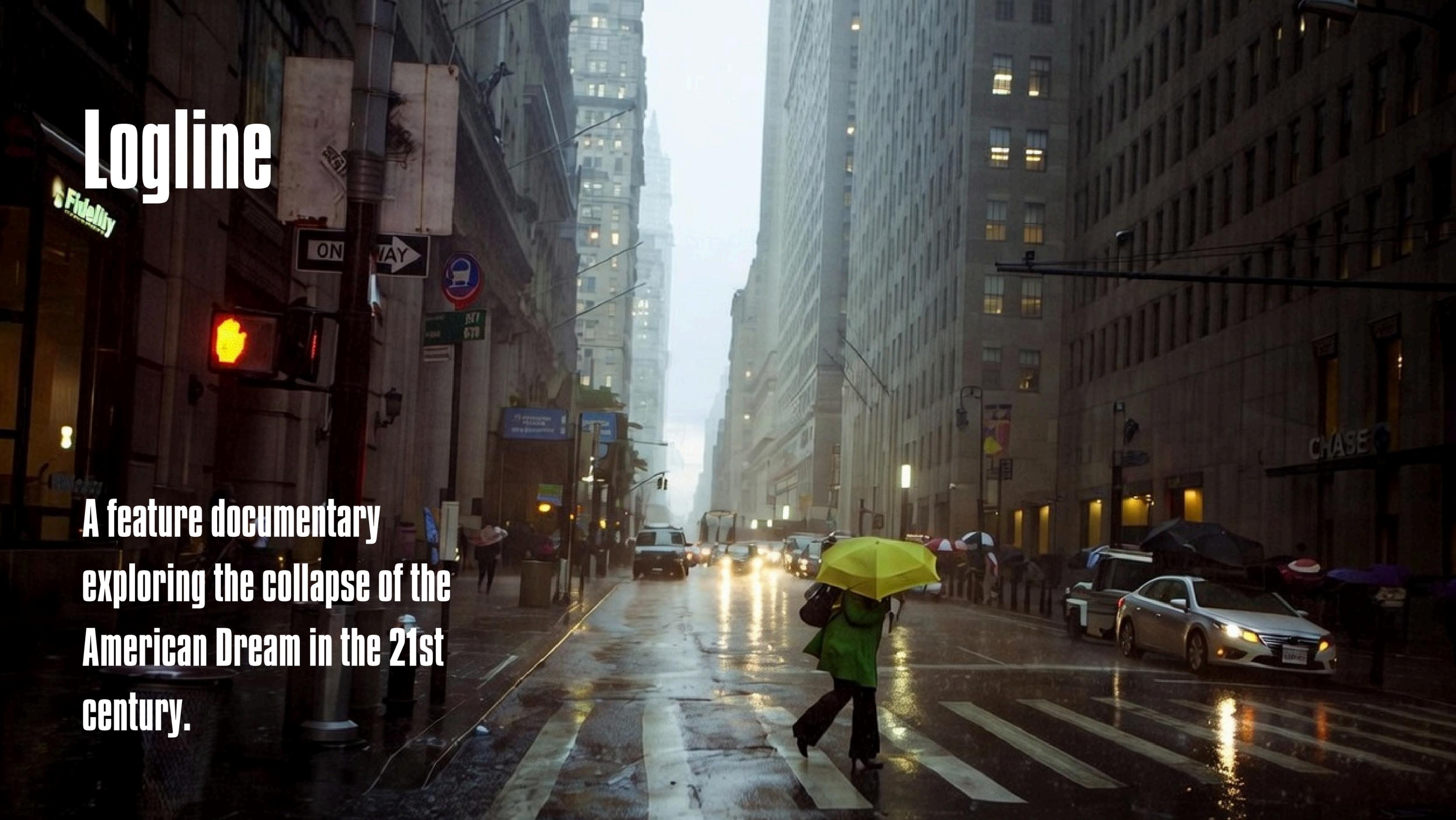


DK FILMS

**THEY STOLE MY
AMERICAN DREAM**



Logline

A cinematic photograph of a city street during a rainstorm. The street is wet and reflective, with lights from buildings and cars creating a shimmering effect. In the foreground, a person wearing a bright green coat and a yellow umbrella is walking across a crosswalk. The street is lined with tall, multi-story buildings, some with lit windows. A traffic light on the left shows a red hand symbol, indicating a pedestrian crossing. Various street signs, including 'ON WAY' and '387 678', are visible. The overall atmosphere is moody and atmospheric.

**A feature documentary
exploring the collapse of the
American Dream in the 21st
century.**

Synopsis

They Stole My American Dream opens with the image of the American Dream — a symbol of freedom, opportunity, and success available to all. Through archival footage, advertising, and political speeches, the film reveals how this promise once appeared in the public imagination.

Gradually, behind the facade of prosperity, troubling data and stark social contrasts begin to emerge. The economy of success proves deeply intertwined with debt; justice turns into a business; the opioid epidemic exposes institutional failures; and healthcare remains inaccessible to millions.

The film examines cultural and digital phenomena — cancel culture, social polarization, and expanding surveillance — showing how the system shapes contemporary reality. Through the voices of experts, analysts, and individuals living within these processes, the documentary constructs a comprehensive picture: the crises are not isolated incidents, but parts of an interconnected structure.

In the end, one central question remains: what happened to the American Dream — and can it be reclaimed?

Summary

They Stole My American Dream is a feature-length documentary exploring the transformation of the American Dream in the 21st century.

For decades, the United States promoted a powerful idea to the world: freedom, opportunity, and success are available to everyone. Today, that formula confronts a new reality — a debt-driven economy, the prison industry, an epidemic of addiction, a healthcare crisis, expanding digital surveillance, and deep social polarization.

The film examines not isolated issues, but the systemic connections between them. Why have prisons become a business? Why does healthcare — among the most expensive in the world — remain inaccessible to millions? Why is success increasingly built on credit? Where is the line between freedom of speech and cultural pressure?

Through interviews with experts, individuals from diverse social backgrounds, and a comparative look at alternative social models, the film raises its central question:

Was the American Dream stolen — or has it simply transformed beyond recognition?

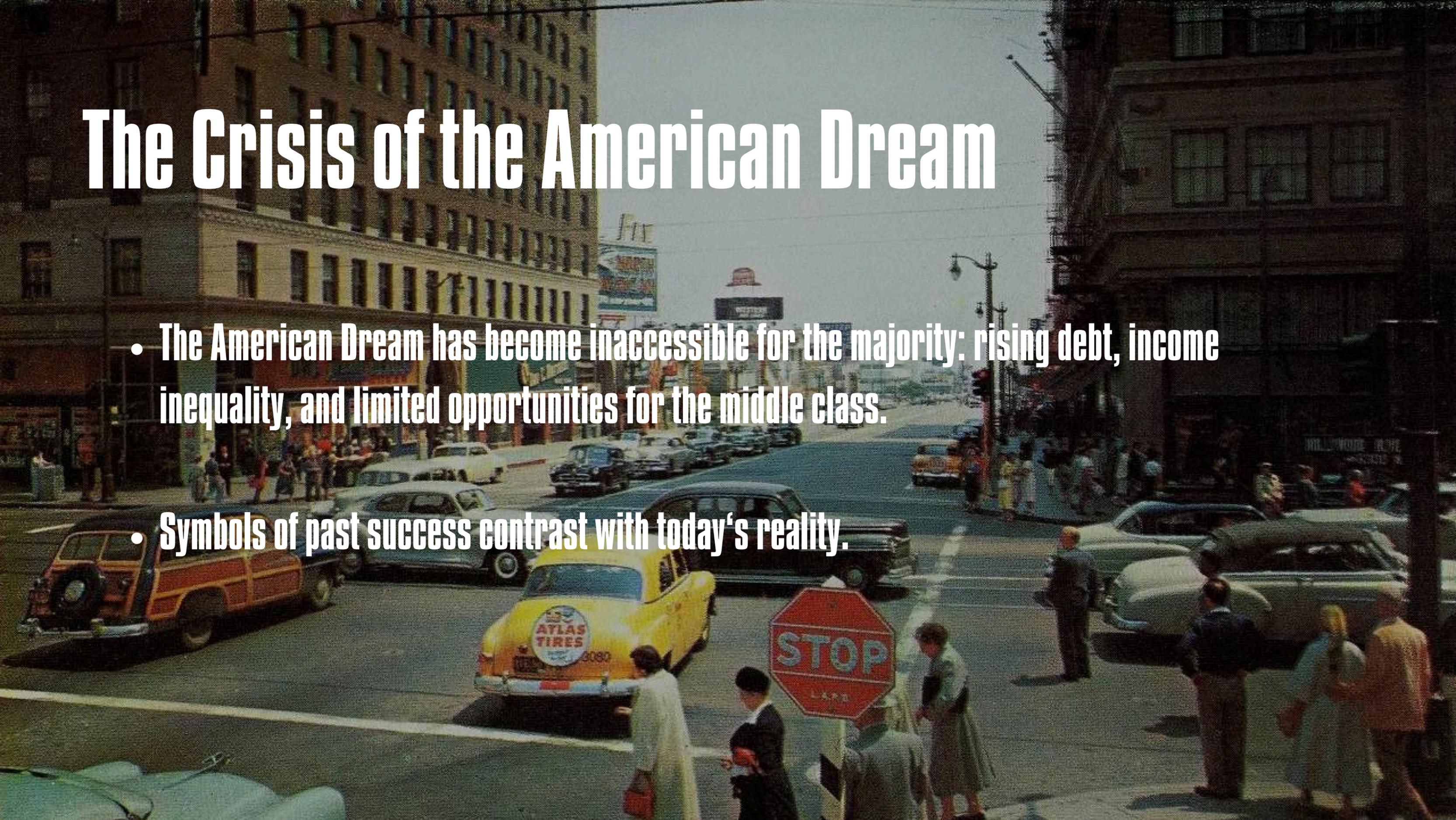
The film's goal is not exposure for the sake of exposure, but an attempt to understand whether America can redefine its dream and restore trust in its own system.

Why This Story Matters Now?

An aerial photograph of a massive protest or rally. The scene is filled with a dense crowd of people, many holding signs and banners. In the foreground, several American flags are prominently displayed on poles. A large yellow banner with the words "POLICE VIOLATION" and a graphic of hands is visible in the center. The background shows a city street with trees and buildings, indicating an urban setting.

The Crisis of the American Dream

- The American Dream has become inaccessible for the majority: rising debt, income inequality, and limited opportunities for the middle class.
- Symbols of past success contrast with today's reality.

