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SOCIAL INJUSTICE WITHIN THE FRAME OF THE AMERICAN DREAM IN JOHN STEINBECK'S NOVEL THE GRAPES OF WRATH

**СОЦИАЛЬНАЯ НЕСПРАВЕДЛИВОСТЬ В РАМКАХ АМЕРИКАНСКОЙ
МЕЧТЫ В РОМАНЕ ДЖОНА СТЕЙНБЕКА «ГРОЗДЬЯ ГНЕВА»**

Купавых А.П., студент
ФГБОУ ВО «Воронежский
государственный лесотехнический
университет имени Г.Ф. Морозова»
(ФГБОУ ВО «ВГЛУ»)
Воронеж, Россия

Kupavyh A.P., student
FSBEI HE «Voronezh State
University of Forestry and
Technologies named after
G.F.Morozov», Voronezh, Russia

Рабеев С.К.Б., к.ф.н., доцент кафедры
иностранных языков
ФГБОУ ВО «Воронежский
государственный лесотехнический
университет имени Г.Ф. Морозова»
(ФГБОУ ВО «ВГЛУ»)
Воронеж, Россия

Rabeeakh S.K.B., PhD in Philology,
Associate Professor of the Department
of Foreign Languages
FSBEI HE «Voronezh State
University of Forestry and
Technologies named after
G.F.Morozov», Voronezh, Russia

Abstract: The American Dream is a deeply rooted concept in American culture and history. This article will examine the decline of the belief in equal opportunity and social injustice for all that left people without hope looking for good life, so people regardless of their background, race, or social status, and how the goal of achieving success through hard work would disappear as a result of the Great Depression and labor corruption.

Keywords: American Dream, success, equality, labor, opportunity.

Аннотация: Американская мечта — это глубоко укоренившаяся концепция в американской культуре и истории. В этой статье будет рассмотрен упадок веры в равные возможности и социальную несправедливость для всех, из-за чего люди остались без надежды на хорошую жизнь, независимо от их происхождения, расы или социального статуса, и как цель достижения успеха посредством упорного труда исчезла в результате Великой депрессии и коррупции в сфере труда.

Ключевые слова: Американская мечта, успех, равенство, труд, возможность.

The novel "The Grapes of Wrath" by John Steinbeck is one of the central works reflecting the American dream and disappointment in it during the Great Depression in the United States, when a global crisis occurred, in the form of a stock market crash. As a result of this default, in addition to the decline in the country's economy, social protests intensified, gradually turning into mass movements and the dehumanization of society led to an increase in mortality, mental illness and suicide.

In this novel, the author explores the themes of social inequality, the struggle for survival and human dignity, allowing a deeper understanding of what form the American dream took in the context of an economic crisis [1].

However, the basis of the book was not only the author's fantasies, supported by the historical landscape of the events of the Great Depression in the United States, but a specific trip of the writer in the summer of 1936 to collect materials for a series of articles and essays, which were united under the title "Harvest Gypsies". A highly intellectual person from New York is a native of the county seat of Salinas, California. Finding himself in a place that reminded the author very much of his home, far from the wealthy East of the country, he was shocked by what he saw. Instead of the overwhelming majority of seasonal workers, who are usually Mexicans, there were ordinary American citizens. Their miserable and horrific existence and the hell of social disenfranchisement and injustice shocked Steinbeck. As a result, he will make more than one trip to the "concentration camps" of seasonal workers and in the end, this is how the work "The Grapes of Wrath" will appear. The story of the Joad family is the central part of the novel. They are simple farmers from the state of Oklahoma, who, like other farmers, had their land taken away by large banks. The family was left homeless, without the land that their grandfather and great-grandfather plowed. Other families like them were forced to either stay in their native lands, adapting to difficult realities, or move to neighboring states in search of

any work. The Joad family chose the second path in search of a better life. At the same time, each member of the family symbolizes different aspects of the American dream. Tom Joad is a symbol of the struggle for justice and social change. His transformation from an individualist to an active fighter for workers' rights illustrates disappointment in the dream of personal success. Myra Joad is a maternal image, personifying care for the family, perseverance in the face of difficulties. She strives to keep the family together, which also reflects the values of the American dream, but in the context of collectivism. Rosalie - the fate of this heroine shows how dreams can be destroyed under the pressure of circumstances, which emphasizes the fragility of hopes [2].

Returning to the policy that pursued by banks during the economic crisis, namely increasing pressure on tenants-debtors, plowing the land with cotton in the hope of harvesting a few more crops before selling the depleted land. From an economic point of view, the decision is certainly justified. But from a humanist perspective, the actions of banks on ordinary citizens are unacceptable and border on slavery and robbery.

But the move of the Joad family to California did not give the expected reality of a better future. Due to high competition, they receive low wages and are forced to wander in search of work. Thus, it shows how the dream of each family member is collapsing before their eyes [3].

The novel "The Grapes of Wrath" is also filled with a large number of examples of social injustice characteristic of the life of American society. The first of them is the departure of farmers and their families, who did not receive support from the state and were forced to leave their native places. Social injustice is also expressed in the high level of unemployment, which is why people are forced to work for very low wages under difficult working conditions. In the novel, the author shows that the origins of social injustice come from the growth of capital power, which developed in American society due to significant economic stratification of society. This had a fatal and negative impact on the fate of millions of people. Thus, the development of technology at the beginning of the twentieth century led to the disappearance of many professions, and farmers were hit and became unnecessary to society and the economy, because it became easier to cultivate the land with tractors. The Joad family, finding themselves in the "promised land", where they were promised work and good living conditions, are disappointed in the deception of their hopes. Thus, the reverse side of the American dream is shown, thoughts about which

did not leave Tom Joad. Steinbeck more than once points out in his work the strong connection of farmers with their native places, who yearn and miss them, in contrast to the soulless machines and bank managers who drove them away. In the novel, the death of the Joad grandparents is not accidental, it shows that the souls could not survive the move from their homeland. The family is morally and physically depressed. Rosalie's husband, Connie, leaves his pregnant wife, unable to bear the burden of family life and fearing difficulties with a child in the future under difficult socio-economic conditions. Thus, the other side of the American dream, in which Myra Joad believed so strongly, is shown again. The breakdown of the family is one of the most significant manifestations of social injustice [4].

And, of course, it is worth saying that social injustice has a negative impact on people's lives. In the novel, the author describes in detail the details of the life of the Joad family and all the other people they meet along the way. People experience hunger and lack of necessary things. Especially heartbreaking is the scene with a man who wanted to buy bread for ten cents and candy for his children. A tragic event ends the novel - Rosalie gives birth to a stillborn child, as a symbol of the unfair socio-economic structure of society. Thus, the third American dream, belonging to Rosalie, is destroyed. The message of the novel "The Grapes of Wrath" is similar to the main idea of Upton Sinclair's novel "The Jungle". In this book, Sinclair wrote: «I aimed at the public's heart, and by accident I hit it in the stomach.» Like him, Steinbeck sought to improve the situation of workers, but if Sinclair's end result was to make large-scale changes in the food industry, Steinbeck was more focused on the changes that were already happening.

Steinbeck's novel is essentially a tragedy. The main problem is not that people's incomes differ, but that a significant part of society during the Great Depression found itself on the brink of social and physical survival [5].

The work reflects the consequences of the economic crisis and the unfair distribution of socio-economic benefits in society. Those very hopes for a bright future are destroyed in the minds of each character, thereby showing the other side of the American Dream.

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