

United States and Imperialism

- The United States emerged as a World Power following the war with Spain in 1898.

- Causes

- **Manifest Destiny**

- Strategic

- Alfred Thayer Mahan

- *Influence of Sea Power upon History*

- Argued for the construction of a first-class navy

- Economic

- Imperialism

- Cuba

- Domestic Economic Pressures

Imperialism

J.A. Hobson

- “The Spanish American War was an imperialist war and a natural product of the economic pressure of a sudden advance of capitalism which couldn’t find occupation at home and need foreign markets, for goods and investment”

National Association of Manufacturers (N.A.M.)

- 1895 formed
- President of N.A.M Warren Miller
 - “Many of our manufactures have outgrown or are outgrowing their home market and the expansion of our foreign trade is their only promise of relief”
 - “Wars to-day are for commerce. The killing of a missionary furnishes the excuse for opening up a market.”
- McKinley: (keynote speaker)
 - “The National Association of Manufacturers is the most powerful organization in the world”
 - We want our own markets for our manufactures and agricultural products; We want foreign markets for our own surplus products”

The Economic Necessities

- 1894 US out produced the world in manufacturing goods.
 - Growing productivity meant it need new markets
- Panic of the 1894 “Epidemic of overproduction”
 - Philadelphia and Reading Railroads failed
 - 500 banks closed
 - 15,000 business shut down
 - Unemployment up

- What was the source of the war?
- United States' Preoccupation with Cuba
- Political Control:
 - U.S. concerned over Spanish Control
 - No Transfer Policy
 - Monroe Doctrine

- John Quincy Adams (1823):

- It scarcely possible to resist the conviction that the annexation of Cuba to our federal republic will be indispensable to the continuance and integrity of the Union itself

- Thomas Jefferson (1823)

- Cuba's addition to our confederacy is exactly what is needed to round our power as a nation to the point of its utmost interest.

- James Buchanan (1848)

- Under our government, Cuba would be speedily Americanized as Louisiana has been.
 - Zachary Taylor
 - Offered \$100 million for Cuba, which Spain declined.
 - \$2 Billion in today's money

- No Transfer Policy Economically Rational

Cuba was the “Sugar Bowl”

- By the early 1890s they held nearly \$50 million worth of property on Cuba.
- 1850 imports and exports amounted to \$20,000,000
- 1880: \$76,000,000,
- 1894: \$105,000,000 \$2,200,000,000 in today's dollars

Cubans in the War

- Thirty Year Insurgency Against the Spanish
 - In 1895 the third major Cuban insurrection in thirty years erupted against the Spanish.
- In 1898, Cuban Rebellion
- Spain's response to this successful rebellion was fierce, brutal, although desperate.
- Cuba was increasingly becoming unstable
 - The sugar industry was in danger of faltering!

American Ambivalence for Empire

Cuban Libre .

- Senator Redfield Proctor’s Speech, “Little children are still walking about with arms and chest terribly emaciated, eyes swollen, and abdomen bloated to three times the natural size”

- The speech had an immediate and profound national impact; it especially moved the business community, religious organizations, general public sentiment, and legislators.

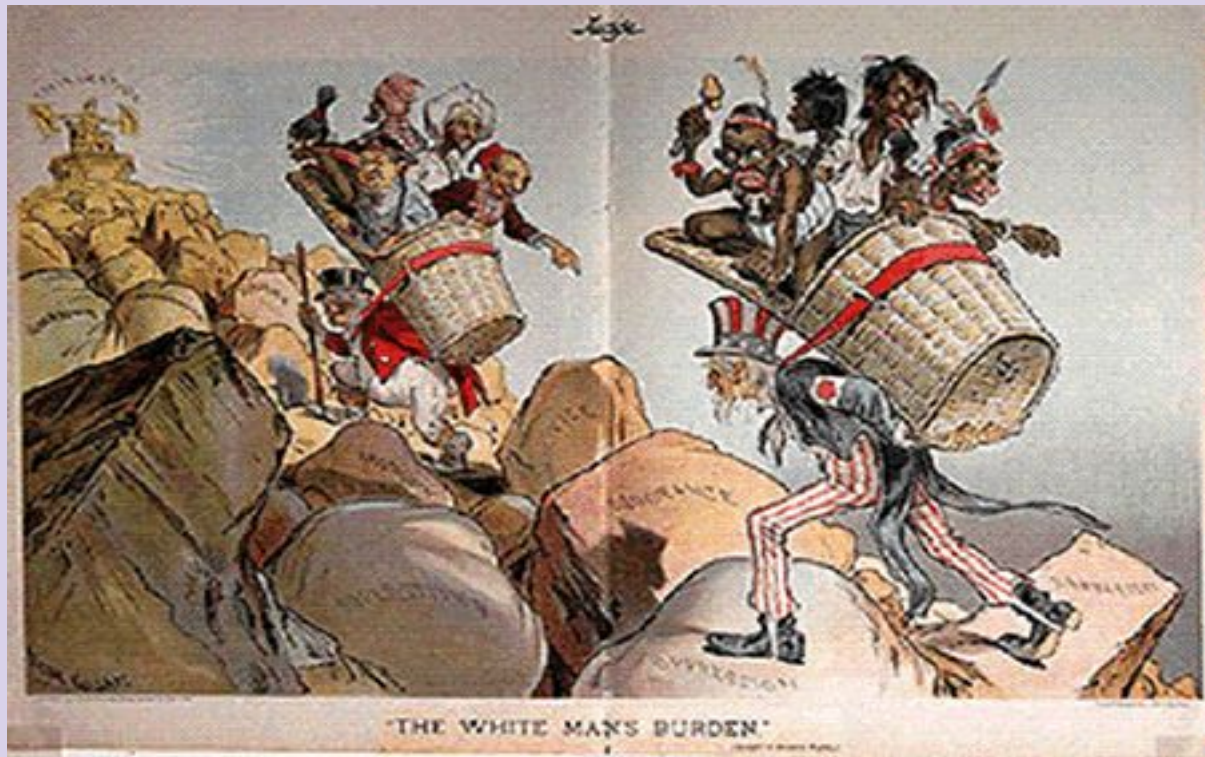
- “Our concern was not for territory or trade or empire, but for the people whose interests and destiny, without our willing it, had been put in our hands” President McKinley

