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Part A — Mandatory



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After the Civil War, the United States began to prosper because of the second Industrial Revolution. With this domestic economic prosperity, ~~the~~ the urge to expand overseas spread amongst many Americans. During the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, foreign policy became an important debate amongst prominent Americans. While some Americans pushed forward for aggressive ~~foreign~~ foreign policy, others wanted the United States to not get involved in foreign affairs. Politicians, such as William McKinley and Theodore Roosevelt, believed that the prosperous United States should spread its good fortune to other states, such as the Philippines, Cuba and Puerto Rico. They believe imperialism was a good thing for the United States, while others, like William Jennings Bryan and Mark Twain condemned imperialism. They believed it violated American ideals, and that it did not fit with the nation's identity. Advocates argued that the United States served to civilize others, like an international policeman, while opposers argued that the United States should focus more on domestic problems and maintain its traditional identity.

~~The desire to expand overseas with economic prosperity was the~~
~~is evident~~

Imperialism became a problem during the Spanish American war. In essence, the war really did not need American intervention. Yellow journalism and the supposed attack on an American ship were ~~what~~ what led to American intervention. As soon as Americans intervened, the question about the future of these new colonies ~~was~~ arose. Some Americans wanted to fight the war to bring change at home. In particular, African Americans supported the war because they believed it would bring them civil rights (Doc 2). If they fought with white soldiers, if they

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risked their lives with white soldiers, then maybe they would be treated like white soldiers. This is what E. E. Cooper argued in *A Colored American*, and his thoughts pushed African Americans to advocate for war. Others advocated for war because they believed the new nations could prosper from American help. Theodore Roosevelt, an aggressive imperialist, criticized anyone who opposed annexation of the Philippines (Doc 5). Before becoming president, he advocated for the United States to "parent" over the Philippines. He ignored the opposition from the Filipinos, something opposers of imperialism would later point out. After becoming president, his views from 1899 were carried over to his foreign policy. He treated the United States as an international police, and advocated for his "Big Stick" policy. This includes his Roosevelt Corollary to the Monroe doctrine, which argued that the United States would and should intervene in Latin American affairs whenever its interests were threatened. Not everyone was happy with this. In fact, Rubén Darío, a Latin American poet, wrote a poem targeting Roosevelt and condemning his big stick policy. José Martí, another Latin American writer, wrote about Latin America coming together to stand up to the United States. Roosevelt, however, ignored them both and spread his ideas around.

Roosevelt was not the only president advocating imperialism. William McKinley did as well. For he was the president who annexed the ~~the~~ Philippines. He believed the Filipinos needed the Americans to help them become civilized, that the Filipinos

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could not govern themselves (Doc. 3). This idea was reflected in some senator's "March of the Flag" speech, which argued that the United States could annex these territories because ~~they~~ these territories weren't fit to govern themselves yet, that uncivilized people did not have the same rights as civilized people. ~~As time~~ As time passed by, the United States had more overseas colonies besides the Philippines, there was Cuba and Puerto Rico. The need for these colonies was advocated by Alfred Mahan a couple of years earlier. He believed that the United States should have colonies for its expanding navy. This navy would protect American interests, and it needed bases, or else it would be like a bird without wings. These bases would be colonies.

Other Americans, ~~however~~ however, were strictly opposed to imperialism. They did not view the U.S. as some international police, and most of them stuck to the ideas expressed in George Washington's Farewell address. They opposed ventures like the Panama Canal, and ventures like the United Fruit Co. They opposed the Spanish-American War, and they opposed the idea of the United States becoming an empire. One scholar, William Graham Sumner, was strictly opposed to the Spanish American War. He believed that the United States was following Spain's footsteps and that the U.S. would eventually lose these territories in the same way Spain did (Doc. 2). Sumner was more worried about problems at home, not the future of other peoples. He believed these colonies would be a problem. Other opposers believed imperialism caused problems at home. Jane Addams believed advocating

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imperialism was advocating militarism. Within time, ~~after~~ Americans viewed the Spanish-American War as a good thing, but Addams argued that it caused issues at home (DDC, 4). People ~~was~~ openly hated Spaniards and advocated killing them. For Addams, this wasn't what America stood for. Becoming an empire was not the democratic thing to do. How could a just republic be an empire? Presidential candidate William Jennings Bryan argued this idea ~~was~~ in his campaign (DDC, 6). He believed the government could not represent the desires of citizens and ~~was~~ foreigners (from the annexations) equally. The colonies would hurt America's reputation and they would cause problems. Racism was a huge problem at the time, and there was no way that Americans would get along with more races, such as Filipinos and view them equally. It would bring humiliation. Opposers of imperialism ~~new~~ ^{believed} this wasn't the American way. To some, it may have looked like the United States spread the wings of liberty abroad, but some knew that this was not the case (DDC, 7). Mark Twain, for example, frequently opposed annexation of the Philippines for he ~~was~~ knew the U.S. had no right to decide the lifestyles for other peoples. The U.S. was abusing the Philippines at the time, with methods like the water cure. Opposers argued that this wasn't liberty, it wasn't democracy, rather it was an empire that didn't represent the ideals set by the forefathers of the United States.

