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THE DEATH OF CAPTAIN AMERICA REPRESENTS THE FAILURE OF THE AMERICAN DREAM

Dimas Anggara

Abstract

American Dream is a concept that plays an important role in the American history and its society. The main values of the American Dream are life, liberty, and pursuit of happiness. These are represented in Captain America, carrier of the spirit of America to the world. Captain America, the main character in a comic, also preserved the values in the American Dream, so it is proven that there is a relation between Captain America and the American Dream. The problem is that there are changes in the way people see the concept of the American Dream today. It is because many people tend to simplify the values in which the concept offers. This paper examines the relation between the change of perspective and the way the people in the U.S in applying the American Dream with the death of Captain America as the representation of the American Dream. This paper argues that the Death of Captain America can be a representation of the failure in the concept because Captain America died defending what he believed as the true American Dream that all the people in the U.S should preserve. Thus, many people believe the values which Captain America preserved are no longer suitable in the society today.

Keywords

Superhero, Captain America, American comic book, American Dream, American society, representation

Abstrak

American Dream adalah sebuah konsep yang penting dalam sejarah dan dalam perkembangan masyarakat Amerika Serikat. Nilai-nilai utama dalam Impian Amerika adalah kehidupan, kebebasan, dan pencarian kebahagiaan. Kapten Amerika, tokoh utama pada sebuah komik, menjunjung tinggi nilai-nilai ini. Makalah ini menyimpulkan terdapat hubungan antara Kapten Amerika dengan Impian Amerika. Permasalahannya adalah bahwa cara pandang masyarakat Amerika tentang Impian Amerika pada masa kini berubah. Hal ini disebabkan karena kebanyakan orang cenderung menggampangkan nilai-nilai dari konsep Impian Amerika. Makalah ini meneliti hubungan antara perspektif yang berubah mengenai Impian Amerika dengan aplikasi Impian Amerika dalam kehidupan nyata yang direpresentasi oleh kematian Kapten Amerika. Makalah ini mengajukan suatu tesis bahwa kematian Kapten Amerika dalam sebuah komik Amerika, adalah sebuah representasi dari kegagalan konsep Impian Amerika karena Kapten Amerika mati dalam mempertahankan apa yang dia percayai bahwa setiap orang Amerika harus mempertahankan nilai-nilai dalam Impian Amerika. Dengan demikian, sebagai simpulannya adalah bahwa nilai-nilai yang dipertahankan oleh Kapten Amerika tidak lagi relevan bagi masyarakat Amerika sekarang.

Kata Kunci

Superhero, Kapten Amerika, buku komik Amerika, Impian Amerika, masyarakat Amerika, representasi

INTRODUCTION

Comic book is widely popular around the world. If we take a look at its history, comic book was first imprinted in a newsstand in 1922. Although comic book has a long history, the most popular and the most raging age for comic books was in 1938, which was considered as the golden age of the comic book. According to John Petty (2006) this age is considered the most successful age in comic book history because, for the first time, there were comic books about superheroes. Publishers like Marvel Comics and Action comics (later DC comics) dominated the comic book industry. Superman was first introduced in *Action Comics 1#* and suddenly, this cape crusader became instantly famous at that time. It is obvious why Superman became an instant phenomenon in the American society because America is a nation of the immigrants. Immigrants from all over the world came to America in search of "the American Dream". It has a similar background with Superman, who is a kryptonite and flew away to Earth in search of a place to live. Then, more superheroes like Batman, Iron Man, Wonder Woman, and The Fantastic Four were created as their fame continue to rise up. Although there were many superheroes with much more fame and stories created at that time, Captain America is considered as one of the most important fictional super heroes of all time. If Superman is the ultimate immigrant who wants to obtain the dream, Captain America is the representation of the American Dream itself.

