



assimilate
equality

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DISCUSSION & REVIEW QUESTIONS:

- Mr. Prager states that, “...some people speak about what we call American exceptionalism, meaning that America’s values have been exceptional.” What is so exceptional about America’s values? What proves that America’s value system is not only unique, but better than the value system of many other countries?
- Mr. Prager explains that, “...people who come here assimilate faster than in any other country in the world... If you come to Germany, let’s say, from Turkey where many people have emigrated from, you will find that most Turks remain Turks for generations. They are not considered fellow Germans or fellow Swedes or fellow Danes nearly as much as somebody from Turkey would be [considered American] within a week in the United States.” Why is this the case? What values and factors contribute to this quick assimilation? Why do Americans have the attitude that, “...you work with us to make America, you are one of us, whatever your color, creed, race or what have you.” Why do you think that citizens of other countries do not generally apply this attitude towards their immigrants?
- We learn that, “America is founded on the notion that God is the source of values. That’s why the Declaration of Independence says that we have inalienable rights, but they’re not from humanism, and they’re not from great thinkers; they are from God. No God – then rights can be taken away by people, because they were given by people. So God is central.” The term ‘inalienable’ means ‘unchangeable’ and ‘absolute.’ Why is this condition of certain rights being from God, thus not being able to be taken away or twisted, so important to the American value system, and to American exceptionalism?
- We learn from Mr. Prager that Europeans equate liberty with equality, but an important difference is that, “We are all born equal, that’s an American value, but ending up equal, that’s a European value. Where you end up, that’s your business,” indeed that, “If you want to enforce equality then you tell people how much they can earn, and that is one example of the removal of liberty.” Why is this difference so important, in terms of contributing to American exceptionalism and in terms of the success of the ‘American experiment?’
- Mr. Prager reminds us that, “No country in the world has those three values [the American Trinity] as its essence,” but warns us that currently, “...too many Americans, especially the well-educated, end up subscribing to the European system, and not the American system of values.” Considering the overwhelming success of the United States, why do you think that some American citizens are wishing to embrace the failing socialism models in Europe? How much do you think that misguided and ill-informed progressive idealism has to do with influencing the thinking of these ‘well-educated’ subscribing to European values? Why?

EXTEND THE LEARNING:

CASE STUDY: Thai Lee

INSTRUCTIONS: Read the article “American Dreamers: Foreign Born Women Making Fortunes In U.S,” then answer the questions that follow.

- Why do you think that Miss Lee was, “...intent on chasing the American Dream?” What is the ‘American Dream,’ and how does the American Trinity enable it?
- What common factors from the American Trinity contributed to these women’s success? How do you think their stories would be different if they had immigrated to a European country? Why? Why isn’t there such a thing as the ‘French Dream’ or the ‘German Dream,” and even if there was such a thing how would it differ from the American Dream? Why?
- We learn in the article that, “...15 of the women, or 30%, including Lee were born outside of the U.S. in countries like Germany, Japan, Israel, Morocco and China.” What is it about these three particular values in combination that is so special, and that has created a place where so many others wish to go? What are the consequences of immigrants not assimilating into the country they go to, especially in the United States where it is so easy to do so?

1. People that come to the US assimilate faster than any other country in the world.
 - a. True
 - b. False

2. What are the 3 pillars of American Values?
 - a. Fraternity, Equality, Liberty.
 - b. Equality, Liberty, In God We Trust.
 - c. In God We Trust, Equality, E Pluribus Unum.
 - d. In God We Trust, Liberty, E Pluribus Unum.

3. The American value “E Pluribus Unum” means:
 - a. From Many One: We are diverse in origin and should retain our culture instead of assimilating.
 - b. From Many One: America doesn’t care about your ethnic, racial, blood, or religious origins; America only asks that you hold American values.
 - c. From Many One: We strive to have the same American Culture such as eating hot dogs, watching American Idol, and owning a home.
 - d. From Many One: The American Cultures unite together because we are citizens.

4. The American view of Equality is:
 - a. We are born equal and the policies of government will help us all stay equal.
 - b. We aren’t born equal but with help from others we can achieve equality.
 - c. We are born equal, enabling us to have the liberty to end up wherever our talents and abilities take us.
 - d. We are born equal and it is our right to remain equal regardless of our actions.