- It is often pointed out how the humanitarian concern and the so called “yellow journalism” pressured the indecisive President McKinley into an “unwanted” war.



Cuban Independence

- Historian Luis A. Perez argues that the “anathema of all United States policy makers since Jefferson (was) the specter of Cuban independence.”
 - McKinley was particularly worried about Cuban independence and popular American support for such independence. Cuban independence could mean the loss of economic, strategic and political control of Cuba.
 - Perez concludes that what was been passed off as “yellow journalism” was “in fact highly charged and sensational support of the Cuban cause.”
 - **The support of Americans for Cuba’s independence was dangerous to policy makers interests.**
- Platt Amendment: US had a right to intervene Independent Cuba



THE DEBATE

IMPERIALIST v. ANTI-IMPERIALIST

	Imperialists Arguments
Senator Henry Cabot Lodge	After the United States restores order and peace in the Philippines, we shall establish a democratic government there. As a result, the Filipinos will be able to manage their own affairs.
Reverend Josiah Strong	God is speaking to America. His is telling us to bring these people the light of Christianity.
Senator Albert J. Beveridge	Acquiring the Philippines - making these fertile islands a part of our growing American civilization - why it's a once-in-a-lifetime economic opportunity! Are we cowards who hesitate when a door is there only waiting for us to open it? Are we so feeble we lack the strength?
Conrad Wilkins	Once we make the Philippines a part of American territory, the "door" to the entire Far East will be wide open to our vibrant, growing nation.
Admiral Alfred Thayer Mahan	Annexing the Philippines will further demonstrate to the world that America has become a first-rate military power that intends to live up to its world-wide responsibilities.
Robert Michelson	This moment in history demands that we Americans be both realistic and opportunistic. For if we do not act now to annex the Philippines -- islands that are rightfully ours -- some other world power assuredly will. And the result? American power in the Far East will fade.
Commodore George Dewey	It is not American's duty and destiny to look beyond our shores to new lands. American "destiny" no longer stops on our west coast.
Samuel S. McClure	We must take up "the white man's burden."

Anti-Imperialists Arguments

Carl Schurz

Americans should not interfere with the growth and development of the Philippine Islands people.

Father Roberto Sanchez:

What kind of God do you believe in? The Christian God Fr. Sanchez believes in does not sanction the brutal and inhumane work of zealous, misled imperialists who want to force a religious viewpoint on people by pointing rifles in their faces.

4. Robert Schwarz

Because of their greed, the imperialists have forsaken the American economic system in favor of the Philippine Islands, which they call a "coveted economic prize." In doing so they have dissolved their pact with American labor, renounced their faith in the American economy while promoting false hope in the economic potential of an island chain we know nothing about.

Edward Dangerfield

Proclaiming that the acquisition of the Philippines will "open a door" to the Far East is dangerous.

Morrison I. Swift:

What really increases a nation's trade? What really improves a nation's relationship with other nations? Is it guns and ships? No! The nation with the best merchants has the best trade and the best international relations.

Senator George Hoar

When imperialists express fears of losing America's present influence in the Far East, they are acting paranoid. Actually, their fears are groundless.

Gerald Woltzen

The words "duty and destiny" are emotional, vague words. They only have real meaning when they are clearly defined as recommending a specific course of action for Americans to follow.

**Samuel Clemens
AKA Mark Twain.**

The imperialists confuse the "white man's burden" with the burdens and responsibilities of all mankind toward one another.