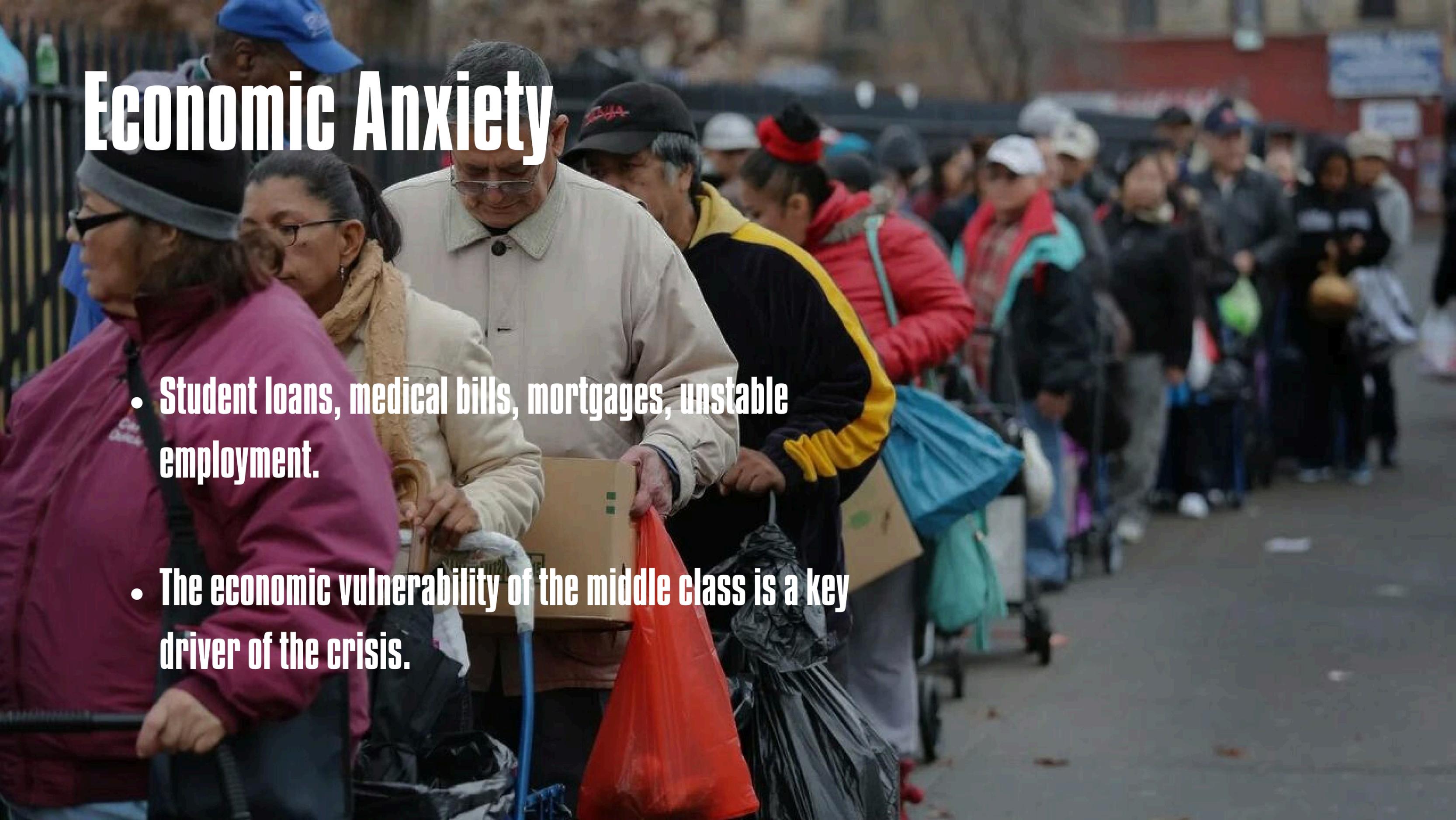


Social Polarization

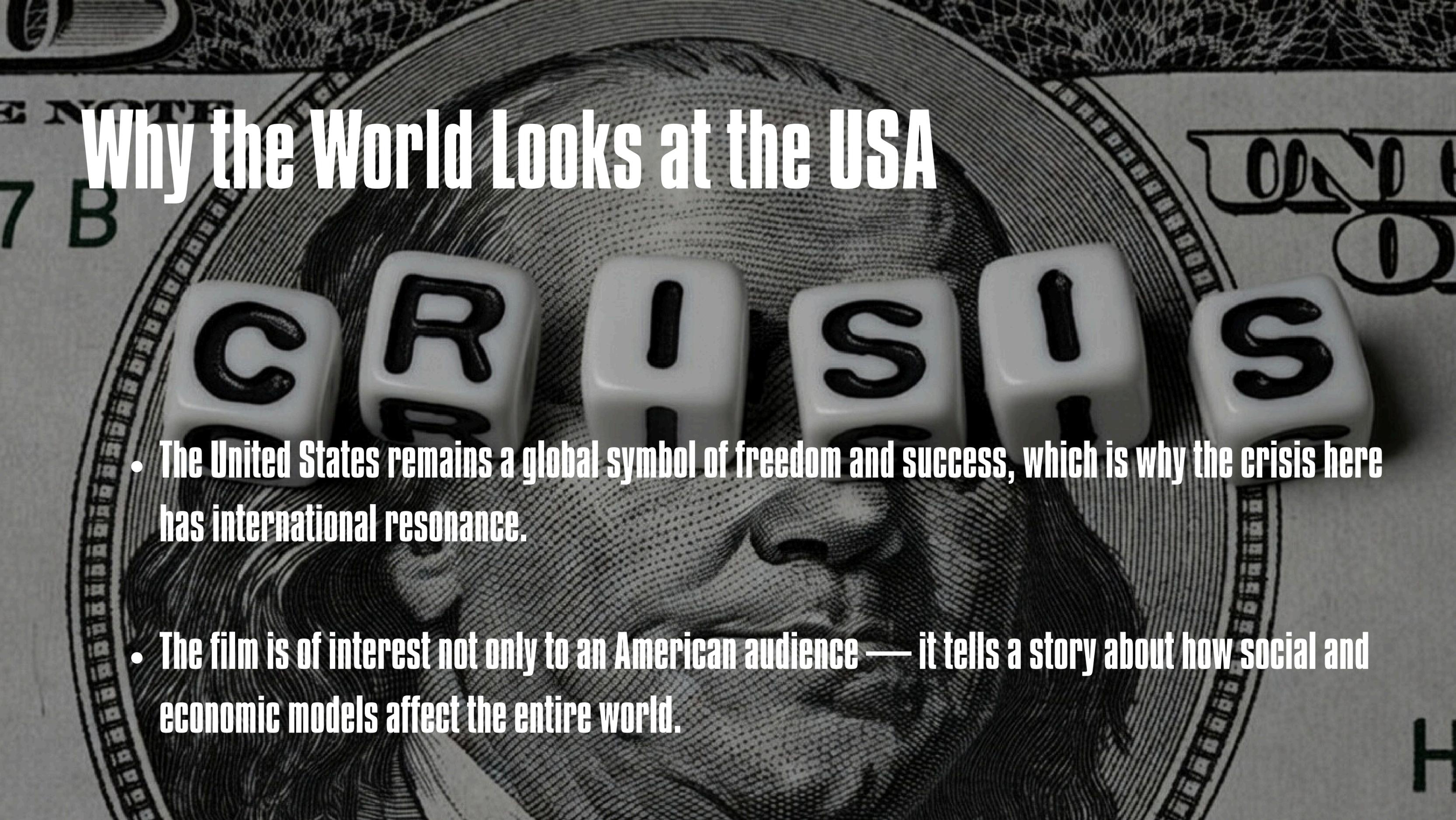
A collage of social media icons and hands holding them. The background is dark blue. In the top left, there is a white hand holding a blue Twitter bird icon. In the top right, there is a white hand holding a blue Facebook 'f' icon. In the bottom left, there is a white hand holding a blue and white Instagram camera icon. In the bottom right, there is a white hand holding a blue and white YouTube play button icon. The hands are rendered in a stylized, cutout manner with blue outlines.

- The intensification of cultural and political divisions.
- Cancel culture, radical movements, tension on social media.

Economic Anxiety

A long line of diverse people, including men, women, and children, are waiting for food at what appears to be a community center or food bank. Many are wearing winter coats and hats. Some are pushing shopping carts filled with bags and boxes. The scene is outdoors, and the background shows a building with a sign that is partially visible.

- Student loans, medical bills, mortgages, unstable employment.
- The economic vulnerability of the middle class is a key driver of the crisis.



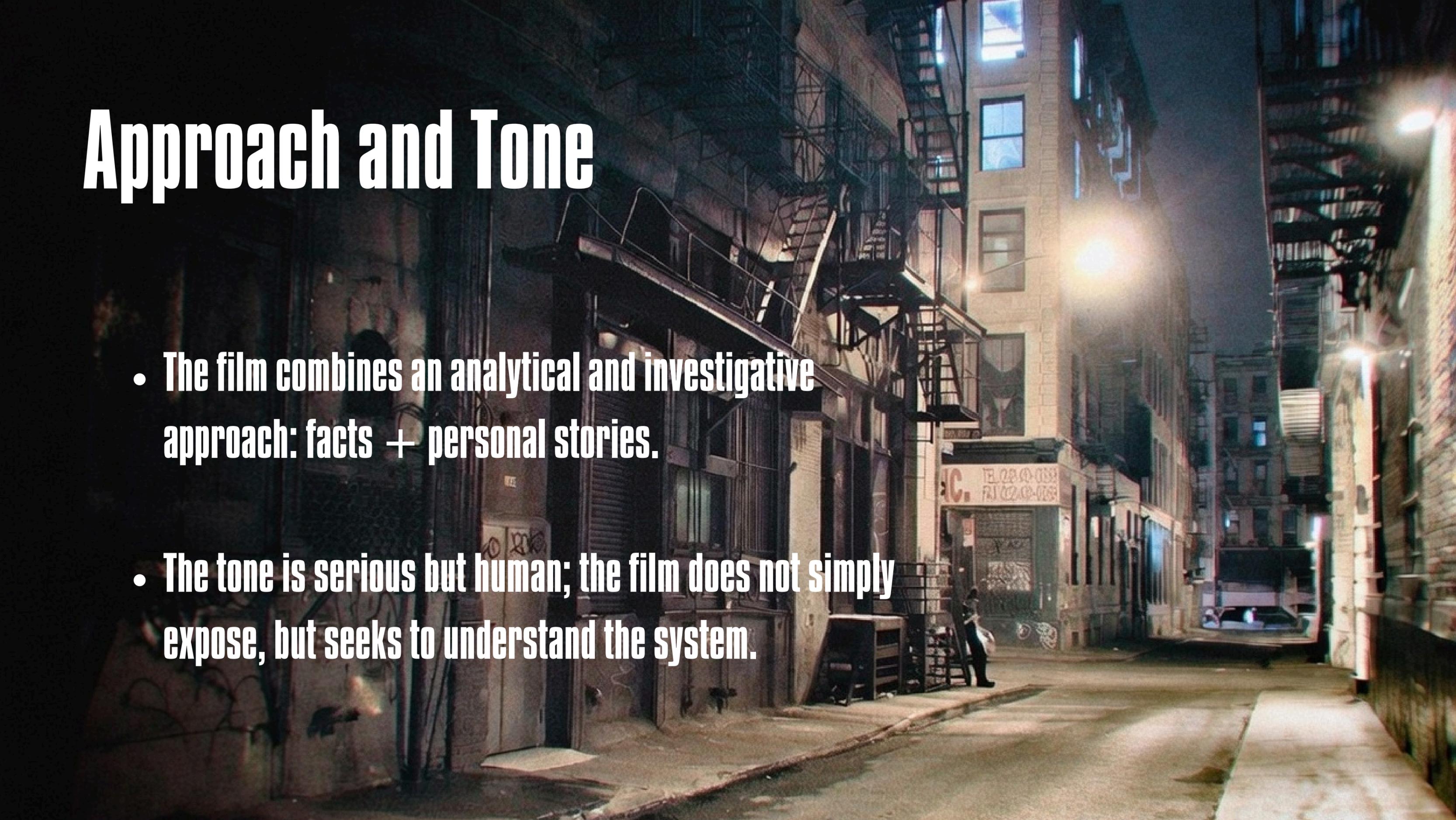
Why the World Looks at the USA

- The United States remains a global symbol of freedom and success, which is why the crisis here has international resonance.**
- The film is of interest not only to an American audience — it tells a story about how social and economic models affect the entire world.**

Film Concept



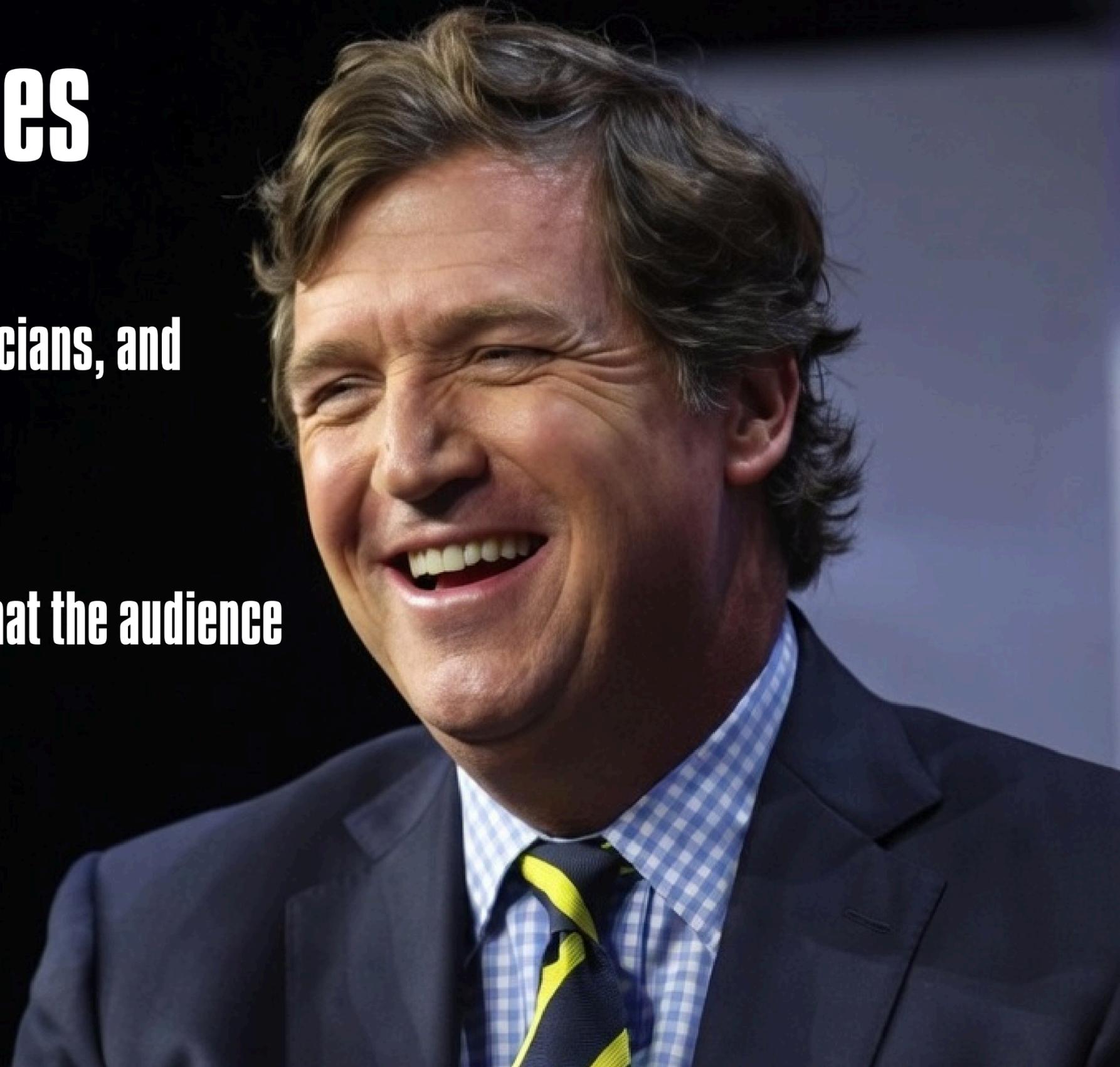
Approach and Tone

A nighttime street scene in a dense urban area, likely New York City. The image shows multi-story brick buildings with fire escapes on the exterior. A street lamp illuminates the sidewalk, and a person is visible in the distance. The overall atmosphere is gritty and urban.

- The film combines an analytical and investigative approach: facts + personal stories.
- The tone is serious but human; the film does not simply expose, but seeks to understand the system.

Balance of Perspectives

- Interviews with experts, analysts, politicians, and ordinary people.
- Different viewpoints are presented so that the audience can draw its own conclusions.



Narrator

- The narrator does not impose an opinion, but guides the audience through visual contrasts and structured chapters.
- At times a voice-over, at times on-screen text.

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY

WAR DEPARTMENT

Archive + Interviews

Tele. Adjutant General
Washington, D. C. stamping:

1. Name, grade, and serial number of individual as shown herein.
2. Brief details of emergency.
3. Where this individual can be located.

