Cullen Chapter 3 Part 2 Cornell Notes

Key Quotations	Notes
"The American Dream of Upward Mobility as both a beautiful promise and a moral imperative. 'I hold that while man exists, it is his duty to improve not only his own condition, but to assist in ameliorating mankind'" (94) In Lincoln's opinion, what are the two responsibilities that mankind has?	

What are Cullen's claims about the American Dream?

Cornell Notes

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{Lincoln states] “This is essentially a People’s contest. On the one side of the Union, it is a struggle for maintaining in the world, that form, and substance of government, whose leading object is, to elevate the condition of men-to lift artificial weights from all shoulders--to clear the paths of laudable pursuit for all--to afford all, an unfettered start, and a fair chance, in the race of life” (96) What was the goal of the Civil War for Lincoln and how does it relate to the Dream of Upward Mobility?	

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[Lincoln stated] "Nowhere in the world is presented a government of so much liberty and equality. To the humblest and poorest among us are held out the highest privileges and positions. The present moment finds me at the White House, yet there is as good a chance for your children as there was for my father's" (97). How does Lincoln use his own situation to prove his premise about America? Do you think his statement was true during his time period? What about today? Explain your answer.	

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"The impact of the Civil War on Lincoln: it revised. . . his notion of the American Dream. The principal form this chastening took was a growing skepticism over one of the key premises of the American Dream of Upward Mobility. . .the ability to shape one's destiny. Perhaps, Lincoln was increasingly inclined to speculate, there was an invisible hand with objectives far removed from things like success in the marketplace" (97). According to Cullen, how did the Civil War affect Lincoln's opinion about the "ability to shape one's destiny:?	

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"In the classic formulation of the Dream of Upward Mobility, the past is irrelevant--except as a measuring stick for anticipated success. Now, however, the past is a source of hope in its own right" (99) How does the past act as a "measuring stick" for the future? How could this comparison affect one's perception of their current situation?	

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"In this brief address [Lincoln's Second Inaugural Address]. . .Lincoln repeated some of the ideas he had been mulling over for the past three years: that the course of the war had not been desired or expected, that its course had been unpredictable, and that both sides had invoked God's aid against the other. But, he said, God had his own idea about what this war was really about, and it seemed to be punishment for the sins of *both* sides" (100). How did Lincoln's belief in God's plan seem to contradict his former belief in a man's ability to shape his own destiny?	

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"If there was one redemptive element in all of this, it lay in something that Lincoln cared very deeply about: that the purview of the Dream be expanded as widely as possible. By the end of the twentieth century, it wasn't just Hans, Baptiste, and Patrick who were pursuing--and occasionally achieving--upward mobility, but Elizabeth,, Elena, and Kaneesha, too" (101) According to this quotation from Cullen, what was Lincoln's biggest contribution to the Dream of Upward Mobility?	

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