

7.2 Imperialism: Debates

Theme: America in the World

Learning Objective 7.B: Explain the similarities and differences in attitudes about the nation's proper role in the world.

Arguments for Imperialism

KC-7.3.1.A: Imperialists cited economic opportunities, racial theories, competition with European empires, and the perception in the 1890s that the western frontier was "closed" to argue that Americans were destined to expand their culture and institutions to peoples around the globe.

- Economic Opportunities
 - Sugar and fruit in _____
 - Queen Liliuokalani overthrown, attempt at annexation
 - Search for new consumers and markets in _____
- Racial Theories
 - Josiah Strong's _____, paternalistic view based on Social Darwinism
 - Rudyard Kipling's "_____"
- Competition with European Empires
 - Latin American countries with debt problems → _____ on Monroe Doctrine
 - Europe colonizing _____ continent
 - Need for better naval power, Alfred Thayer Mahan's _____
- Perception of "closed" frontier
 - Turner's "_____"

Anti-Imperialists

KC-7.3.1.B: Anti-imperialists cited principles of self-determination and invoked both racial theories and the U.S. foreign policy tradition of isolationism to argue that the United States should not extend its territory overseas.

- Self-determination
 - Elements in founding documents
- Racial Theories
 - Madison Grant's _____ argues that Nordic race would be diluted or extinct
 - Some anti-imperialists rejected these theories as basis for opposition
- Isolationism
 - George Washington's _____
 - Expensive to build up navy, defend conquered territory, possibility of war
- _____

- Notable members: William Jennings Bryan, Jane Addams, Mark Twain

Recap

- Imperialists wanted the US to be in a stronger economic and military position by expanding
- Anti-Imperialists wanted to follow old tradition of isolationism, often citing moral reasons
- Both used racial theories as arguments for and against imperialism

Part II

Short Answer Questions

Answer the following in AT LEAST three sentences.

1. Explain the similarities in attitudes about the nation's proper role in the world.

2. Explain the differences in attitudes about the nation's proper role in the world.

William McKinley on American Expansionism (1903)

Retrieved from: <http://www.americanyawp.com/reader/19-american-empire/william-mckinley-on-american-expansionism-1903/>

And one night late it came to me this way—I don't know how it was, but it came: (1) That we could not give them back to Spain—that would be cowardly and dishonorable; (2) that we could not turn them over to France and Germany—our commercial rivals in the Orient—that would be bad business and discreditable; (3) that we could not leave them to themselves—they were unfit for self-government—and they would soon have anarchy and misrule over there worse than Spain's was; and (4) that there was nothing left for us to do but to take them all, and to educate the Filipinos, and uplift and civilize and Christianize them, and by God's grace do the very best we could by them, as our fellow-men for whom Christ also died. And then I went to bed, and went to sleep, and slept soundly, and the next morning I sent for the chief engineer of the War Department (our map-maker), and I told him to put the Philippines on the map of the United States (pointing to a large map on the wall of his office), and there they are, and there they will stay while I am President!

1. Provide an Attribution for the document:
2. Use the document to support the thesis: "The position of Imperialists and Anti-Imperialists were vastly different in their goals of American expansion but shared some similarities in their rationale in the use of racial theories."
3. Choose one of the analysis topics from HAPP and provide a 2 sentence analysis of the document.
4. Give an A-C-E response on a piece of outside evidence that is relevant to the document and topic of the thesis

William James on "The Philippine Question" (1903)

Retrieved from: <http://www.americanvawp.com/reader/19-american-empire/william-james-on-the-philippine-question-1903/>

The country has once for all regurgitated the Declaration of Independence and the Farewell Address, and it won't swallow again immediately what it is so happy to have vomited up. It has come to a hiatus. It has deliberately pushed itself into the circle of international hatreds, and joined the common pack of wolves. It relishes the attitude. We have thrown off our swaddling clothes, it thinks, and attained our majority. We are objects of fear to other lands.

5. Provide an Attribution for the document:

6. Use the document to support the thesis: "The position of Imperialists and Anti-Imperialists were vastly different in their goals of American expansion but shared some similarities in their rationale in the use of racial theories."

7. Choose one of the analysis topics from HAPP and provide a 2 sentence analysis of the document.

8. Give an A-C-E response on a piece of outside evidence that is relevant to the document and topic of the thesis

Multiple Choice Practice

“Let me insist again . . . upon the fact that our duty is twofold, and that we must raise others while we are benefiting ourselves. In bringing order to the Philippines, our soldiers added a new page to the honor-roll of American history, and they incalculably benefited the islanders themselves. . . . [T]he islands now enjoy a peace and liberty of which they have hitherto never even dreamed. But this peace and liberty under the law must be supplemented by material, by industrial development. Every encouragement should be given to their commercial development, to the introduction of American industries and products: not merely because this will be a good thing for our people, but infinitely more because it will be of incalculable benefit to the people of the Philippines.

“We shall make mistakes; and if we let these mistakes frighten us from our work we shall show ourselves weaklings. . . . We committed plenty of blunders . . . in our dealings with the Indians. But who does not admit at the present day that we were right in wresting from barbarism and adding to civilization the territory out of which we have made these beautiful [United] States? And now we are civilizing the Indian and putting him on a level to which he could never have attained under the old conditions.

“. . . [W]e have always in the end come out victorious because we have refused to be daunted by blunders and defeats. . . . We gird [ourselves] as a nation, with the stern purpose to play our part manfully in winning the ultimate triumph; . . . and with unfaltering steps tread the rough road of endeavor.”

Theodore Roosevelt, “National Duties,” address given at the Minnesota State Fair, September 1901

The speech’s point of view can best be used to support which of the following historical arguments about the early 1900s?

- A. Most Americans believed that the United States should continue an isolationist foreign policy.
- B. Most Americans asserted that American Indians were unjustly harmed by federal policy toward them.
- C. Some Americans advocated economic development of overseas countries in order to justify imperialism.
- D. Some Americans appealed to racial theories in order to oppose efforts to acquire new territorial possessions.