

“Por eso nos venimos” “That’s why we came”

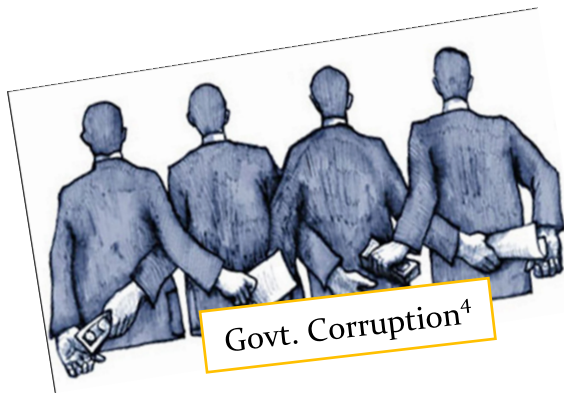
México²



Ángel de la Independencia¹



Luis Colosio. 1950-1994.³



Govt. Corruption⁴

Poor. Rich.⁵



Ayotzinapa.⁸

What is the American Dream?⁶



**HARD
WORK
PAYS
OFF**

Hard Work Pays Off?⁷



Michelle & Barack Obama⁸



Signing of the Declaration of Independence⁹

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My parents always told me growing up how bad it was in Mexico.

Opportunities were lacking, even for those who had a higher education. Violence is rampant. Corruption is rampant. The divide between the rich and poor is only getting starker. Presidential candidate Luis Colosio was fighting for change, but he was killed (by the own government.) Mexico was colonized by Spain and won their fight for independence, yet the hatred against indigenous communities only worsened. Student teachers fighting for change were wrongly arrested and turned over by their own government to a crime organization. Only 41 of 43 students have been found.

“Las cosas estan bien mal alla – Things are really bad over there”

“No puedes visitar a tus abuelitas este verano, es muy peligroso –

You cannot visit your grandmas this summer, it’s too dangerous”

“La pobreza aqui no es lo mismo que la pobreza alla – Poverty here is not the same as poverty over there”

“Por eso nos venimos – That’s why we came”

My K-12 education always asked me about the American Dream. Starting from elementary school and all the way up to high school this dream was always brought up. I was told that if I work hard then I’ll be able to fulfill all my dreams. All I needed was to work hard and if other students were not successful then they must not be working hard. In my 7th grade history class my teacher rolled our television on the cart to the front of the class to witness Former President Barack Obama get inaugurated. It was historic. He was the change we needed.

In my 8th grade history class I learned more in depth about the founding of this country. The Founding Fathers came together and wrote the Declaration of Independence. “All the men are created equal.” I believed it and I still do. What should have been added or at least discussed in class is that yes, we are created equal, but we will not be treated equally.

I did not make the realization that I was being fed two different narratives about what a democracy is and should not be. At home, my parents would unconsciously tell me what a democracy should not be. At school, my teachers would tell me what a democracy is and how the United States is an example of that form of government. It might sound a bit cliché, but through my parent’s experiences and my own I was able to learn that even though my parents left their homes to go to a “better” home, a democracy unfortunately has not helped them in the ways they expected it to be. Hard work does not always pay off. I am critical of the ways in which the government attempts to represent their constituents. Not everyone gets to vote: felons, undocumented immigrants, and many more do not get to vote. My upbringing has definitely shaped the way I think about a democracy and how I choose to define it. I do not believe we can ever have a democracy, especially alongside capitalism.

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