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STRATEGIES OF ENDURANCE: THE MYTH OF AMERICAN EXCEPTIONALISM

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Abstract: *The neoconservatives' reinforcement of the idea of American exceptionalism in the opening decade of the century coupled with the failure of the Bush administration to inspire confidence in the American ideals, has triggered numerous attacks against the myth of American exceptionalism coming from within and without America's borders. In response to such recent attacks, the paper focuses on several strategies that have kept alive the mythology of American power since the Puritans first settled in New England, indeed, since Europe first invented America. The messianic belief in America's moral mission, the inexhaustible mechanism of hope in the infinite possibility of new beginnings and the "regeneration through violence" are discussed in relation to the post-apocalyptic novel of Cormac McCarthy.*