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Little Italy was once divided into many factions that competed with each other for territory, often resulting in gun battles. Business in Little Italy was very good because the Italian merchants had set up underground gambling dens, bars, and restaurants. Among the Italian merchant families, the most powerful was the Gotti family.

However, such Italian crime and gambling families crumbled after the rise of casinos in Atlantic City, and the election of New York City mayor Giuliani, who gave particular attention to bringing back law and order to New York City. Currently there are practically no gambling dens or crime families in Little Italy. The inhabitants of Little Italy all tend to be law-abiding businesspeople. With good public security, Little Italy's businesses are currently about eighty to ninety percent owned by Italian people, and the rest are owned mostly by Chinese people. The Italian and Chinese people there get along very well.

Little Italy has a long history, and the first Italian immigrants helped build and develop the city. This was especially true of the Italian immigrants who lived near Columbus Park. They did much of the taxing construction work that was necessary to build the city.

Their homes and businesses became what is now little Italy. For this reason, film companies often come to Little Italy to make films about what life was like for Italian immigrants in that time period. When filmmakers come, the streets are filled with trucks carrying equipment and set materials, as well as trailers for actors. There are even trucks that carry food and daily necessities. Filmmakers will even borrow bars and firearms stores as sets, and hire local people as background actors.

In addition to famous Italian cuisine, Little Italy also has many famous coffee drinks, such as espresso and cappuccino. Fresh coffee beans are used to make the drinks, and they are very strong and fragrant. Even though in the area there are coffee shops nearby in Chinatown that sell a cup of coffee for seventy cents, the Italian coffee shops sell theirs for three dollars per cup. Despite this, the Italian coffee shops still have many customers because of the high quality of their coffee. In addition to coffee, Little Italy's bakeries also sell cakes, cookies, and various baked goods that are quite good. Little Italy's restaurants' most popular dishes are spaghetti and macaroni. They prepare many types of noodle dishes, even more than Chinese noodle restaurants. Some types are even similar to Chinese noodle dishes.

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About ninety-five percent of houses in Little Italy were built over a hundred years ago. Most are about two to six stories high. Buildings over six stories are very rare. These buildings do not have elevators, so everyone must take the stairs. In the 1960s, the monthly rent for apartments was about forty to fifty dollars, and the square footage was about four to five hundred square feet. In many of the older buildings, apartments did not have private bathrooms, and so three or four tenants would share a single bathroom.

This type of living environment was not very ideal; however, the cheap prices were very attractive to immigrants. In those days, most immigrants would stay in older buildings with similar circumstances. Apartments in those same buildings are rented for about two thousand dollars per month now after building renovations to make the living environment more modern and luxurious. Buildings that used to be valued at fifty thousand dollars now have market prices of about two million dollars.

Thirty one: In the United States, the media is free and open.

The United States is the country with the greatest media freedoms. Good news as well as scandals about anyone, including stars, officials, businesses, or the government can all be reported and actively disseminated. The media is free and unrestricted even during times of war. With its freedoms, the United States media can keep government abuses in check, and also invite the common people to voice their opinions. Extensive reports are even made in the entertainment media about the private lives of famous people, and are very popular. Such reports aggressively pursue any sort of shocking news. Official corruption can also be reported. Even the president and private citizens are not immune from exaggerated and embellished reports. As a result, jobs in the media are very popular even though the pay is not particularly good. Reporters are allowed inside many special places in order to give interviews, and there is the possibility of interviewing someone famous. Being a reporter also has its challenges though. Often there are no set times to begin and end work, but the interesting work can make up for that fact.

If one is the host of a famous news program, or the lead actor in a famous television series, then sometimes it is possible to interview important people inside and outside of the country, and even become famous oneself.

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Working as a reporter in today's world, the division of labor is clear. For example, a news anchor will only report the news, a sports reporter will only report sports news, and a weather reporter will only report on the weather. When someone important like the pope or president visits New York, common people can only count on good luck to get into the venue, but reporters on the other hand can rely on their press passes to get through.

Work in the media is very difficult, especially when working for small scale newspapers or television stations. No matter whether it is day or night, if something important happens it is necessary to get up and report on it, and the division of labor is not particularly clear. When working for a large-scale television station, there are reporters that specialize in reporting the news, and others who specialize in hosting programs. They must not only pay attention to their appearance, dress exquisitely, and have a refined and stylish manner of speech, but they must also be able to respond quickly in any sort of situation. The standards for working as a reporter in the printed media are also very high. Since newspapers receive have such large readerships, they are favored by advertisers as a means of reaching their audiences. The advertising revenue earned by newspapers and television stations is considerable.

