



Bonfires of the American Dream in American Rhetoric, Literature and Film

By Daniel Shaviro

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Helps to provide a better understanding of what has caused things to go wrong culturally in recent years in America through close cultural studies of classic novels and films.

In *Bonfires of the American Dream*, through close cultural studies of classic novels and films – *Atlas Shrugged*, *The Great Gatsby*, *It's a Wonderful Life*, and *The Wolf of Wall Street* – Daniel Shaviro helps to provide a better understanding of what went wrong culturally in America.

Readership

College-educated people who enjoy popular literature and film, and are interested in American history and politics.

Key selling points

- Provides a unique cultural studies approach to classics of literature and film
- Critiques the American Dream as a source of contemporary social dysfunction and discontent
- Presents the dark side of American exceptionalism.

Contents

Introduction; Winners and Losers in Russell Conwell's *Acres of Diamonds* Speech and the John Galt Speech in Ayn Rand's *Atlas Shrugged*; Pessimism for Optimists and Voyeurism for Pessimists in F. Scott Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby*; Bailey Versus Belfort: Comparing *It's a Wonderful Life* and *The Wolf of Wall Street*; Conclusion.

About the Author(s) / Editor(s)

Daniel Shaviro, the Wayne Perry Professor of Taxation at NYU Law School, writes mainly about tax policy and inequality. His prior literary study, *Literature and Inequality*, was published in 2020.

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