

The USA: a Nation of Immigrants

Essential vocabulary

<i>to immigrate / an immigrant</i>	imigrować / imigrant
<i>a pull factor</i>	czynnik atrakcyjności
<i>to aspire to / to yearn</i>	aspirować do / pragnąć
<i>an opportunity / a future prospect</i>	szansa / przyszła perspektywa
<i>poverty-stricken / in dire straits</i>	zubożały / w krytycznej sytuacji
<i>a refugee</i>	uchodźca
<i>an asylum seeker / to seek asylum</i>	osoba ubiegająca się o azyl / starać się o azyl
<i>to shelter / a shelter</i>	udzielić schronienia / schronienie
<i>to endure hardships</i>	znosić trudności
<i>an illegal alien, an illegal</i>	nielegalny imigrant
<i>a stowaway</i>	pasażer „na gapę”
<i>the undocumented</i>	imigrant bez ważnych dokumentów
<i>a smuggler</i>	przemytnik
<i>quotas</i>	kwoty
<i>restrictive / selective</i>	restrykcyjny / selektywny
<i>to naturalise / naturalisation</i>	naturalizować / naturalizacja
<i>to assimilate / to acculturate</i>	asymilować / inkulturować
<i>multicultural / multiracial</i>	wielokulturowy / wielorasowy
<i>an expatriate / a stateless</i>	osoba żyjąca na obczyźnie / bezpaństwowiec
<i>to let in / to keep out migrants</i>	wpuścić / blokować wjazd imigrantów
<i>intolerance / intolerant</i>	nietolerancja / nietolerancyjny
<i>biased, prejudiced</i>	pefen uprzedzeń
<i>a scapegoat</i>	koziół ofiarny
<i>the colour bar (BrE) / color line (AmE)</i>	dyskryminacja rasowa
<i>racial hatred / racial bias</i>	nienawiść rasowa / uprzedzenia rasowe
<i>affirmative action</i>	dyskryminacja pozytywna
<i>white supremacy</i>	supremacja białych
<i>nativism</i>	preferencja dla rdzennych mieszkańców państwa względem imigrantów

A brief history of immigration to the USA until 1945

Immigration is the process through which individuals become temporary, permanent residents or citizens of a host country. Historically, the process of immigration has been a social, economic and cultural asset to the USA. It has resulted in the development of a multicultural society, which is today characterized by a wide variety of cultures and ethnicities deriving from these periods of immigration.

The US is therefore a nation of immigrants, and it has always been so. Americans share a common experience: they or their forebears left another country to begin anew in the United States. Successive migration waves have occurred since the 16th century and it is today considered that about 15% of the US population today was foreign-born. Thus, immigration is a defining factor of the American identity.

The first settlers were mostly Spanish, British and French settlers that left their country for various reasons (exploration, religion or trade). In the 17th century, the English Puritans left the Old continent when the developing Protestantism caused persecution and established a settlement on the East coast. In 1620, the Pilgrim Fathers left Plymouth aboard the Mayflower and settled in what was to become New England. From then on, many more settlements were established by British emigrants and they were soon to be followed by people from other countries, such as Germany, the Netherlands and Scandinavian nations all over the 18th century. In 1776, the American Declaration of Independence was signed.

In the mid-19th century, the migration movements gathered momentum and major waves of Europeans travelled across the Atlantic Ocean for the young United States. It is generally estimated that about 10 million people reached the US from 1839 to 1861. These Northern Europeans longed for professional opportunities in this land of wealth and shared common cultural and religious features, which altogether contributed to homogenize the population. After the Civil War (1861–1865), a second wave of immigration occurred, but it was different in nature. Twenty million migrants, mainly from Eastern and Mediterranean Europe, reached the US in 50 years. In 1907 only, more than 1.3 million people sought asylum. This workforce helped develop the US industry so much that by the early 20th century it had become the world industrial leader.

The American government implemented measures to try to control the population flow before and during World War One, first by applying restriction on Chinese and Japanese populations (from the 1880s to the 1910s) and then by implementing selection measures, such as the compulsory literacy test in 1917 on all applicants. Indeed, the USA met difficulties to assimilate so many people, therefore Americans were getting worried about the national cohesion. English-only instruction laws were passed in the late 1880s. From 1906 on, with the Naturalisation Act, foreigners had to learn English. Finally, quotas of immigrants were introduced privileging Europeans in 1924.

