

## Nas "America"

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*[Intro (Nas talking)]*

Yo, it's like waking up from a bad dream (Americaaa)  
just to figure out you wasn't dreaming in the first place  
(Nooo...)

*[Verse 1]*

If all I saw was gangsters  
Coming up as a youngster  
Pussy and money the only language I clung to  
Claim to, unrolled myself up to become one  
Ain't ya happy I chose rap? I'm amongst the  
Streets deceiving  
Can't believe my achievements  
Cultural strata  
Persona's that of a non-needer  
Because I don't need nada except for Prada beaver  
For cold winters, tattoos got my summer's sleeveless  
To my G's on the flee from the coppers (coppers)  
Stiff bodies on freeze in funeral parlors (parlors)  
From the slums I come up a phoenix  
Caked up, tryin' to take what I'm eating  
Came up a dismissive kid (kid)  
You lucky if you allowed to witness this  
Savvy mouth  
While hardly a man's man  
Who woulda knew the beach houses and wild parties  
Jezebel's and Stella McCartney's?  
For years, all that  
How could I not be dead?  
This old German  
Said I was a thug with a knotty head  
Looked at my Benz and called that a Nazi sled  
With a face like he wonder where I got my bread  
Probably all these stones he see  
From my shows overseas  
From crime to rhyme  
My story is I'm from the home of the thieves

*[Chorus 1]*

America (America), pay attention  
Wake up (America)  
This is not what you think it is

America (America), pay attention  
Wake up (America)  
This is not what you think it is

*[Verse 2:]*

Blessed  
The lord is a G, he gotta be  
Who's the God of suckers and snitches?  
The economy  
Lipstick from Marilyn Monroe  
Blew a death kiss to Fidel Castro  
He'd want me to spit this  
Only the strong survive  
Nas bear witness  
The hypocrisy is all I can see

White cop acquitted for murder  
Black cop cop a plea  
That type of shit make me stop and think  
We in chronic need of a second look of the law books  
And the whole race dichotomy  
Too many rappers, athletes, and actors  
But not enough niggas in NASA  
Who give you the latest dances, trends, and fashion?  
But when it comes to residuals, they look past us  
Woven into the fabric, they can't stand us  
Even in white tee's, blue jeans, and red bandannas

*[Chorus 2]*

America (America) pay attention  
Wake up (America)  
This is not what you think it is  
America (America)  
Pay attention (America)  
This is not what you think it is  
America (America)  
(This is not what you think it is)

*[Verse 3:]*

Assassinations  
Diplomatic relations  
Killed indigenous people  
Built a new nation  
Involuntary labor  
Took a knife split a woman naval  
Took her premature baby  
Let her man see you rape her  
If I could travel to the 1700's  
I'd push a wheelbarrow full of dynamite  
Through your covenant  
Love to sit in on the Senate

And tell the whole government  
Y'all don't treat women fair  
She read about herself in the bible  
Believing she the reason sin is here  
You played her, with an apron  
Like, "Bring me my dinner, dear."  
She the nigger here  
Ain't we in the free world?  
Death penalty in Texas kill young boys and girls  
Barbarity, I'm in the double-R casualty  
Bugging how I made it out the hood, dazzle me  
How far we really from third world savagery  
When the empire fall, imagine how crazy that'll be

*[Chorus 3]*

America (America, America)  
America (America)  
(This is not what you think it is)  
America (America ohhh)  
This is not what you think it is  
America

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