

AMERICAN IMPERIALISM
DOCUMENT BASED QUESTION

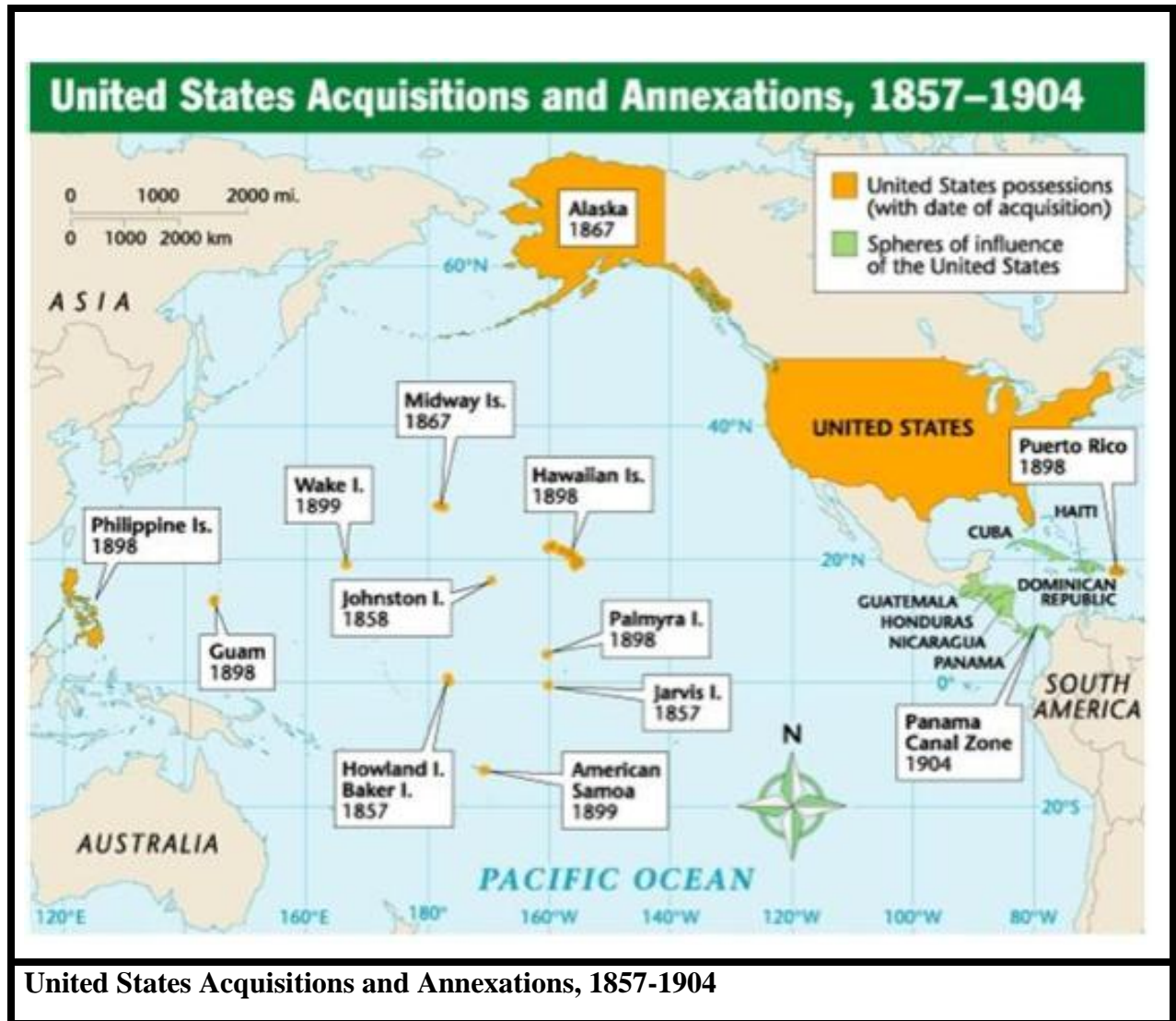
TOPIC	American Imperialism DBQ	STANDARD	11.4.1
QUESTION	What role did imperialism play in American foreign policy in the late 19th and early 20th century?		
BACKGROUND	In the late 1880s to early 1900s the United States began to look over seas to expand their territorial control for political, military, and economic gain.		