5. The American value “In God We Trust” refers to:
 - a. Our inalienable rights that come from God, not from Humanism or Great Thinkers.
 - b. Trusting God to keep America great.
 - c. Our rights that come from the Founding Fathers.
 - d. All of the above.



QUIZ - ANSWER KEY

THE AMERICAN TRINITY

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<http://www.forbes.com/sites/luisakroll/2015/06/09/american-dreamers-foreign-born-women-making-fortunes-in-u-s/>

[The Little Black Book of Billionaire Secrets](#)

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American Dreamers: Foreign Born Women Making Fortunes In U.S.



[Luisa Kroll](#)

Forbes Staff

My beat: How folks make, keep and spend fortunes.

As a child [Thai Lee](#), now 56, moved around a lot. The daughter of a well regarded Korean economist, she was born in Thailand and spent many years in Korea. In her teens, she moved to the U.S. with her older sister. They lived with a friend of the family and attended high school in Amherst, Mass and later enrolled at [Amherst College](#).

Intent on chasing the American Dream, she returned to Korea after college and worked at a manufacturer, in order to raise enough money to get an MBA. A few years later, she was back in Massachusetts and [Harvard Business School](#). After stints at [Procter & Gamble PG +0.00%](#) and [American Express AXP +0.22%](#), she and her then husband bought SHI International for \$1 million in 1989. Now a U.S. citizen, she is CEO and majority owner of a \$6 billion (sales) IT provider, worth an estimated \$1.1 billion.

Forbes put out our first ever list of the 50 most successful self-made women in America, as defined by their net worths, in May. One astonishing finding that we didn't anticipate was the fact that 15 of the women, or 30%, including Lee were born outside of the U.S. in countries like Germany, Japan, Israel, Morocco and China. One worked as a nanny before coming to America. Another was a PhD scientist. One entrepreneur played semi-professional basketball in Shanghai before immigrating to the United States and later founding a semiconductor firm in California. All found success and made the bulk of their fortunes in America.

In comparison, in 2013 we did the same review of Forbes 400 members and found 10% were immigrants, still notable but not nearly as remarkable.

Which led me to wonder if indeed there was a larger pattern. Turns out George Mason University has tracked self-employment of immigrants over many years. In its most recent data available, George Mason found that immigrants accounted for 18.4% of all self-employed workers, or roughly 3.2 million immigrants who work for themselves. That's up from just 6.9% in 1980. Immigrant women now represent 40% of all self-employed immigrants, up from 25% that same year. There are now an estimated 1.3 million self-employed immigrant women, up from 180,000 in 1980.

“There is growing evidence that the positive economic contributions of immigrant women are vastly underestimated and that these contributions are often based on the entrepreneurial activities of immigrant women,” says Dr. James Witte, director of the Institute for Immigration Research. The failure to recognize these contributions is because the entrepreneurial activity of women often takes nontraditional innovative forms. Facing some combination of cultural constraints, family responsibilities, and legal or structural barriers to standard employment relations, immigrant women create and discover entrepreneurial opportunities to produce economic value for themselves and their families.”

Many of these women are in low paying jobs, and their median incomes have actually fallen since 1980, but their numbers and influence are increasing. And as our ranking shows, some foreign born females have found extreme success. Below is a full list of the foreign born among our Top 50 ranking of self-made women.

Jin Sook Chang, South Korea

\$3.05 billion, Forever 21

Peggy Cherg, Burma

\$1.5 billion, Panda Express

Neerja Sethi, India

\$1.1 billion, Syntel

Thai Lee, Thailand

\$1.1 billion, SHI International

Eren Ozmen, Turkey

\$900 million, Sierra Nevada

Christel DeHaan, Germany

\$900 million, Resort Condominiums International

Weili Dai, China

\$720 million, Marvell Technology

Safra Catz, Israel

\$525 million, Oracle

Jane Hsiao, Taiwan

\$510 million, Opko

Jayshree Ullal, U.K.

\$470 million, Arista Networks

Diane von Furstenberg, Belgium

\$450 million, DVF

Sonia Gardner, Morocco

\$380 million, Avenue Capital

Kit Crawford, Canada

\$360 million, Clif Bars

Sachiko Kuno, Japan

\$330 million, Sucampo

Adi Tatarko, Israel

\$300 million, Houzz