

This document presents the lyrics (=paroles) of the song “America”, which is part of the musical film Westside Story. This song talks about the plight (=sort, situation) of Puerto Rican immigrants to the USA. The women (Anita, Rosalia and Teresita) sing about the problems they had in Puerto Rico. They were not happy with the natural disasters such as hurricanes (=ouragans), they had debts. In the USA, they say that they can buy what they want thanks to the credit system. They think that they will have an easier life with machines to do their laundry(=lessive), and they will have better living conditions and more freedom. Generally speaking, they are excited about the American prosperity, with big cars, houses buildings...

The men (Bernardo and Indio) are less enthusiastic. They sing about the fact that prosperity in America is only for white people who don't have accents. For them, America means difficult living conditions, with 12 migrants living in a small apartment, and no access to credits and a lot of limits.

The whole song is humoristic. Its tone is often ironic or playful. However the social analysis of the migrant's situation is quite detailed.