These quota measures were voted in order to try to restore an ethnic balance, but it favoured the people from Anglo-Saxon countries against Southern and Eastern Europeans. Mass emigration stopped when the 1929 Great Depression occurred. In the 1930s and early 1940s, most emigrants that reached the US were Europeans persecuted during the war.

Writing tips

► **Effective** (wyraża sukces w dążeniu do zamierzonego celu) i **efficient** (wyraża wydajność pracy człowieka lub maszyny) to dwa różne przymiotniki, których nie należy mylić ze sobą.

→ *The immigration policy was **effective** in raising the productivity of some industrial sectors.*

→ *The assembly line was made more **efficient** thanks to the new automated process.*

Vocabulary

<i>a would-be immigrant</i>	niedoszły lub przyszły imigrant
<i>a flow, an influx / to flock</i>	napływ / napływać
<i>to flood</i>	zalewać
<i>to attract, to appeal / attraction</i>	przyciągać / przyciąganie
<i>to flee a country</i>	uciec z kraju

Complementary information

- **The Mayflower:** it was the ship that transported the first English Pilgrims, from Plymouth, England to the New World in 1620. There were an estimated 130 passengers and crew onboard. The voyage is a symbol in American colonization history, with its story of survival in the American East coast winter environment after they reached Cape Cod, recorded by William Bradford, who was to become governor of the colony.

Immigration over the last 70 years

Since 1945, the origin of immigrants has very much changed, with a majority of people coming from Mexico (about 30% in 2010) and also refugees fleeing war-torn countries. During the 1950s and 1960s, the end of colonization across Asia and Africa was another source for people to reach the USA. Immigration from these former French and British dominions increased. The place of settlement also started to shift: from then on newcomers preferred the major cities of California, Florida and Texas to New York.

In the 1960s, legislation was passed in order to facilitate the reunification of families, regardless of the immigrants' origins. The 1965 US policy implemented under Lyndon B. Johnson rejected the idea that people from certain national origins were more easily integrated than others. Along with its principled construction of a system dominated by family reunification, Congress embraced the ideal of a US historically open to any person. Admission based on education would bar the poor (the "huddled masses") and overly selective admissions would go against American values. It has broadly remained since then: more than three quarters of admissions are based on this reform. However, this reform that originally aimed to focus more on family than on merit, caused many would-be immigrants to apply elsewhere, particularly in Canada, which sought skills. Since the 1990s new measures have been put in place to limit the loss of qualified and educated immigrants. In 1990 particularly, the Family Unity and Employment Opportunity Immigration Act has enabled to balance skills and family-motivated applications. The number of admitted immigrants soared again, to almost a million a year.

After 2001, admission requirements were tightened because of the threat of terrorism. In 2009 Barack Obama called immigration reform a priority, but he soon faced pressure from immigration advocates to move forward and also from Republicans who wanted to maintain the previous legislation. Obama pushed for comprehensive reform, but the health care bill soon became a political priority. Protests in support of the DREAM Act (Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors) brought national attention to the plight of strict immigration laws, but this bill did not pass. Concerning illegal immigration, Democratic administrations have pushed for amnesty for hundreds of thousands of illegals and Republican ones have attempted to push for stricter border security against illegal immigration.

After the presidential election of 2016, President Trump has proposed to build a wall on the United States-Mexico border, and expressed support for applying limits on legal immigration on grounds that official estimates of the number of illegal immigrants are three times lower than in reality. He has also expressed opposition to allow Syrian refugees into the US and is planning to ban Muslims from entering the US, claiming that they are a threat to national security.

Vocabulary

<i>to quarantine</i>	skierować na kwarantannę
<i>to huddle</i>	tłoczyć się
<i>to process</i>	rozpatrywać, przetwarzać
<i>to reprieve / a reprieve</i>	odroczyć / odroczenie
<i>an ID (identification document)</i>	dokument tożsamości

Complementary information

- **Ellis Island:** For over 60 years, Ellis Island, located near New York was the gateway for millions of Americans to the United States. This infrastructure opened in 1892 as a federal immigration station, a purpose it served for more than 60 years (it closed in 1954). About 13 million immigrants passed through the station and it is today estimated that about 40 percent of all US citizens can trace one of their ancestors to Ellis Island.

