

The Imperialism Debate

Directions: Read the documents below and summarize the motivations for U.S. imperialism in the space provided.

Document #1: Josiah Strong, *Our Country: Its Possible Future and Its Present Crisis*, American Home Missionary Society, 1885

It seems to me that God, with infinite wisdom and skill, is training the Angle-Saxon race for an hour sure to come in the world's future... The unoccupied arable [farmable] lands of the earth are limited, and will soon be taken... Then will the world enter upon a new stage of its history- *the final competition of races, for which the Anglo-Saxon is being schooled...* Then this race of unequalled energy, with all the majesty of numbers and the might of wealth behind it- the representative, let us hope, of the largest liberty, the purest Christianity, the highest civilization... will spread itself over the earth. If I read not amiss, this powerful race will move down upon Mexico, down upon Central and South America, out upon the islands of the sea, over upon Africa and beyond. And can any one doubt that the result of this competition of races will be the "survival of the fittest"?...

Document #2: Navy Captain Alfred T. Mahan, *The Influence of Sea Power upon History*, (1890)

Having therefore no foreign establishments, either colonial or military, the ships of war in the United States, in war, will be like land birds, unable to fly far from their own shores. To provide resting places for them, where they can coal and repair, would be one of the first duties of a government proposing to itself the development of the power of the nation at sea."

Document #3: Albert J. Beveridge, Senate Campaign Speech, 1898

American factories are making more than the American people can use: American soil is producing more than they can consume. Fate has written our policy for us; the trade of the world must and shall be ours... We will establish trading posts throughout the world as distributing points for American products. We will cover the ocean with our merchant marine. Great colonies governing themselves, flying our flag and trading with us, will grow about our posts of trade. Our institutions will follow our flag on the wings of commerce.

Motivations for Imperialism

Directions: Identify several factors that motivated American imperialism in the space below.

- 1) _____

- 2) _____

- 3) _____

- 4) _____
