

countless images and stories of struggling workers and the growing ranks of the poor while suggesting that the American Dream is simply beyond the grasp of the vast majority of Americans. Thomas's response is that only because of "unrestrained liberalism" are the true means of realizing the American Dream being more and more eroded in our society. Despite the recent recession, Thomas and others like him have faith that as long as people believe they have a chance of becoming better off than they are today, then the American Dream is intact. Instead of trying to interfere with the enterprise that creates jobs and growth, we should rely on the values of the American Dream: that anybody can climb out of hardship and achieve success. Only then will the American Dream remain alive for future generations.

Just last year, a newspaper editor in Atlanta stated that, "the Great Recession didn't kill the American Dream. But the promise of a good life in exchange for hard, honest work has been bruised and frayed for millions of middle class Americans" (Chapman, 2010). The idea of the American Dream has in fact suffered in recent years, although it is my belief that this is not new. As a nation, we have dealt with economic downturns in the past, and the American Dream has faced trials and tests before. The economic panics of the late 1970s and after the 9/11 terrorist attacks are both prime examples. Even since the height of the Great Recession, however, we have adapted the values contained within the American Dream to meet new challenges. Of course, some will be quick to say that these changes have only come about as a result of the greed and corruption of the rich and powerful. Like laissez-faire economists and Wall Street supporters, however, I believe that it is necessary and imperative to continue supporting the business mechanisms that sustain our economy. The American Dream