In television advertising, seven pm to eight pm is the most valuable time to advertise. Since everyone is watching television after dinner, this is the time period when the viewership is greatest. The larger the viewership, the greater the effect of the advertisement, and the more expensive it is to purchase the advertising space. To immigrants, watching television is a valuable way to learn English.

News media in addition to having regular reporters also have reporters stationed outside the area. For example, New York news stations have reporters stationed in Washington D.C. that are there especially to report on events in the White House or National Assembly. During the Iraq War there were also reporters stationed in the war zone. Large media businesses of significant scale will produce news not only for themselves, but will also sell it to other news organizations. For example, the New York Times and the Associated Press will often supply other news organizations with news reported from a war zone. Due to the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, everyday there has been news of the deaths of soldiers and civilians. With so many reports of deaths, much of the American public has been turned against such wars, and show their opposition through protest.

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The work done by the president of the United States is very transparent and open. All of his work and actions are reported to the public in full by the media. The president addresses all types of media at White House press conferences. Approximately every three months the President will schedule a press conference. If some important event or crisis occurs, such as the declaration of war on Iraq or the September 11 terrorist attacks, a press conference will be convened immediately. In the aftermath of September 11, the president gave an account to the public of everything that had happened. The president can also often be criticized for his handling of important events such as those.

In press conferences, each reporter can have a chance to ask a question within a set period of time, no matter whether the question is one that the president would like to answer or not. The president must answer all such questions, even if they are difficult. About every month there is a report on the events taking place in the White House, and no member of the media need fear that his or her report will be blocked by an influential official. With such a pervasive media presence, the president and all government officials always have their actions subject to the scrutiny of the public.

With the advent of modern technology, much news is now reported through the internet and consumed through the use of computers. Many small newspapers and television stations provide their content to consumers over the internet for a fee. This type of circumstance allows small media outlets to avoid the cost of sending their own journalists to report on events, and allows them to maintain their livelihood.

Thirty two: Emphasizing equal rights between blacks and whites; the court system is geared towards settlement in disputes.

The United States is generally very democratic, and officials and the common people are equal. Common people need not defer to officials. Elected officials in particular must be close with the people, and so they convene meetings with the public several times every year. During these meetings, the official will explain everything he or she has done while in office, and then the public will have the opportunity to give voice to any criticisms or suggestions they might have.

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As an employer interviewing job applicants, one is not permitted to ask the political affiliation or religion of the applicant. If someone accepting a job is black, they have all of the same rights as other employees. If an employee is fired because of his or her race, it is illegal due to laws prohibiting racial discrimination. If someone in a wheelchair is refused service at a restaurant because of their disability, then the establishment can be sued for discrimination. Businesses are required to make their services accessible to the disabled, and many provide preferential service to the disabled, letting them go to the front of lines for example.

American society generally promotes and genuinely defends human rights. Because of its adherence to human rights, the United States was able to defeat the Soviet Union in the 1980s without firing a single bullet.

The United States pays particular attention to human rights. For example, if an illegal immigrant is arrested by the Immigration Department, then he or she can hire a lawyer to present a defense in court, or can request that the government provide a lawyer for that purpose. In such cases the lawyer defending the illegal immigrant will argue that he or she cannot be deported because he or she will suffer persecution upon returning. The illegal immigrant will apply for asylum in the United States. However, the circumstances have changed in recent times since life in the Mainland China has gradually become freer. In the United States, businesses other than privately owned ones must fill a specific portion of their positions with minorities, and also disabled people. Public sector organizations must abide by these quotas. The efficiency of government organizations is low. The United States wants to promote its understanding of human rights to countries abroad, but other countries have their own understandings of human rights because their circumstances are different.

The United States is to be commended for its emphasis on the rule of law. No matter whether it is the president, a governor, or a mayor, everyone is punished for their crimes equally. Sentences cannot be avoided or reduced because the criminal is an official.

An example is the Watergate Scandal that took place over thirty years ago. High level Republican officials arranged for secret Democratic Party documents to be stolen. Actually, what was stolen were simply policy guidelines, and were not very secret. But the theft was discovered by the Department of Justice, and the contemporary president, President Nixon, was implicated in the crime.

