

Ancient History and Middle Age are called the centuries of inventions and developments – the time of geniuses – Pythagoras, Archimedes, Nicolaus Copernicus, Giordano Bruno. And all of their developments had done before Christopher Columbus discovered of America and of course before founding the United States of America. But, nevertheless, present world is covered by web of modern inventions from all over the world. New patents on small changes in the devices and technologies appear every day, and call more and more struggle. Globalization deprived Europe status quo of continent of investigation and replaced it to the USA and East Asia. It began in the first decade of XIX century, when Great Britain lost her world's power and the USA took the baton of leading power.

The list of American inventions that I use every day is huge. It is difficult to write the whole list, but I'll try: electricity, jeans, electric lights, wireless communication, zipper, smart phone, shaver, film, telephone, elevator and plane.

But they are all material, and I as historian find more important cultural, economic and political values. Some social facts and processes appeared in America and then spread all over the world touching lives of every person including my life as well.

I just want to talk about it because I believe that American values, thoughts determine modern mankind's life at every continent. The term “American values” is quite blurred so I suggest you to see my explanation of this term. “American values” are norms of life, behavior of people and entire nations' features of economic and political life.

Democracy is one of the greatest American inventions. I feel that fact is undoubted. Democracy has changed life every person on our planet. The philosophical origins of democracy send us to the times of Plato and Aristotle, but the contemporary meaning is different. It originated from the United States of America with the United States Declaration of Independence and Constitution creating. Although we are talking about democracy as an instrument of American foreign policy now, but for a long time ago, and partly today to the American people and to the mankind, American democracy has been the standard state. Many of the rules which were proclaimed by Founding Fathers are indispensable for all nations at all times, for example “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness”. And exactly “The pursuit of Happiness” is the rule I follow every day of my life to build my career, to protect the rights of other people, to discuss life and arts. Every man deserves to be happy. I consider it is one of the greatest American every day useful invention.

“The pursuit of Happiness” is basis for another American invention – “American dream” and “self-made man”. These words have created a revolution in human consciousness and changed social order which existed centuries before. The main point of these terms is that self origin and original social status are not really important, the only important thing is the persistence to achieve the goal and some luck. For me the best true example of “self-made man” is Jay Gatsby (from novel by F. Scott Fitzgerald). The man who had noting in his childhood, believed in his star and goal. He pretended to be the different one, so he overcame all troubles on his way to the greatness. He became the substance of “Gold twenties” - parties till morning in a great castle, roaring fellowship, jazz. There is only one question – is he happy? I suppose the answer is no. There is another side of the moon – having achieved all the goals and not to be happy. So when you're reaching your dream try to see all life around you. Enjoy your life in spite on your dream being rather far from you. It is one more of my credos and it comes from The New World.

But my favorite American invention is cinematography. You can disagree with me because everyone knows that cinema was invented by Lumier brothers in France and the first genius steps were made by Georges Melies, the Frenchman too. But I can prove my point of view – contemporary cinema, its features, directions, the movie business were born on the West Coast in Hollywood. Hollywood changed the cinema upside down. The cinema has become not just branch of art, but business, social phenomenon, and even the place of political scandals (for example, Charlie Chaplin or Hollywood blacklist). The cinema has entered all spheres of life touching everyone. The contemporary cinema is so various – art house movies, sensual French movies, subtle English humor movies, metaphorical Danish movies – each one is a Hollywood child. The Hollywood turned people's ideas about cinema upside down forever, positive or negative – it's up to you. And I cannot imagine even one day of my life without the cinema. I watch movies, write reviews, study the market, and chat with journalists and critics. The cinema is what I want to do for a living and what makes me happy. And for me – Hollywood is the greatest invention of the American nation.