

The Conflict over U.S. Imperialism 1876-1920

**Michelle Hubenschmidt, NBCT
Mulberry Senior High School**

Directions: The following question requires you to construct a coherent essay that integrates our interpretation of Documents A-H and your knowledge of the period referred to in the question. High scores will be earned only by essays that both cite key pieces of evidence from the documents and draw on outside knowledge of the period.

Compare and contrast the imperialist ideas of the United States from 1876 to WWI with the anti-imperialist ideas with respect to the following:

**Political
Social
Economic**

In your answer, use the documents and your knowledge of the period 1876-1920.

Document A

Source: Alfred Mahon, 1890

“Americans are ceasing to be fighting animals...becoming fattened cattle fit only for slaughter...Whether they will or no, Americans must now begin to look outwards....a strong navy is crucial...”

Document B

Source: On the Frontier, Frederick Jackson Turner, 1892

“American Democracy was born of no theorist’s dream. It was not caused by the Susan Constant to Virginia nor in the Mayflower to Plymouth. It came stark and strong and full of life out of the American Forest, and it gained new strength each time it touched a new frontier”

Document C

Source: William Randolph Hearst, 1896

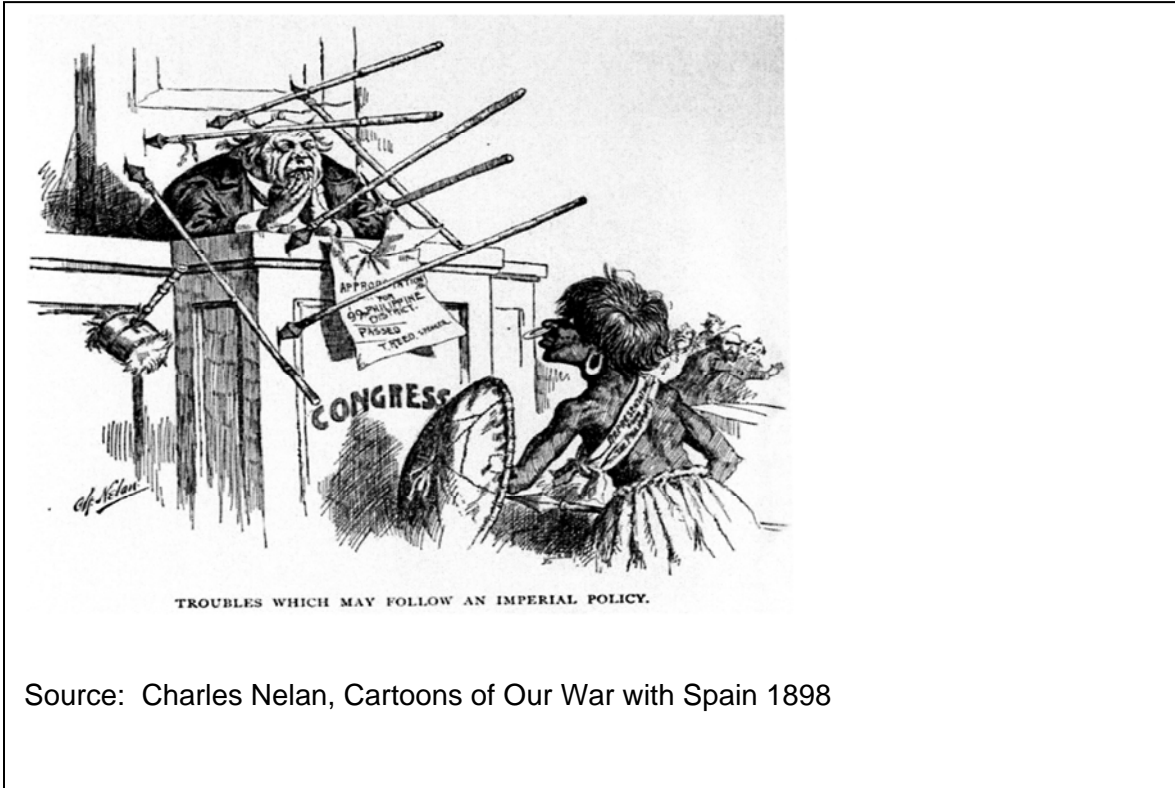
“You give me the pictures and I will give you the war”

Document D

Source: Teddy Roosevelt, American President, 1901-1908

“Speak softly and carry a big stick....there comes a time in the life of a nation, as in the life of an individual, when it must face great responsibilities whether it will or no....We have now reached that time. We cannot avoid facing the fact that we occupy a new place among the people of the world....Our flag is a proud flag, and it stands for liberty and civilization. Where it once floated there must be no return to tyranny.

