**Class Notes**

**Topic: “The American Dream with John Hofmeister”**

**Members – Students: Budapest (Business School), Canada (Durham College)**

**John Hofmeister – former president of Shell in the USA**

**What is the big picture?**

* **A planet – we live on, science and technology has taken us to places we never thought were possible.**
* **We have human and global civilization and the USA is the head**
* **The USA is representative by getting rich fast – Vegas Shooting (devastating) but in the main source of gambling and gaining money fast.**

**Some Questions:**

* **Is this the end of the US Presidency/End of the American Era?**
* **Will Donald Trump end the Presidency/how is he changing it?**
* **Will USA remain the global power of civilization?**

**What is the American Dream?**

* **To come from nothing and turn it around to become huge by working hard and getting a big return.**
* **Different countries have different perspective**
* **The USA is attractive due to their attractions/opportunities and possible achievements through money.**
* **Material Gain – achieving meaning in life to get the material gain (sexiness).**
* **Fundamental dream and make it happen through opportunity.**
* **American dream represents getting from point a – b. The only thing that is stopping is the effort that is put forward. The points are subjective to the individual who put them in place.**
* **Happiness – the Land of the Free**
  + **Be whatever you want whenever you want – as long as you are willing to work.**
  + **Freedom is a “sticky” term – subjective** 
    - **The freedom to say and do whatever you want – could restrict other peoples freedoms.**
* **Concept of the American Dream is bigger than just one Country.** 
  + **There is a ripple effect with other countries – base our dreams off of their dream.**
* **Ideological standpoint – brilliant marketing tool for capitalism** 
  + **Exportation**
  + **Hope**
  + **Work**
  + **Hopes and Dreams**
* **Afraid of the American Dream to those that are immigrating because different culture and language.** 
  + **Good because there is a good chance to learn and become equal**
* **Success and equal opportunities within school.**

**John’s Definition**

* **Starts with the notion of the individual**
  + **The individual is everything and has the freedom to choose to do whatever they want**
  + **Have every opportunity to pursue their dreams and goals no matter the idea** 
    - **Society should not get in the way**
* **Everyone from any culture CAN and HAS achieved their dreams and goals:** 
  + **Academics**
  + **Craftsmanship**
  + **Celebrity**
  + **Money**
* **Race should not be a barrier to the American Dream** 
  + **Barriers removed or overcome due to hard work**
* **Diversity is important** 
  + **Race**
  + **Political view**
  + **Culture**
  + **Language etc…**
* **Everyone has the right to pursue their path of ultimate desire.**

**What is the sadness and darkness when freedom is designated by the Government (Soviet)?**

* **Difficult to speak to the authoritarian due to age.**
* **Political and Economic Perspective** 
  + **Political** 
    - **No freedom of speech**
    - **No opportunity to get a good job**
    - **Regulations to travel to the free world**
  + **Economic** 
    - **No market between the suppliers, consumers or producers**
    - **No freedom of enterprise/free market**
    - **Importation limitations**
    - **Bad quality**
    - **No freedom of speech** 
      * **Travel**
      * **Purchasing goods**
      * **Entertainment**
    - **Lots of administrative barriers**
* **Soviet Unions** 
  + **People learned how to get disciplined** 
    - **No freedom of ideas**
    - **Buying or selling limitations**
  + **Started to be more economical**

**John’s Address**

* **How much difficulty and danger the world has been through since WW2** 
  + **The globe implies that everyone is on the same planet doing the same thing**
    - **Not the case**
* **Culture and Ethnic issues – been a rough situation since WW2**
* **Prosperity has moved from America to different parts of the World because people like prosperity**
* **Have an environment to achieve admissions**
* **Incredible to see how China has moved from 1970-80** 
  + **Not the entire country has moved**
* **Lots of opportunity for individuals to climb the ladder of prosperity – one belt one road**

**Freedom**

**Opportunity**

**Diversification**

**Money**

**Exploitation**

**Inequality**

* **Capitalism is the worst and best system** 
  + **Brought more good then evil**
  + **Sitting here due to capitalism**
  + **Individuals would not be in different countries if they did not want to get out of the capitalist system**

**Donald J. Trump**

* **Represents the coldest part of Capitalism** 
  + **Get Rich and who cares about everything else**
* **Is the American Dream safe and growing under Donald Trump** 
  + **Represents the ultimate success of the American Dream**
* **Government is trying to solve areas that they do not have control over** 
  + **Government will control everything**
* **Trump Represents a return to the American Dream** 
  + **Let the Economy Expand**
  + **Structural changes to a 3-5 percent economy increase**
* **The majority of American’s do not view them as representing the people well** 
  + **Actions towards people in the past still define him as a person and President**
  + **Not honest enough – needs to come clean about myths**
* **The American’s knew they were not electing the ‘golden’ president** 
  + **Viewed as a Gangster**
  + **Playboy**
  + **Egotistical**
* **Do not respect or support the American President but still voted** 
  + **Could not bring themselves to not vote for the other candidate** 
    - **Fully represented the continuation of the Obama Administration**
* **Trump will hopefully represent the way that the American System is supposed to work** 
  + **Not working under him or Obama** 
    - **Due to separation of powers**
* **Government will not be able to function because the view of the American Dream is obsolete** 
  + **Voting for Trump encourages this**
* **Donald Trump is only in power for the White Male – not the minority**
* **Donald Trump wants to increase the taxes to the poor to give it to the rich**
* **To vote for Trump is to vote for the White Male not the Country**
* **If only Rich White Men voted for Trump he would not be President** 
  + **He went through great lengths to advertise himself**
* **The American Dream has died due to Freedom not existing** 
  + **Travel Ban** 
    - **Cannot come over from any country and make yourself into something**
* **Big Racial Divide**
* **Donald Trump is the least issue** 
  + **The biggest issue is terrorist groups within America**
  + **The Big wave of left Wing Extremist Ideology**
* **Political Correctness is restraining the people**
* **There is no Right or Wrong in politics**
* **Trump was the only one who spoke about individual rights** 
  + **Only one listening to the American’s about what they want**
* **Trump does represent USA** 
  + **Less oppressed citizens**
* **The potential to make America Grow through the American Dream – is this possible?**
* **Movements happen due to the infringement on people’s rights** 
  + **Individuals are not listening** 
    - **Radicalization happens so that people can hear them and be heard**
* **Oil and Gas industry employ 10 million people**
* **Nobody has the dream that Trump is a nice man**
* **He campaigned to the Racist**
* **People did not vote for Trump due to Racism**

**How is the American Dream working now?**

* **A true leader leads from inspiration**

**and hope – not fear**

* + **Trump is someone who leads from fear**
  + **In the end will take the USA in the wrong direction**
* **The dream was embodied and completed in Trump** 
  + **The people and the world have seen how ugly and fake the dream is**
    - **False representation of equality that the dream is**
* **Election was a good thing because now America can be restored** 
  + **Make changes and redefining the American Dream and what it should be**
  + **The dream is more of an attitude**
  + **A face and personality to the dream shows how it needs to be corrected**
* **Separate a terrible man from the president** 
  + **He is trying to lift all people with a new tax program that would double the production of everyone from $6,000-12,000.**
  + **Started out by looking at those with the least**
* **We have had many nasty presidents already and have learned to move past them**
* **Trump represents – giving back to the people**
* **The messy society of the US does mean that the American Dream is alive and well**