- Archive: 1950s–60s, symbols of the American Dream, political speeches, advertising, photographs of historical events.



WASHINGTON, D. C.

This card is issued by the War Department for official use of the authorized personnel.

- Interviews: experts, protagonists, analysts.

It is unlawful and will make the offender liable to heavy penalty.

The finder of a lost card should promptly place it in the nearest post office or mail box. No envelope or stamp is required.

Identification Card

No. 855271

10-1942

PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE \$1000
OR FOR PAYMENT OF POSTAGE \$500

WAR DEPARTMENT
OFFICIAL BUSINESS

U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE

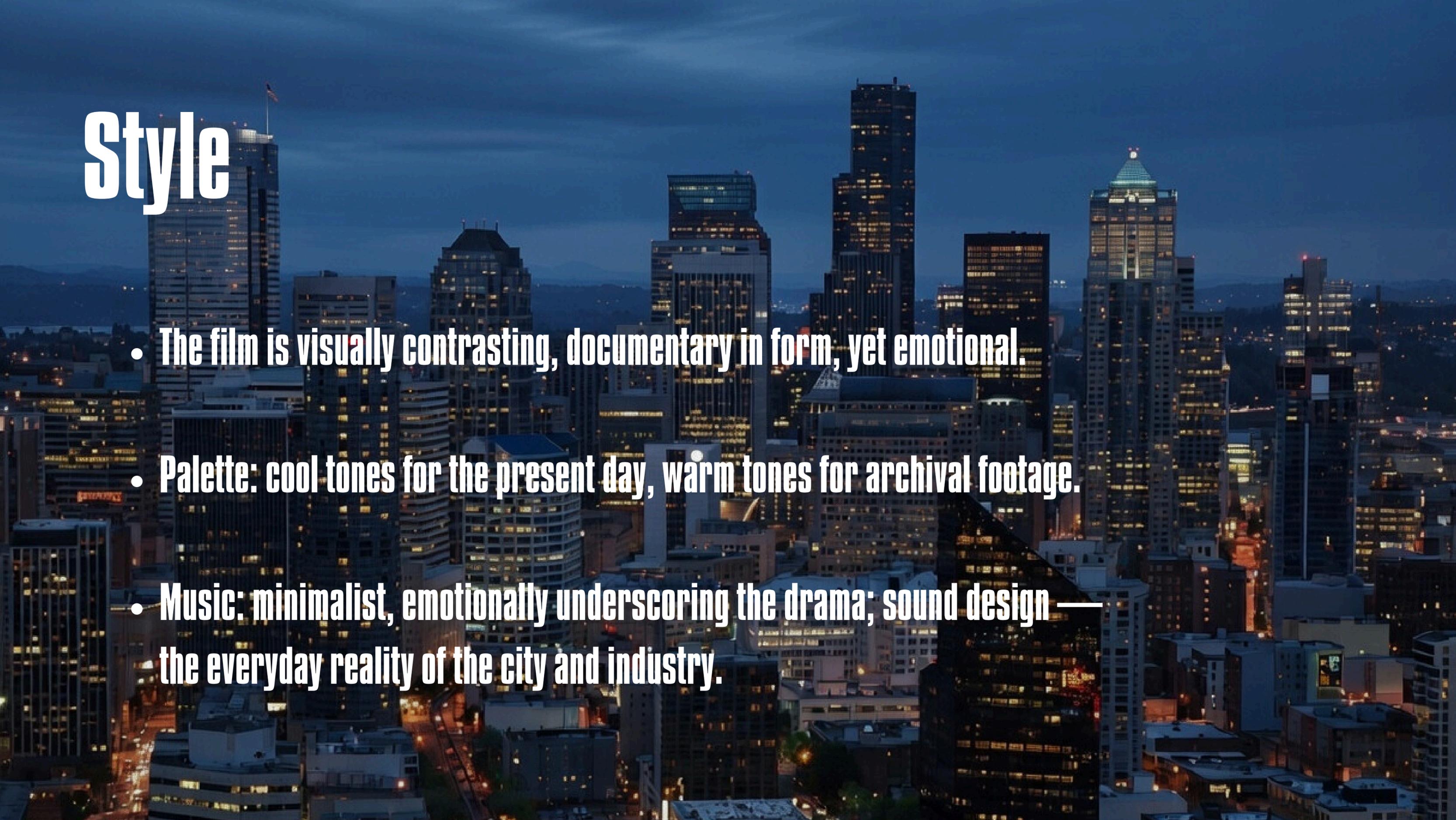
WASHINGTON, D. C.

Rhythm and Narrative Structure

- Rhythm: slow, contemplative shots → sharp facts and figures → personal stories.
- Shifts in mood through visual and audio elements: the contrast between success and crisis.



Style

A nighttime aerial view of a city skyline, likely San Francisco, with numerous skyscrapers illuminated against a dark blue twilight sky. The lights from the buildings create a warm, golden glow, contrasting with the cool tones of the sky and the dark silhouettes of the structures.

- The film is visually contrasting, documentary in form, yet emotional.
- Palette: cool tones for the present day, warm tones for archival footage.
- Music: minimalist, emotionally underscoring the drama; sound design — the everyday reality of the city and industry.

Film Structure



A woman with short brown hair, wearing glasses, a pearl necklace, and a light pink, short-sleeved, button-down dress with a full skirt, is sitting on the hood of a classic light blue car. She is wearing white high-heeled shoes. The car is parked on a gravel driveway in a rural setting with trees, a red barn, and a white house in the background under a clear sky.

Act 1 — The Promise

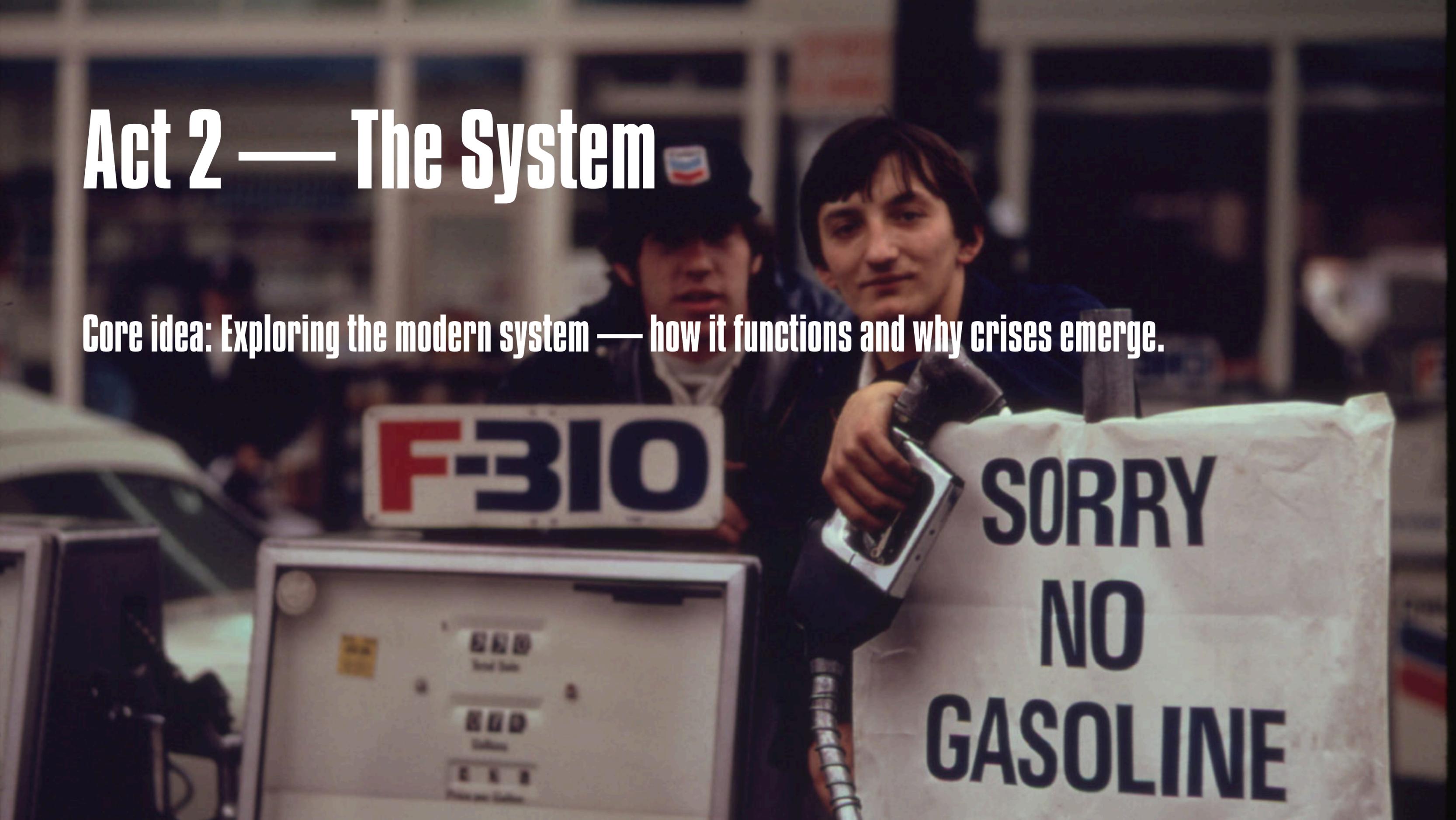
Core idea: The American Dream in its classical understanding — freedom, success, and opportunity for all

Act 1 — The Promise

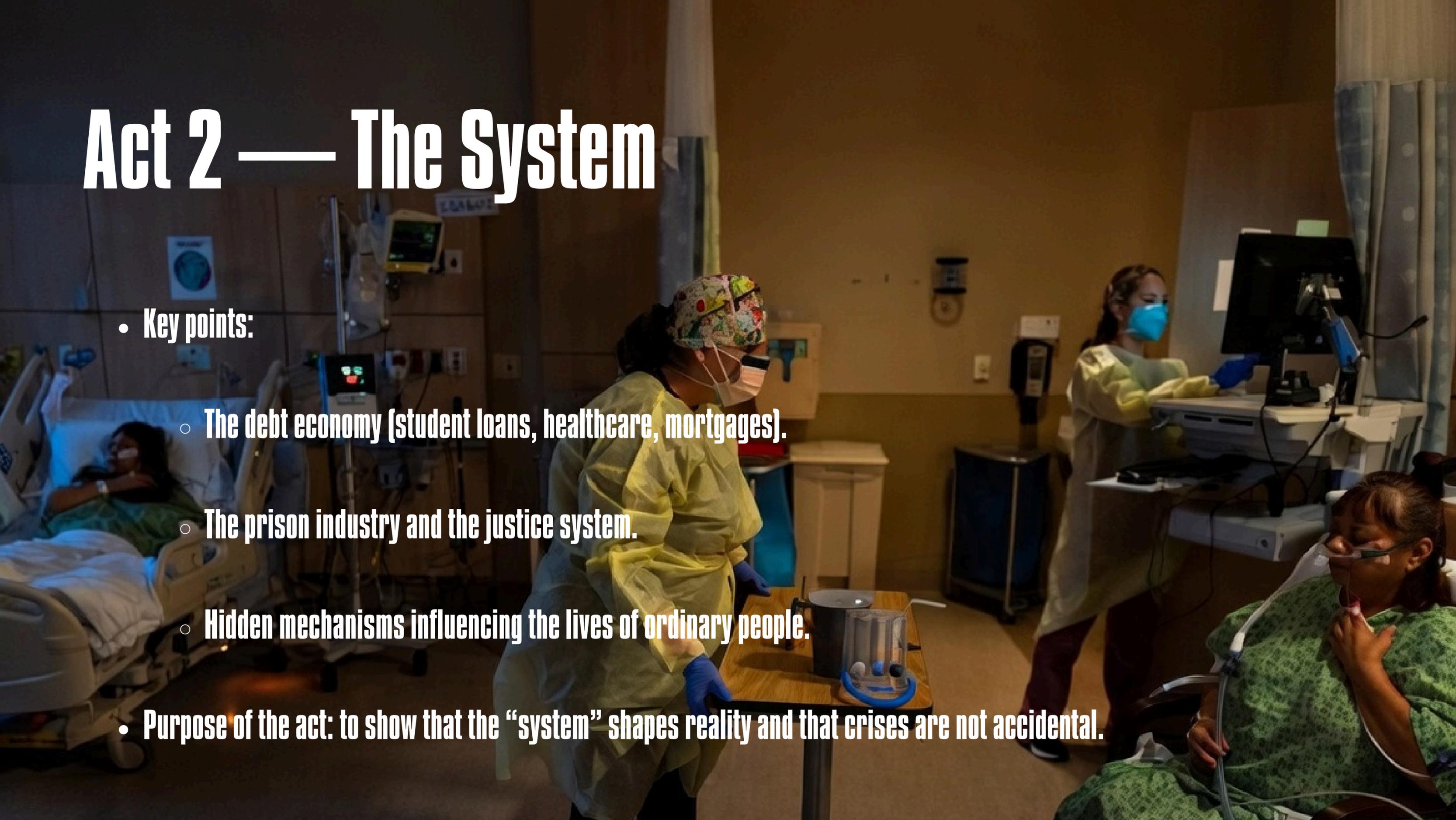
- Purpose of the act: to create an emotional connection to the “ideal,” to show what was promised.
- Key points:
 - The “birth” of the Dream: the history of the country and its ideals.
 - The contrast between past and present — the first hints of a mismatch between promises and reality.

Act 2 — The System

Core idea: Exploring the modern system — how it functions and why crises emerge.



Act 2 — The System

A photograph of a hospital room. In the foreground, a nurse in a yellow protective gown and mask is pushing a cart with medical equipment. In the background, another nurse in a white coat and mask is working at a computer. To the left, a patient is lying in a hospital bed. To the right, a patient is sitting up in bed, wearing an oxygen mask. The room is dimly lit with medical equipment and monitors visible.

