**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**