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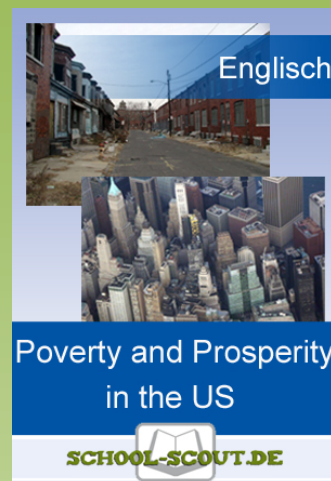
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Auszug aus:

Poverty and Prosperity in the U.S.

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**Titel:**

Arbeitsblatt aus der Reihe "School-Scout – up-to-date"
Poverty and Prosperity in the US

Bestellnummer:

49352

Kurzvorstellung:

- *This work sheet informs about conditions of poverty in the United States of America.*
- *The teaching aids offer basic information about the influence of the Global Economic Crisis on living conditions in the United States.*
- *An introduction to the Occupy Wall Street movement is also provided.*
- *Additionally, the material includes tasks to the texts and appending solutions.*

Inhaltsübersicht:

- *Poverty and Prosperity in the U.S.*
- *Facts and Figures on poverty in the United States*
- *Occupy Wall Street*
- *Solutions*
- *Sources*

Poverty and prosperity in the U.S.

U.S. President Lyndon Johnson declared a *War on Poverty* on March 16, 1964¹. He planned to implement large-scale national programs to support the poor. Even though living standards for America's poor increased afterwards, poverty rates have remained steady since the 1970s.

Living conditions in the U.S.A. have worsened due to the *Global Economic Crisis*: poverty and unemployment rates have increased and the economy has not recovered yet. The organization *Feeding America* states that more and more U.S. citizens are unable to live on healthy and nutritious food².



A homeless man in New York City
(commons.wikipedia.org)

A report of the *Congressional Budget Office (CBO)* reveals that the super-rich among U.S. citizens have become even richer during the crisis, whilst the situation has not improved for the poor accordingly. The American tax system has supported this development³.

The United States gross debt was \$15.501 trillion on March 1, 2012⁴. The state therefore lacks sufficient funds to pay state and local government employees. Many governmental employers have established a four-day workweek, because full salaries have become unaffordable. Additionally, the States have a problem with their deteriorating infrastructure: highways, houses and official buildings decay and there is not even enough money to support the police reasonably. In Oakland, crimes such as theft, break-ins or vandalism cannot be persecuted anymore; there are just enough police officers to care for capital crimes like murder⁵.

During the economic crisis, the number of people living in camps and emergency accommodations has increased dramatically. About 12.3 million U.S. citizens cannot afford their apartments anymore because over 50% of their monthly income is consumed by rent investment⁶. More and more college graduates have to pay back their student loans with internship salaries and hardly find well-paid jobs, so that they are not able to pay for their own apartments.

In order to fight poverty in the U.S.A., the most efficient tool is the so-called *earned income tax credit* or *earned income credit (EITC or EIC)*⁷. It is a credit for people who earn low-to-moderate incomes and is provided to offset the burden of social security taxes and to maintain an incentive to work. There are numerous other approaches to help the poor with welfare programs, community organizing, educational support and food stamps.

1. *What impact does the Global Economic Crisis have on the United States?*
2. *Compare living conditions in the U.S.A. to those in Germany.*

¹ <http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/1964johnson-warpoverty.html>

² (<http://www.heise.de/tp/blogs/8/150367>)

³ (<http://www.heise.de/tp/artikel/35/35774/1.html>)

⁴ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_public_debt

⁵ <http://www.spiegel.de/wirtschaft/soziales/0,1518,786372-2,00.html>

⁶ <http://www.fedupusa.org/>

⁷ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Earned_income_tax_credit



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