If we look at those two superhero characters, we can see the similarity between them. They are created based on an ideal which shaped the nation for a long time ago, The American Dream. The American Dream was first created by the Puritans who were seeking for prosperity the first time they set foot to the "promised lands" the United States. Then, the founding fathers strengthened the ideal by creating a document which was considered as the charter of the American Dream, the Declaration of Independence. There are still series of changes regarding to the ideal but the main idea of the American Dream is about the life, liberty, and pursuit of happiness for all the people of America. Everyone in America deserves a good life, just as the puritan's thought. Even until now, the ideal still runs through the veins of all the people of America and the people who are hoping to achieve the American dreams. Captain America's representation as the American dream gives the character an identity which he cannot escape from: he should fight for the liberty of the people.

From time to time, much has been written and analyzed about the journey of Captain America and its relation with the representation of the American dream in the United States. His creator, Jack Kirby and Joe Simons created the image of American Idealism and the representation of the nation within this character (Marvel, 2008). In addition, as Jackson Sutliff (cited in Weiner 2008) stated "Captain America is presented as everything an American should want to be; he's the American dream made flesh: a scrawny nobody becomes the pinnacle of human perfection—never selfish, always

valiant, fighting for what's right". Although Robert G. Weiner's work did not focus on Captain America as the symbol of the American Dream, he gave broader explanation of Captain America's relations to the events that shaped him. I will relate this work with the background of Captain America and his relation to the American dream.

Other findings of analysis on Captain America strengthened his identity as the representation of the American Dream. For instance, Michael Ahmed (2012) presented the journey of Captain America in rediscovering the American dream. The article explores how he struggles to do a coup against the United States government and renews his relationship with the American dream. Also, McGuire (2012), in his article, talked about how the American dream is shifting in Captain America comic books. In addition, Kamp (2009) strengthened how Captain America is the symbol of the American dream by his statement that Captain America has unique characteristics of the defining features of the American Dream 'that include "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. This article will relate with what kind of dream does Captain America fight for and what does he wants to protect as superheroes that represent the nation.

Beforehand, there should be a fundamental knowledge about American Dreams in general. James Truslow Adams (cited in Cullen 2003) stated that the definition of the American Dream is "Life should be better and richer and fuller for everyone, with opportunity for each according to ability or achievement- regardless of **social class** or circumstances of birth". To reveal the origins of the American Dreams above, Cullen (2003) presented the development of this ideal by a juxtapose series of events that happened in the United States History. American dream ideal started from the "good life" concept by the Puritans, and is develops to the document which was considered as the charter of the American Dream, The Declaration of Independence. Cullen discussed thoroughly how this ideal was created and developed by cited many works of the previous writer who wrote the same thing. This work will be used as historical references for the American Dream ideal which I will discussed on the journal later on.

Thus, some researches come up with several ideas about the death of Captain America related to the failure of American Dream. Costello (2009) discussed the Civil War event and the death of Captain America. This book reveals the secret identity crisis that superheroes have to deal with, and in this case, Captain America's identity as the identity of the nation is at stake. His works also talks about the struggle that Captain America went through to fight for what people deem as The American Dream: life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Furthermore, Peitz (2013) clarified this statement by his argument about the death of Captain America as the failure of the ideal that embodies within Captain America.

Captain America was created by Joe Simons and Jack Kirby in 1941. Up until now, Captain America has starred more than 350 issues. His story was also adapted into several movies in 1944, 1979, 1990, and the latest in 2011. Captain America has many

stories to be critically analyzed; especially the moment when he was told death, or M.I.A. By using thematic approach, I will analyze this death of Captain America as the death of American Dream. Papers about the development of American Dreams ideal will be used as background support. This project aims to discuss the relation of Captain America and his identity as a representation of the American Dream ideal. Moreover, this paper will be focusing on the analysis of Captain America's death and the impact of the American dreams towards his death. I used to perceive Captain America and the ideal of American dream separately before I realize that they both concerned to the American liberty. I find that Captain America's death is important to be analyzed because I want to reveal the possible connection between Captain America's death and the slowly failing and shifting American dream ideal which presently occurs.