- **Key points:**

- **The debt economy (student loans, healthcare, mortgages).**
 - **The prison industry and the justice system.**
 - **Hidden mechanisms influencing the lives of ordinary people.**
- **Purpose of the act: to show that the “system” shapes reality and that crises are not accidental.**

A photograph of three men sitting on a wooden park bench outdoors. The man on the left is wearing a white t-shirt and blue jeans, looking down. The man in the middle is wearing a white long-sleeved shirt and khaki pants, covering his face with his hand. The man on the right is wearing a black Nike hoodie and a black beanie, holding a cigarette. A black beanie with the word 'Reckless' is on the bench next to him. The background shows green foliage and a chain-link fence.

Act 3 — The Fracture

Core idea: The emergence of crises and conflicts as promises collide with reality.

Act 3 — The Fracture

- Key points:
 - Social polarization and cancel culture.
 - The addiction epidemic.
 - Inequality in healthcare and education.
- Purpose of the act: to show the drama of “Dream vs. Reality” on both a personal and societal level.

A person wearing a dark jacket and a black cap is seen from behind, holding a wooden signpost. The sign is white with black text. The background is a blurred city street at dusk or night, with buildings and streetlights visible.

**BILLIONAIRES
ARE THE
REAL ENEMY,
NOT
IMMIGRANTS!**

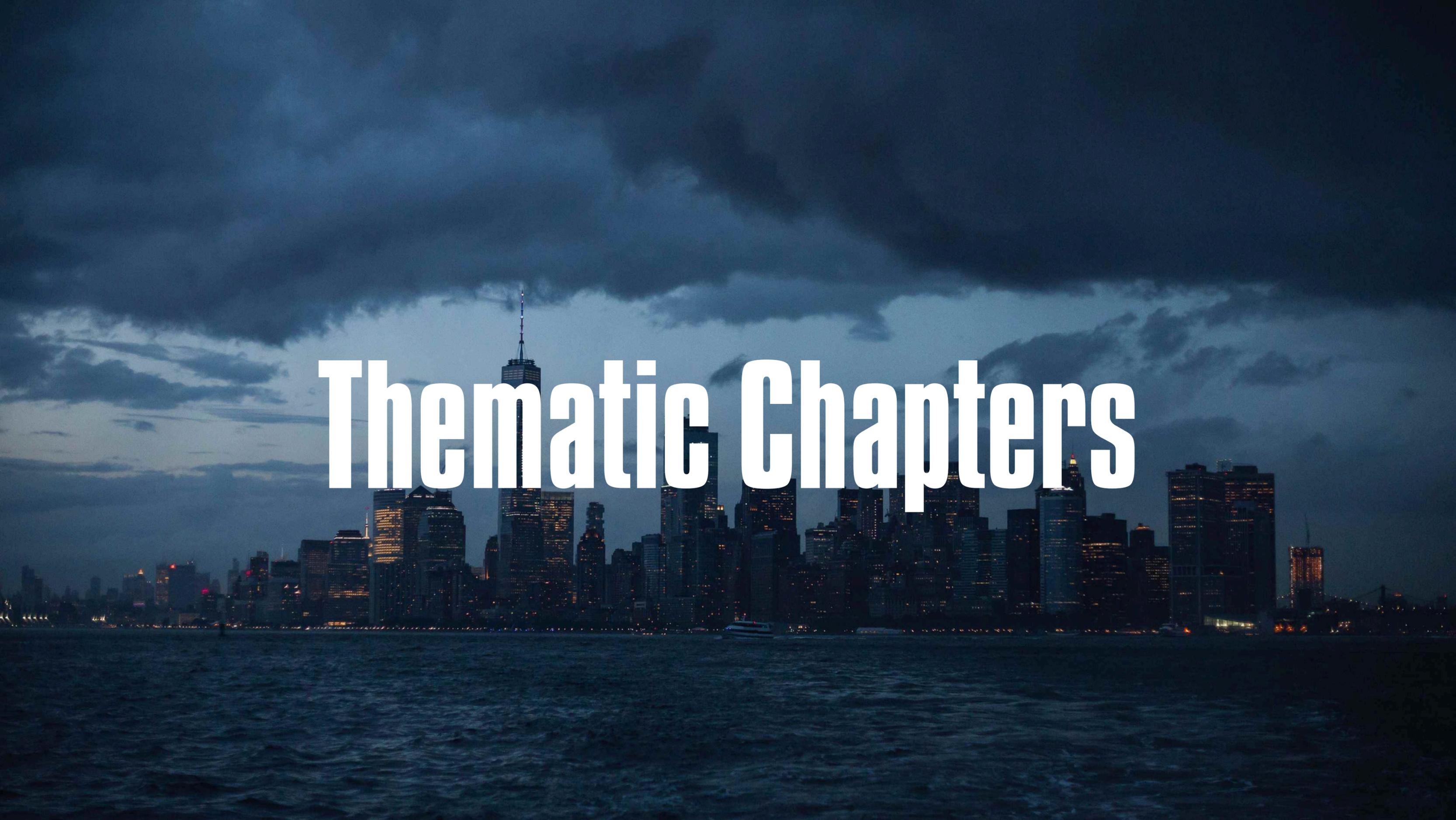
Act 4 — A Reset?

Core idea: The question of the future — is it possible to restructure the system and restore trust in the Dream?

Act 4 — A Reset?

- **Key points:**
- **Comparison with alternative systems.**
- **Possible paths for reform and rethinking the Dream.**
- **Final question: “Was the American Dream stolen, or can it be restored?”**
- **Purpose of the act: to give the audience hope and space for reflection.**

Thematic Chapters

A nighttime photograph of a city skyline, likely New York City, viewed from across a body of water. The sky is dark with some clouds, and the city lights are visible. The text "Thematic Chapters" is overlaid in the center in a large, white, serif font.

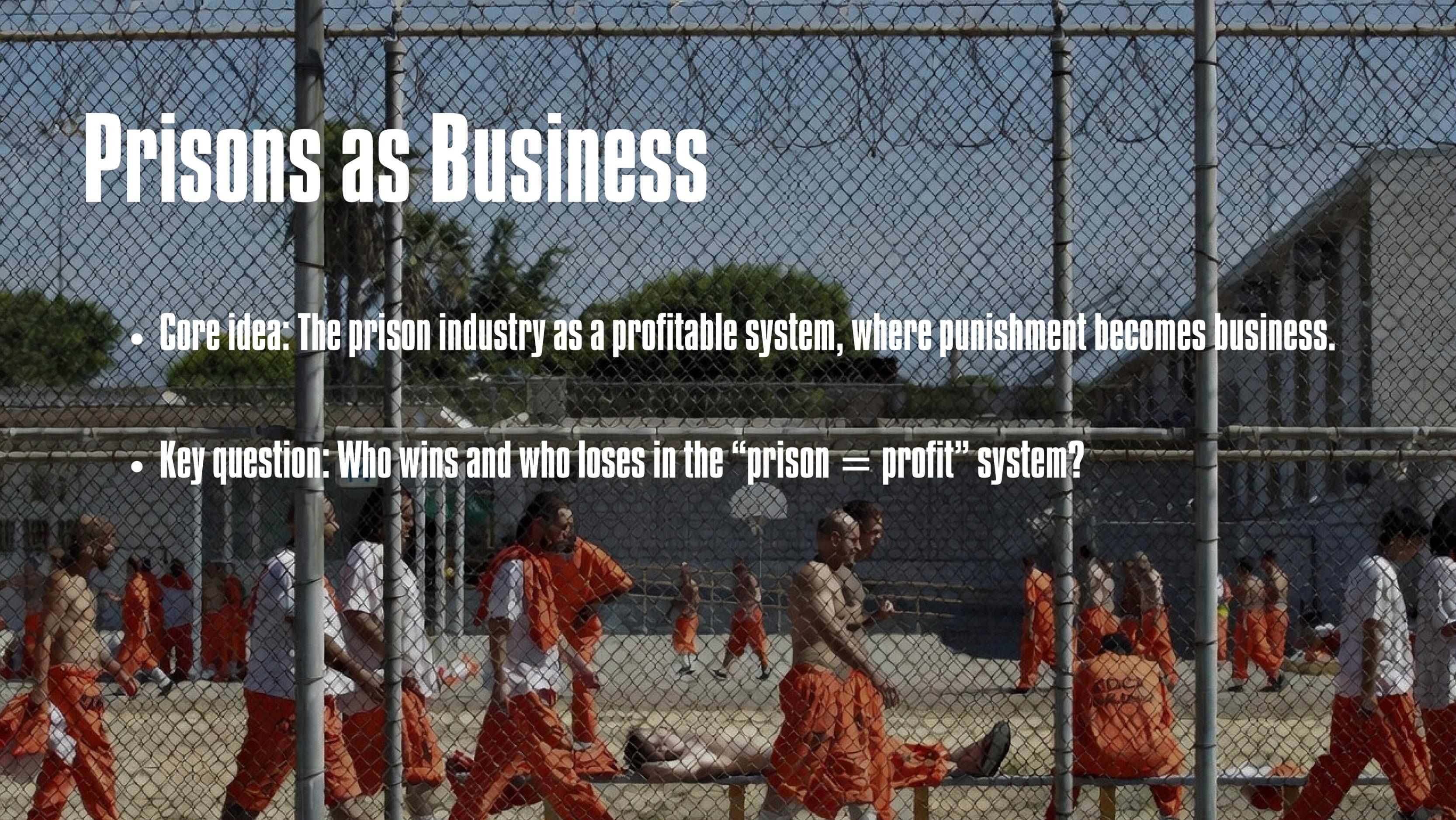
Cancel Culture

- Core idea: How the culture of public shaming affects freedom of speech and individual lives.
- Key question: Where is the line between accountability and societal pressure?



Prisons as Business

- Core idea: The prison industry as a profitable system, where punishment becomes business.
- Key question: Who wins and who loses in the “prison = profit” system?



Crime & Fear



- Core idea: How fear and crime shape public consciousness and policy.
- Key question: Is the population controlled by fear, or is it the state?

Opioid Epidemic

- Core idea: A national tragedy linked to institutional failures.
- Key question: How did systemic decisions lead to widespread addiction?



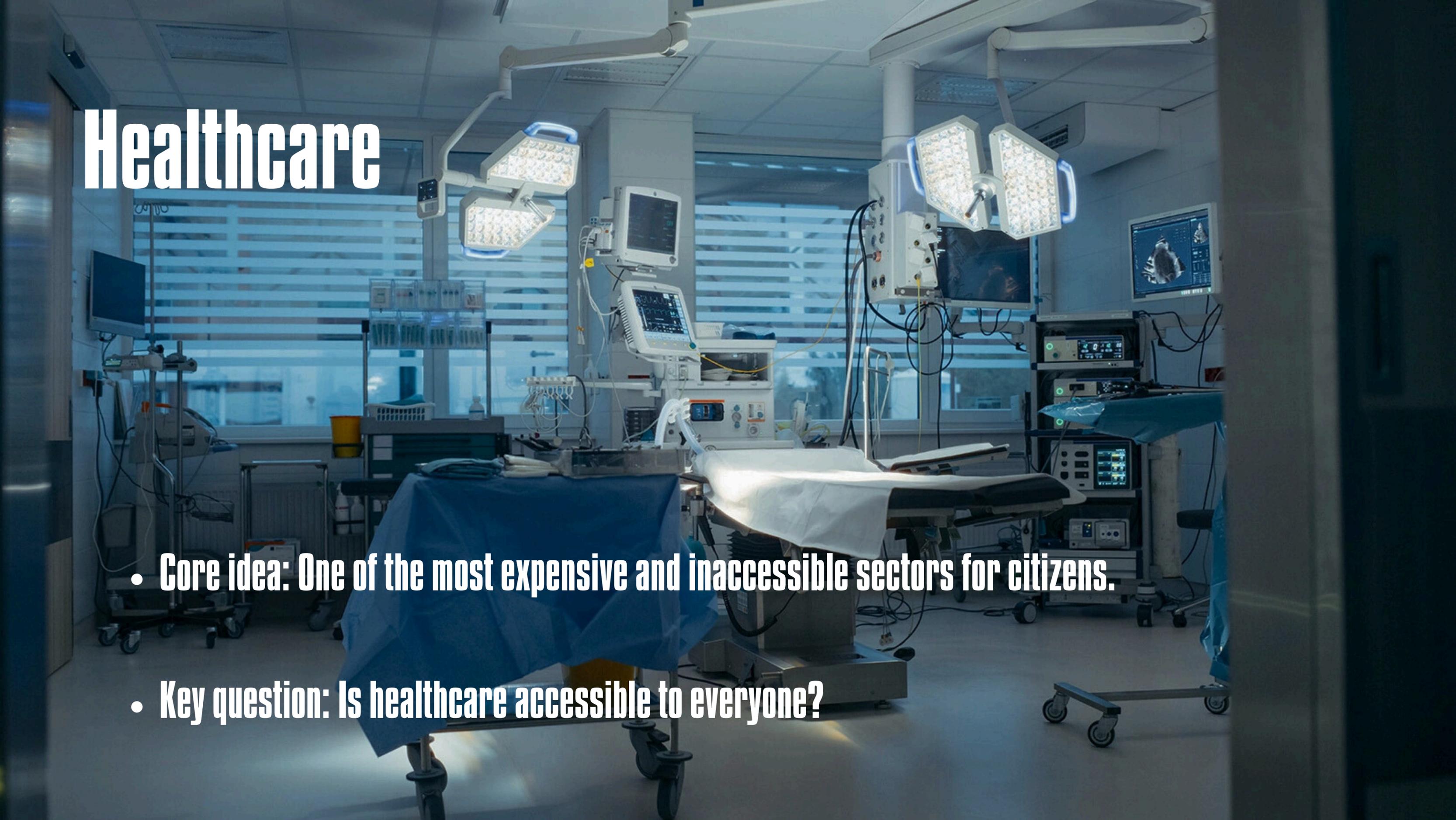
Debt Economy

The background image shows the grand facade of the New York Stock Exchange. It features a series of tall, fluted columns supporting a pediment with a relief sculpture. The words "NEW YORK STOCK EXCHANGE" are inscribed in gold above the columns. Two American flags are flying in the foreground, one on the left and one on the right. The sky is overcast.

