(7) Non-Americans, what misconception did you have about America that you learned was wrong upon visiting/moving to America? - Quora

I don’t know even where to start... I had so many misconceptions. The majority of these misconceptions are actually quite common among Europeans and Asians. After studying, working and living here for over seven years, I think I have right to tell you some of my experiences:
1. **Americans are stupid.** This is a quite common misconception among foreigners. People tend to think that Americans can’t pinpoint the location of their country on the map, and that Americans are generally some low-IQ nation. This is totally false. I have traveled through various countries around the world and met different intelligent people, but America is full of smart and genius people. Of course, you might say that “A lot of them are immigrants,” but immigration is a part of being American, because if you say that immigrants with US passports are not Americans, then who are Americans? Descendants of British, Irish, or German settlers? Native Americans? Jews that escaped persecution? Italians? Black people? Mexican and Spanish people?

2. **Americans are lazy.** While America might seem like a lazy nation, this is a completely wrong assessment. Yes, Americans love convenience: comfort, delivery speed and good service is a must, but at the same time, I can tell you that Americans are quite hardworking people. I have worked different jobs: I worked for Apple, for a private intelligence company, as a university laboratory assistant, in construction, and general labor jobs. A lot of people whom I met are very dedicated, hard-working people. I have
seen single mothers who work two jobs, and thousands of students that study full time and work full time. One of my close friends used to work at Apple as an analyst from 8.00 to 3.30, then had classes at the university, and three times a week would work part time as a waiter in a restaurant after 9 pm. While you might think that Americans are lazy, it’s not true - they just like comfort and convenience. If you think they are lazy, well, you would be surprised how many people in America don’t go on vacation for years.

3. **Americans love wars and endorse aggressive imperialistic politics.** While that might be true on some rare occasions, overall, the population is against any aggression or invasion of other countries. In fact, the anti-war movement during the Vietnam War literally divided the nation. Very few Americans support invading other countries. Even if politicians trick Americans into supporting war, it doesn't last for long: for example, in 2003, 72% of Americans expressed support for the Iraq invasion. That number dropped down to 38% just in five years (according to Pew Research Center). So when you will see an American tourist in your
country, don’t rush to blame him for wars, because there is a high chance that he is anti-war.

4. This is more related to Texas, rather than America in general, but occasionally I can hear that Texans are racist, crazy rednecks that shoot guns and fight with immigrants. This is so far from truth! Texas is quite a progressive state, with dozens of large international technology companies. I have lived previously in Tennessee, New York City and Los Angeles. I can tell you that Texans are very friendly and welcoming. Texas is quite a safe state. Some people say that Texas is dangerous state, however Texas has a homicide rate of 4.3/100K which is
mostly due to drug wars between gangs closer to Mexico, something you are unlikely to see or experience during your lifetime in a city like Austin. Another important aspect is diversity (in large cities) due to heavy presence of large international companies. For example, these companies have a large presence in Austin: Dell, IBM, AMD, Apple, Blizzard, and Oracle.

5. **Americans care only about money and income.** For some reason people think that Americans are greedy, nonspiritual robots that constantly think about profits. I completely disagree with th...