

Imperialism And America Worksheet Answers

Name _____ Class _____ Date _____

America Claims an Empire

Section 1

Imperialism and America

Terms and Names

Queen Liliuokalani: The Hawaiian queen who was forced out of power by a revolution started by American business interests.

Imperialism: The practice of strong countries taking economic, political, and military power over weaker countries.

Alfred T. Mahan: American imperialist and admiral who urged the United States to build up its navy and take colonies overseas.

William Brewster: Secretary of state under Presidents Lincoln and Johnson.

Pearl Harbor: Naval port in Hawaii.

Sanford D. Dole: American businessman who became president of the new government of Hawaii after the queen was pushed out.

Before You Read

In the last section, you read about Woodrow Wilson. In this section, you will learn how economic activity led to political and military involvement overseas.

As You Read

Use a diagram to take notes on the causes of U.S. imperialism.

AMERICAN EXPANSIONISM
(Pages 382–384)

Why did Americans support imperialism?

In 1893, Queen Liliuokalani of Hawaii gave up her throne. Hawaii was about to be taken over by the United States.

By the 1880s, many American leaders thought the United States should establish colonies overseas. This idea was called **imperialism**—the policy in which stronger nations extend economic, political or military control over weaker territories. European countries had competed for territory all over the world. Most Americans gradually accepted the idea of overseas expansion.

Three factors fueled American imperialism: desire for military strength,

desire for new markets, and a belief in the superiority of American culture.

Admiral Alfred T. Mahan of the U.S. Navy supported growing American naval power so the U.S. could compete with other nations. The U.S. built such modern battleships as the *Maine* and the *Oregon*. The new ships made the U.S. the world's largest naval power.

By the late 1890s, technology had changed American farms and factories. They produced more than Americans could consume. So the U.S. needed foreign trade. American businesses needed markets for their products and raw materials for their factories.

The third root of American imperialism was a belief that the people of the United States were better than the people of other

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Guided Reading Worksheet

Imperialism and America Worksheet Answers provide a crucial lens through which we can examine the complex historical relationship between the United States and its role in world affairs during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. This period marked a significant shift in American foreign policy from isolationism to a more interventionist approach, characterized by territorial expansion and economic dominance. Understanding this transformation requires an exploration of key concepts, events, and figures that shaped American imperialism, along with the reactions it provoked both domestically and internationally.

Understanding Imperialism

Imperialism can be defined as a policy or ideology where a country extends its power and influence over other nations or territories through diplomacy or military force. This expansionist approach is often driven by a combination of economic, political, and cultural motives, including:

1. **Economic Interests:** Nations sought new markets for their goods and access to raw materials.
2. **Nationalism:** Countries aimed to demonstrate their power and prestige on the global stage.
3. **Cultural Superiority:** The belief in the superiority of one's culture often justified the subjugation of others, encapsulated in the phrase "the white man's burden."

In the context of American history, imperialism became particularly pronounced during the late 1800s, fueled by industrialization and a growing desire to compete with European powers.

The Rise of American Imperialism

Historical Context

The emergence of American imperialism can be traced back to several key developments:

- The Spanish-American War (1898): This conflict resulted in the U.S. defeating Spain and acquiring territories such as Puerto Rico, Guam, and the Philippines. The war was driven by the desire to liberate Cuba from Spanish rule and marked a turning point in U.S. foreign policy.
- The Open Door Policy: Established in 1899, this policy aimed to ensure equal trading rights for all nations in China, reflecting America's desire to expand its economic influence without direct colonization.
- The Annexation of Hawaii (1898): The strategic and economic importance of Hawaii led to its annexation, which served as a base for American operations in the Pacific.

Key Figures in American Imperialism

Several influential figures played pivotal roles in shaping American imperialism:

- Theodore Roosevelt: As President, Roosevelt championed a robust foreign policy, exemplified by the Roosevelt Corollary to the Monroe Doctrine, which asserted the U.S.'s right to intervene in Latin America to maintain stability.
- Alfred Thayer Mahan: A naval officer whose writings emphasized the importance of sea power in global politics, advocating for a strong navy and overseas bases to project American power.
- William H. Seward: As Secretary of State, Seward's push for the purchase of Alaska (1867) exemplified early American expansionism, despite initial criticism.

Impacts of American Imperialism

Political and Economic Effects

The consequences of American imperialism were far-reaching and multifaceted:

- Territorial Expansion: The U.S. emerged as a global power with territories across the Caribbean and Pacific, fundamentally altering its geopolitical standing.

- Economic Exploitation: New territories provided access to raw materials and markets, fueling American industry and economic growth.
- Military Presence: The establishment of military bases across the globe allowed the U.S. to project power and influence, particularly in strategic locations.