DOCUMENT 1

"general loosening of the ties of civilized society may in America, as elsewhere, ultimately require intervention by some civilized nation, and in the Western Hemisphere the adherence of the United States to the Monroe Doctrine may force the United States, however reluctantly, in flagrant cases of such wrongdoing or impotence, to the exercise of an international police power"

The Roosevelt Corollary to the Monroe Doctrine, 1904.

DOCUMENT 2



United States Acquisitions and Annexations, 1857-1904

DOCUMENT 3

"Article I: The Government of Cuba shall never enter into any treaty or other compact with any foreign powers which will impair or tend to impair the independence of Cuba, nor in any manner authorize or permit any foreign power or powers to obtain by colonization or for military or naval purposes, or otherwise, lodgment in or control over any portion of said island. ...

"Article III: The Government of Cuba consents that the United States may exercise the right to intervene for the preservation of Cuban independence, the maintenance of a government adequate for the protection of life, property, and individual liberty, and for discharging the obligations with respect to Cuba imposed by the Treaty of Paris on the United States, now to be assumed and undertaken by the Government of Cuba...

"Article VII: To enable the United States to maintain the independence of Cuba, and to protect the people thereof, as well as for its own defense, the Government of Cuba will sell or lease to the United States lands necessary for coaling or naval stations, at certain specified points, to be agreed upon with the President of the United States."

The Platt Amendment, 1903.

DOCUMENT 4

"First. Will in no way interfere with any treaty port or any vested interest within any so-called "sphere of interest" or leased territory it may have in China.

"Second. That the Chinese treaty tariff of the time being shall apply to all merchandise landed or shipped to all such ports as are within said "sphere of interest" (unless they be "free ports"), no matter to what nationality it may belong, and that duties so leviable shall be collected by the Chinese Government.

"Third. That it will levy no higher harbor dues on vessels of another nationality frequenting any port in such "sphere" than shall be levied on vessels of its own nationality, and no higher railroad charges over lines built, controlled, or operated within its "sphere" on merchandise belonging to citizens or subjects of other nationalities transported through such "sphere" than shall be levied on similar merchandise belonging to its own nationals transported over equal distances." ...

First Open Door Note, Department of State, Washington, September 6, 1899.

DOCUMENT 5

"...We earnestly condemn the policies of the present National Administration in the Philippines...We denounce the slaughter of the Filipinos as a needless horror. We protest against the extension of American Sovereignty by Spanish methods.

"We demand the immediate cessation of the war against liberty, begun by Spain and continues by us. We urge that congress be promptly convened to announce to the Filipinos our purpose to concede to them the independence for which they have so long fought and which is right of theirs.

"The United States have always protested against the doctrine of international law which permits the subjugation of the weak by the strong. A self-governing state cannot accept sovereignty over an unwilling people. The United States cannot act upon the ancient heresy that might makes right...When the white man governs himself, that is self-government, but when he governs himself and also governs another man, that is more than self-government -- that is despotism."

The Anti-Imperialist League, 1899.

DOCUMENT 6



Uncle Sam: "By Gum, I Rather Like Your Looks"
(Denver Rocky Mountain News, 1900.)

"Uncle Sam Wished to Add Another Star to His Flag"

Denver Rocky Mountain News, 1900

DOCUMENT 7

"Take up the White Man's burden--
Send forth the best ye breed--

Go, bind your sons to exile
To Serve your captive's need;

To wait, in heavy harness,
On fluttered folk and wild--

Your new-caught sullen peoples,
Half devil and half child...

"...Take up the White Man's burden,
And reap his old reward--

The blame of those ye better
The hate of those ye guard --

The cry of those ye humor
(Ah, slowly!) toward the light:--

"Why brought ye us from bondage,
Our loved Egyptian night?"...

"...Take up the White Man's burden!
Have done with childish days--

The lightly-profered laurel,
The easy ungrudged praise:

Comes now, to search your manhood
Through all the thankless years,

Cold, edged, with dear-brought wisdom,
The judgment of your peers."

The White Man's Burden; McClure's Magazine, February, 1899.

DOCUMENT 8

“I, Liliuokalani, ... do hereby solemnly protest against any and all acts done against myself and the constitutional government of the Hawaiian Kingdom. ... Now, to avoid any collusion of armed forces and perhaps the loss of life, i do under this protest... yield my authority until such time as the Government of the United States shall...undo the action of its representatives and reinstate me in the authority which I claim as the constitutional sovereign of the Hawaiian Islands.”

Queen Liliuokalani, *Those Kings and Queens of Old Hawaii*