

Reasons For American Imperialism Answer Key

Name: _____

Reasons for American Imperialism

Introduction: Expansion has always been a part of America's history. At first, expansion headed towards the Pacific within North America. In the 1700's and 1800's, European nations began practicing **imperialism**, which is one people ruling over or controlling others. Initially, Americans did not look to take over other countries. Having been colonists themselves, many Americans were against it. America also feared that foreign involvement would bring the country into a war. However, attitudes began to change in the late 1800's as America began to look to the Pacific. Use the chart below to answer the questions.

Territorial Expansion of the United States

Territory	Date Acquired	Square Miles	How Acquired
Original 13 Colonies	1783	808,685	Treaty with Great Britain
Louisiana Purchase	1803	827,192	Purchased from France
Florida	1819	72,005	Treaty with Spain
Texas	1845	390,143	Annexed
Oregon	1846	285,580	Treaty with Britain
Mexican Cession	1848	529,017	Mexican American War
Gadsden Purchase	1853	29,640	Purchase from Mexico
Alaska	1867	586,737	Purchase from Russia
Hawaii	1898	6,450	Annexed
Philippines	1899	115,600	Spanish American War
Puerto Rico	1899	3,435	Spanish American War
Guam	1899	212	Spanish American War
American Samoa	1900	76	Treaty with Germany and Britain

1. What is imperialism? _____
2. Why was America hesitant at first to get involved in foreign affairs? _____
3. According to the chart, name five places that America acquired. _____
4. What area of the world are most of the areas acquired after 1850 in? _____

Reasons for American Imperialism

American imperialism, which gained significant momentum in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, was driven by a complex interplay of economic, political, military, cultural, and ideological factors. Understanding the reasons behind this expansionist policy provides insight into the motivations that shaped U.S. foreign policy during this era. This article will explore the key reasons for American imperialism, categorizing them into distinct sections for clarity.

Economic Motivations

One of the primary driving forces behind American imperialism was the pursuit of economic interests. As the United States transitioned from a primarily agrarian society to an industrial powerhouse, the need for new markets and resources became increasingly apparent.

1. Access to New Markets

- The late 19th century saw the rise of industrialization in the United States, leading to overproduction of goods.
- American businesses sought new markets abroad to sell their surplus products.
- Expansion into territories such as Hawaii and the Philippines provided strategic locations for trade with Asia.

2. Acquisition of Raw Materials

- The growing industries required vast amounts of raw materials, which were often sourced from colonies or territories.
- Regions rich in resources, such as oil in the Middle East and minerals in the Caribbean, became targets for American expansion.
- This access not only supported U.S. industries but also provided the foundation for increased economic power on the global stage.

Political Motivations

Political considerations also played a significant role in American imperialism. The desire for power and influence shaped the United States' approach to foreign relations.

1. Nationalism

- The late 19th century witnessed a surge in nationalism, where countries sought to assert their dominance on the global stage.
- The United States aimed to compete with European powers, which were rapidly colonizing regions across Africa and Asia.
- Expanding American territory was seen as a way to demonstrate national strength and prestige.

2. Strategic Interests

- The acquisition of territories was often driven by strategic considerations, such as securing naval bases and coaling stations.
- The establishment of a strong naval presence was essential for protecting American interests and enhancing trade routes.
- The U.S. acquisition of Alaska in 1867 and the establishment of the Panama Canal are examples of such strategic expansions.

Military Motivations

Military factors also contributed to the drive for American imperialism. The United States sought to enhance its military capabilities and global presence.

1. Influence of Alfred Thayer Mahan

- Mahan, a naval officer and historian, argued for the importance of a strong navy in achieving global power.
- His book, "The Influence of Sea Power upon History," emphasized the need for the U.S. to expand its naval fleet and establish overseas bases.
- This ideology influenced American leaders and contributed to the push for territorial expansion.

