**DBQ American Imperialism Essay**

Answer the questions on your DBQ in a separate piece of paper to hand in as homework on **Friday, February 23, 2018**. Work your essay on a separate document. The essay question is designed to test your ability to work with the historical documents and to demonstrate your knowledge of the subject matter being presented. As you analyze the documents, take into account both the source of the document and the author’s point of view. Write a well-organized essay that includes your analysis of the documents. Use as many as you can in your essay. You should include **specific historical details** and you must discuss documents not provided in the question but studied or mentioned in class. The essay has to be e mailed by **Monday February 26, 2018** to mrsruthie@yahoo.com. I will have plenty of time during the trip to enjoy reading your essays.

**Historical Context:**

Late 19th-century and early 20th-century expansionism by the United States was seen by many as a continuation of earlier 19th-century Manifest Destiny. The final decades of the nineteenth century saw a mad scramble as the powerful, and aspiring powerful, nations of the world attempted to gain control of areas in Asia, Africa, the Middle East and elsewhere in order to build and consolidate their empires. This outbreak of colonialism found its origins in the industrial nations securing raw materials for their factories and captive markets for their manufactured goods. Often the colonies would be sought for military reasons. The coal-fired navies of these nations required bases from which they could easily refuel. The strategic location of these bases around the globe meant that they could protect their far-flung empires more easily. Just the act of possessing colonies became a source of bragging rights for nations who were seeing a rise in nationalism at home. Obtaining and controlling vast colonial empires was a source of pride. The British claimed, with great pride, that “the sun never sets on Great Britain.” Ironically, this period was soon to be followed by a rise in nationalism among these same colonial peoples.

During most of the 1800s, the United States ignored much of this activity and it was fought out almost entirely by European nations. We were busy conquering our own continent and spreading across the Great Plains to California and the Pacific Ocean. Colonial expansion held little interest until our own sense of nationalism began to be awakened in the late 1890s.

The period 1875-1920 has been described by some historians as a period of “selfless altruism” during which the United States defended weaker nations against aggrandizement by rapacious European powers and spread the “blessings of democracy and civilization.” Others have described the “New Manifest Destiny” as a time of “ruthless American expansion” at the expense of weaker nations and in violation of our own most sacred principles of consent of the governed and popular sovereignty.

Ironically, our interest in colonial empire grew out of a desire to champion anti-colonialism and an interest in helping Cuba free itself from Spanish colonial rule. It ended with the United States in the possession of a colonial empire herself. The Spanish-American War, over quickly with few casualties, gained Guam, Puerto Rico and the Philippines. But from the war’s end in August 1898 until the Senate ratified the Treaty of Paris in February 1899 annexing these lands, a debate raged over whether or not a nation born in revolt against colonialism should itself become a ruler of colonies. This debate did not end with the ratification of the treaty but became even more impassioned when the Filipinos took up arms against American colonial occupation troops beginning two years of bloody struggle. As is often the case, this domestic quarrel over imperialism became a major political issue influencing the presidential election of 1900.

Was imperialism a proper and legitimate policy for the United States to follow at the end of the 19th Century and beginning of the 20th Century? Late 19th-century and early 20th-century expansionism by the United States was seen by many as a continuation of earlier 19th-century Manifest Destiny. Using the issues identified in the documents and your own research discuss why this is or is not an accurate statement.
DOCUMENT 1

“Our Manifest Destiny is to overspread the continent allotted by Providence for the free development of our yearly multiplying millions.”

- John L. Sullivan, Democratic Review (1845)

1. Which continent is being referred to by John L. Sullivan?

DOCUMENT 2

“Go West, young man, grow up with the country.”

- Horace Greeley, New York Tribune (1850)

2. The opinion of John L. Sullivan (see Document 1) and the advice of Horace Greeley in Document 2 both supported westward expansion and settlement by Americans. Which groups of North American inhabitants would have been likely to object to the positions of both of these men? Explain.

DOCUMENT 3

“We make treaties – that is we pledge our faith – and then leave swindlers and knaves of all kinds to execute them. We maintain and breed pauper colonies. The savages, who know us, and who know us, and who will neither be pauperized nor trust our word, we pursue, and slay if we can, at an incredible expense….The fact is that these Indians, with whom we have made a solemn treaty that their territory shall not be invaded, and that they should receive supplies on their reservations, have seen from one thousand to fifteen hundred miners during the present season entering and occupying their territory…..”

- Harper’s Weekly, August 5, 1876

3. How does the author of the article in Harper’s Weekly view the treaties made by the United States government with the various Native American populations? How does he view the treatment they receive?

DOCUMENT 4

“The Philippines are ours forever….And just beyond the Philippines are China’s….markets. We will not retreat from either….We will not abandon our opportunity in the Orient. We will not renounce our part in the mission of our race….under God, of the civilization of the world….And we will move forward to our work….with gratitude….and thanksgiving to Almighty God that He has marked us his chosen people.”

