

Student's Name

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Course

Date

The Social Network

The film *The Social Network* talks about the American vision of innovation and economic empowerment. In the film, it is evident how a young university student manages to utilize his talent. Through hard work, ambition, and networking, he rises to the top of society's economic ladder. The film communicates the possibility of economic empowerment for those with ambition and vision regardless of the background and character flaws. Mark Zuckerberg rose from an unknown and frustrated student to become a millionaire by using his talent and cultivating important connections. The film delivers the idea that economic emancipation, which is part of the American vision, is achievable through focus and talent.

The film *The Social Network* depicts the circumstances behind Facebook's development, which has become a social media giant with billions of users to this date (Zadie). Aaron Sorkin wrote the script of the film while its director was David Fincher. The film was released in 2010 and received enormous critical acclaim. Several critics named it under the film of the year category. Also, it won several nominations and awards at the 83rd Academy Award. Jesse Eisenberg plays the role of the founder of Facebook. Some of the leading characters are Mark Zuckerberg's classmates, who played a role at the social media company's formative stages.

Plot

Jesse Eisenberg is in sophomore year at Harvard University when his girlfriend dumps him. Erica plays the role of the girlfriend (Zadie). In the anger of being jilted, he writes a

derogatory entry into his journal about his ex-girlfriend. At the same time, he manages to hack into the University database and steals photos of ladies. He creates a website in which he allows the viewers to rate the ladies based on their beauty; as a result of visitors' traffic on his website, a part of the University servers' crashes. Jesse's illegal activity is found out, and he is placed on academic probation.

As he ends his probation, the popularity of his website attracts the attention of some other people. Twins and their business partner invite Zuckerberg to develop and promote a social network site that would provide dating services to University students. At the same time, Zuckerberg conceives Facebook's idea and approaches a friend intending to build a social networking site for Ivy League University students. The friend provides the initial funding for the project. Thefacebook becomes very popular. The twins and their business partner find out about it and are annoyed and accuse him of stealing their idea. They report him to the university president, who dismisses the idea as he finds no value in disciplinary action against either the innovation or the innovator.

As the popularity of the Facebook increases, the founder expands it to other universities, including Yale and Columbia Universities. A fellow student named Ling connects them to investors who are willing to finance and expand their innovation to other continents. The company headquarters then moves to Palo Alto from where the innovation's future work is to spread.

A period riddled with controversy then begins for the founder and his partners. The twins who had floated the idea of a Harvard dating site happen to discover the social media site's exponential growth. They sue the company for theft of intellectual property. Saverin, who had provided the seed funding for the company, also gets enraged that the new investor is making the

business decisions. He freezes the company accounts and only undoes them to discover new massive funding by an angel investor. He is further annoyed at the dilution of his shareholding in the company as new investors are brought on board. He sues Zuckerberg for this before he is forcefully evicted from the building housing their headquarters. Parker, the main investor, is also later arrested for possession of cocaine forcing Zuckerberg to sever ties with him. Later on, Zuckerberg tries to re-establish a friendship with his estranged girlfriend through Facebook, the platform he developed.

Vision of America

The film captures the positive vision of economic empowerment in America. Despite the intrigues surrounding the development and final launching of Facebook, the subject captured in the movie is the possibility of anybody to rise from obscurity and poverty to that of wealth and influence by utilizing their unique talents. Zuckerberg embraced innovation and utilized his talent to solve the problem of connection among his peers on the campus, and this was rewarded handsomely with economic emancipation.

The story is about rising from middle-class to one of the most influencing people in America. It is evident in the sophomore student who did not have the seed capital to launch his start-up but eventually ends up a millionaire because he realized his talent and worked hard at harnessing it.

The rise to economic prosperity requires partnerships and linkages with people of different capacities. Zuckerberg was only armed with his idea of the social networking site, and he managed to get the initial funding from a friend who believed that the idea was workable. When he needed to scale up the business, he got Parker and later Peter Thiel, who gave him the required millions to scale up the business to the level he wanted. In the course of the business

rising, he had to redefine some relationships and even drop some based on the vision that he had for his entity. There are always people willing to fund the idea of a visionary person if they believe in it.

The American dream is achievable even for those with imperfect personalities. Mark Zuckerberg, as portrayed in the film, is lacking important social skills. He is unable to keep his girlfriend Erica and also cannot keep other important business relationships. He is just a computer nerd who focuses on his passion while leveraging other people's strengths to achieve his corporate goals with his start-up company.

Social networking platforms have fostered cross-generational connectivity, which is an integral part of the American vision. On five hundred million platforms, people of all races, religions, and regions can freely connect, share their aspirations, and get the necessary support from their friends. Facebook has enabled social integration and economic empowerment that cross various boundaries. The brilliant young mind of a University student has enabled the global connection of billions of people.

In conclusion, the film captures the reality of American society. People of talent can rise from obscurity to influence by harnessing their talent and working hard. In this case, the character Zuckerberg was able to rise from frustration, social and economic by identifying his talent and utilizing it to make a difference. He managed to create a platform for social connections which has remained a good force in society.

Work Cited

Zadie, Smith. "Generation why?." *The New York Review of Books* 18 (2010).

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