

# Analysis of “Egg” and American Dream

Di Wu

Tianjin University of Science and Technology Tianjin 301900

---

**Abstract:** Using the first person, the novel describes the common phenomenon of ordinary Americans' blind but ultimately fruitless pursuit of the illusory American dream under the social background at that time, deeply revealing the disillusionment of the American dream. This paper will explore the American Dream from different perspectives, the reflection and summary of the American dream is conducive to the current Chinese people's interpretation and pursuit of the "Chinese Dream" proposed by General Secretary Xi Jinping.

**Keywords:** American dream; American culture; Egg; Background

---

## 1. American Dream in American Literature

In the middle and late 19th century, American literature mainly eulogizes the American dream. "American literature, especially romantic literature represented by Walt Whitman and popular literature represented by Horatio Alger, is obsessed with the 'American myth' of success and the American dream." In the subsequent development, American literature began to contemplate, and many literary works began to expose the disillusionment of the American dream. "At the beginning of the 20th century, capitalist mechanical civilization developed highly, and the formation of monopoly capital groups pushed the working people into the abyss of poverty. Many American writers in the new century had a thorough understanding of the essence of the American dream and began to reflect on, criticize and expose it comprehensively. The famous representative writers mainly include Jack London, Sinclair Lewis, Ernest Hemingway and so on. They deeply analyzed the disillusionment of the American dream.

## 2. Background and analyze of Eggs

In the novel, the author tells the process of a family of three pursuing the American dream, expresses their dissatisfaction with the capitalist industrial civilization, and reveals the numerous difficulties people encountered in pursuing the American dream under the social background at that time. First of all, the novel demonstrates the American people's crazy pursuit of the American dream. The same belief: live a better life as long as they work hard and make unremitting efforts. However, from the perspective of the industrial background of the United States at that time, the society had changed, and the pursuit of the American dream in an old-fashioned way was doomed to failure. Secondly, the novel also profoundly reveals the corrosion of people's mind caused by materialism in the process of American industrialization. It seems that people are all positive and striving to pursue their Own American dream, but in fact, most of them regard the American dream as one with "money". In the novel "Eggs", the author describes a family always under oppression, bearing the so-called American dream in the social background at that time: "They have a beautiful dream of making money and rely on the so-called American spirit to support themselves, but they can not adapt to the emerging industrial society, and eventually their dreams will be disillusioned.

## 3. The Deformed Human Under the American Dream

There is a particularly intentional description of a deformed chicken, which is not common in other novels. The deformed chicken was both a symbol of my father's American dream and of himself. On the one hand, my father hopes to get rich one day by showing people the deformed chicken, but the deformed chicken that my father placed high hopes on soon dies, symbolizing that father's American dream has suffered a severe blow. On the other hand, after the chicken died, my father preserved the chicken in alcohol, which symbolizes that he has not given up on his American dream, but in another way -- running a pub business. In the tavern, my father showed the deformed chickens to the guests, and the guests did not pay any attention to them, even felt disgusted, which symbolized the social contempt for my father's American dream. At the same time, the father himself is on display like these deformed chickens. The father shows a deformed chicken, but in the eyes of the guests, the father who strives to realize the American dream is deformed and his behavior is incomprehensible.

Novel "eggs" appeared on the surface seems to be a novel about ordinary life in the United States, but with its social background and the author's creation theme, we can see that the author of the industrial society under the background of people blindly pursue the American dream, and distorted thoughts of painting equated with money, and people in the American dream repressed miserable life revelation, satire and criticism. Understanding the essence of The American dream in this period is helpful for us to reflect on the American dream. At the same time, reflection on the American Dream is conducive to the current Chinese people's understanding and pursuit of the "Chinese Dream" proposed by General Secretary Xi Jinping. In other words, to analyze the historical development of the American Dream and draw lessons from it is conducive to the realization of the "Chinese Dream".

## References :

---

- [1] Qian Mansu West deconstructs the American dream 1 World literature, 1998, (01)
- [2] Xin Chao Loss and pursuit of American dream u Journal of Liaoning Normal University, 1989, (03)
- [3] Yang Renjing. History of American Literature in the 20th century [M] Qingdao: Qingdao publishing house, 1999
- [4] Yi Xiaohong On the American dream from the characteristics of the characters in the victory of the egg Impact ui1 Young writer, 2014, (14)
- [5] Ye Xiangshu On Sherwood Anderson's short story eggs D1 Intelligence, 2010, (23)
- [6] Anderson, . "The Egg." The Egg and Other Stories .New York: Dover Publications, 2000.
- [7] Sherwood Anderson[EB/OL].2013-05-29