dream shifted from being graceful to disastrous. Having lived during 1920s, Fitzgerald is considered as one of the best to have tackled the issue of the American dream in his novel *The Great Gatsby*.

In fact, Fitzgerald can be said to have successfully included all the necessary elements which best manifested the American dream, and how Gatsby's failure to obtain Daisy led to the failure of the entire concept of the American dream. In his novel, Fitzgerald refrained from making any judgments whatsoever; instead he described his characters each in their revolving world of events. Fitzgerald especially does so when it comes to the ambiguous intertwined relationship of Tom, Daisy and Gatsby.

On the one hand, Gatsby and Daisy were never truly connected; they were rather connected by the green light lying between them. Gatsby helplessly endeavors to reach the far light but it seems impossible; and even when the two are physically and sexually reunited towards the end of the novel, yet the full reunion Gatsby was looking for was never going to happen. After finally realizing it, Gatsby decides to give up his life so that Daisy can live.

On the other hand, Tom and Daisy's relationship was just as weird as Daisy and Gatsby's. In the novel, Fitzgerald reveals to the reader that Tom and Daisy were married; however their relationship remains mysterious that the reader does not know whether they are actually married or not. This is better manifested through the almost absence of their daughter, where she is hardly mentioned at all. This shows how much Tom and Daisy were selfish; how both were hell-bent on satisfying their personal desires, all the way forgetting about the most important person who bound them together.

In fact, all of Gatsby, Daisy and Tom can be said to be selfish and cruel. However, when it comes to Gatsby he was to some extent different. The reader to the novel can easily discern that Gatsby went through the burden of accumulating wealth through twisted means, all for no reason other than to impress Daisy and be reunited with her once again; and he believed in it so much that he gave up his life for her.

Yet, with Daisy and Tom, Fitzgerald portrays the two as a couple who knew well what they were doing. The two knew how to play with Gatsby and when to leave his world. In the end, it was Gatsby alone who paid the price for Tom and Daisy's crimes. Convinced by the cunning Tom, George Wilson murdered Gatsby thinking he was the one whom his wife Myrtle was having an affair with. Wilson also killed Gatsby thinking he was the one who killed his wife in a car crash, thus taking the blame for Daisy's crime.

It is why Nick Carraway who saw it all was disgusted by everyone except Gatsby. Nick realized how pathetic and selfish the "old money" were in fulfilling their personal desires only. However, he was disgusted by his cousin Daisy the most. He could not understand how she did not bother to attend Gatsby's funeral where he was the one who risked everything for.

Not only this, but also Daisy decided to go into a voyage on the day of Gatsby's funeral. Towards the end of the novel, Nick expresses his disgust of Daisy and Tom saying: "They were careless people, Tom and Daisy - they smashed up things and creatures and then retreated back into their money or their vast carelessness, or whatever it was that kept them together, and let other people clean up the mess they had made ..." (Fitzgerald 114). It is why Nick Carraway labeled Jay Gatsby "great," because to him Gatsby was the only one who remained faithful to his beliefs till the last breath of his life; thus deserving to be called "great."

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## اسطوره رویای آمریکایی و پیامدهای آن در گتسبی بزرگ اثر فرانسیس اسکات فیتزجرالد

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دهه ۲۰ در ایالات متحده آمریکا سال‌های تعیین‌کننده‌ای برای آمریکایی‌ها در تحولی بود که کشورشان تا پایان این دهه دستخوش آن می‌شد. در این مقاله، محقق به تعریف رویای آمریکایی و چگونگی پذیرش آن توسط فرانسیس اسکات فیتزجرالد در رمان گتسبی بزرگ می‌پردازد. محقق بیشتر شکست رویای آمریکایی را در این رمان که عمدتاً در شخصیت اصلی داستان جی گتسبی به تصویر کشیده شده است، بررسی خواهد کرد. این شکست یکی از دلایل دیگری بود که در سقوط اقتصادی در سال ۱۹۲۹ به اوج خود رسید.

**واژه‌های کلیدی:** دهه بیست و خروشان، ایالات متحده آمریکا، گتسبی بزرگ، سقوط اقتصادی، رویای آمریکایی.

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