What is the Green Card?

The Green Card (permanent resident authorisation) can be obtained for family, professional or even political motives. Many workers live in the US, either on temporary visas or permanent ones. If they wish to apply for citizenship, they are offered three main possibilities. If they have resided for at least five years on the US territory and are able to justify their residence, if they have an American relative or if they were born in the USA even of foreign parents (anyone born on the US territory is automatically granted citizenship). However, marriage does not necessarily confer citizenship.

Green Card holders are granted permission to live and work in the United States on a permanent basis. One can become a permanent resident several different ways. Generally, applicants are sponsored by a family member in the United States. Other individuals may become permanent residents through refugee or asylum-seeker status or other humanitarian programs. Also, an employer can recommend an applicant in order to obtain this authorization to work in the US. Finally, a yearly national lottery has been set up to redistribute visas that have not been used by wealthy countries. Anybody with a high school degree or a professional experience can apply. The number of cards available through this specific process is about 50,000 a year, for about 8 million foreign applicants.

To become a US citizen, one must be able to speak, read and write English, answer a questionnaire on US history, culture, principles and politics, and testify under oath a good moral character. If so, it can hope to swear allegiance to their new homeland and uphold the Constitution during a naturalization ceremony.

President Trump has cancelled the Green Card lottery in 2017, as part of his immigration reform program, and is currently pushing for a radical reform of the American immigration scheme.

Writing tips**Interpunkcja**

Wielką literą piszemy po angielsku:

- nazwy własne, tytuły i skróty, nazwy miejsc, ulic, języków i narodowości, religii, grup, instytucji, przedsiębiorstw, jednak nie dyscyplin naukowych (chyba że chodzi o język, np. *English class*);
- nazwy miesięcy, dni i świąt, jednak nie pór roku;
- kierunki geograficzne – tylko wtedy, gdy wskazują na konkretne miejsce;
- pierwsze litery wszystkich słów, z których składają się tytuły (artykułów, powieści itd.) oraz epoki historyczne, piszemy wielką literą, z wyjątkiem: *a, an, the, and, of, in* (chyba że od nich zaczyna się fraza).

Vocabulary

<i>shelter</i>	schronienie
<i>a residence permit</i>	zezwolenie na pobyt
<i>a political refugee</i>	uchodźca polityczny, dysydent
<i>wealth, affluence</i>	bogactwo
<i>a border</i>	granica

Motivations for migrating to the US: refugees

In today's terminology, differences must be made between various motives for migrating to a country: asylum seeker, refugee and migrant.

Broadly speaking, refugees are forced to flee for their lives, while immigrants choose to move to another country. A *refugee* is a person who is forced to flee from persecution and who is located outside of their home country. There are different categories, such as political, economic or environmental refugee. An *asylum seeker* has fled his or her country and is asking for protection in another country: he or she is a claimant *seeking* refuge and will therefore be termed a refugee only when his or her case has been decided. A *migrant* is a person who is outside their country of origin, currently on the move or with temporary status or no status at all in the country where they live. An *economic migrant* moves countries for a job or a better economic future, however *migrants'* motivations are complex and therefore labeling a migrant as "economic" can be simplistic.

The US has welcomed about 65,000 refugees per year since 2010, mostly from the Near East and South Asia. The United States recognizes the right of asylum as specified by international and federal law. Refugees compose 10 percent of the annual

immigration rate to the United States, though some large refugee populations are very prominent. Since 1945, more refugees have found homes in the US than any other nation of the world. Over two million refugees have arrived in the US since 1980, about 10% of all asylum-seeker admissions in the OECD countries.

Asylum in the US requires that applicants prove persecution in their home country on grounds of race, religion, political opinion or socio-ethnic belonging. They must also establish that the government of their country of origin is either involved in the persecution, or unable to control a situation that threatens their life.