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In such a situation there are two possible options for the president: one is to resign, and the other is to undergo an investigation. Nixon chose to resign. Another example that illustrates the fact that officials in the United States are subject to the same criminal and civil penalties is when the mayor of New York City several decades ago parked in a restricted zone and was given a ticket that he was required to pay himself.

Explained briefly, the civil rights movement was a struggle by black people in the United States to obtain rights equal to those enjoyed by white people. The history of Asian races in the United States is relatively shorter, and they suffered less persecution from white people. Therefore Asian people were seemingly in between the two sides in the civil rights movement led by the black race.

In the United States' history as a colonial dictatorship, white owners of business enterprises required a large supply of labor and so went to Africa to enslave the inhabitants. The slaves labored for white masters and received no wages, and had no equality with white people. White people lived in beautiful homes while black slaves lived in slave quarters. Later in history after emancipation, black people had to sit in the back of public buses. Some businesses only served white people, not black people. After suffering for over two hundred years, black people across the United States united to struggle for equality. The most famous of the civil rights movement leaders was Martin Luther King Jr., who led a march of over three hundred thousand people to the White House in protest, an act that helped push the United States government towards improving the freedoms of American minorities.

In 2007, a black youth in New York City's Queens Borough was shot after getting in a car accident with a plainclothes police officer, who mistook him for a criminal. Organizations supporting black Americans mobilized quickly and accompanied the dead youth's family to the police station to express their outrage and demand justice. The issue was settled only after the police department compensated the family.

The United States is a capitalist nation, but the common people are genuinely in charge. Why is this? This is because the needs of the majority take precedence of the needs of the rest. For example, in disputes between workers and their bosses, or between tenants and their landlord, the workers and tenants will usually win the dispute because they are greater in number.

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When large American businesses and enterprises, and government departments hire employees, they must all fill out forms to show their compliance with fair employment regulations. They are not permitted to discriminate on the basis of race, sex, or religion; otherwise applicants can sue the group that is hiring.

The process of renting or selling a home or apartment must also be fair and free of discrimination. Possible tenants or buyers cannot be excluded because they are elderly or black for instance. Some black people get around such prejudices by sending a white friend to negotiate a lease or purchase agreement with a landlord or real estate company, and then only reveal themselves when the papers are signed because then they cannot be kicked out on any racially discriminatory basis.

New York City housing laws for the five boroughs include provisions for rent-controlled and rent-stabilized properties. Landlords must rent to everyone fairly, and cannot raise the rent at will; otherwise they are likely to be sued by tenants.

As a result of societal advances and fine division of labor, many different areas of law have developed. In the old days in American society, Americans were similar to Chinese people in that they did not wish to get involved with legal matters, so there were few regulations and rules. In these times, lawyers accepted all kinds of cases and did not differentiate between them. Now that economic activity has increased so much, there are many different types of possible disputes, and the divisions between different types of lawyers have become more distinct. Now that lawyers specialize in a particular area of law, their knowledge of the particular area in which they specialize is much greater. For example, in the event of a criminal lawsuit, one would certainly search for a lawyer specializing in criminal law because he or she would have more in depth knowledge of laws and punishments in such situations than other lawyers would.

The supreme legal code in the United States is the Constitution, the laws of which every single one of the fifty states must abide by. The laws in the Constitution can be amended by the National Senate and the House of Representatives. Each state has its own representatives who can also make changes to their own state's laws in order to deal with legal issues pertaining only to that particular state.

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In most civil cases concerning personal debt, judges wish for both sides to consult with each other and reach a settlement outside of court. It is rare for the court to hand out a sentence in these situations. Because of the reason mentioned above, lawyers are happy to accept cases suing government departments and insurance companies because they usually take twenty to thirty three percent of the compensation for themselves as payment for services. If lawyers do not charge based on a percentage of compensation, they usually charge by the hour, usually about two hundred to five hundred dollars per hour.

A civil lawyer is hired by someone who to file a lawsuit against another person or entity. After the lawyer has been entrusted with the case, he or she will write a legal letter. The legal fee for such a letter is usually one hundred fifty to two hundred dollars. If the person who receives the letter does not give compensation, then the lawyer will advance to the next step and file a lawsuit with the court system to solve the problem.

