

Dr Cooper: Hi, everybody. Welcome to my new audio diary. A lot of you know that I was just in the United States. What's that mean, I was just in the United States? If you want to know, ask me in class, or write it down and ask me in a forum, or send it to my email. I was just in the United States. I was visiting my mom mostly, and I was with my wife, and I don't want ... I think a lot of you also know that I don't like the United States, and I want to try to think for myself, and also to tell you why I don't like it. I know a lot of you love the United States, and that's fine. I love different countries that I've visited, but if I lived there, I don't know if I would love them. Though I don't live in the United States now, I used to, and I have a good understanding of it because I was there, and then I left, and I can see how it is changing. Other people can't. What's wrong with the United States?

Dr Cooper: If I had to say one thing that I think is wrong with the United States compared to every other country I've lived in, every other country, it's that it's artificial. I want to make something clear, because I noticed this this time that I was in the United States, and I think it's very interesting. Not everybody in the United States is artificial. The people who are artificial are the people, are the professionals and the people who are in the upper middle class, okay? I don't know if it's the top 30% of the country, the top 40% in terms of money, but the people who are artificial are primarily people who work for corporations, but also just, not just them. There's something artificial about the way people live life in the United States, and that's not to criticize America, the United States, the country, or the people. It's to criticize the way the United States culture now, because although there are similarities between the culture now and the culture 50 years ago, the culture 100 years ago, there are also a lot of differences.

Dr Cooper: I don't think from everything I've read, and all the movies I've seen, that America was very artificial 50 years ago. I don't think it was even 40 years ago. I think it is now, and I think there's a very big difference in the way Americans live, and the way they act. I'm not talking about oh, [inaudible 00:03:02]. I'm not talking about the working class. Okay? Because I think the working class in the United States hasn't changed much in many years, and the last time ... This time, when I went to the United States, I went to a city called Kansas City just for 15 minutes in the airport, but I rented a car, and I talked to a few people living in Kansas City. I saw, they seemed like people from a long time ago. They seemed normal, and sometimes, I'll talk to ... Very rarely, but sometimes I'll meet people from the lower, people ... Poorer people in the United States, and they seem very normal to me. They don't seem artificial. They seem natural.

Dr Cooper: I think it's important to know that the difference in America between the natural, between the poorer people and the richer people is huge. You might know this, because of the election. In the election, Donald Trump won mostly because of the normal people voted for him. When I say normal people, I mean people who live in the middle of the country. They're not modern. They're people who are not, don't have a lot of money, and most of these people voted for Trump, and they're very different than the people who live in the big cities, who have money, and are in the professional classes, and work for corporations. What people like to say is that people who voted for Trump are racist. I don't think that's true. Some of them obviously are, but I don't think most of them are. I think most of them just don't like the way modern American life is, and they realize that

both of the Republicans and the Democrats have created modern American life, which is artificial.

Dr Cooper: I don't want to talk about politics anymore, so let's change the subject a little. I just want to make it clear, when I say artificial, I mostly mean the people who have professional jobs, who go to university, and who work for corporations, or who make money in the upper middle class. These are the people who are artificial, and these are the people who I see a lot in Oxford, because Oxford is in England, but at the university, there are many Americans and Canadians who are here studying. You see them all the time, and my experience with them has not been good. They never seem to like me, and that's very interesting. Why don't they like me? I'll talk about that later, but now, when we talk about ... Sometimes when we're talking about the United States, we have to realize, I'm not talking anymore about the United States. I'm talking about the United States empire, and the United States empire is now affecting all over the world. The world is becoming more and more American, in the professional, corporate way.

Dr Cooper: I don't think that's a good thing, so in Canada, in England, in Australia especially, it's very, becoming very Americanized, but even in Brazil, it's happened. Usually when I hear people complain about how Brazil has changed, it all sounds like the way that America has changed, the way the United Kingdom has changed, and I think that started with the United States, and a culture, and especially the United States business culture. There's a question. Is it natural to live for status? I don't think so, so what's ... To an extent, yes, okay? To an extent, everybody wants to be, always. It's natural to want to be more and more respected by other people, but there gets to a point where it becomes so obsessive and crazy, and that's where we are now. People now, they start ... People and corporations, their only goal is to get promoted. Not for the money, but to get promoted, or if it's for the money, it's just for the money. It's not to live with the money. They don't think of living any more.

Dr Cooper: They think of their life as being at that company, tied to that company, and the only thing that matters is getting a little more money. Let me explain what I mean, okay? I work very, very hard. I almost never have time off, but I choose what I do. Nobody tells me what I do, and I know the effect of what I do. I teach people, and I'm trying to change the way people learn English. This is very motivating. My life is independent, okay? I'm not dependent on a whole company, and I don't have ... I don't worry that if I get fired from that company, my life will end. These days there are so few companies that if you get fired from a company, you feel like you have no more life, because there are only a few more companies you can work for. That's especially so in the United States, so people think about status, being promoted, simply because they think of their life as being a life in a company, and what's happened to people? Not just in the United States, but in the United Kingdom, in Brazil, all over the world.