Vocabulary

<i>ethnicity</i>	przynależność etniczna
<i>to screen</i>	filtrować, przesiewać
<i>a scapegoat</i>	koziół ofiarny
<i>a moratorium</i>	moratorium, zawieszenie, tymczasowe wstrzymanie stosowania

Complementary information

- ***E Pluribus Unum*** is Latin for "out of many, one." It refers to the fact that the United States is a cohesive single nation as the result of the thirteen smaller colonies joining together in 1776. Just as the US has thirteen original states, *E Pluribus Unum* has thirteen letters in it. Even though it still appears on US coins, it is no longer the official national motto. *In God We Trust* became so in 1956.

A melting pot country

It is therefore clear that no country on the planet would be as associated ideologically with immigration as the United States today. Refuge and opportunity are and have always been the founding stones of their multicultural identity as well as a mutual advantage for the wealth of the country despite the falsehoods that some hatred-filled politicians seem to have people believe. The way Americans as a people apprehend immigration is paramount, through the heritage it represents, through the making of identity and above all through the ideal it contributes to create. Newcomers are aiming to be integrated in the US through a theory termed the melting pot.

The term *melting pot* refers to people from different countries with their own culture united within a homogeneous society. According to this principle, people lose the specificities of their native country to become integrated into their host country. This helps promote its cultural standards so that they share a same language for instance.

As President Theodore Roosevelt had to face a major influx of immigrants from Asia and Europe in 1919, he declared "We have room for but one language in this country, and that is the English language".

However this loss of roots led some communities to criticize this lack of multiculturalism. That is why some of them rejected the mainstream culture which gave a salad bowl model based on various cultures that make up a society. The 1967 Bilingual Education Act led to English as a possible second language for newcomers. But this act was considered dangerous for the unity of the nation. It was then replaced in 2002 by the No Child Left Behind measures, which showed the difficulty to come up with a common language policy. Added to this, the creation of the expression "**hyphenated America**", used by immigrants to claim for their origins, illustrated a risk of fragmentation of the American society. In the 1980s, the English language was given an official status as the sole language, particularly in the administration.

Nowadays, immigrants originate from the developing world of Asia and Latin America, and no longer from Europe. The Hispanic community accounts for 12% of the population, on a par with the African-American population and the USA is trying to respect its original motto, E Pluribus Unum.

Vocabulary

<i>melting pot</i>	tygiel
<i>homogeneous</i>	homogeniczny
<i>hyphenated Americans</i>	dosł.: Amerykanie „przez łącznik”, np. Afro-Amerykanie

Complementary information

- **Salad Bowl:** The salad bowl notion suggests that integration combines like a salad bowl. According to this concept, different American cultures are brought together – like salad ingredients – but do not mix together into a single homogeneous culture. Each culture keeps its own distinct qualities. This idea proposes a society of many different cultures. It contrasts with the melting pot, that suggests that ethnic groups may be unable to preserve their cultures due to assimilation processes.

Opposition to immigration policies

It does not come as a surprise that immigration has its detractors in all developed countries. In the United States, the principal concerns expressed by those opposed to immigration are the economic costs (job competition, threat on education and various

social services), the negative environmental impact from accelerated population growth, increasing crime rates, and in the long run, changes in national identities and values.

According to them, immigration adds to US population growth and salaries, hurting particularly unskilled workers, including previously arrived and integrated immigrants who can be displaced by newcomers willing to work at much lower wages. Those willing to work in those conditions can slow the economic globalization process. Opponents to immigration also claim that immigrants benefit from public support to retain their native language and culture, provoking concerns that programs such as bilingual schooling and preferences for minorities contribute to the “disuniting” of America. This has been a key argument of the Tea Party in the early 2010s.

While the debate about immigration is often framed in a simplistic pro and anti-immigration terms, the reality is somehow different. Immigration can be more effectively seen as a series of trade-offs between competing advantages. For example, it is often argued that large-scale immigration is necessary to “save” social security systems in the industrial countries. Immigration can indeed play a role in increasing social security revenues by adding more taxpayers than beneficiaries, but much higher levels of immigration would be needed to make a difference in the demography of the country. For instance, Canada has built its modern immigration scheme on that basis, and has recently encouraged more and more people from all around the world to join in the integration process in this country in order to balance the demographic pyramid.