If you have sufficient reason to sue the government, a lawyer will accept the case for some portion of the compensation if any is received. If the target of the lawsuit is an individual, one must discern whether or not the person has any assets. Most lawyers will ask for an hourly fee. Sometimes it is not worth it at all to file a lawsuit against somebody. For example, if the hourly fee for the lawyer is two hundred dollars and he or she works twenty hours, then the legal fees would already amount to four thousand dollars. If the plaintiff does not receive any compensation, then a lawsuit can result in debt. However, in the United States there is also small claims court, which handles cases concerning amounts less than four thousand dollars. In these cases, a plaintiff can represent him or herself and it is not necessary to hire a lawyer. No matter what the amount, you will get the money without further issue if you win the case.

Thirty three: Tobacco and alcohol advertising have faded away, and been replaced by a large increase in car and pharmaceutical advertising.

Other than advertisements in the media, in the United States there are also many billboards. For example, alongside public roads there are many billboards for common household products and advertisements for nearby shopping centers. During public elections in the United States, candidates will also advertise themselves through leaflets, as well as through newspaper and television advertisements. Automobile companies are especially active advertisers, often hiring famous models to stand next to their cars to attract consumers.

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Large scale sporting events, no matter whether national or international, are reported by the media and attract many viewers. For example football, basketball, tennis, baseball, and golf competitions all have considerable numbers of fans. The development of the sports industry is closely related with that of the media. Entrance tickets to Super Bowl games are especially popular, and several times more expensive than tickets to regular games. However, many people choose to watch such games on television rather than buy tickets because not only is it much cheaper, but one can see the players and action much more clearly than in the stadiums. Moreover, television coverage of sporting events includes professional commentary.

Every four years during the Olympics, media coverage of sporting competitions becomes an even more important part of television programming, regardless of whether it is the American or Chinese media. Many superstars are created through media coverage of sports competitions, such as basketball star Yao Ming and golf player Tiger Woods.

The media also has the ability to effectively promote any type of new product entering the market. Products can be advertised on the television, in newspapers, and even on the internet and cell phones. Even though there are many costs to running an advertisement campaign, the costs are recouped through the great increase in sales.

Before the 1980s, advertisements for tobacco and alcohol were common in newspapers and television. However, in current times one cannot find such advertisements due to the harmful health effects of these types of products, and no doubt this has resulted in less consumption of tobacco and alcohol. The most common types of products advertised now are automobiles and pharmaceuticals. The automotive industry of the United States is the world's largest. However, in recent years the car industry has not been doing well. In order to succeed in the American car market, a company must take advantage of advertising, and must be willing to accept an initial period of losses before any money is made.

The media pays special attention to government officials, super stars, and other famous people. If such people give hint of anything newsworthy, then reporters will follow their tracks and unearth anything they can for a story. This type of reporter that follows famous people relentlessly has been termed "paparazzi".

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The majority of news coverage in the United States focuses on the negative. For example, the media focuses its attention upon events like the Watergate scandal, President Clinton's affair with the intern Monica Lewinsky, the September 11 terrorist attacks, the Iraq War, and any type of natural disaster.

The situation is the opposite in other countries, where reports on good news and good people are more numerous, and bad news is relatively rarely reported. Why is so much of the news that is reported bad news? If people hear too much bad news, they become dispirited. For example if every day there are reports of war, deaths, floods, and fires, then people will not be happy. However, reporting only good news and hiding bad news is not good either. The best situation is to have news reports consist half of good news and half of bad news.

Thirty four: Since the September 11 terrorist attacks, terrorist threats have been ranked on a scale from yellow, to orange, to red.

At 8:45AM on the morning of September 11, 2001, two commercial airliners were hijacked and crashed into the twin towers of the New York City World Trade Center. At that time, I was in Queens playing golf. While driving home, I saw the towers on fire and assumed that there must have been a natural gas explosion or some sort of accidental fire. But after looking at it for a short period of time, a plane crashed into the second tower and it caught fire as well. At that time, all streets south of 40th Street were closed off due to the crisis. I went home to Queens and watched the news coverage on television. Footage of the fire and smoke was played, and after fifteen to thirty minutes, the two towers collapsed into a cloud of gray smoke and dust.

My son who lives in a relatively high building near Hudson Street was about to go to work when he heard an explosion, and looked outside to see the first tower that was hit in flames and surrounded by thick smoke. He then saw the second hijacked plane crash into the other tower. He immediately grabbed his camera to record the incident.

New York City's Chinatown is just about two kilometers, or about ten streets, away from ground zero. The smell of smoke and fire was present there because it was so close, and ashes from the fire drifted down from the sky towards Chinatown. Immediately after the incident, much of Chinatown was restricted, and only people who lived there were allowed to enter without an official reason. It was as if the entire city had become a warzone.