2. Military Conflicts and Interventions

- The Spanish-American War (1898) marked a pivotal moment in American imperialism, resulting in the U.S. gaining control over territories such as Puerto Rico, Guam, and the Philippines.
- Military interventions in Latin America, justified by the Monroe Doctrine, sought to protect American interests and maintain regional stability.
- The Roosevelt Corollary to the Monroe Doctrine further expanded U.S. military involvement in the Western Hemisphere.

Cultural Motivations

Cultural factors, including the belief in American exceptionalism and the spread of democracy, played a significant role in motivating imperialist policies.

1. The White Man's Burden

- A pervasive belief in the moral obligation to civilize "lesser" nations fueled the justification for imperialism.
- This idea, often referred to as the "White Man's Burden," suggested that it was the duty of Americans to spread their values and way of life.
- Imperialists argued that by colonizing other nations, they were promoting democracy and progress.

2. Religious Motivations

- Many American missionaries sought to spread Christianity to non-Western cultures.
- Religious groups often supported imperialism as a means to convert and uplift foreign populations.
- This missionary zeal was evident in efforts to establish schools and churches in newly acquired territories.

Ideological Motivations

American imperialism was also influenced by broader ideological currents, including Social Darwinism and the belief in Manifest Destiny.

1. Social Darwinism

- The application of Darwin's theories of evolution to societies led to the belief that stronger nations had a right to dominate weaker ones.
- This philosophy justified imperialism as a natural process of survival of the fittest on a global scale.
- Supporters argued that American expansion was a means of ensuring the survival and superiority of the nation.

2. Manifest Destiny

- The belief in Manifest Destiny, which held that the United States was destined to expand across North America, extended to the idea of expanding beyond continental borders.
- This ideology framed imperialism as a continuation of America's historical mission to spread democracy and civilization.
- The notion that it was America's divine right to expand contributed to the justification for overseas colonies.

Conclusion

American imperialism was a multifaceted phenomenon driven by a combination of economic, political, military, cultural, and ideological factors. The quest for new markets, the desire for resources, the push for military strength, and the belief in American exceptionalism all played critical roles in shaping U.S. foreign policy during this period. Understanding these motivations not only sheds light on the historical context of American imperialism but also provides a framework for analyzing contemporary U.S.

foreign relations. As the world continues to grapple with the legacies of imperialism, reflecting on these reasons helps us understand the complexities of global interactions and the ongoing influence of American policies in the modern era.

Frequently Asked Questions

What were the main economic motivations behind American imperialism?

The main economic motivations included the desire for new markets to sell American goods, access to raw materials and resources, and the pursuit of overseas investments to enhance economic growth.

How did the ideology of Manifest Destiny contribute to American imperialism?

The ideology of Manifest Destiny fueled the belief that the United States was destined to expand across North America and beyond, leading to a justification for acquiring territories and exerting influence over other nations.

In what ways did military strategy play a role in American imperialism?

Military strategy played a role through the establishment of naval bases and coaling stations, allowing the U.S. to project military power globally and protect its interests, as exemplified by Alfred Thayer Mahan's theories on sea power.

What impact did the Spanish-American War have on the United States' imperialist ambitions?

The Spanish-American War marked a turning point for American imperialism, resulting in the U.S. gaining territories such as Puerto Rico, Guam, and the Philippines, thereby expanding its influence in the Caribbean and the Pacific.

How did social Darwinism influence American imperialist policies?

Social Darwinism influenced American imperialist policies by promoting the idea that stronger nations had a natural right to dominate weaker ones, justifying the expansion of American influence as a means of civilizing 'lesser' cultures.

Find other PDF article:

<https://soc.up.edu.ph/19-theme/Book?trackid=ZGC00-2246&title=eat-pussy-its-vegan-tshirt.pdf>

Reasons For American Imperialism Answer Key

Mapa de Chile para imprimir | Descargar GRATIS

Mapa de Chile con Nombres Si buscas un mapa político de Chile con nombres, aquí lo tienes. Lo encontrarás en buena calidad y listo para imprimir si lo deseas.

Mapa Político de Chile Actualizado con sus 15 Regiones

Haz clic sobre el mapa de Chile para verlo con resolución máxima.

