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Iceberg 2

In this article, the author, Terry Tamminen, points out the fact that America has a tendency to prefer disposable products in place of those more durable. This started around the end of WWI; we grew from long lasting consumers to consumers with very short attention spans for our products. As a result, we now buy, use once or twice, throw away, then buy again. Not only is it bad for the environment, it’s bad on our wallets. If we invested in a durable product one time, it would pay for itself compared to our current method.

America started the disposable revolution, disposable razors for men, later for women, diapers, cups, plates, utensils; almost anything has a disposable parallel. Because of our desire for disposable, manufacturers have found an easier way to gain a profit. As consumers, we can only blame ourselves for such deceptions as we are the ones responsible. Since America’s birth, we’ve discarded things when we were done with them and thought nothing of it, including humans. In contrast, the Native Americans used all they could out of something; they even had a use for every part of an animal they hunted. The colonists, though, were less conservative with they’re prey and any other resource they had. I believe that this principle has carried on all throughout American culture, and is hard to break.

In conclusion, America is the leading nation in waste, in any sense. Unfortunately, not all view this as a problem. It’s our job to convince the manufacturers of today that we do not need the convenience of disposable products, so that we can go back to being a durable society.