

Dedication

To whom is that precious work dedicated? Evidently, it is all yours, ladies and gentlemen. As soon as you read and use it, my sacrifices are amply rewarded.

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Abstract

The theme of this work is “The Faces of the American Dream in Franklin’s *Autobiography* and Emerson’s *Essay ‘Self-reliance’* ”. It compares and contrasts the faces of the Americans Dream in Franklin’s *Autobiography* and Emerson's 'self-reliance'.

This work is divided in two chapters. The first chapter is a separate study of the two authors’ visions of the American Dream. Whereas in the second chapter, we contrast and compare their conceptions of the American Dream.

Franklin symbolizes the American Dream. He achieved wealth and success from modest beginnings and root to show to Americans how one can be successful by being virtuous and hard working. He identified 13 virtues to cultivate for reaching moral perfection and economic success. For we all know for instance that order and discipline are important in reaching economic success. Whereas Emerson was the first philosopher of America. With his idea of self-reliance and non-conformism, Emerson is seen as the father of today’s individualism, capitalism and American cultural and scientific nationalism.

Franklin and Emerson developed two opposite approaches, which are individualistic and collective. Franklin used the collective approach to develop and achieve his American Dream. Whereas Emerson backed the individualistic approach as a self-reliant philosopher to achieve the American Dream. Nonetheless on philanthropy they had the same vision as they were inspired by Cotton Mather, who backed helping others through humanitarian associations. Franklin, as a materialist and pragmatics, had such a vision of religion. That is way he had a rational utilitarian understanding of good and evil. On his side, Emerson as a philosopher has a transcendental philosophical understanding of religion.