

DBQ – U.S. Foreign Policy 1890-1930

Document 1 – a Plea for Cuba, 1898



1898

Title – A Plea for Cuba

1. Why are the ghosts of Baron Von Steuben and Marquis de Lafayette trying to wake up Columbia?
2. What is the cartoonist's message about what the U.S. should do about the Cuban Revolution?

Document 2 – The Cuban Resolutions, Passed by the United States Congress, April 20, 1898

Resolved, First. That the people of the Island of Cuba are, of right ought to be, free and independent.

Second. That it is the duty of the United States to demand, and the Government of the United States does hereby demand, that the Government of Spain at once relinquish its authority and government in the Island of Cuba and withdraw its land and naval forces from Cuba and Cuban waters.

Third. That the President of the United States be, and he hereby is, directed and empowered to use the entire land and naval forces of the United States, and to call into the actual service of the United States the militia of the several States, to such extent as may be necessary to carry these resolutions into effect.

Fourth. That the United States hereby disclaims any disposition or intention to exercise sovereignty, jurisdiction, or control over said Island except for the pacification thereof, and asserts its determination, when that is accomplished, to leave the government and control of the Island to its people.

1. What was the United States Demanding of Spain? What did the U.S. say it would do if Spain did not give into these Demands?

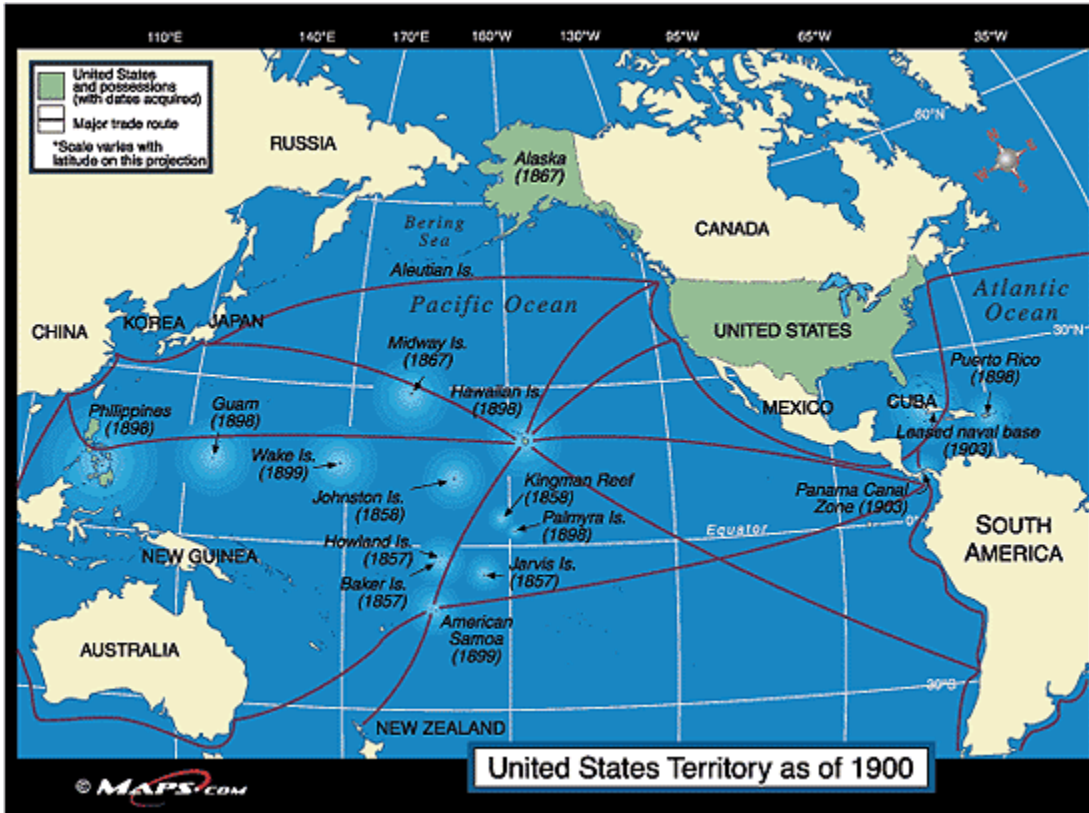
Document 3: Revs. W.C. Steele and J.P. Peters, in "Preachers Say Hold Philippines", New York Herald, Aug. 22, 1898

"The dead nation [Spain] is evidence of the wrath of God. We have conquered them because we were fighting for humanity and God. The American idea is divine. The red, white and blue represents what the cross represents -- equality."

"Selfishness and exclusiveness act to the detriment of the individual....In the past the United States government has offered an asylum for the oppressed of all nations....The refugees have come to us. Now we have stepped outside of our own borders to aid other people in the march of freedom and the upholding of human rights."

1. **Why did the Authors believe the United States should take over the Philippines?**

Document 4 – U.S. Territorial Possessions, 1900



1. Based on the Map, what conclusion can you draw about American foreign policy from the 1850s to the 1903?

Document 5 - President Theodore Roosevelt, Speech to the United States Senate, December 4, 1904

Chronic wrongdoing, or an impotence [helplessness] which results in a general loosening of the ties of civilized society, may in America, as elsewhere, ultimately require intervention by some civilized nation, and in the Western Hemisphere the adherence [loyalty] of the United States to the Monroe Doctrine may force the United States, however reluctantly, in flagrant cases of such wrongdoing or impotence, to the exercise of an international police power.” “We [the US] would interfere with them only in the last resort, and then only if it became evident that their inability or unwillingness to do justice at home and abroad had violated the rights of the United States or had invited foreign aggression to the detriment of the entire body of American nations.”

1. Under what circumstances did Roosevelt say the U.S. would interfere in the Affairs of a Latin American Country?

Document 6 - Woodrow Wilson – War Message to Congress, April 2, 1917

I advise that the Congress declare the recent course of the Imperial German Government to be in fact nothing less than war against the Government and people of the United States; that it formally accept the status of belligerent which has thus been thrust upon it. Our object now, as then, is to vindicate the principles of peace and justice in the life of the world as against selfish and autocratic power and to set up amongst the really free and self-governed peoples of the world such a concert of purpose and of action as will henceforth ensure the observance of those principles. Neutrality is no longer feasible or desirable where the peace of the world is involved and the freedom of its peoples, and the menace to that peace and freedom lies in the existence of autocratic governments backed by organized force which is controlled wholly by their will, not by the will of their people. The German government is waging a war against all nations. . . . We must fight for the peace of the world and for the liberation of its peoples, the German people included: for the rights of nations great and small. The world must be made safe for democracy.

1. Why did Wilson argue that the U.S. should go to war against Germany?

Document 7 Senator Henry Cabot Lodge, Speech to the United States Senate, 1919

Wars between nations come from contacts. A nation with which we have no contact is a nation with which we should never fight. This League creates a number of new contacts.

. . . Do not underrate the three thousand miles of the Atlantic. It was on that that Washington's policy rested.

. . . Article 10 pledges us to guarantee the political independence and territory against aggression of every member of the League. That is, of every nation of the Earth. . . . Now that is a tremendous promise to make. I ask the fathers and the mothers, the sisters and the wives and the sweethearts, whether they are ready to send forth the hope of their families, the best of our youth, into the world on that errand.

1. Why did Henry Cabot Lodge oppose joining the League of Nations?

Document 8 – Cartoon, 1920



THE GAP IN THE BRIDGE.

1. What impact did the cartoonist believe the U.S. refusal to Join the League of Nations would have on the organization?