- Core idea: Debt dependency as the foundation of today's economy of success.

- Key question: Is it possible to succeed without going into debt?

Healthcare

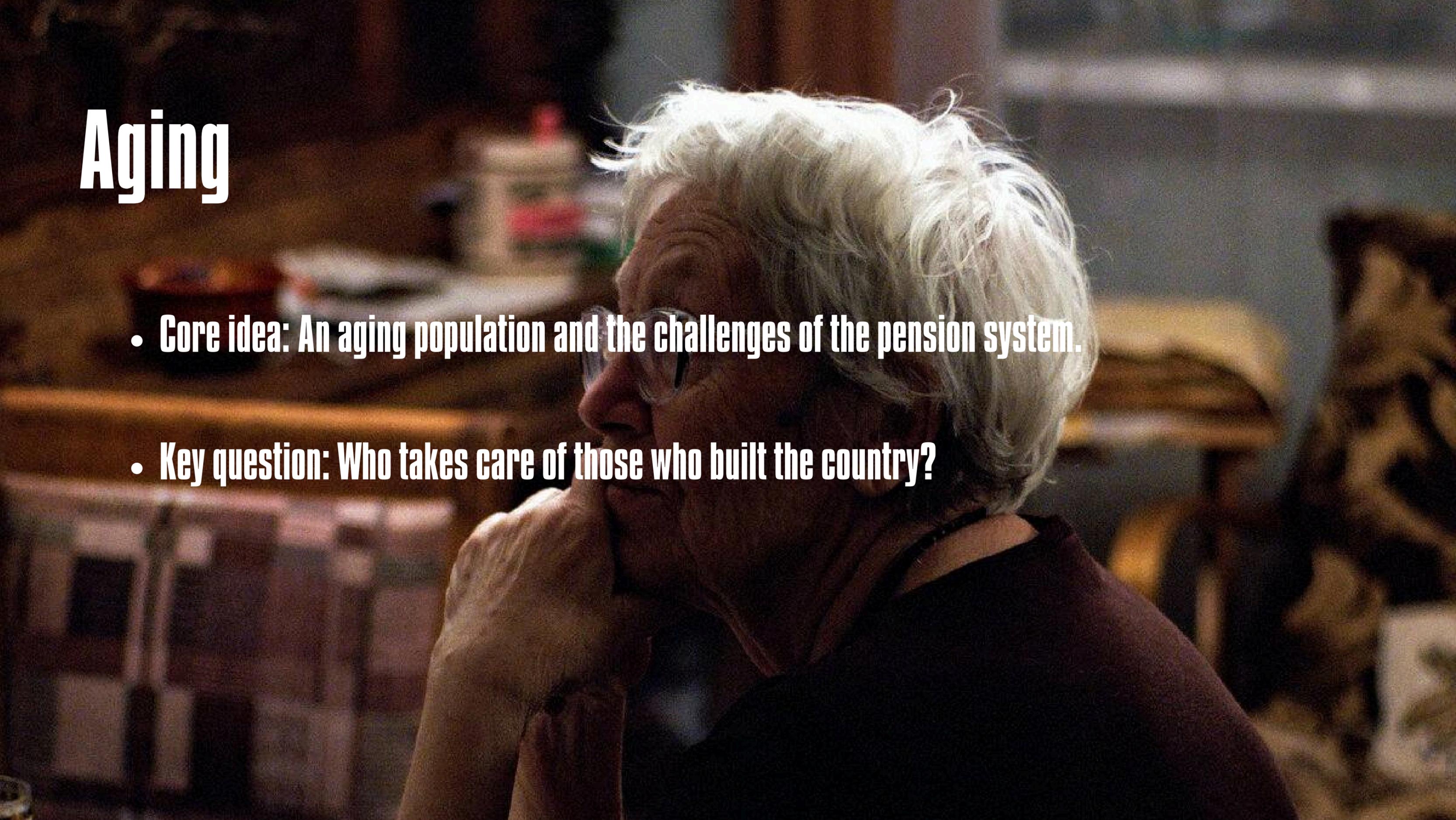
A modern operating room with surgical tables, monitors, and bright overhead lights. The room is clean and well-lit, with various medical equipment and monitors visible. The lighting is a mix of blue and white, creating a clinical atmosphere.

- **Core idea: One of the most expensive and inaccessible sectors for citizens.**
- **Key question: Is healthcare accessible to everyone?**

Obesity & Diabetes

- Core idea: The rise of chronic diseases as a reflection of the food system, work culture, and lifestyle.
- Key question: How do social and economic factors shape the health of a nation?

Aging



- **Core idea: An aging population and the challenges of the pension system.**
- **Key question: Who takes care of those who built the country?**

Homelessness



- Core idea: Homelessness as a symbol of the failure of the social contract.
- Key question: What happened to the promise of equal opportunity?

Surveillance

A surveillance control room with multiple monitors displaying various camera feeds and data dashboards. The room is dimly lit, with the primary light source being the blue glow from the screens. In the foreground, a desk holds a laptop, a mug, and a desk lamp. The background is filled with a wall of monitors showing different perspectives of an office or industrial facility.

- **Core idea: Digital control and the growth of monitoring.**
- **Visuals: cameras, smartphones, data centers, surveillance graphics.**
- **Key question: Where is the line between security and control?**

Corruption



- **Core idea:** The impact of corruption on the economy, politics, and the justice system.
- **Visuals:** offices, deals, interviews with experts, documents.
- **Key question:** Who controls the system, and on whose side is the power?

USA vs. Other Countries



- **Core idea:** A comparison of the American model with alternative systems of governance and economics.
- **Visuals:** city footage, economic and rights infographics, interviews with experts.
- **Key question:** What does the American model offer people compared to other countries?

Migrants

A photograph of a migrant camp. In the foreground, a group of children and adults are sitting on the ground, playing with colorful toys. In the background, there are several tents made of plastic or fabric, and people are standing around. The scene is outdoors, possibly in a parking lot or a similar paved area. The lighting is bright, suggesting it's daytime.

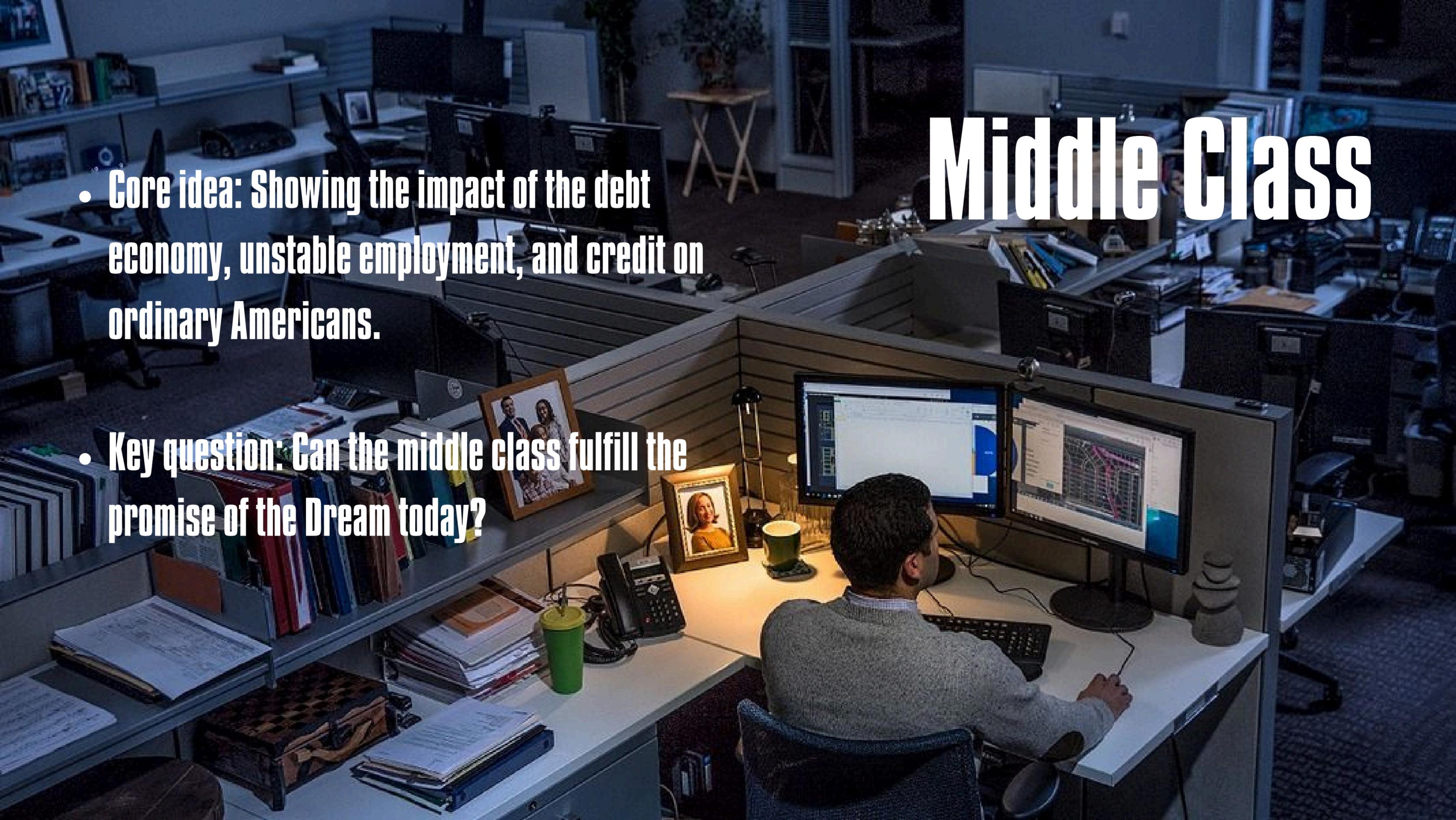
- Core idea: The story of immigrants as a mirror of the American Dream and its accessibility.
- Visuals: border areas, migrant camps, family stories, integration into communities.
- Key question: How accessible is the American Dream to those who come seeking a new life?

Protagonists

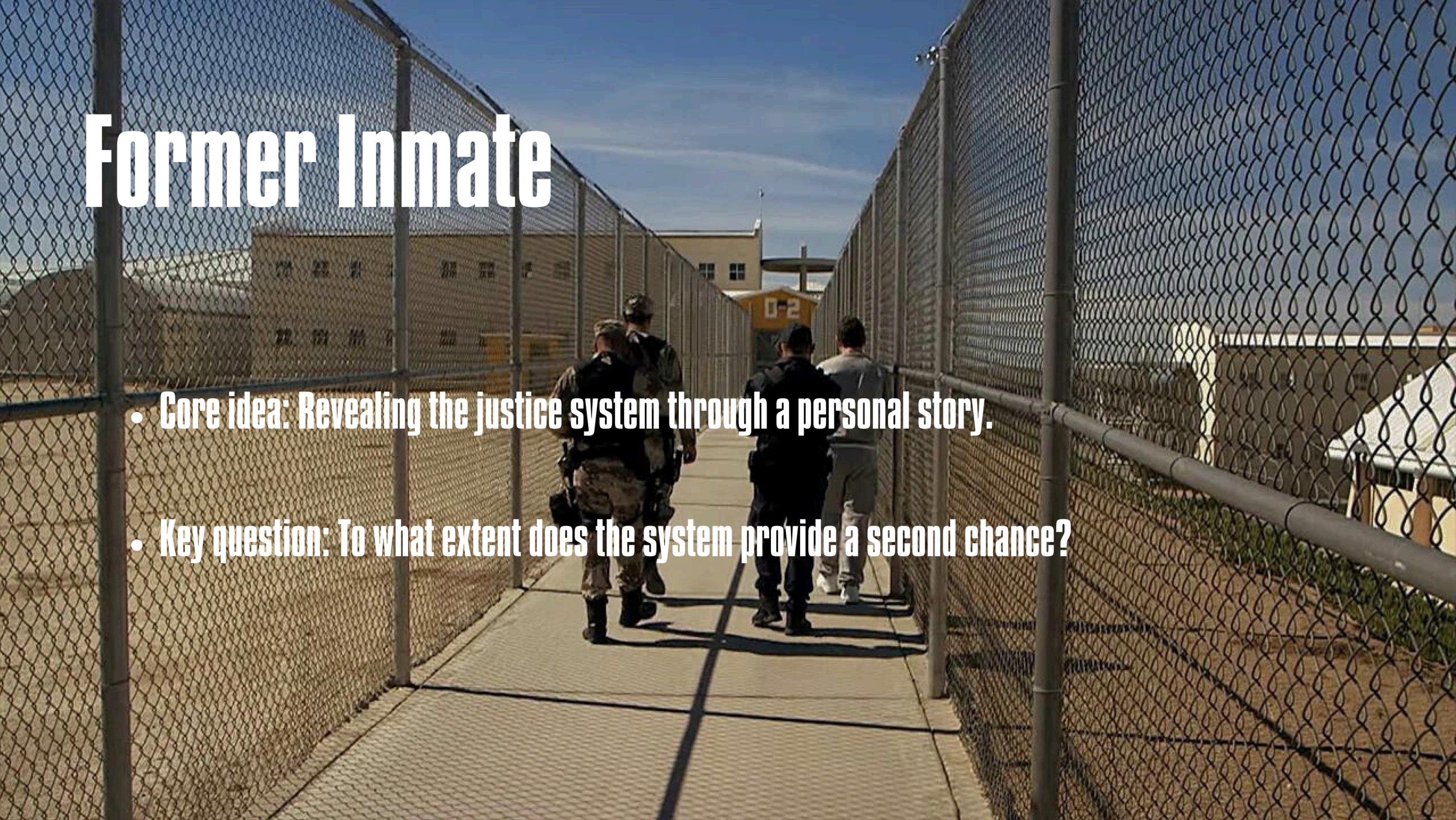


Middle Class

- Core idea: Showing the impact of the debt economy, unstable employment, and credit on ordinary Americans.
- Key question: Can the middle class fulfill the promise of the Dream today?



