

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	888,685	Treaty with Great Britain
Louisiana Purchase	1803	827,192	Purchased from France
Florida	1819	72,003	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	589,757	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? _____

5. Why might having these places be useful to America? _____

“Whether they will or not, Americans must now begin to look outward. The growing production of the country demands it. The position of the United States, between the Old World and the two great oceans, makes the claim, which will soon be strengthened by the creation of a new link joining the Atlantic and the Pacific, by the advancing civilization of Japan, and by the rapid peopling of our Pacific states.”

-Alfred T. Mahan, “The United States Looking Outward,” Atlantic Monthly, 1890

1. According to the quote, why should Americans look outward? _____
2. What is the “new link” that joins the Atlantic and Pacific? _____
3. What is meant by the “growing production of the country demands it?” _____
4. Who in America would benefit from new markets? Why? _____
5. What were the circumstances that led Japan to become an “advancing civilization?” _____



In 1867 US Secretary of State William Seward arranged to purchase Alaska for \$7.2 million from Russia.

Seward was ridiculed for the purchase and Alaska was dubbed “Seward’s Icebox” as many believed that nothing existed there except polar bears.

1. According to the cartoonist, what is found in Alaska? _____



Hawaii was a proud and independent nation for some 2,000 years. Flocks of American missionaries began arriving along with powerful sugar planters and politicians, often serving as advisers to the king.

The monarchy was weakened and the planters' powers were strengthening. The United States was the biggest market for Hawaii's sugar. The transplanted planters longed for Hawaii to become part of the United States so they wouldn't have to worry about tariffs.

Sensing this, Queen Liliuokalani was on the verge of imposing a new Constitution shifting power back to the monarchy - but she never got the chance. On Jan. 16, 1893, U.S. Marines landed in Honolulu armed with Howitzer cannons and carbines. A group of 18 men - mostly American sugar farmers - staged a coup (uprising), proclaiming themselves the "provisional government" of Hawaii. Imprisoned Queen Liliuokalani issued a statement: "I yield to the superior force of the United States of America..."

1. Who ruled Hawaii? _____

2. For what reason did the US seek to acquire the Hawaiian Islands? _____

3. Describe the main idea of the cartoon. _____



THE SPANISH BRUTE—ADDS MUTILATION TO MURDER.

By Hamilton in "Judge."

The Spanish-American War ended after 6 months when the US defeated the Spanish. The war erupted over the brutal mistreatment of the Cubans by the Spanish. The US declared war after the *USS Maine* blew up off the coast of Havana, Cuba. As a result, the US acquired the Philippines, Puerto Rico and Guam. It also reserved the right to intervene in Cuba.

1. Why did the US go to war against Spain? _____

2. What areas did the US acquire as a result of its win? _____

3. What is the main idea of the cartoon to the left? _____

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.

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...

1. According to the Platt Amendment above, why is the US intervening in Cuban affairs? _____



In the back of the classroom, students representing California, Texas, Arizona and Alaska are quietly reading. In the front row, boys representing the Philippines, Puerto Rico, Cuba and Hawaii are looking as if they would rather not be there.

1. What is Uncle Sam's role in the cartoon? _____

2. Explain the difference in the behavior of the students seated in the back than the ones in the front row. _____



1. Who does the man in the cartoon represent? _____

2. What does the dove on the bottom right side of the cartoon represent? _____

3. The foot is labeled "the powers." What is meant by the powers? _____

4. Explain the main idea of the cartoon? _____

American Imperialism Notes

Directions: Use the previous cartoons and quotes to fill out the following chart.

Definition of Imperialism	
3 Reasons for Imperialism	
3 Methods Used by the US to Acquire Territory	
4 Places the US Used Imperialism	
3 Effects of Imperialism	