-Instituto Geográfico Militar de Chile - IGM

El IGM dispone para descarga gratuita, mapas de Chile, por regiones, mudos, del mundo y continentales, además de programas para cálculos de datos geodésicos.

• Mapa de Chile | Político & Físico Imprimir, Colorear o Pintar • 2025

Un mapa de Chile mudo y en blanco perfecto para imprimir, pintar o colorear e incluso rellenar con los nombres de las regiones, capitales y ciudades que has aprendido en el resto de mapas.

Mapa de Chile

Los mapas publicados en este sitio que se refieran o relacionen con los límites y fronteras de Chile no comprometen en modo alguno al Estado de Chile, de acuerdo al Artículo 2º, letra G del ...

Visor cartográfico de Chile - GeaMap.com: visualiza mapas online

Visor cartográfico con los servicios de infraestructura de datos espaciales chilenos, ofrecidos por diferentes organismos públicos de su administración. Permite explorar mapas topográficos de ...

Mapa de Chile | Chile Mapas

Mapas de Chile Mapas de Chile Ciudades de Chile Santiago Valparaíso Concepción Punta Arenas Coyhaique San Pedro de Atacama Arica La Serena Viña del Mar Islas de ...

Mapas de Chile - mapas políticos, físicos, mudos. Para descargar

Mapas de la República de Chile, uno de los países andinos. Información y curiosidades sobre el país, las ciudades y su geografía. Bandera de Chile en color.

Geoportal de Chile

El estudio esta integrado por información descriptiva y cartográfica de los recursos de geología, geomorfología, drenaje, suelos-erosión, vegetación y actividades de la población.

Mapa de Chile en PDF para descargar e imprimir

En esta sección encontrarás un mapa de Chile con división política, para descargar e imprimir de forma gratuita. Este mapa de Chile en formato PDF es una herramienta educativa pensada para ...

9 Low Income Senior Housing Communities in Norwich,CT ...

There are 9 low-income affordable senior housing options to choose from in the Norwich area. Explore our listings to compare the amenities, floor plans, and services available at each ...

Low Income Apartments and Affordable Housing For Rent in Norwich...

Discover affordable housing in Norwich where there are 18+ housing opportunities based on income and household needs like accessible units for seniors or persons with disabilities. Find ...

AHEPA 110 III Senior Apartments | Affordable Apartments For Seniors ...

Ideally located, AHEPA 110 Phase III Senior Apartments is a 46-unit community for very low-income seniors that is subsidized by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development ...

Norwich CT Low Income Housing and Subsidized Apartments

We offer listings of low income housing in Norwich CT including affordable apartments to help Norwich residents and those in needs.

Low Income Apartments for Rent in Norwich CT

Searching for low income housing and no credit check apartments in Norwich, CT at Apartments.com is the first step toward finding a new home that you both love and can afford.

Norwich, CT Low Income Housing

Find low income housing in Norwich, CT including: AHEPA 110 Senior Apartments, Village Court, Ahepa 110 - Bldg Iii. Find affordable housing now!

Low Income Affordable Senior Living in Norwich, Connecticut

Discover 6 senior living and retirement communities in Norwich, Connecticut currently available for rent. These communities have Income Restricted. Compare floor plans, amenities, and ...

Ahepa 110-III - Senior Affordable Living Apartments - Low Income ...

Ahepa 110-III - Senior Affordable Living Apartments, Norwich, is a low-income apartment complex in Norwich, CT. We offer affordable housing to low-income residents. Call us today at (860) ...

Norwich, CT Low Income Apartments

We provide a directory of low income apartments to residents. Most major U.S. cities including Norwich, Connecticut, offer some type of state or federally subsidized Rental Assistance ...

Ahepa 110 II Senior Apartments | Norwich CT

AHEPA 110 II SENIOR APARTMENTS is a Subsidized, Low-Rent Apartment located at 380 Hamilton Ave., NORWICH CT.

Explore the key reasons for American imperialism with our comprehensive answer key. Discover how historical motives shaped U.S. expansionism. Learn more now!

[Back to Home](#)