Former Inmate



- **Core idea: Revealing the justice system through a personal story.**
- **Key question: To what extent does the system provide a second chance?**

Doctor / Healthcare Worker

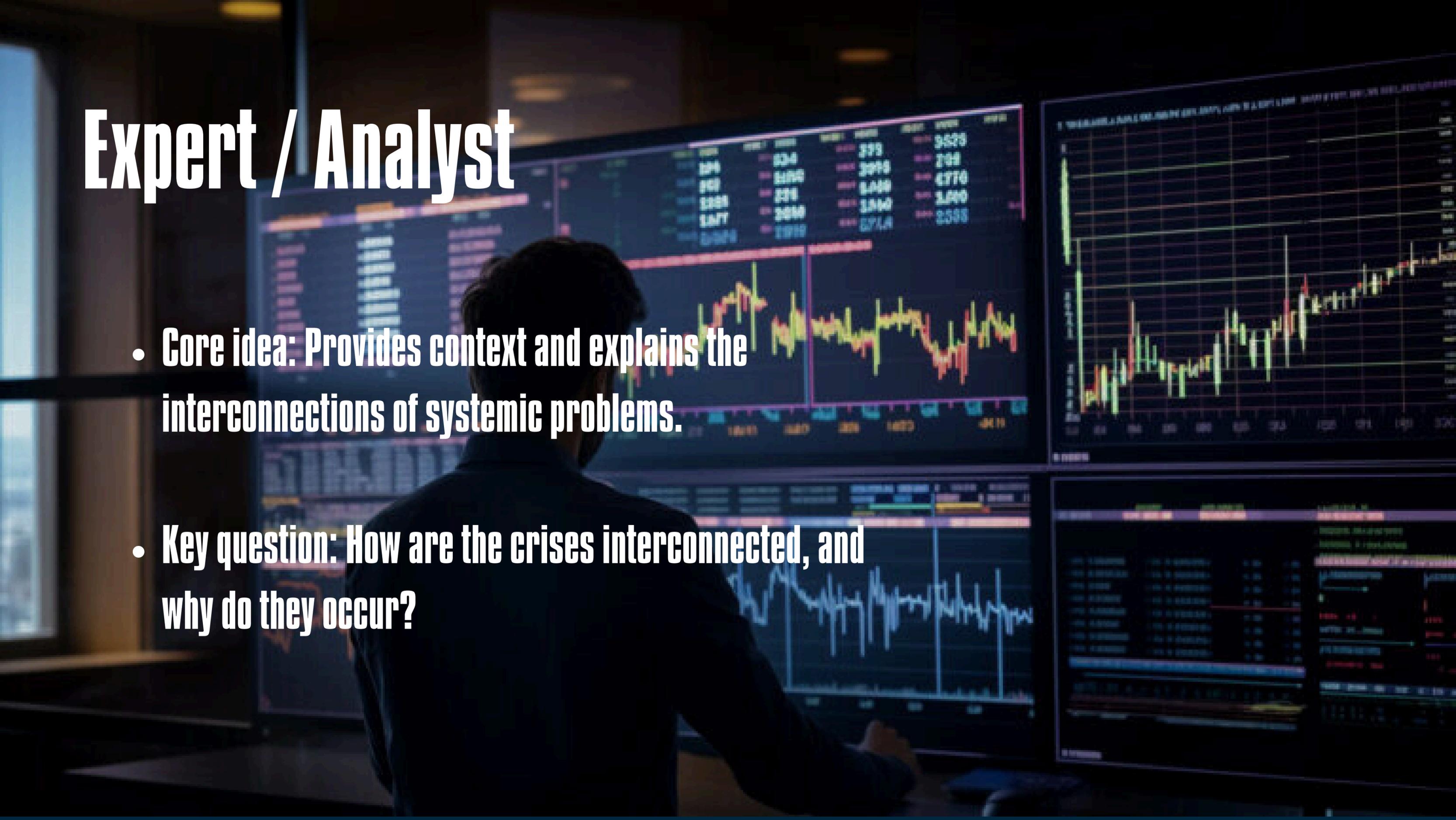
- **Core idea: Highlighting the healthcare crisis and the accessibility of treatment.**
- **Key question: How does the system constrain those who care for people?**

Immigrant

A diverse group of immigrants walking in a line outdoors. The group includes men of various ethnicities, some wearing caps and backpacks. The background shows green foliage, suggesting a park or outdoor setting. The overall mood is one of movement and seeking opportunities.

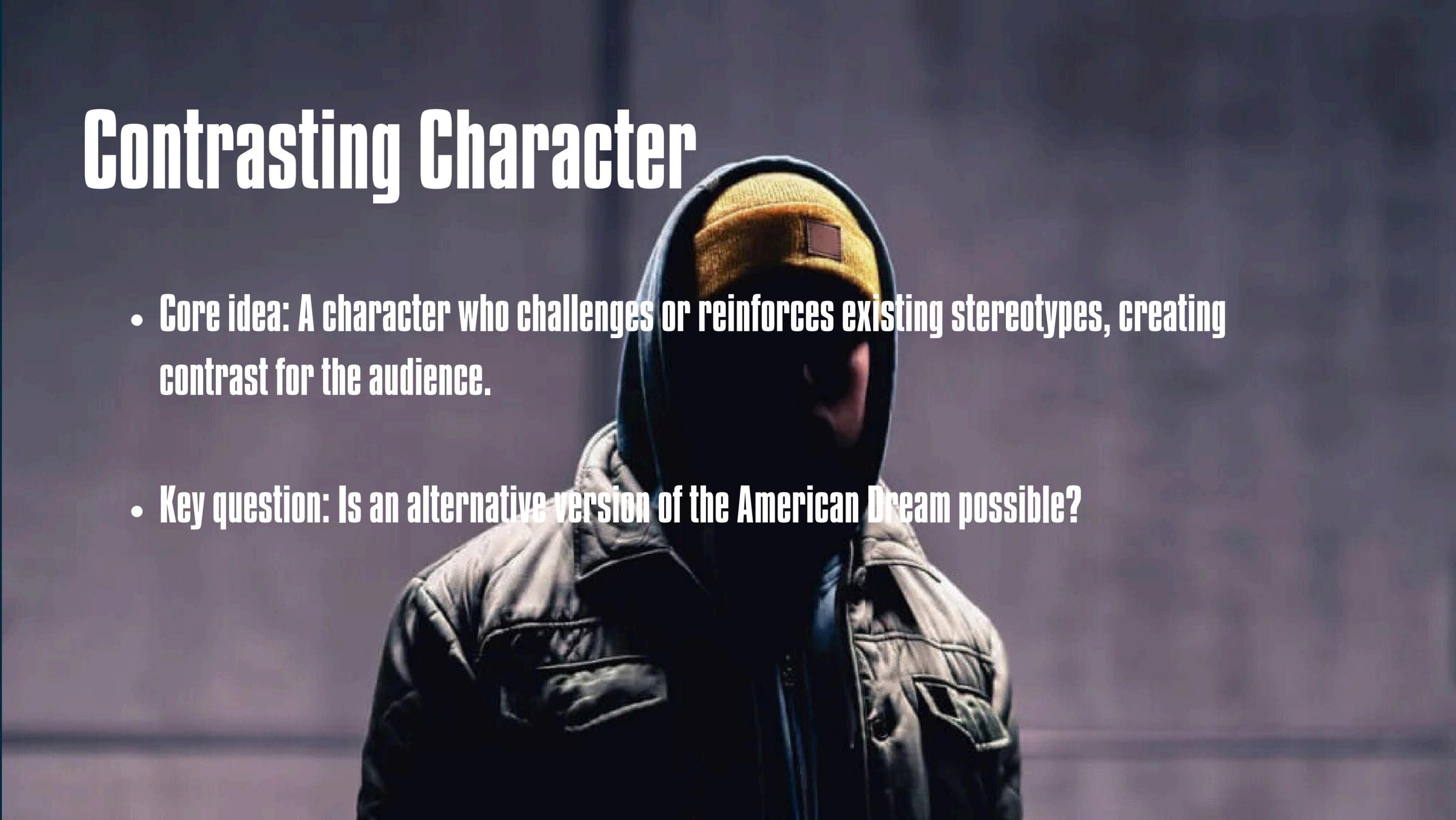
- Core idea: A personal story of seeking opportunities and integration.
- Key question: How accessible is the Dream to those who come to the country?

Expert / Analyst

A person in silhouette is seen from behind, looking at a wall of multiple computer monitors. The monitors display various financial data, including tables of numbers and several line and candlestick charts. The room is dark, with the primary light source being the screens themselves. The overall atmosphere is that of a professional financial analyst or expert working in a control room or trading floor.

- **Core idea:** Provides context and explains the interconnections of systemic problems.
- **Key question:** How are the crises interconnected, and why do they occur?

Contrasting Character

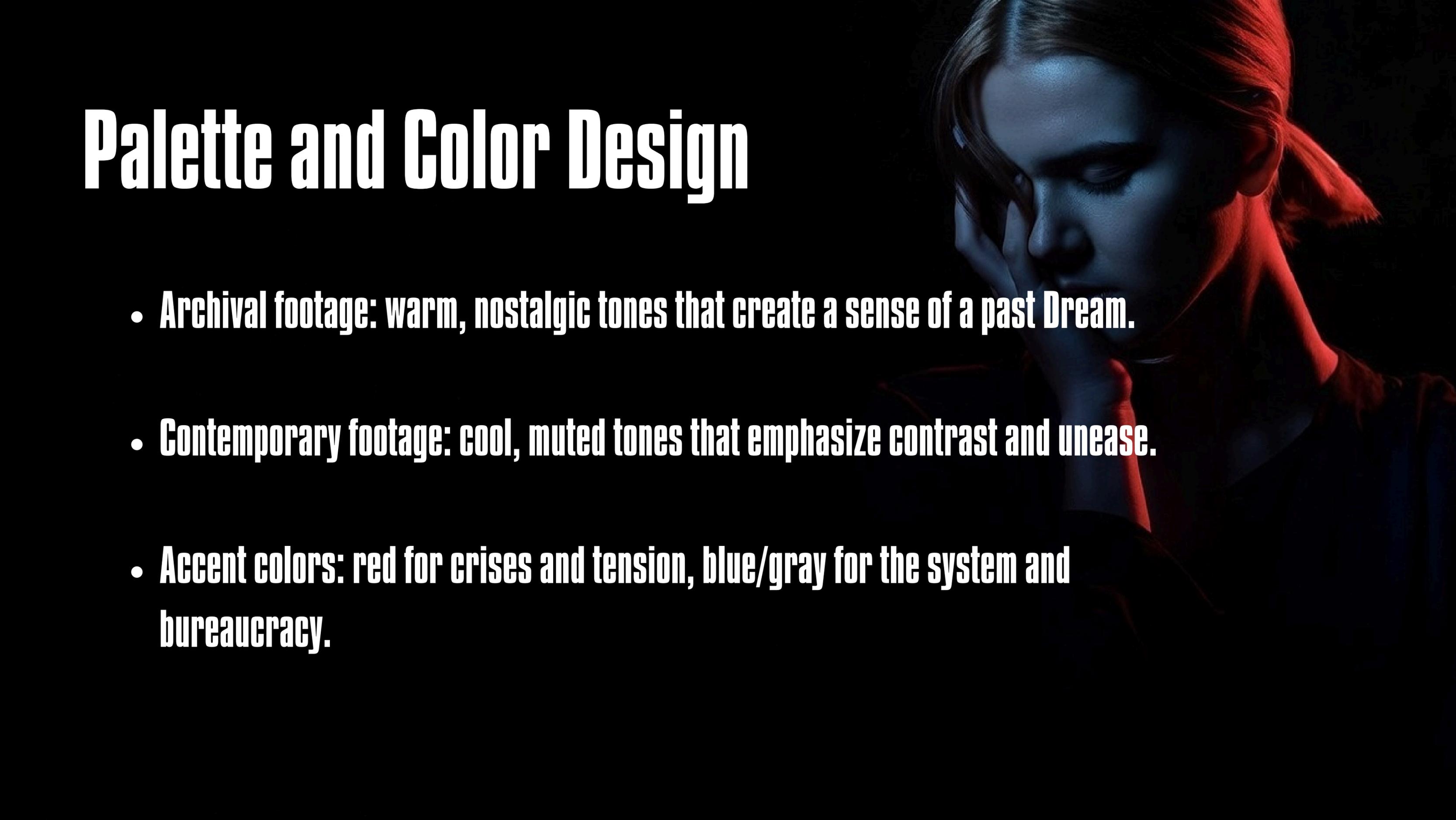


- **Core idea: A character who challenges or reinforces existing stereotypes, creating contrast for the audience.**
- **Key question: Is an alternative version of the American Dream possible?**

Visual Style



Palette and Color Design



- **Archival footage: warm, nostalgic tones that create a sense of a past Dream.**
- **Contemporary footage: cool, muted tones that emphasize contrast and unease.**
- **Accent colors: red for crises and tension, blue/gray for the system and bureaucracy.**