Cultural and Social Impacts

American imperialism also led to cultural exchanges and tensions:

- Cultural Hegemony: The idea of spreading democracy and American values was often used to justify imperial actions. This notion contributed to a sense of cultural superiority and the imposition of American norms on other societies.
- Resistance and Rebellion: Colonized peoples often resisted American rule, leading to conflicts such as the Philippine-American War (1899-1902), which highlighted the complexities and contradictions of American ideals of freedom and democracy.

Opposition to Imperialism

Despite the enthusiasm for expansion among many Americans, there was also significant opposition to imperialist policies. Key arguments against imperialism included:

1. Moral and Ethical Concerns: Critics argued that imperialism contradicted American values of self-determination and liberty.
2. Economic Arguments: Some believed that imperialism diverted resources from domestic needs and led to unnecessary military expenditures.
3. Political Opposition: Prominent figures, including Mark Twain and Andrew Carnegie, organized against imperialism, warning of the dangers of entangling alliances and the loss of democratic ideals.

The Anti-Imperialist League

Formed in 1898, the Anti-Imperialist League was a significant organization that voiced opposition to American imperialism. Its members included a diverse range of individuals, such as:

- Intellectuals and writers
- Labor leaders
- Social reformers

The League argued against the annexation of the Philippines and other territories, advocating for the principles of self-governance and opposing the imposition of American rule.

American Imperialism in the 20th Century

The legacy of American imperialism continued into the 20th century, influencing foreign policy decisions during key historical moments, such as:

- World War I and II: The U.S. emerged as a global power, taking on a prominent role in international affairs, often justified as a means to promote democracy and freedom.
- Cold War Policies: The U.S. engaged in various interventions, including in Latin America, Asia, and the Middle East, driven by the desire to contain communism and uphold its influence.

Conclusion

In summary, the examination of imperialism and America worksheet answers reveals a complex interplay of motivations, consequences, and reactions that defined a crucial period in U.S. history. From territorial expansion and economic interests to cultural imposition and moral opposition, American imperialism left an indelible mark on both the nation and the world. Understanding this legacy is essential for comprehending contemporary U.S. foreign policy and its ongoing implications in an increasingly interconnected global landscape. As students and scholars continue to explore these themes, the lessons of the past remain relevant in addressing the challenges of the present and future.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is imperialism and how did it manifest in American history?

Imperialism is the policy of extending a country's power and influence through diplomacy or military force. In American history, it manifested through events like the annexation of Hawaii, the Spanish-American War, and the establishment of colonies such as Puerto Rico and Guam.

What were the main motivations behind American imperialism in the late 19th century?

The main motivations included economic interests, the desire for new markets, national security concerns, and the belief in the cultural superiority of American values, often referred to as 'Manifest Destiny'.

How did the Spanish-American War reflect American imperialistic ambitions?

The Spanish-American War reflected American imperialistic ambitions by resulting in the U.S. acquiring territories such as Puerto Rico, Guam, and the Philippines, showcasing

America's willingness to exert its influence overseas.

What role did the concept of 'the White Man's Burden' play in justifying American imperialism?

'The White Man's Burden' was a concept suggesting that it was the responsibility of white Americans to civilize and uplift non-Western peoples, which was often used to justify imperialistic actions as a moral obligation.

What was the Open Door Policy and how did it relate to American imperialism?

The Open Door Policy was a diplomatic policy proposed by the U.S. in 1899 to ensure equal trading rights for all nations in China, reflecting America's desire to expand its economic influence without direct territorial control.

How did American imperialism affect the Philippines after the Spanish-American War?

After the Spanish-American War, the U.S. established control over the Philippines, leading to the Philippine-American War, resistance against American rule, and ultimately the establishment of a colonial government that lasted until 1946.

What were the criticisms of American imperialism during the early 20th century?

Critics of American imperialism argued that it contradicted the nation's founding principles of self-determination and democracy, led to unnecessary wars, and resulted in the exploitation of colonized peoples.

How did the Roosevelt Corollary expand American imperialism in Latin America?

The Roosevelt Corollary, an extension of the Monroe Doctrine, asserted that the U.S. had the right to intervene in Latin American countries to maintain stability and protect American interests, effectively justifying U.S. interventionism in the region.

What impact did American imperialism have on indigenous populations in colonized territories?

American imperialism often led to the displacement, cultural assimilation, and exploitation of indigenous populations, resulting in long-lasting social and economic challenges in colonized territories.

In what ways did American imperialism influence global politics in the 20th century?

American imperialism influenced global politics by establishing the U.S. as a major world power, shaping international relations, and leading to interventions and conflicts that

defined U.S. foreign policy throughout the 20th century.

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