Dr Cooper: They're working harder and harder, because their life is in that company, so much so that they eat in the company. Their gym is in the company. They get to the company early in the morning. They leave late at night. It's their life. They don't have any leisure time at all during the week. When they're off, they're making emails. Again, it's not for themselves, or for their own business. Very few people have their own business these

days. More and more people used to have their own businesses, but now the businesses are so big that people don't work for themselves. They work for somebody else, and even when they're not working, they're on their phone, working for somebody else, and there's no leisure time. There's no leisure time. I don't think this is natural. In fact, I think it's very natural for people to have leisure time, to have free time, okay? I can tell you just from talking to Brazilians who work for multinational corporations, which in my opinion, is almost the same thing as living and working in the United States.

Dr Cooper: It's almost the same thing, and I can tell you that what they are sad most about is leisure time. Again, is it natural for people to live for money? Yes and no. Everybody wants money, but usually they want money to make their lives better. Maybe they want another room, a house with another room so they can have another room for kids, or they can have a room to relax, or maybe they want to buy a car, to help them go places on vacation, or maybe they want to be able to go to restaurants to eat dinner. It's natural to want money, and now it's even more natural to want money. Do you know why? Because everything is so expensive, that to buy anything that is worthwhile, anything that is good, you need to have a lot of money. If you go to any restaurant, and you order food, it's going to be a bad quality food, especially in America or the UK, unless you pay a lot of money. If you want to buy a chair, it's going to be a chair that's going to break, unless you pay a huge amount of money, so yes, everybody wants money to pay.

Dr Cooper: Is it natural to want, for everybody to want to be a billionaire? I don't think so, and I don't think that that was the motivation for most people to live, to be the next Bill Gates, to be the next Jeff Bezos, to be the next billionaire. It's natural to want money, so you can have a comfortable life or a good life, but not everybody wants to live in a castle. That's not natural, and I can tell you right now, it's not natural for everybody to want a designer bag that costs \$4,000, okay? I can remember when nobody wanted that. They knew that some weird people, some weird, snobby people wanted that very fancy clothes, and very, but they didn't feel bad that they didn't have them, because they could buy nice, high quality clothes, and nice, high quality handbags, and at fair prices. They didn't have to buy something just to show off, just to show others. That's not natural, and that's the way people are now.

Dr Cooper: Obviously not just in the United States, but in Brazil, in the United Kingdom, in Canada. It's spreading everywhere, but what I'm saying it's coming from the United States culture. That's where it started, so I don't think it's natural for everyone to want to be a billionaire. Look, I have a company. I want my company to be successful, but I don't want to be a billionaire. Do you know what I want? I want to make enough money so I can relax, I can live the way I want, I can read, I can walk in the woods, I can have family, have time for my family and friends. That's what I want, and I think that's what most people want naturally. The world is becoming unnatural, so people are starting to live without remembering what they really want. They forget everything except for money. They forget everything except being [foreign language 00:13:27], except being a consumer, and buying everything to show off, to show off. That's not natural. Another thing, are smartphones natural? No. [foreign language 00:13:38]. You can tell me.

Dr Cooper: Smartphones aren't American. I don't think they are, but I think they're making everything worse. I don't think ... I'll tell you something. I don't think it's natural to want to type on your phone messages. I think it's much more natural to call somebody and talk to them. Do you know why? Because it's easier to communicate that way than by text message, for one thing, but people don't text, don't call each other anymore. They text. Do you know why? Because people are not comfortable talking to other people, and people don't feel they have time to talk to other people. That's not natural. It's natural to want to talk to other people. It's natural to have time to talk to other people. It's natural to pass by somebody's house without being invited, to come up and to have a drink. People don't do that anymore. They're too busy. That's not natural, and I believe that all comes from ... Definitely it comes from corporate society, from [foreign language 00:14:46], but where did that come from? America. Okay. Now we're going to start getting into other things, things that specifically bothered me about the United States.

Dr Cooper: Rather than the United States empire that's spreading all over the world, so for example, Brazil has a lot of these problems. People want to buy the latest cell phone. They want to buy ... They never stop wanting to buy. They're so [foreign language 00:15:16], it's crazy, and it's sick and all of you who are [foreign language 00:15:20], I'm going to tell you you're sick. Okay? Stop living just to buy things to impress people. You look ridiculous, okay? There are certain things that are good about ... There are certain things that are specifically bad about the United States that make it artificial, and when I ... Again, when I'm talking about the higher classes, I'm talking about the professional classes, and one is ... They don't like [foreign language 00:15:46]. They don't like characters. In Brazil, people still like characters. People still appreciate people who are different. America, you can see if you watch TV, they used to, but now in America, everybody has to be exactly the same.