Urban Contrasts

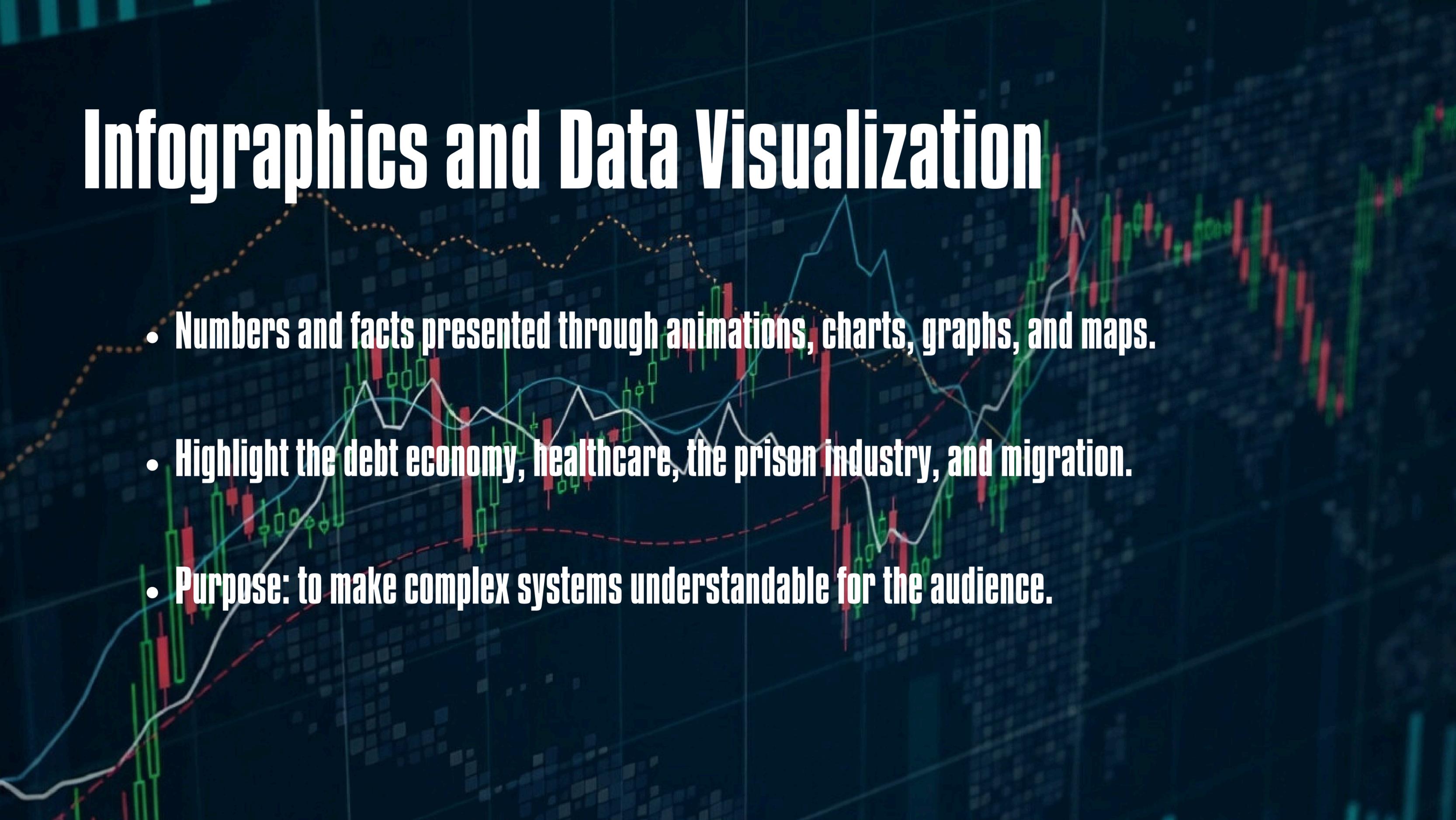
- The city as a character in the film: skyscrapers vs. slums, affluent neighborhoods vs. poor districts.
- Visuals: drone shots, time-lapses, close-ups of people on the streets.
- Purpose: to show social and economic division through visual contrasts.



Archival Materials

- Historical footage from the 1950s–60s: advertisements, political speeches, everyday life.
- Fragments of news broadcasts, photo chronicles.
- Editing: smooth transitions from archive → present day to contrast promise and reality.

Infographics and Data Visualization



- Numbers and facts presented through animations, charts, graphs, and maps.
- Highlight the debt economy, healthcare, the prison industry, and migration.
- Purpose: to make complex systems understandable for the audience.

Sound and Music

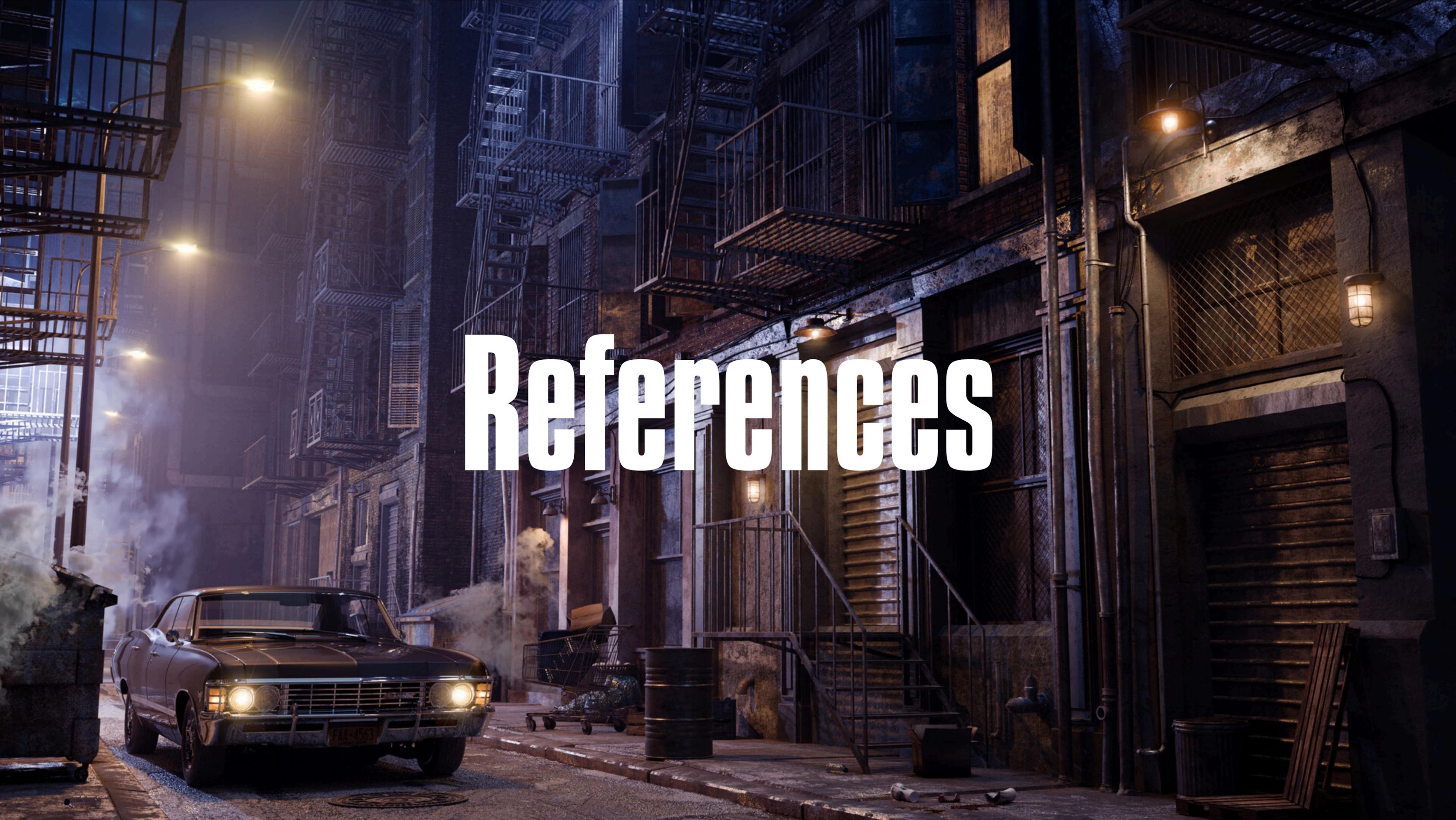
- **Music:** minimalist, emotional, underscoring the drama and tension.
- **Sound effects:** city ambience, work environments, hospitals, empty streets —
immersing the audience in the atmosphere.
- **Contrast:** archival footage with original music of that era → the present day with tense sound design.

Cinematic Style

- Close-ups of faces, details of everyday life, architecture, symbols of success and decline.
- Camera: dynamic and static shots, drones, POV filming, observation through screens (digital POV).
- Purpose: to create emotional and visual immersion, allowing the audience to feel the contrasts between past and present.



References



The Social Dilemma

- **Approach:** combining real stories, experts, and the visualization of digital processes.
- **Similarity:** shows the impact of systems (technological and social) on people's lives.
- **Purpose:** to present a modern, "digital" perspective on social issues.
- **Visuals:** graphics, interviews, digital interfaces.

Inside Job

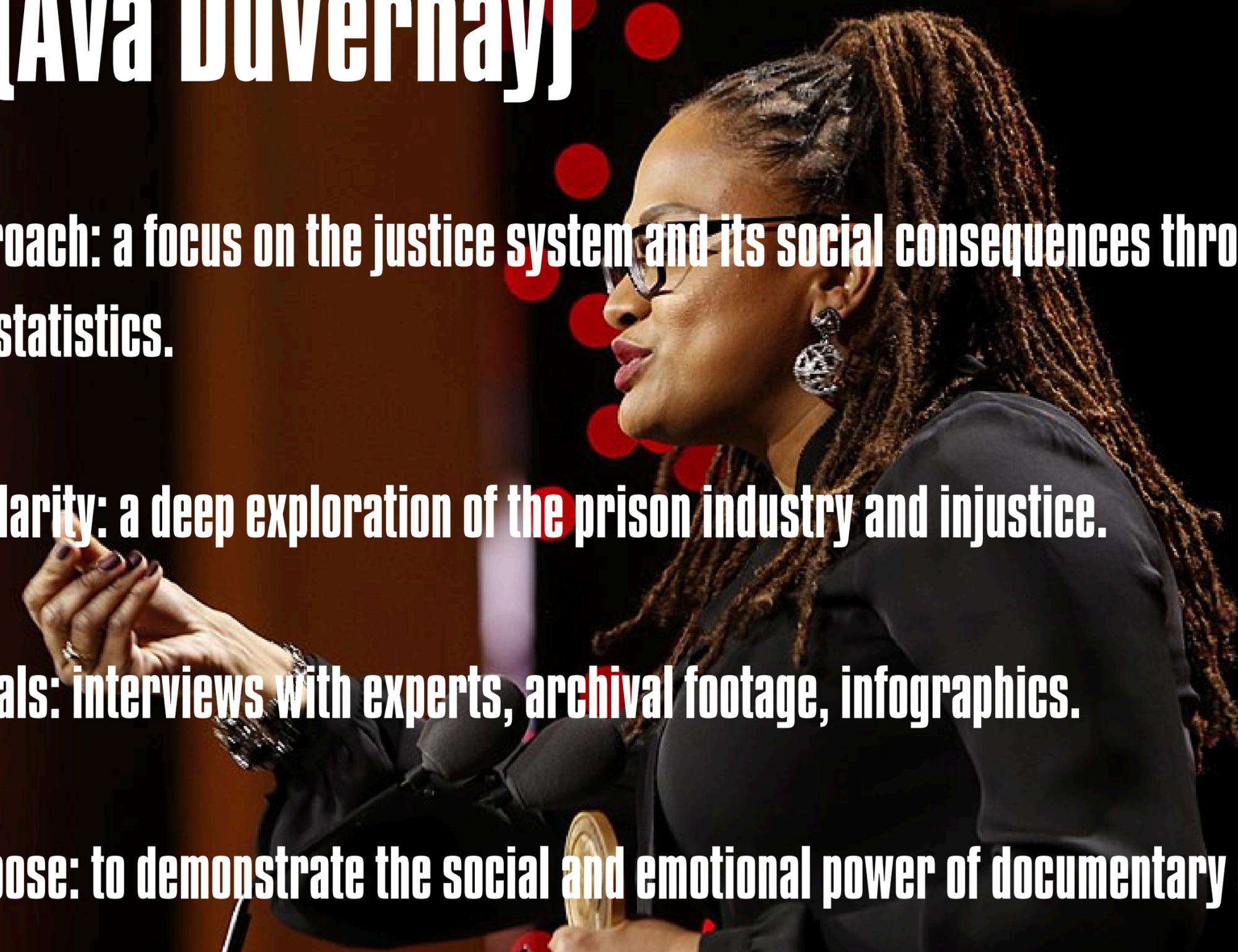
- **Approach:** an investigation of a systemic economic problem, with accessible and clear explanations of complex structures.
- **Similarity:** shows the interconnection between economic structures and human consequences.
- **Visuals:** archival footage, charts, interviews with experts.
- **Purpose:** to emphasize the film's analytical depth.

HyperNormalisation



- Approach: combining analysis, visual storytelling, and the complexity of social systems.
- Similarity: an exploration of hidden mechanisms of power and influence on mass consciousness.
- Visuals: montage of archival footage, contemporary scenes, overlaying infographics.
- Purpose: to show that the film examines not isolated events, but the system as a whole.

13th (Ava DuVernay)

- **Approach:** a focus on the justice system and its social consequences through personal stories and statistics.
 - **Similarity:** a deep exploration of the prison industry and injustice.
 - **Visuals:** interviews with experts, archival footage, infographics.
 - **Purpose:** to demonstrate the social and emotional power of documentary storytelling.
- 
- A photograph of Ava DuVernay speaking at a podium. She is wearing glasses, large earrings, and a dark top. Her hands are clasped in front of her. The background is dark with many red polka dots of varying sizes.