All these conflicting views arose because some Americans grew greedy and they believed that the United States

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Should protect its interests. They viewed the U.S. as a nation that needed to supervise "lesser" nations. Opposers argued that this wasn't the case. They believed that if the U.S. were prospering, then that it should prosper at home, not get involved in foreign affairs. In the end, it all came down to views of national identity.

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Starting in the late 19th Century, American views on foreign policy began to undergo a radical change. Since George Washington's farewell address in the late 18th Century, Americans had favoured an isolationist, non-interventionist approach to foreign affairs. However, by catering to Spanish America War in the 1890s, the United States largely gave up ~~the~~ these long-held beliefs in favour of a desire to control — and, at least nominally, to better — the people in the colonies it acquired as a result of that war. Although the overwhelming views of that era held that expansion was right and proper, views began to change in the early 20th Century to favour a return to the old ways.

There were a great many viewpoints on expansion in this period, but ~~almost~~ ^{most} of them supported expansion. The most force advocates for it were the political leadership of the Republican party. Even before the Spanish-American War, the Republicans had shown this tendency, through their annexation of Hawaii's under President William McKinley (OE). After the war, it was the Republican leadership when ~~congress~~ called for the United States to keep its new colonies as opposed to freeing them. President McKinley himself led the charge for this movement, making the crucial decisions to keep Guam, Puerto Rico, Cuba and the Philippines (3). When McKinley was assassinated by an anarchist in 1901, Theodore Roosevelt became perhaps an even more vocal supporter of expansion. He argued in no uncertain terms that the Filipino people were unfit for democracy, and that ~~any~~ anyone who disagreed was weak-willed (5). ~~The~~ ~~McKinley~~ expanded this philosophy by staging a rebellion in the Colombian Province of Panama in the early 20th Century to gain land for a transcontinental canal, and symbolically broke with Washington by becoming the first sitting President to visit a foreign country after he went to clean-up on the canal work (OE). There were ~~some~~ ^{even} some social activists who felt that conquest would bring continental American Civil War together (1). There were also, however, a few detractors. The social reformer Jane Addams, better known for

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Opinion was ~~of~~ ^{shifted} many times since then, reflecting an ever-changing world view for Americans, that helped to keep the worst excesses of empire hard to discuss. In addition, the Swift represents a constantly-changing definition of America's place in the world.

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The Spanish American war brought about a slew of questions in the United States. ~~At the~~ The nation was torn between whether it was a spreader of goodwill, or an imperialist like Spain. The overseas expansion of the United States cause controversy because government officials felt it necessary and good to expand, while the people saw no benefit to these imperialist campaigns. As a nation we wanted to seem good and just, spreading liberty and democracy; however, we also wanted to compete with imperialist powers such as Spain.

Government officials saw it necessary to conquer "inferior" nations so that the US could civilize them with the ideas of liberty and freedom. This is seen most clearly in the case of the Philippines, which we conquered from Spain during the Spanish American war. William McKinley explained that ~~the~~ keeping the Philippines would be the only option after the war, he believed them unfit to govern themselves. (23) There was still a great racial prejudice in the United States, and the leaders of the nation believed the Filipinos to be inferior savages. This is also reflected by McKinley's successor, Theodore Roosevelt. He believed that the Filipinos may in time be able to govern themselves, but at the moment they needed firm guidance from the U.S. (2009) He called all those who opposed the plan cowards, because he believed the US should civilize the Philippines.

~~The~~ Some people in the US believed the war had done more harm than good in the US. They believed the war bred barbarism and that expansion would lead to an overreach of the United States' ambitions. Jane Addams

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believed that the Spanish American war was barbarism in the streets of the country, (Doc 4). She believed that the war and the subsequent expansion was causing everyone to behave atrociously and brutally. As a social reformer, she would have wanted to change this. ~~The~~ Puck magazine held the view that the war was causing the US to overreach. In an issue published in 1904, the cover was an eagle stretching its wings far over the Pacific to the Philippines, and stating "See, but this is an awful stretch!" ~~As~~ (Doc 7). As a satirical magazine, their goal would be to criticize the US for expanding so far out of its reach.

This view was also held by many who believed the US was starting to lose Imperialist ambitions. William Graham Sumner believed that the US was using the guise of democracy & liberty so that it could be imperialistic. (Doc 2). He believed that the US's claims that the ~~Spanish~~ Philippines was not fit for self governance was ~~the same as~~ a play that made US no better than the Spanish. William Jennings Bryan also mentioned that the US was trying to be Imperialistic. He stated a country cannot be an empire and a republic because a republic requires consent of the governed, something an empire does not give. (Doc 6) As someone running for president, he would promise to the people that he would end the new Imperialist policies of the US, and focus

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of the country itself.

Which time supports the country believed
Colonization of the Philippines was the United States' duty.
Those living in the U.S. believed that there was no benefit
to this clearly imperialist campaign.