In the 1980s, economic models and theories asserted that immigrants enabled long-term benefits, but at the cost of short-term difficulties and costs in the form of lower wages and greater unemployment for natives. It has been proven in the 2000s that immigrants bring long-term benefits at no measurable short-term cost. In the end, immigration in the USA is bound up with economic growth itself. Growth has gradually been associated with environmental destruction and rising inequality. But growth through immigration goes with few downsides. When people leave developing economies, they become more economically productive when working in the US because they take professional assimilation as a personal challenge. They achieve higher standards of living and add economic value to the country.

Quotes

"The United States should be an asylum for the persecuted lovers of civil and religious liberty." (Thomas Paine)

"I had always hoped that this land might become a safe and agreeable asylum to the virtuous and persecuted part of mankind, to whatever nation they might belong." (George Washington)

"Give me your tired, your poor, Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free, The wretched refuse of your teeming shore. Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me, I lift my lamp beside the golden door!" (*The New Colossus*, by Emma Lazarus, a poem engraved on a plaque on the Statue of Liberty's pedestal)

"Every immigrant who comes here should be required within five years to learn English or leave the country." (Theodore Roosevelt)

"Remember, remember always, that all of us, and you and I especially, are descended from immigrants and revolutionists". (Franklin D. Roosevelt)

"Everywhere immigrants have enriched and strengthened the fabric of American life." (John F. Kennedy)

"The land flourished because it was fed from so many sources – because it was nourished by so many cultures and traditions and peoples." (Lyndon B. Johnson)

"What we need to do is to have a sensible approach to immigration. It needs to be open. It needs to be non-dogmatic and non-bigoted. We need to be firm but reasonable in the way we deal with the problem of illegal immigration. And we need to try to get as many of our immigrants who want to do so to become citizens as quickly as possible so that the American people will all see that this is a part of the process of American history, which is a good one for our country." (Bill Clinton)

"Nearly all Americans have ancestors who braved the oceans – liberty-loving risk takers in search of an ideal – the largest voluntary migrations in recorded history... Immigration is not just a link to America's past; it's also a bridge to America's future." (George W. Bush)

"Our journey is not complete until we find a better way to welcome the striving, hopeful immigrants who still see America as a land of opportunity, until bright young students and engineers are enlisted in our workforce rather than expelled from our country." (Barack Obama)

Exercises

Match the following idiomatic expressions (in capital letters) on the left with the corresponding phrase, then find a Polish equivalent for each expression.

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> TURN OVER A NEW LEAF | <input type="checkbox"/> to be exact or accurate |
| <input type="checkbox"/> HAVE SECOND THOUGHTS | <input type="checkbox"/> to make an effort to improve |
| <input type="checkbox"/> GIFT OF THE GAB | <input type="checkbox"/> to make all possible efforts |
| <input type="checkbox"/> BREAK THE ICE | <input type="checkbox"/> to make the best of a good situation while it lasts |
| <input type="checkbox"/> FACE THE MUSIC | <input type="checkbox"/> to hope for a positive outcome |
| <input type="checkbox"/> LET BYGONES BE BYGONES | <input type="checkbox"/> to give great importance to minor things |
| <input type="checkbox"/> PULL UP ONE'S SOCKS | <input type="checkbox"/> to act in an unfair manner |
| <input type="checkbox"/> AT LOGGERHEADS | <input type="checkbox"/> futile search |
| <input type="checkbox"/> THROW IN THE TOWEL | <input type="checkbox"/> to be born in a very rich family |
| <input type="checkbox"/> TAKE TO TASK | <input type="checkbox"/> using any means, fair or foul |
| <input type="checkbox"/> WILD GOOSE CHASE | <input type="checkbox"/> to suffer from something that one has done |
| <input type="checkbox"/> MAKE A MOUNTAIN OUT OF A MOLEHILL | <input type="checkbox"/> to accept defeat |
| <input type="checkbox"/> HIT BELOW THE BELT | <input type="checkbox"/> to reconsider a decision |
| <input type="checkbox"/> MAKE HAY WHILE THE SUN SHINES | <input type="checkbox"/> to face the consequences of one's action |
| <input type="checkbox"/> KEEP ONE'S FINGERS CROSSED | <input type="checkbox"/> to differ strongly |
| <input type="checkbox"/> TO LEAVE NO STONE UNTURNED | <input type="checkbox"/> to reprimand someone |
| <input type="checkbox"/> HIT THE NAIL ON THE HEAD | <input type="checkbox"/> to ignore the bad things of the past |
| <input type="checkbox"/> BURN ONE'S FINGERS | <input type="checkbox"/> changing for the better |
| <input type="checkbox"/> BY HOOK OR BY CROOK | <input type="checkbox"/> the ability to speak well |
| <input type="checkbox"/> BORN WITH A SILVER SPOON IN ONE'S MOUTH | <input type="checkbox"/> to overcome initial shyness |