Dr Cooper: If you say something new, if you have a new idea, people are skeptical. People don't believe you, because there's so much conformity. Where is that conformity coming from? It's coming from partly social media, but America especially is a country that's becoming, that's always been conformist, and more and more, and they don't like to tolerate people who are different. People who are different scare them. Now you're going to tell me, "Oh, yeah, but that's Trump. Trump is scared of immigrants that are different, and gays." I'm not talking about that. That may be true, but that's not what I'm talking about. I'm talking about just the way people talk. People with different personalities. It's hard to find Americans with different personalities. They all talk the same. Do you know how they all talk? They all talk as if they're getting interviewed. They all talk as if they're on a business interview. They talk like robots. Talk about friendship? I think friendship still exists in the United States, but I think that people care less and less about friendship, because they're so involved in themselves, and they're so involved in making money, rather than friendship.

Dr Cooper: People in Brazil, people in all over the world, all over the world, even in the United Kingdom, where I live, seem to care more about friendship. Okay. I believe that the idea and respect for friendship and love and family is diminishing all over the world, but nowhere worse than in the United States. Nowhere worse than in the rich, among the

rich people in the United States. I think the rich people in the United States, especially when it comes to friendship, don't care too much. They don't have enough time for friendship. In Brazil, people still like [foreign language 00:17:57]. They still like a life with friendship. They still value it. They still like to have leisure time, and they still take leisure time. They still have vacations, but in America, this is less and less, okay? Another thing what about art? I think it's natural for people to be creative. Do you think people are still as creative as they used to be? I don't. I think that there's a less of a variety of music, new music. I think there's less variety of film.

Dr Cooper: All movies these days are exactly the same, and they have no thought behind that. Is it natural for people not to read, not to think, because people aren't thinking anymore for themselves. That's why they're so easily brainwashed by news. They can be brainwashed in one day to believe something. People in Brazil were brainwashed in a week to think that [inaudible 00:18:57] was the worst person in the world. Now people have forgotten it. It's happening, but especially happens in the United States. People don't think anymore. They don't read. they don't create. You see the bullshit. If you look at a new song that's made these days, a popular song, any 12-year-old can write the lyrics. They're so simple, and stupid. Every movie is made for kids. Everything is done for money. Nothing is done for quality, nothing, and people don't care. Is it natural for people not to care that everything they do and see, everything they do and say, can be seen by everybody that they have no privacy? Is it natural not to want privacy? Of course not.

Dr Cooper: Where did that start? It started in the United States. Look, I'm going to be the first one to say this. It's not just the United States. It's the world, and it's the core ... It's happening because of the corporate world, okay? It's happening because the big companies have so much money that everybody is dependent on them, and everybody starts living as if they live in a corporation instead of a natural world. Okay? A few final points. I'm tired of Brazilians exaggerating America, and how great it is. Okay, and saying how bad Brazil is. Brazil has a lot of problems, okay, but at least Brazilians still believe in friendship, and still believe in family. That's not so much the case in the United States. Okay. Brazil has a lot of crime, okay? At least if I'm ... At least if I go to the mall in Brazil, I'm not scared that somebody's going to take out a gun and shoot everybody. Maybe that will change with [inaudible 00:20:56], but at least not now.

Dr Cooper: In America, they shoot people all the time, every single day. Somebody takes out a gun, and shoots five people, and it's not just in the [foreign language 00:21:07]. It's in the schools. Don't tell me that that's normal. Stop exaggerating how great the United States is. The United States has more poverty than any other first world country. If you go to the Czech Republic, you'll have less poverty, and America is richer. Isn't that bad for a country to be so rich, for a country to be so rich, and to have so much difference between the rich and the poor, and to have so many poor? That doesn't make ... Stop idolizing the United States, Brazilians. Stop it. What about all the police killings in the United States? Okay, you could say that. Police kill more people in Brazil. I doubt it. One thing I know in the United States, you have ... You can see almost every week a new video of a policeman killing a person unarmed, [foreign language 00:22:03], okay?

Dr Cooper: That policeman, there's very little controversy about that. If that happened in Brazil, everybody would be talking about it. If they filmed a cop shooting a normal person, everybody would be talking about it. Not in the United States, because in the United States, the police mean so much. In the United States, talk about the United States, when I went to the United States and watched the tennis match, before each tennis match, they play a patriotic song, like God Bless America, or the National Anthem. Everybody stands up, put their hand on their heart, and looks at the American flag. Then they say, "We honor our troops," [foreign language 00:22:45]. Is that natural? Is that natural, being so militaristic, and carrying so much about war as if the United States war is protecting the United States? It's not protecting the United States. It's destroying the rest of the world. Is that natural? Is it natural for everybody to believe in that? Of course not. Do you think all Americans believed in that in the past?

Dr Cooper: They didn't. Why is there so little protest against war now? Forever, people don't like war. Why do people in the United States like war now? Because there's not allowed not to, because they're brainwashed. That's not anything to respect, Brazil. That's not anything to respect, okay, but the most important thing is being genuine, being free. If you're free, there should be a variety of opinion. They should be a variety of personalities, and that's the ... In Brazil, there's still a variety of people. In Brazil, you still see different types of people. Of course there's conformity, but there's variety. In the United States, there's very little variety among the professionals. They're scared to be different. They're scared if they're different, something will happen, so everybody has the same opinion. That's not freedom. Okay. That's the end of my diary. I know it's the longest one I've never made.

Dr Cooper: I hope you like it. I know it was controversial.