

DBQ The Debate Over American Imperialism

Documents: Summarize each primary source in ONE sentence and pull out the MOST relevant quote from the document that supports your summary.

Document 1: The United States, the best nation in the world, would spread its influence around the world.

“... this race of unequaled energy, with all the majesty of numbers and the might of wealth behind it – the representatives ... of the largest liberty, the purest Christianity, the highest civilization ... will spread itself over the earth”

Document 2: It is best for the U.S. to expand its influence due to its growing industrial power.

“Americans must begin to look outward. The growing production of the country demands it. An increasing volume of public sentiment demands it”

Document 3: The Philippines would not be better off under another nation’s rule or under self-rule, and is best fit to be ruled by the United States.

“... one night late it came to me this way ... that we could not give them back to Spain ... turn them over to France or Germany ... leave them to themselves ... and that there was nothing left for us to do but to take them all”

Document 4: The Declaration of Independence discourages the ruling of other nations against their will.

“under the Declaration of Independence you cannot govern a foreign territory, a foreign people, another people than your own ... you cannot subjugate them and govern them against your will, because you think it is for their good, when they do not”

Document 5: Ruling the Philippines would help the American economy since they would have control over trade in the Pacific Ocean.

“the Pacific is the ocean of the commerce of the future.... The power that rules the Pacific ... is the power that rules the world”

Document 6: The annexing of the Philippines would help spread American ideals and would make the Filipinos happier.

“The taking of the Philippines does not violate the principles of the Declaration of Independence, but will spread them among a people who have never known liberty, and who in a few years will be unwilling to leave the shelter of the American flag”

Document 7: The Filipinos are ruled by the military and don't have representation in their government.

“We hold that the policy known as imperialism ... tends toward militarism.... We maintain that governments derive their just powers from the consent of the governed.... We hold, with Abraham Lincoln, that “no man is good enough to govern another man without that other's consent.”

Question: Was imperialism a proper and legitimate policy for the US to follow at the turn of the 19th century?

Find 3 pieces of evidence (can be quotes) in THREE different documents that answer the above question and type them below. **Make sure to CITE the Document # after each quote.**

1. “Americans must begin to look outward. The growing production of the country demands it. An increasing volume of public sentiment demands it.” (Document 2)
2. “And one night late it came to me this way ... that we could not leave them to themselves – they were unfit for self-government – and they would soon have anarchy and misrule there worse than Spain's was” (Document 3)
3. “The taking of the Philippines does not violate the principles of the Declaration of Independence, but will spread them among a people who have never known liberty, and who in a few years will be as unwilling to leave the shelter of the American flag as those of any other territory we ever brought beneath its folds.” (Document 6)

AWWWC THESIS: Create a strong defensible argument/claim answering the prompt (question) by following the model below. Thesis must be five sentences in length for full credit.

First Sentence A: Answer the prompt in one strong statement/claim.

2nd Sentence W: Evidence why the first sentence is true

3rd Sentence W: 2nd piece of evidence why the first sentence is true

4th Sentence W: 3rd piece of evidence why the first sentence is true

5th Sentence C: Conclude your arguments in one summary sentence

AWWWC Thesis:

Imperialism was a proper and legitimate policy for the US to follow at the turn of the 19th century. Imperialism was needed to support the growing production rates of the United States, and it was supported by the citizens. Leaving the Philippines as an independent nation would subject it to political corruption. Lastly, annexing the Philippines would spread American ideals and customs to the Filipino people. In conclusion, American Imperialism would benefit both the United States and the Philippines, since it would help the economy, avoid political corruption, and would make the Filipino people have more rights given by government.