Answers

- ☐ TURN OVER A NEW LEAF
- ☐ HAVE SECOND THOUGHTS
- ☐ GIFT OF THE GAB
- ☐ BREAK THE ICE
- ☐ FACE THE MUSIC
- ☐ LET BYGONES BE BYGONES
- ☐ PULL UP ONE'S SOCKS
- ☐ AT LOGGERHEADS
- ☐ THROW IN THE TOWEL
- ☐ TAKE TO TASK
- ☐ WILD GOOSE CHASE
- ☐ MAKE A MOUNTAIN OUT OF A MOLEHILL
- ☐ HIT BELOW THE BELT
- ☐ MAKE HAY WHILE THE SUN SHINES
- ☐ KEEP ONE'S FINGERS CROSSED
- ☐ TO LEAVE NO STONE UNTURNED
- ☐ HIT THE NAIL ON THE HEAD
- ☐ BURN ONE'S FINGERS
- ☐ BY HOOK OR BY CROOK
- ☐ BORN WITH A SILVER SPOON IN ONE'S MOUTH
- ☐ changing for the better (rozpocząć nowy rozdział życia)
- ☐ to reconsider a decision (mieć wątpliwości)
- ☐ the ability to speak well (mieć gadane)
- ☐ to overcome initial shyness (przełamać lody)
- ☐ to face the consequences of one's action (wypić piwo, którego się nawarzyło)
- ☐ to ignore the bad things of the past (co było, to było)
- ☐ to make an effort to improve (wziąć się za siebie)
- ☐ to differ strongly (drzeć koty)
- ☐ to accept defeat (podać się)
- ☐ to reprimand someone (udzielić reprimendy)
- ☐ futile search (szukanie wiatru w polu)
- ☐ to give great importance to minor things (robić z igły widły)
- ☐ to act in an unfair manner (zadać cios poniżej pasa)
- ☐ to make the best of a good situation while it lasts (kuć żelazo, póki gorące)
- ☐ to hope for a positive outcome (trzymać kciuki)
- ☐ to make all possible efforts (poruszyć niebo i ziemię)
- ☐ to be exact or accurate (trafić w sedno)
- ☐ to suffer from something that one has done (sparzyć się na czymś)
- ☐ using any means, fair or foul (nie przebierając w środkach)
- ☐ to be born in a very rich family (być w czepku urodzonym)

The American Dream

Essential vocabulary

<i>magnet</i>	magnes
<i>attractive</i>	atrakcyjny
<i>a disillusionment</i>	rozczarowanie
<i>prosperity</i>	dobra koniunktura, dobrobyt
<i>to be on the wane</i>	zanikać, słabnąć, upadać
<i>to climb the social ladder</i>	piąć się po szczeblach drabiny społecznej
<i>to deserve</i>	zasługiwać
<i>to downsize one's ambitions or one's dream</i> ..	obniżyć swoje ambicje, marzenia
<i>to fall short of sb's expectations</i>	nie spełniać oczekiwań
<i>to fulfill one's dreams</i>	realizować swoje marzenia
<i>to go from rags to riches</i>	od nędzy do bogactwa
<i>to hinder</i>	utrudniać, hamować
<i>to look for better economic prospects</i>	szukać lepszych perspektyw ekonomicznych
<i>to start over or to start from scratch</i>	zaczynać od początku
<i>to struggle to make ends meet</i>	z trudem wiązać koniec z końcem
<i>to thrive</i>	prosperować, kwitnąć
<i>to toil</i>	pracować w trudzie i znoju
<i>upward social mobility</i>	awans społeczny
<i>wealthy = affluent</i>	bogaty, zamożny

Introduction

The phrase “American Dream” refers to one of the founding myths of the American Nation. It **spawned** different waves of immigration towards the USA and is also **deeply ingrained in** the American entrepreneurial spirit. **However**, over the last few years, more and more American citizens **have voiced doubt** concerning the possibility to fulfill this dream today. Donald Trump’s 2016 **stump speech** tapped into this rising anxiety. How was the myth born and is the American Dream still achievable **in spite of** the difficult economic context?

