

= Made in America (Jay @-@ Z and Kanye West song) =

" Made in America " is a song by American hip hop artists Kanye West and Jay @-@ Z , from their first collaborative album Watch the Throne . It is the 11th track on the album and features vocals from OFWGKTA singer Frank Ocean . Lyrically , the song explores themes of family life and the American Dream . It expresses the hardships of youth and coming of age . The track received positive reviews from music critics who praised Ocean 's vocal hook , and the subject matter of the verses . The song has been compared to " inspirational ballads of late @-@ period Michael Jackson . " The song charted on South Korea Gaon International Chart at position 178 . Jay @-@ Z and West performed the song at their 2011 Watch the Throne Tour .

= = Background = =

Jay @-@ Z and Kanye West are both American rappers who have collaborated on several tracks together . In 2010 , they began production and recording on a collaborative record Watch the Throne . Frank Ocean is an R & B recording artist who released his debut mixtape Nostalgia , Ultra in early 2011 to critical acclaim . The release of the mixtape interested West , who was reported to be a big fan . West invited Ocean to write and sing on two songs off of the record . Frank wrote and provided vocals on tracks " No Church in the Wild " and " Made in America " and the songs were recorded in New York .

= = Composition = =

The song has been described as an " understated soft @-@ pop " track with influence from Michael Jackson and his 1985 charity single " We Are the World " . Ocean 's hook " pays tribute to Martin Luther King , Jr . , Coretta Scott King , Malcolm X , Betty Shabazz and , of course , the sweet baby Jesus on the album 's most serene track . " Rob Harvilla of Spin stated that " PBR & B prince Frank Ocean " sings on the " subdued but triumphant " Made in America " (wherein Jay wistfully recalls his grandma 's banana pudding and Kanye complains about South Park) . The song " invokes heroes of the civil rights movement " and reflects on how West and Jay have " seized what might be an American Dream . "

Jay @-@ Z muses on his drug @-@ dealing past with lines like " our apple pie was supplied by Arm & Hammer " , utilizing " his skill at baking double- and triple @-@ meanings into a line " . West 's verse describes his " original hustle in terms of blogging and web traffic " and his conflict with fame , " tinged with a political or socio @-@ economic hue . " West offers a verse that " starts off humble , but by the end he 's bragging about his power and slamming his critics " over a " weirdly magnetic synthetic beat and dots of pretty piano clusters crafted by producer Sak Pace of the Juggernauts . " Popdust reported that " this is Jay at his most vulnerable , revealing things he may be thinking but not regularly willing to share with others . While the song 's chorus seems to honor all of those ? Made In America , ? the track is really a look at the history these two have shared and perhaps their differing futures . "

= = Reception = =

" Made in America " received mostly positive reviews from most music critics . Pitchfork Media 's Tom Breihan commented that the track reminded him of " the inspirational ballads of late @-@ period Michael Jackson " , and said that while the song was " silly " , it " succeeds on pure orchestral excess . " Rolling Stone stated that " both rappers deliver sentimental verses , but Ocean carries most of the emotional weight here . " Steve Jones of USA Today commented " on the equally potent Made in America , the two talk about their rises to fame , while acknowledging those who helped and inspired them . " Sputnikmusic 's Tyler Fisher noted that " Frank Ocean asks , ? What ? s a god to a nonbeliever ? ? on ? No Church in the Wild ? , but later invokes ? sweet baby Jesus ? on ? Made in America ? , pandering to each track without a thought to the coherence of the album . "

Los Angeles Times writer Randall Roberts stated " the album 's highlight , and an instant classic , is ? Made in America , ? a solid @-@ paced Frank Ocean @-@ teamed jam about the American dream that reveals the main difference between West and Jay @-@ Z : humility . " Popdust writer Emily Exton that while " Frank Ocean ? s ? Sweet Baby Jesus ? might be stuck in your head for the rest of the day " , the highlist is " Kanye who manages to both appreciatively give thanks to his rise to fame as well as generate more than one eye roll with his bravado . " Rolling Stone 's Simon Vozick @-@ Levinson mused " Frank Ocean 's second appearance on the album is another keeper . Hip @-@ hop heads will be singing his honey @-@ voiced , religiously @-@ themed hook all fall . Jay @-@ Z and Kanye keep the thoughtful mood going with verses that revisit their respective rises to fame . " BBC Music 's Marcus J. Moore perceived that " Made in America fails to resonate because of a contrived chorus that pays homage to West 's Sweet Baby Jesus , among others . " Andy Gill of The Independent found it to be a stand @-@ out track , " featuring assured vocal refrains from Frank Ocean , while the two rappers muse over familiar themes of loyalty , sexuality and maternal solidarity . " The track briefly charted on the South Korea Gaon International Chart for one week .

= = Promotion = =

The track was performed by West and Jay @-@ Z on their Watch the Throne tour . Ocean performed his hook of the song at some of the performances during his 2011 concert series through the US and Europe . The name was adopted for Jay @-@ Z 's first annual " Budweiser Made in America " festival at Fairmount Park in Philadelphia in September 2012 . Jay @-@ Z will be the curator and the headliner for the festival .