

## DBQ – Imperialism

Source: Princeton Review

**Directions:** Question 1 is based on the accompanying documents. The documents have been edited for the purpose of this exercise. You are advised to spend 15 minutes planning and 45 minutes writing your answer.

Write your response on the lined pages that follow the questions. In your response you should do the following:

- State a relevant thesis that directly answers all parts of the question.
- Support the thesis or relevant argument with evidence from all, or all but one of the documents.
- Incorporate analysis of all, or all but one, of the documents into your argument.
- Focus your analysis of each document on at least one of the following: intended audience, purpose, historical context, and/or point of view.
- Support your argument with analysis of historical examples outside the documents.
- Connect historical phenomena relevant to your argument to broader events or processes.
- Synthesize the elements above into a persuasive essay.

I. Describe the growth of an imperialistic U.S. foreign policy during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Explain the roots of this policy as well as the arguments of those who opposed it.

### Document 1

Source: Charles Francis Adams, Jr., historian and great-grandson of John Adams, in a letter to Hon. Carl Schurz (December 21, 1898)

In 1862, when the United States was involved in the War of the Rebellion, the Europeans took advantage of the situation to invade Mexico, and to establish there a "stable government." They undertook to protect that people against themselves, and to erect for them a species of protectorate, such as we now propose for the Philippines. As soon as our war was over, we insisted upon the withdrawal of Europe from Mexico. What followed is matter of recent history. It is unnecessary to re-call it. We did not reduce Mexico into a condition of "tutelage," or establish over it a "protectorate" of our own. We, on the contrary, insisted that it should stand on its own legs; and, by so doing, learn to stand firmly on them, just as a child learns to walk, by being compelled to try to walk, not by being kept everlastingly in "leading strings." This was the American, as contradistinguished from the European policy; and Mexico to-day walks firmly.

Finally take the case of Venezuela in 1895. I believe I am not mistaken when I say that, during the twenty-five preceding years, Venezuela had undergone almost as many revolutions. It certainly had not enjoyed a stable government. Through disputes over questions of boundary, Great Britain proposed to confer that indisputable blessing upon a considerable region. We interfered under a most questionable extension of the Monroe Doctrine, and asserted the principle of "Hands-off." Having done this—having in so far perpetuated what we now call the scandal of anarchy—we did not establish "tutelage," or a protectorate, ourselves. We wisely left Venezuela to work out its destiny in its own way, and in the fullness of time. That policy was far-seeing, beneficent, and strictly American in 1895. Why, then, make almost indecent haste to abandon it in 1898?

Instead, therefore, of finding our precedents in the experience of England, or that of any other European power, I would suggest that the true course for this country now to pursue is exactly the course we have heretofore pursued under similar conditions. Let us be true to our own traditions, and follow our own precedents. Having relieved the Spanish islands from the dominion of Spain, we should declare concerning them a policy of "Hands-off," both on our own part and on the part of other powers. We should say that the independence of those islands is morally guaranteed by us as a consequence of the treaty of Paris, and then leave them....

### Document 2

Source: Vladimir Lenin, Imperialism: *The Last Stage of Capitalism*, 1917

In the United States, the imperialist war waged against Spain in 1898 stirred up the opposition of the "anti-imperialists," the last of the Mohicans of bourgeois democracy. They declared this war to be "criminal"; denounced the annexation of foreign territories as being a violation of the constitution, and they denounced the "jingo treachery" by means of which Aguinaldo, leader of the rebel native Filipinos, was deceived (first the Americans promised him the independence of his country; then they landed troops and annexed it). They quoted the words of Lincoln: "It is self-government when the white man governs himself; but when he governs himself and also governs others, it is no longer self-government, it is despotism." But all this criticism shrank from recognizing the indissoluble bond between imperialism and the trusts, and, therefore, between imperialism and the very foundations of capitalism....

### Document 3

Source: Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo (1848)

#### Article IV

Immediately after the exchange of ratifications of the present treaty all castles, forts, territories, places, and possessions, which have been taken or occupied by the forces of the United States during the present war, within the limits of the Mexican Republic, as about to be established by the following article, shall be definitely restored to the said Republic, together with all the artillery, arms, apparatus of war, munitions, and other public property, which were in the said castles and forts when captured, and which shall remain there at the time when this treaty shall be duly ratified by the Government of the Mexican Republic....