-Senator Albert Beveridge, Speech to 56th Congress Congressional Record (1900)
4. What is the “work” that Senator Beveridge believes the United States must move forward with the Orient?

5. What occurrence had taken place that would lead Senator Beveridge to state in 1900 that the “Philippines are ours forever?”

DOCUMENT 5

“Our interests and those of our southern neighbors are in reality identical. They have great natural riches, and if within their borders the reign of law and justice obtains, prosperity is sure to come to them....We would interfere with them only if it became evident that their inability or unwillingness to do justice at home and abroad had violated the rights of the United States or had invited foreign aggression to the detriment of the entire body of American nations.”

- President Theodore Roosevelt, Message to Congress, December 6, 1904

6. The segment above is often referred to as the Roosevelt Corollary to the Monroe Doctrine. What geographic area is being referred to by President Roosevelt?

7. What are President Roosevelt’s opinions regarding United States intervention in the “southern neighbors?”

DOCUMENT 6

8. Who is the President portrayed in the cartoon?

9. What Western African saying does the president use to portrait his imperialistic approach to foreign countries?

10. The big stick in the cartoon is labeled “The New Diplomacy.” What were the new diplomatic policies that were proposed by the President portrayed in the cartoon?

DOCUMENT 7
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Old Manifest Destiny</th>
<th>New Manifest Destiny</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Promoted primarily by agricultural interests</td>
<td>Promoted primarily by industrial interests</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goal was acquisition of:</td>
<td>Goal was acquisition of:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- New Territories</td>
<td>- Raw materials</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- New lands for settlement and farming</td>
<td>- Markets for surplus goods</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Access to coaling stations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>and bases for navy and merchant ships</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expansion in North America</td>
<td>Expansion outside North America</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Often influenced by sectional concerns</td>
<td>Usually influenced by patriotic and nationalist concerns</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Racial issues often discouraged expansion (the fear of racial mixing)</td>
<td>Racial issues often encouraged expansion (the “White Man’s burden”)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

11. How was foreign policy influenced by the New Manifest Destiny?

**DOCUMENT 8**

12. What issues in document 3 can be interpreted in the following cartoon? Why?
“Please capture our town next” The cartoon above refers to an event in the Spanish American War on an island eager to succumb to the United States.

13. What is the name of the island? How is the message of the cartoon represented in the drawing?

14. Explain how the conditions as Americans of the islanders changed according to the Foraker Act and the Jones Act.

DOCUMENT 10

Henry Cabot Lodge, a Republican senator from Massachusetts, supported imperialism. This is a speech made by Lodge in 1900 in support of the policy of imperialism.

...we are in the Philippines as righteously [honorably] as we are there rightly and legally.
...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.

15. Who do you think he means when he compares the Filipinos to others “who in a few years will be...unwilling to leave the shelter of the American flag?”

DOCUMENT 11

“Non-European powers, like Japan, would be excluded from owning territory in the Western Hemisphere…”

- Lodge Corollary to the Monroe Doctrine: 1912

16. What actions by Japan in the 1900’s responded to Senator Henry Cabot Lodge, Sr. establishing his corollary to the Monroe Doctrine?

17. Mention and explain two agreements signed between Japan and the United States in the early 1900’s.
18. What is this photograph about? What ocean is the fleet navigating? What was the purpose of establishing this American fleet?

**DOCUMENT 13**

The prospect of the United States becoming an imperialistic nation galvanized a strong opposition, and many opponents rallied around the newly created Anti-Imperialist League. The following are some excerpts from the Anti-Imperialist League’s platform which was adopted during the 1900 presidential campaign.

*We hold that the policy known as imperialism is hostile to liberty and tends toward militarism, an evil from which it has been our glory to be free. We regret that it has become necessary, in the land of Washington and Lincoln to reaffirm that all men, of whatever race or color, are entitled to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. We maintain that governments derive their just powers from the consent of the governed. We insist that the subjugation of any people is “criminal aggression.”...We hold, with Abraham Lincoln, that “no man is good enough to govern another man without that other’s consent.”*

19. What are they referencing when they say that all men “are entitled to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness?”

20. From where does the phrase that “governments derive their just powers from the consent of the governed” come?

**Essay**

Your essay should be well organized with an introductory paragraph that states your position on the question in a sophisticated thesis. Develop your position in the next three paragraphs and then write a conclusion. You must analyze and use as many documents as you can, include additional information from other documents and convince and proof with your arguments your position.

*Was imperialism a proper and legitimate policy for the United States to follow at the end of the 19th Century and beginning of the 20th Century? Late 19th-century and early 20th-century expansionism by the United States was seen by many as a continuation of earlier 19th-century Manifest Destiny. Using the issues identified in the documents and your own research discuss why this is or is not an accurate statement.*