

Heike Paul
The Myths That Made America

American Studies | Volume 1

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An Introduction to American Studies

[transcript]

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It has always seemed to me a rare privilege, this, of being an American, a real American, one whose tradition it has taken scarcely sixty years to create. We need only to realise our parents, remember our grandparents and know ourselves and our history is complete.

The old people in a new world, the new people made out of the old, that is the story I mean to tell, for that is what really is and what I really know.

GERTRUDE STEIN, *THE MAKING OF AMERICANS* (1926)

Perchance, when, in the course of ages, American liberty has become a fiction of the past, – as it is to some extent a fiction of the present, – the poets of the world will be inspired by American mythology.

HENRY DAVID THOREAU, “WALKING” (1862)

If you don't like it, go to Russia, retorted the others.

STUDS TERKEL, *AMERICAN DREAMS: LOST AND FOUND* (1980)