A blue-tinted photograph of an audience in a theater or lecture hall, viewed from behind. The audience is seated in rows, and the scene is dimly lit, with a bright light source visible in the upper right corner. The text "Audience and Market" is overlaid in white, bold, sans-serif font across the center of the image.

Audience and Market

Target Audience: USA

- **Primary audience: adults aged 25–55 interested in social, economic, and cultural issues.**
- **Secondary audience: students, activists, and professionals in the fields of law, healthcare, and economics.**
- **Reason for interest: the film presents systemic problems affecting the life of every American through real stories.**



Target Audience: Europe and the International Market

- Viewers are interested in understanding the American model, its global influence, and international trends.
- The film is of interest to educational institutions and festivals that showcase socially relevant projects.

Platforms and Streaming

A photograph of a laptop on a bed with the Netflix logo on the screen. The laptop is open and the screen displays the word 'NETFLIX' in red. The laptop is on a bed with white sheets and a grey blanket. The background is dark, possibly a wall or headboard.

- **Ideal platforms: Netflix, HBO Max, Amazon Prime, Apple TV — audiences are accustomed to high-quality documentary projects.**
- **Potential: festivals, educational screenings, thematic panels.**

Social Media and Additional Content

- **Supporting the release through:**
- **Short video clips for Instagram, TikTok, and YouTube.**
- **Infographics and visual materials on the thematic crises.**
- **Purpose: to engage a younger audience and foster a conversational environment around the film's issues.**



Release Strategy



Southwest[®]

Festival Route

- **Main goals: premieres at international and American festivals to generate prestige and media interest.**
- **Potential festivals: Sundance, Tribeca, SXSW, IDFA, Hot Docs.**
- **Purpose: to position the film as a premium and socially significant project.**

Sales and Streaming

- **Sales to platforms: Netflix, HBO Max, Amazon Prime, Apple TV — ideal for international reach.**
- **Partnerships with media companies and documentary labels.**

PR and Media Support

- **Main tools:**

- **Interviews with the director and protagonists.**
- **Publications in thematic outlets (The Atlantic, New York Times, Wired).**
- **Social campaigns with interactive infographics and teasers.**

Academic and Thematic Panels

- Partnerships with universities, research centers, and nonprofit organizations.
- Purpose: to discuss the film's issues in educational and expert settings, fostering a conversation about the future of the American Dream.

Production Plan

A cinematic scene from a film set. In the foreground, a man with long hair is operating a professional video camera on a tripod. To his right, another man stands looking towards the camera. In the center, a woman with long blonde hair, wearing a brown hat and a black top, looks off to the side. To her left, a man in a white t-shirt stands behind a wooden counter. In the background, another woman is looking down at a device. The setting appears to be a backstage area or a workshop, with clothing racks and various items visible.

Research

This stage includes:

- Collecting archival materials, statistics, and news publications.
- Interviews with experts and analysts.
- Preparation of thematic chapters and protagonists.
- Timeline: 2–3 months of active research.

Production



- **Locations:** USA (cities, rural areas, prisons, hospitals), other countries for the comparative segment.
- **Format:** interviews, everyday life of protagonists, drones, POV filming, close-ups.
- **Timeline:** 4–5 months of shooting.

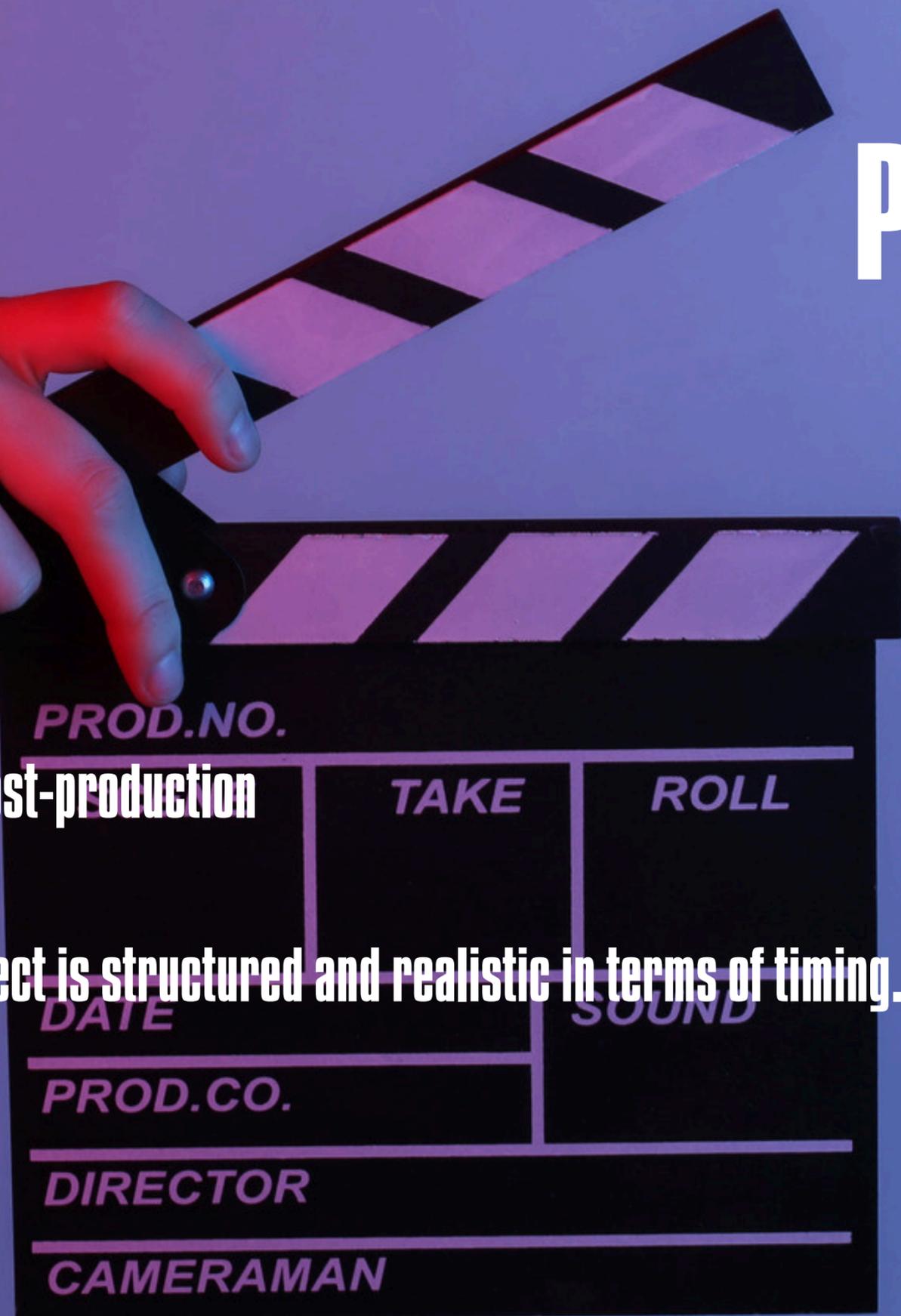
Post

- **Editing: combining archival and contemporary footage, infographics, subtitles.**
- **Color grading and sound design: contrast between past and present, creating emotional immersion.**
- **Timeline: 3–4 months.**

Project Timeline

Overall schedule:

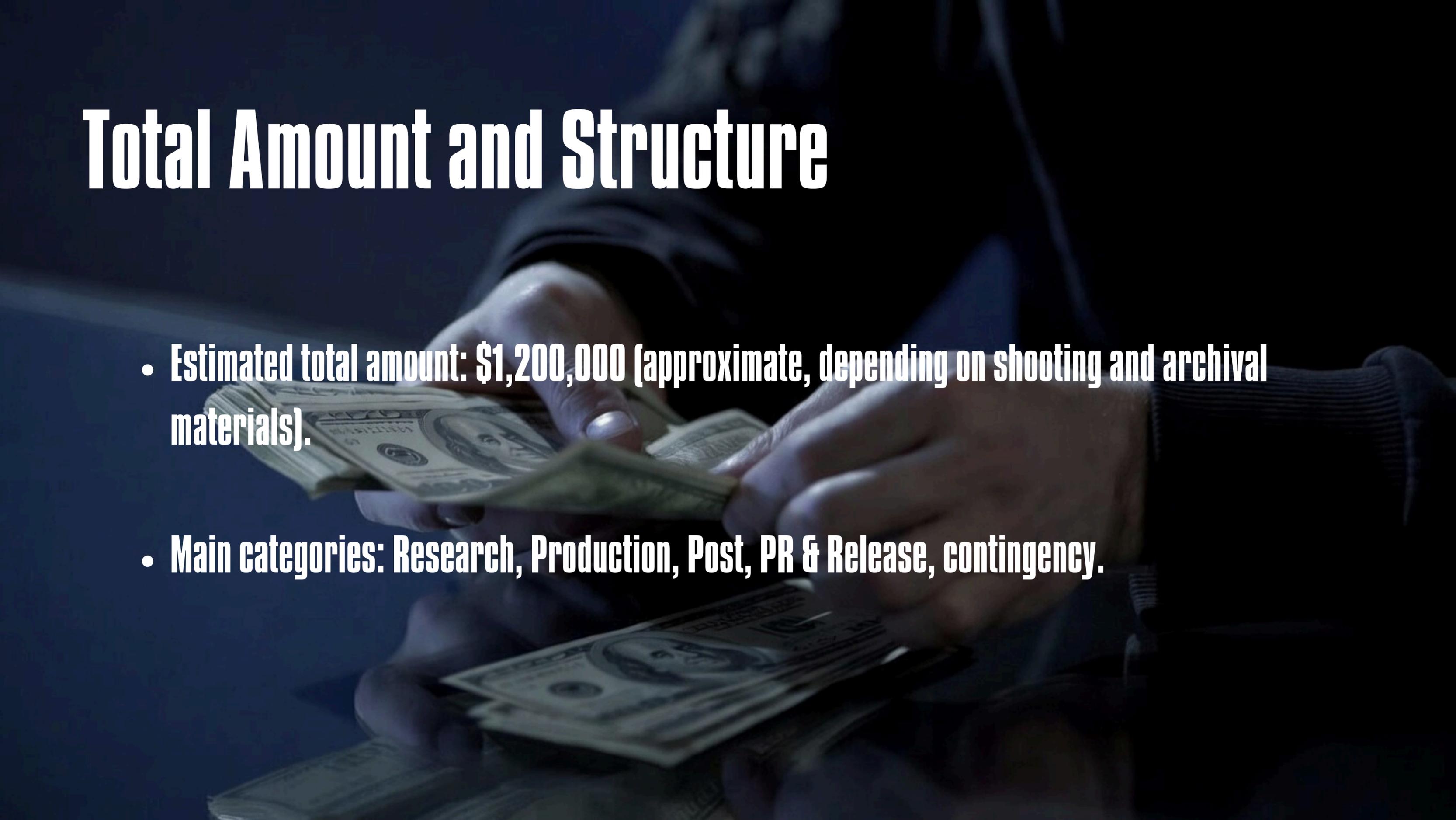
- Research: 2–3 months
- Production: 4–5 months
- Post-Production: 3–4 months
- Festivals and release: after post-production
- Purpose: to show that the project is structured and realistic in terms of timing.



Budget



Total Amount and Structure

A close-up, low-angle shot of a person's hands counting stacks of US dollar bills. The person is wearing a dark, long-sleeved shirt. The lighting is dramatic, with strong highlights on the hands and the bills, and deep shadows elsewhere. The background is dark and out of focus.

- **Estimated total amount: \$1,200,000 (approximate, depending on shooting and archival materials).**
- **Main categories: Research, Production, Post, PR & Release, contingency.**



Research

Includes::

- **Collecting archives and licenses.**
- **Research and preparation for interviews.**
- **Team of analysts and assistants.**

- **Estimated budget share: 10–15%.**

Production

Main expenses:

- Film crews, cameras, equipment.
- Locations, transportation, logistics, insurance.
- Flights and accommodation for shoots outside the USA.
- Estimated budget share: 40–50%.



Post & PR / Release



- **Post-production: editing, color grading, sound, graphics and infographics — 25–30%.**
- **PR, festivals, marketing, promotional materials — 10–15%.**
- **Contingency: 5%.**



Risks and Legal Strategy

Main Risks

Legal and ethical:

- Use of archival materials and copyright.
- Interviews with protagonists: consent, protection of identity.
- Potential legal disputes when criticizing specific institutions or companies.

Production risks: shooting delays, access to locations, weather and logistical constraints.

Legal Strategy

- **Licensing of archives and media content.**
- **Consents and agreements with protagonists, interviewees, and experts.**
- **Consultations with lawyers on copyright, defamation, and reputational risks.**
- **Production insurance and professional liability coverage.**

Risk Management and Transparency



- Regular review of legal aspects at all stages of production.
- Internal documentation for material storage and data protection.
- Ensuring a transparent and ethical approach toward protagonists, experts, and audiences.

Team



Director and Producer — Dmitry Korikov

Dmitry is the founder of DK FILMS, an independent Hollywood production company. Collaborating with stars and industry professionals, he produces feature films and documentary series, including the series UTTER FUCKING MADNESS. Dmitry combines the skills of not only a producer, but also a director, filmmaker, and cinematographer. He fully immerses himself in the environment to capture the most honest and emotionally powerful moments. His presence during filming is almost unnoticeable — people forget they are being filmed and perceive him as a friend or a participant in the event. This approach makes the material organic and truthful. His experience in creating high-quality content and working on major media projects makes him a key figure in bringing this film to life.



Screenwriters

Alexander Belogai



Aslanova Ainura

Contacts and Project Support

Phone: +1 833 DK FILMS

Website: dkfilms.tv

Dmitry Korikov

Email: p2@korikov.net

Telegram: [@korikov](https://www.telegram.com/@korikov)

Social Media:

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/thedkfilms/>

