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In the years after 2000 I was in school at The Evergreen State College and doing significant amount of academic and organizing work around the international trade agreements that were developing at the time. After a meeting at the ILWU hall in Seattle reviewing strategies of the 2001 WTO protests an older long shore worker joked that “the US Doesn’t export but one product anymore. And that product is dreams.” This quip, that no doubt had been tossed around many a time before I heard it, sticks with me till this day. For many the American Dream is a notion they hold dear, an unequivocal truth. The faith in the American Dream has no doubt shaped the US in many ways. The American Dream is also an essential component of the American identity. An examination of its origins, influences, and makeup may be essential to understanding the American self.