The final evacuation of the territory of the Mexican Republic, by the forces of the United States, shall be completed in three months from the said exchange of ratifications, or sooner if possible; the Mexican Government hereby engaging, as in the foregoing article to use all means in its power for facilitating such evacuation, and rendering it convenient to the troops, and for promoting a good understanding between them and the inhabitants.

#### Article XI

It shall not be lawful, under any pretext whatever, for any inhabitant of the United States to purchase or acquire any Mexican, or any foreigner residing in Mexico, who may have been captured by Indians inhabiting the territory of either of the two republics; nor to purchase or acquire horses, mules, cattle, or property of any kind, stolen within Mexican territory by such Indians.

#### Article XII

In consideration of the extension acquired by the boundaries of the United States, as defined in the fifth article of the present treaty, the Government of the United States engages to pay to that of the Mexican Republic the sum of fifteen millions of dollars....

## Document 4

Source: Political Cartoon from the *Chicago Tribune* by John T. McCutcheon (1914)



## Document 5

Source: *Industrial Liberty: Our Duty to Rescue the People of Cuba, Porto Rico, and the Philippine Islands from The Greatest of All Evils – Poverty* by Charles E. Buell, Secretary, U.S. Special Commission to Porto Rico (1900)

The Philippine Islands are west of the United States, and near the southern coast of Asia, they are in longitude 120 degrees and 130 degrees and latitude 5 and 20, and are about 6,300 miles from San Francisco, and 600 miles from Hong Kong, China.

The Island of Luzon, on which the capital city, Manila, is located, is about the size of New York State, Mindanao is nearly as large, and the next largest islands are Samar, Panay, Mindoro, Leyet, Negros, and Cebu. These are among the best known ....

The published statements of W.B. Wilcox, Paymaster, U.S. Navy, and Ensign L.R. Sargent, U.S. Navy, who, in 1898, made a visit to the most distant districts of the [I]sland of Luzon, are highly commendable to the character and ability of the natives whom they met and associated with.

They were cordial and honorable in their treatment of our men at that time, and these people were found to be comfortably situated, and enjoying life since the departure of the Spaniards. They are an intelligent and a polite people; ambitious to improve their condition every way. They are patriotic and high-minded, as described by these officers, and while they may have since entertained a mistaken idea regarding our intentions towards them, and given us battle, they are capable of being won over to a brotherly regard for our people.

With proper care and direction, these people will become happy, and a strength to our nation. There should be no desire to, in the least, encroach upon their property....



## Document 6

Source: U.S. Census Bureau (1940)

**TABLE 1.—POPULATION OF THE UNITED STATES AND ITS TERRITORIES AND POSSESSIONS: 1940, 1930, AND 1920**

AREA	Gross area (land and water) in square miles, 1940	POPULATION		
		1940	1930	1920
United States and all territories and possessions.....	3, 735, 223	150, 621, 231	1138, 439, 069	1118, 107, 150
Continental United States.....	3, 022, 387	131, 669, 275	122, 775, 046	105, 710, 620
Territories and possessions, exclusive of the Philippines.....	597, 236	2, 477, 023	2, 061, 570	1, 680, 292
Alaska.....	586, 400	<sup>3</sup> 72, 524	<sup>3</sup> 59, 278	55, 036
American Samoa.....	76	12, 908	10, 055	8, 056
Guam.....	206	22, 290	18, 509	13, 275
Hawaii <sup>4</sup> .....	6, 433	423, 330	368, 330	255, 912
Panama Canal Zone.....	553	51, 827	39, 407	22, 858
Puerto Rico.....	3, 435	1, 869, 255	1, 543, 913	1, 299, 809
Virgin Islands of the United States.....	133	24, 889	22, 012	<sup>1</sup> 25, 346
The Philippines.....	115, 600	<sup>1</sup> 10, 356, 000	<sup>1</sup> 13, 513, 000	<sup>1</sup> 10, 599, 000
Military and naval services, etc., abroad.....		118, 933	80, 453	117, 235

## Document 7

Source: Political cartoon by Victor Gilliam (1899)