CAPTAIN AMERICA AS THE REPRESENTATION OF THE DREAM

Captain America was created in 1941 by Joe Simmons and Jack Kirby. Even at its first launching, the popularity of Captain America was astonishing. Published near the time of World War II, it was proven to be one of the most motivational fictions of American dream for American soldiers. It is proved by the way he was pictured in his first comic book cover, where he is portrayed punching Adolf Hitler in the face. However, after the war ended, the popularity of Captain America began to dwindle and the comic had been discontinued in 1950. After that, Captain America is re-introduced in his role as the leader of a team known as The Avengers. As we know, Captain America is clearly depicted the identity of the United States. Peitz (2013) stated "Captain America clearly can be identified as a territorial symbol of America solely by his red, white, and blue star-spangled uniform". Stan Lee¹ also added that Captain America represents the best aspects of America, which are courage and honesty. Also, Captain America is created as the perfect image and origin mirrored the American Dream of 1941.

There are many proofs how Captain America is viewed as the representation of the American dream in his comic books. From the illustration above we know that Captain America embodied freedom, liberty and the forces of good, as defined by the American Dream from the time he was created in 1941 up until the cancellation of the comic in the early 1950s. In one of his comic books, Peggy Carter, Captain America's wartime girlfriend, who was given a more prominent role at that time, makes this clear when she states that Captain America is a:

Symbol of the country that's given everything it has to light the torch of liberty throughout the world! For nearly two hundred years, the spirit of freedom has never been forgotten here...and for that reason, countless men and women, crushed under the brutal heel of totalitarianism, have been able to keep alive their dreams of liberation! [...] you symbolize all of it in your own way...and you're the only one who does!
(Cited in Ahmed 2012)

¹ Stan Lee was a comic book icon and one of the Captain America's creators.

What Peggy Carter was trying to say in the comic was Captain America is the symbol of the Dream which all the people of America hold. He was the one who is responsible to give people the spirit to fight for the liberation and freedom.

Up until now, Captain America is still considered as the representation of the American Dream. Now and then, many of his issues in the comic books talks about the interpretation of The Dream related to Captain America's role in the society. One of the examples is taken from the fourth edition of Captain America (2002, p. 25), which stated how Captain America views his American Dream ideal:

*You could have had a home. You could be there now.
In a little white house. One quiet sunny street.
Nobody firing missiles at you.
Knowing who your friends are...
Listening the neighbors' kids squeal, running through the sprinklers
One more time. While she works on her tan. The one you love.
The one who loves you.
(Cited in Pedroso 2013)*

This part of the comic shows what Captain America views about his ideal American Dream. It has a significant function to construct a new configuration of the character which refers to an intimate and personal viewpoint of the Captain America. He was confronted with dreams about an alternative life, if he was not Captain America. The personal version of the "American Dream" of Captain America was simply a "home" in a "calm" neighborhood, near "friends and "woman to love". Even if Captain America was depicted as the representation of the American Dream, he still had his personal point of view about his ideal American Dream. This explains Captain America was not only closely related to the American Dream, but also shared the same idea with the American society.

MARVEL CIVIL WAR AND THE ELEMENTS OF AMERICAN DREAM

Aside from his relation to the representation of American Dream and the ideal itself, Captain America is often portrayed death in many of his story. One of his deaths is the result of a life-risking fight with his fellow superhero, Iron Man in Marvel Civil War event. Marvel Civil War began when the U.S Government began to commence the Super-human Registration Act. This act decrees that all Mutants or Super-humans must register with the government, giving all personal information, as well as powers. Iron Man, who believes this act is necessary for all the superheroes, supports the act and becomes the Pro-Registration. On the other hand, Captain America believes this act is a violation of individual human rights so he refuses to enroll the act and runs away. The war on the importance of the Super-human Registration Act between the Pro-Registration and the Anti-Registration is initiated. In the aftermath of the Civil War, Captain America was murdered defending his pride and his responsibility as the ideal of the nation.

Arguably said, Captain America's rebellious act in this matter is his pursuit of the American Dream ideal. He is struggling to fight for his freedom as an individual citizen of the United States and freedom for every American citizen. In one of his excerpt (Captain America n^o1 2002, p.32) Captain America says that "American people are united by a power that no enemy of freedom could begin to understand. We share...We are... the American Dream." This excerpt show us the American Dream as a whole element of national unit, the Dream is a kind of identity element which distinguishes the Americans from his "enemies". Pedroso (2013) added "The American Dream should be faced as an element of differentiation between "Us" and "Others". In these differentiation elements we could add the "freedom", in the comics this ideal it's appointed as other important element of American identity, the "enemies" are against "freedom". If "they" are against freedom, then "they" are against the United States and his people." Pedroso's statement above clearly depicted how the problem occurred in Civil War between Captain America and Iron Man.

