The Fading American Dream: The Occupy Movement as a Response to Economic Inequality in the American Society



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(Kristy Stroman)

THE FADING AMERICAN DREAM: THE OCCUPY MOVEMENT AS A RESPONSE TO ECONOMIC INEQUALITY IN THE AMERICAN SOCIETY



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GRIN Verlag Sep 2013, 2013. Taschenbuch. Book Condition: Neu. 210x148x4 mm. This item is printed on demand - Print on Demand Neuware - Bachelor Thesis from the year 2012 in the subject American Studies - Miscellaneous, grade: 1,0, University of Mannheim, language: English, abstract: Research has shown that social inequality is very apparent in today's US class structure and has even worsened within the last several decades. The researcher will argue that the Occupy movement was a response to the status quo of class inequality and growing wealth disparity. Along with the dissatisfaction caused by the entrenchment of social and economic inequality, the Occupy movement was further fueled by the breakdown of the United States' housing market, the bailout of financial institutions with tax money, and the global economic crisis from 2008 onward. These events directly affected countless families throughout the U.S. in the form of foreclosures, unemployment, and cuts in social programs. Ultimately, these economic failures even challenged the American majority's nearly limitless faith in the 'American-style capitalism,' i.e., a system based on laissez-faire economics. In order to present the Occupy movement as it relates to current economic and social conditions in the United States, the researcher will begin by analyzing the reality of American class structure and economic inequality, followed by a brief discussion of the financial crisis from 2008 to the present. The researcher will show that the crisis and pervasive influence of moneyed interests in the American political system has led to increasing social and economic disparities between the elite class and the middle and lower classes. The purpose of this Bachelor's thesis is ultimately to contrast the concept and the promise of the American Dream with the American reality of increasing social inequality and social immobility and thus explain the emergence of the Occupy movement....

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