Document E



Source: Charles Nelan, Cartoons of Our War with Spain 1898

Document F

Source: Platform of American Anti-Imperialist League, October 18, 1899

“We hold that the policy known as imperialism is hostile to liberty and tends towards, an evil from which it has been our glory to be free. We regret that it has become necessary in the land of Washington and Lincoln to reaffirm that all men of whatever race or color are entitled to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. We maintain that government derives their just powers from the consent of the governed. We insist that the subjugation of any people is “criminal aggression” and open disloyalty to the distinctive principles’ of our government”

Document G

Source: Albert J. Beveridge, Speech in the U.S. Senate, 1900

“God has not been preparing the English-Speaking and Teutonic peoples for a thousand years for nothing but vain and idle self admiration. No. He made us master organizers of the world to establish system where chaos reigned. He has given us the spirit of progress to overwhelm the forces of reaction throughout the earth. He has made us adept in government that we may administer government among savage and senile peoples. Were it not for such a force as this the world would relapse into barbarianism and night. And of all our race he has marked the American people as his chosen nation to finally lead the redemption of the world”

Document H

Source: Scribner’s Archives



Document I

Source: First Hand American



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Grading Rubric for Teachers
(Information and Analyses that Should Be in a Quality Essay)

Outside Information

Albert Beveridge
Yellow Peril
White man's burden
Xenophobia
Dawes Plan
Tariffs
Andrew Carnegie
Mark Twain
Palmer Raids
Eugene V. Debs
World War I
Red Scare
14 points
Woodrow Wilson
William H. Taft
Dollar Diplomacy
Banana Republics
Manifest Destiny
Teddy Roosevelt
Joseph Pulitzer
William R Hearst
"Remember the Maine"
Teller/Platt Amendment
Zimmerman Note
Delome Letter
Anti Imperialist League
Boxer Rebellion
Open Door Policy
John Hay
James G Blaine
Yellow Journalism
Jingoism
Frederick Jackson Turner
Alfred Mahan

Document Analysis

Document A –

Info

- Americans must look outwards
- Americans increasingly lazy, incompetent
- Strong navy needed

Document Inferences

- Look for foreign markets
- Look for lands to control
- Rise out of complacency
- Navy growth
- Paying for the navy

Document B

Info

- American character grew out of frontier
- Democracy grows with the frontier

Inferences

- Frontiers help democracy grow
- Loss of frontier equals loss of freedom
- Fear of stagnation
- Independence and individualism grow with the frontier
- Provides safety valve and new markets

Document C

Info

- Hearst command to photo journalist in Cuba
- Hearst has power

Inferences

- Hearst did not care much for truth
- Extension of New Manifest Destiny

Document D

Info

- Great nations have great responsibilities
- Flag has meaning
- Bring liberty and democracy

Inferences

- Justification for intervention

- Others do not have these things and need them

Document E

Info

- Congress attacked by aborigine
- People run in fear

Inferences

- Aboriginal groups not ready for democracy
- They will not appreciate interference
- They would attack America
- Americans ideals would suffer

Document F

Info

- Statement of goals and rationale of AIML
- Declaration of action

Inferences

- U.S. has strayed from Republican ideals
- Reaffirmation of American Constitutional principles

Document G

Info

- English//Teutonic superiority
- God given task
- Bring civilization to barbarians
- Americans are the chosen people
- Redeemer of the nation idea

Inferences

- Only Americans were fit for the job
- America was more pure
- Rest of the world was decadent, barbaric

Document H

Info

- Roosevelt holding "big stick"
- Roosevelt holding globe in his hand

Inferences

- As President, big stick deals with global issues
- Confidence in American power
- Willingness to confront if needed

Document I

Info

- U.S. Territories

- US Interventions

Inferences

US aggressive foreign policy

- US hegemony over Caribbean
- Roosevelt/Lodge Corollaries to Monroe Doctrine