Captain America, with his struggle to defend his "American Dream", is considered as the United States and its people. Whereas, Iron Man and the Pro-Registration act represents the "Other" which Pedroso mentioned. It clearly explains the distinguish feature which caused the War started. Iron Man with his Pro-Registration Act becomes the "enemy" because he tried to imprison an important element of American identity and one part of the American Dream ideal which is freedom. Freedom is the state of being free or at liberty rather than in confinement or under physical restraint. All people all over the world held freedom as their human rights but sometimes law forces them to let go of their individual freedom. Captain America, who considers freedom is the individual right for all people, struggles to death to defend this belief.

Marvel Civil War comic shows the image of how someone tried to struggle and fight for his or her American Dream but ended up as a failure. From all the conflict happened in the comic, American Dream is one of the important themes appeared. Many of Captain America comic books frequently mentioned about how Captain America closely related to the American Dream. Therefore, it is a big issue that the Captain as the representation of the American Dream is portrayed dead as a result in defending his ideal. This can be considered that there are relation between the death of Captain America and the ideal that he fights for.

THE AMERICAN DREAM: PAST AND PRESENT

American Dream has always been the United States ideal long before it was a country. As a matter of fact, American Dream has been the United States part of identity. There are many ways to define the American Dream because everybody got their own thoughts and perspectives when it comes to the "Dream" that the United States offers.

According to James Truslow Adams², American Dream is:

[T]hat dream of a land in which life should be better and richer and fuller for everyone, with opportunity for each according to ability or achievement. [...] It is not a dream of motor cars and high wages merely, but a dream of social order in which each man and each woman shall be able to attain to the fullest stature of which they are innately capable, and be recognized by others for what they are, regardless of the fortuitous circumstances of birth or position.
(Cited in Cullen 2003)

Adams definition of the American Dream is a general point of view for every citizen of the United States; that every people in the United States has an opportunity to live their lives prosperously. Furthermore, the fundamental yet the most important values of the American Dream are written in the opening clause of the second paragraph in the Declaration of Independence (1776) "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". This part of the declaration explains how the American Dream affects the society. These words essentially structure the finer points of our everyday existence. Life, liberty, and pursuit of happiness are something that are always inseparable to activities in our daily lives: what we do, what we choose, who we live with, what we fight for, and what we want to achieve in life. Also, based on those ideas, we can understand a little more about the meanings of the American Dream, it could be considered as an objective that guides the United States. It is represented as a search through a free and equal society where all citizens, through their individual efforts, contribute to the country's development.

Even so, there are still series of changes regarding to the ideal. If we take a look at the past, the American Dream represents the identity of the nation because of the values it holds a long time ago. Conversely, the present American Dream emphasizes more on what we can achieve practically without hard work and dedication to attain our goal. According to Cullen (2003, p.39) "The meaning of "liberty" by contrast, sometimes seems all too clear: a celebration of the right to buy—if you have cash or credit. And the pursuit of happiness—is it simply the acquisition of creature comforts? " This passage gives us a parable that liberty is considered as freedom to buy everything while think of nothing as long as you have credit cards, and pursuit of happiness is merely about individual comforts.

The present American Dream tries to simplify the value which the American Dream of the Founding Father had constructed long ago. The truth is people nowadays do not feel what the society had felt long before the Independence. Dream of equality, upward mobility, and Dream of the good life made them struggled to achieve the real life, liberty, and pursuit of happiness. With this condition occurs, we can say that there

² James Truslow Adams is a Writer and Historian who wrote "The Epic of America" in 1931

are changes in the American Dream which was constructed long ago and it leads to a failure because the ideal cannot keep up the development of the society.

