




Debating Imperialism

Anti-Imperialists

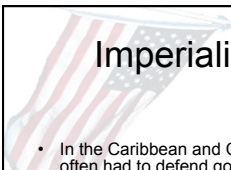
- A moral and political argument: Expansionism was a rejection of our nation's founding principle of "liberty for all."
- A racial argument: Imperialism was just another form of racism.
- An economic argument: Expansion involved too many costs. Maintaining the armed forces required more taxation, debt, and possibly even compulsory, or required, military service. In addition, laborers from other countries would compete for jobs with U.S. workers.



Debating Imperialism

Pro-Imperialists

- Imperialism offered a new kind of frontier for American expansion.
- A new international frontier would keep Americans from losing their competitive edge.
- Access to foreign markets made the economy stronger.
- In 1907, President Roosevelt sent the Great White Fleet, part of the United States Navy, on a cruise around the world to demonstrate U.S. naval power to other nations. American citizens clearly saw the advantages of having a powerful navy.



Imperialism Viewed From Abroad

- In the Caribbean and Central America, the United States often had to defend governments that were unpopular with local inhabitants.
- Many U.S. citizens in Latin America heard the cry "Yankee, Go Home!"
- Even before the completion of the Panama Canal, the Panamanians began to complain that they suffered from discrimination.
- However, many countries also began to turn to the United States for help.
- The United States was both welcomed and rejected in other countries.
- The American government still struggles to reconcile its great power and national interests with its relationships with other nations.



Debating America's New Role

- Explain America's change from isolationism to interventionism and describe their expanding role in the Western Hemisphere.
- Do you think America was/is an Empire? And give supporting details?
- Was or is American Imperialism worse than any other "empire" that has existed?
- Can a country be truly powerful and just at the same time?