The origins of the term

Although the term “American Dream” **was coined by** James Truslow Adams, a historian, in the midst of the Great Depression, the concept of the American Dream **dates back to** the arrival of the first immigrants from the Old World in 1620. The English Puritans, who were persecuted in their native land, were yearning for a place where they **would be able to** build a safe religious **haven**, a “city on the hill” providing a model of virtuous living for the whole world.

The American Dream is also implicitly present in the American Declaration of Independence which suggests that people **from all walks of life are entitled to** equal rights and that any citizen who is hard-working can make it, regardless of his / her social background, **provided** he / she strives to succeed.

Vocabulary

<i>to coin</i>	ukuć (zwrot, powiedzenie)
<i>to date back to</i>	datować się od..., początki (czegoś) sięgają...
<i>a haven</i>	schronienie, bezpieczna przystań
<i>from all walks of life</i>	ze wszystkich środowisk
<i>to be entitled to</i>	mieć prawo do...

Writing tips

- **in spite of / despite**: pomimo (+ rzeczownik / fraza rzeczownikowa); spójnik *although*, który również oznacza „pomimo”, wprowadza zdanie podrzędne kontrastujące z wypowiedzeniem w zdaniu głównym.
- **to be able to**: zwrot równoważny czasownikowi *can*, stosowany tam, gdzie *can* gramatycznie nie pasuje, np. po *to* lub gdy mowa o przyszłości z *will*.

- ▶ **thus:** w ten oto sposób / i tak oto; przysłówek ten pozwala zilustrować to, co zostało powiedziane w poprzednim zdaniu; może także wskazywać na skutek (*Oil prices went up, thus causing a major panic on markets*).
- ▶ **provided / providing (that):** pod warunkiem, że...

Complementary information

- **The phrase “stump speech”** refers to the stock arguments in the speech of a candidate running for an election. It is derived from the tree stumps (= pień drzewa) on which politicians used to deliver their speeches in the 19th century.
- **The Great Depression** was the longest-lasting economic downturn in the Western world. It started in 1929 in the USA after the stock market bubble burst. Within a few days, millions of stocks became worthless, investment plummeted, banks went bankrupt and millions of people ended up unemployed and poverty-stricken.
- **The Declaration of Independence** was issued on July 4th 1776. Drafted by Jefferson, it stated that the 13 first American colonies were no longer under British rule and declared their independence from the Mother Country. Today, the 4th of July is celebrated in all the country as Independence Day.

Towards a more materialistic vision of the American Dream

The political, professional and spiritual opportunities offered by America resulted in the arrival of several waves of immigrants from various parts of the globe mesmerized by this land's apparently endless riches **i.e. available** farm land, a suitable climate for cultivating it and gold and oil (see chapter 17). These bountiful resources enticed generations of settlers to expand to the West **so as to** achieve the “Manifest Destiny” of the USA.

In the 19th century, the iconic stories of self-made men of the Gilded Age, such as Andrew Carnegie and John Rockefeller added emphasis on **the material** dimension of the American Dream and so did the Roaring Twenties, **epitomized** by F. Scott Fitzgerald's novel *The Great Gatsby*. At the time, the flourishing economic context of the post-war era time **paved the way for** early mass consumption and generated a wave of optimism at the onset of the Jazz Age – at least for those **who could afford them**.

However, with the Great Depression, many a fortune was wiped out and extreme poverty struck millions of people. Hence F.D. Roosevelt's 1933 New Deal introduced for the first time the idea that deserving citizens could rely on the federal government for a safety net in case of hardships.

Material comfort remained **the backbone** of the American Dream in the 1950s, **though** its shape shifted slightly. At the time, the future looked bright for Americans,