As a matter of fact, the different point of view in the past and present American Dream is actually parts of goals which the American Dream itself possesses. According to Kasser & Ryan (1996):

*We distinguish two classes of goals on the basis of their contents. Extrinsic goals, such as financial success (money), social recognition (fame), and appealing appearance (image). These goals exemplify some of the most salient aspect of popular American culture, in which fame, money, and good looks are often portrayed as sign of one's ultimate success. Four other goals were selected for their largely intrinsic character: affiliation (relatedness), community feeling (helpfulness), physical fitness (health), and self acceptance (growth).
(Kasser & Ryan 1996)*

The present American Dream only preserves the idealism which accentuates the extrinsic goals because major society thinks that this kind of "Dream" is no longer needed and the development of individualism in today's social state is rising too fast. As a result, they throw aside the intrinsic goals which hold the fundamental and the most important part of the American Dream. As a result of those kinds of Dream, people are being simplistic with their "pursuit of happiness" concept by relying only on their economic easiness to credit card. Consequently, everything becomes out of control. According to Meacham (2012) "It is more difficult now than in the past for many people to achieve middle-class status because prices for certain key goods — health care, college and housing — have gone up faster than income". In his article, Meacham argues that the American Dream is now facing economic pressure, a crisis that is created by American mass consumption behavior.

As we can see in the explanation above, we know that there is a transition from the American Dream concept which Captain America held and the concept which the American people presently believed. The concept of the preceding American Dream is what Captain America trusts and preserves the most because he believes that every individual of the United States has rights to achieve their life, liberty, and pursuit of happiness. Also, we can see that there are proofs which point out the fact that American Dream appears to be a failure if it has to be applied in present American society.

THE DEATH OF CAPTAIN AMERICA AND THE AMERICAN DREAM

As I discussed in the previous section, this war had started because there are two different points of view between these two superheroes about the importance of Super-Human Registration Act that the government commenced. Captain America, as the opposing party of this act, struggles to fight for his belief because he deemed that such an Act will imprison individual rights and it will only lead to conflict and futile death. It turns out to be true about the death. There are many superheroes die in vain because

of the war, but the most tragic death is Captain America. He tries his best to fight for the people, fight for his American Dream that he believes so much. Then, it turns out that there are not many people who think that his struggle to fight for the life, liberty, and pursuit of happiness is the right thing to do. This tragedy is also called as "The Death of Dream". This phrase gives an interpretation that the death of Captain America relates to the American Dream values, which slow failing in the society.

However, slowly this Dream is corroding and backfiring to himself as a result of his resistance to the government act. The truth is Captain America is created by the government. He fights all these years for the sake of the Government and for the United States, but why does the government act as if they backstab Captain America? As Captain America renounce his disappointment to the government "The government created me in 1941...created me to act as their agent in protecting our country...and over the years, I've done my best! I wasn't perfect...I did things I'm not proud of...but I always tried to serve my country well...and now I find that the government was serving itself. I just don't understand! I just don't understand!" (cited in Ahmed 2012)

In the Civil War Comic, Captain America feels that the government was not considering himself as their ally just because he disobeys the Super-Human Registration Act. Instead, they made Captain America as the public enemy of the United States. This made Captain America confused with his own identity, whether or not he has to cling to his ideal or to the people of America that he treasured so much. In one of the comic books about Civil War event, there is a scene where Captain America and his Non-Registered superheroes were fighting with Iron Man and the Pro-Registered superheroes. There was a conversation among Captain America, two citizens that were trying to seize him, and the falcon that points out his puzzlement towards the purpose of these meaningless fights that happened right after the Act:

Capt. America	: <i>Let me go! Please, I don't want to hurt you...</i>
Citizen 1	: <i>Don't want to hurt us? Are you trying to be funny?</i>
Citizen 2	: <i>It's a little late for that man!</i>
Capt. America	: <i>Oh my God.</i>
The Falcon	: <i>What's wrong?</i>
Capt. America	: <i>They're right. We're not fighting for the people anymore, Falcon... Look at us. We're just fighting. (Civil War #7 2007 pp. 26-28)</i>

