

# America

Nas

Yeah, it's like wakin' up from a bad dream  
(America)  
Just to figure out you wasn't dreamin' in the first place  
If all I saw was gangsters comin' up as a youngster  
Pussy and money the only language I clung ta  
Claim ta, I bought myself up to become one  
Ain't ya happy I chose rap, I'm amongst tha?  
Streets deceivin', 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  
Stiff bodies on freeze in funeral parlors  
From the slums I come up a phoenix caked up  
Tryna take what I'm eatin' 'n' came up a dismissive kid  
You lucky if you allowed to witness this savvy mouth  
Wild? Hardly, a man's man who would'a knew  
The beach houses and wild parties  
Jezebel's and Stella McCartney's  
For years all that, how can I not be dead?  
This old German said I was a thug with a notty 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 stories is  
I'm from the home of the thieves  
America, pay attention  
(America)  
Wake up, this is not what you think it is  
(America)  
America, pay attention  
(America)  
This is not what you think it is  
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  
America, pay attention  
(America)  
Wake up, 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)  
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  
Believin? 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 casually  
Buggin? 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  
America  
(America, America)  
America  
(America, this is not what you think it is)  
America  
(America, this is not what you think it is)  
America

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