This conversation clearly tells us that Captain America is confused with what he is fighting for. It is either he fights for his own freedom, or he fights for the freedom of the people. It is his duty as the living embodiment of the American Dream to fulfill such a task, but in this matter, he experienced an identity crisis whether he has to act as the super hero Captain America or Steve Rogers, a normal citizen. Then again, his action caused deprivation for the society and more surprisingly for him. This concludes

that what Captain America had done is not what the people want anymore. He instantly becomes the “real” public enemy because of his action. Still in this scene of the comic, Captain America surrenders to the Pro-Registration and lets them dragged him to be courted in front of the citizens of the United States. Still, before the arrest, Captain America removes his mask and said “And they’re not arresting Captain America... They’re arresting Steve Rogers. That’s a very different thing”.

This proves that all of his action is not done by Captain America, but Steve Rogers. Captain America is the identity of the nation, the representation of the American Dream and he would not do things that caused the nations at stake or people in danger. With this on his mind, Steve Rogers will never vilify the honor of Captain America as the identity of the nation. We can say from this incident that even between the people and Captain America, there is a discrepancy. In other words, what Captain America views of the ideal American Dream is not as the ideal of the people thought it was anymore. We can see that this incident is the representation of how the past American Dream values are now mismatched with what our society believe in reality.

According to Pedroso (2013) “The American Dream has two views; one is the quest for utopian ideals of freedom and equality that are considered universal values essential to all human beings. The other view is a search for individual goals, the pursuit of “happiness”, which often manifests itself as a materialistic search for goods, property, wealth, etc. Captain America embodies these two visions of the American Dream”. Captain America believes that his ideal American Dream encompasses the people’s entire Dream, but as the Dream concept develops and the cultural dynamic in the society gives them simplistic mind, they make the Dream poles apart.

The society plays a big part in the changing of the American Dream. Changing here means how society views the American Dream in the present day and how they applied it in their daily routine. A moment before Captain America escorted to the Court and gets shot there was a conversation in another comic book of the Civil War event between Ben Urich and Sally Floyd, local journalists, and Captain America. They have been given a task to interview comparisons between two sides of the Registration debate, as described by Registered and Unregistered heroes. The point of this conversation was Ben and Sally were trying to interview Captain America’s purpose of his action towards the Superhero Registration Act:

Capt. America: I believe in the fundamental freedom accorded us by our constitution, Ben. I believe we have a right to bear arms, a right to defend and a right to choose. I have sworn an oath to defend America from external forces, and from within. [...] I saw the possibility of a Registration Act as a basic of our rights as Americans. For that, I wish to apologize to the country I love.

Ben Urich: *Sir, the people are going to ask, “why not sooner?” if you recognize this now, why couldn’t you just have recognized it earlier and saved us millions in property damage?*

Capt. America: *People only come to a conclusion after they examine all the aspects of a problem, Ben. That's what happened here.*

Ben Urich: *They sure do. But most people don't have the means to explore the pros and cons of an argument by tearing city in half*

Capt America: *I did what I thought was right for America.*
(*Civil War: Frontline #11 2007 pp. 14-16*)

Again, this conversation emphasizes what Captain America views as the American Dream. He did what he considered the best for the America. He thinks that this act violates individual rights of American citizen because the act restrains individual freedom. He said that he did all this fight for the United States, his beloved Country. From this conversation, we can also see that the American citizens begin to have different perspective from Captain America. People thought why Captain America has to fight and cause a huge loss for the country he loves so much. In the middle of Captain America and Ben Urich's conversation, Sally Floyd interrupts their conversation and sarcastically asks Captain America with fundamental questions:

Sally Floyd: *Let me ask you something, Sir. Do you know what Myspace is?*

Capt. America: *I'm not sure the relevance of that question, Sally –*

Sally Floyd: *No, you just don't understand the question, Sir. I'm trying to illustrate a point here, so bear with me. Do you know who won the last World Series, or who was the American Idol? When was the last time you actually attended a Nascar race? When was the last time you watched The Simpsons or logged into Youtube to watch a stupid video? Answer?*

Capt. America: *I...*

Sally Floyd: *Exactly. Never. You hold America up as some shining beacon of perfection but you know next to nothing about it.*

Capt. America: *Miss Floyd, you're being simplistic—*

Sally Floyd: *Yeah, but when danger rears its ugly head you don't have to hide in a subway like the rest of us, do you? We don't have the power to be as complicated as you!*

Capt. America: *I understand you're just voicing the frustration of others, Sally. But I did what I thought was right.*

Sally Floyd: *Your problem is that you're fighting for an ideal — it's all you know how to do. America is no longer about mom and apple pie...It's about high cholesterol and Paris Hilton and scheming your way to the top.*

(*Civil War: Frontline #11 2007 pp. 16-18*)

Sally Floyd attacks Captain America with fundamental questions about the present social condition in the United States. This conversation clearly states that what Sally Floyd said is the real condition of the present American Society. He wants to point out that this is the United States today, not what Captain America used to see and feel anymore. American society slowly changed their point of view towards the American Dream values from its original state to something new and more simplistic. Sally Floyd thought what Captain America did was just what he thinks the right decision for the United States. The truth is America no longer preserves what Captain America considers as the American Dream.

Captain America only fights for his own ideal. As the representation of American Dream and the Identity of the United States, it is his responsibility to fight for his ideal because he also represents the ideal of every person in America. However, the fact that happens is otherwise. The people no longer hold the value of the American Dream that Captain America holds. What Sally Floyd argues in this conversation can be seen as an illustration of today's American Society. The American Dream in the society is no longer about life, liberty, and pursuit of happiness. Maybe the roots are still the same, but they are deconstructed into something more simplistic.

After this tough interview, Captain America was brought into Courtroom for a trial. It turns out that his decision to surrender causes a riot around the Courtroom. There are many people who would have wanted to see the troublemaker paid what he has done to The United States. The people no longer remember what Captain America has given them. One thing for sure, all they care about is only their fear. Then, the United States see what happened to their forgotten hero, Captain America is shot to death. From these series of event, we can see that there are changes occurred in the American Dream that the society preserves. Captain America, who is the symbol of the nation, the representation of the Dream, gets shot in front of the citizens of The United States. This image gives us a view of how the Ideal that Captain America holds, the life, liberty, and pursuit of happiness is something that the society might not be needed anymore. What can be seen from Sally's conversation with Captain America is, people now have easier access to everything and they do not experience any hardships like American society a long time ago. The American Dream values that Captain America holds is no longer viewed as the American Dream by the society, and slowly, it is swept away alongside the death of Captain America.

CONCLUSION

Captain America is considered as the most influential fictional character created by Marvel Comics for more than seventy years because he represents the identity of the United States and the embodiment of the American Dream. The identity of Captain America has always been preserving and standing for the values which the United States believes in. As I said above, there are many proofs of how he represented the value of American Dream and the struggle he must undergo to fight or what he and the society believe in most of his comic books. However, Captain America was killed because he defended what he and the people of the U.S believed.

The main objective of the analysis is to see the relation between the death of Captain America and the change of perspective through the American Dream in the society. The finding of the analysis shows that there is a relation of what happen in the society at the present time and what we have seen in the Civil War comic. We can see that there are significant changes in the society regarding the preserve of the American

Dream value. The society in The U.S tend to forget or even do not apply the values of the American Dream. The truth is, those values have been constructed long ago, and it has been an important role on the development of the nation itself. However, as we see it now the society clearly abandon what Captain America fought for the whole time. Also, the people of the U.S at the present time mostly just care about what they thought important for them, and they did not experience any hardship like what they used to have in the past.

In brief, the analysis shows that the death of Captain America can be seen as the breakdown of the American Dream concept in the society. We know that Captain America was created as the embodiment of the nation, so it is his responsibility to preserve the values of the

American Dream because what Captain America did is for the sake of the nation, not to mention also for the people in it. In the Civil War comic book, Captain America defended his American Dream even if it cost his own life because he thought the value in the American Dream is what matters for American society today. Unfortunately, the society thinks what Captain America preserve is no longer suitable for the present society.

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