

American Expansion Assignment

Annexation of Hawaii Timeline

Hawaii

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

January 1891 – Lili'uokalani became the queen of Hawaii after her brother, King Kalākaua, died.

1892 – Queen Lili'uokalani supported efforts to revise and strengthen the Constitution. She wanted to give voting rights to Hawaiians, take away voting rights of non-Hawaiians, and return power to the monarch by requiring the Queen to sign any proposed legislation before it became law.

January 1893 – The Hawaiian League lead a coup d'état against Queen Lili'uokalani, successfully overthrowing her. They proclaimed the establishment of the Republic of Hawaii and worked with a U.S. government official in Hawaii who immediately recognized them as a legitimate provisional government.

March 1893 – Grover Cleveland became U.S. president; he refused to recognize the provisional government and sent an investigator to Hawaii. Eventually, Cleveland decided that the provisional government was not legal but left the decision of whether to restore Queen Lili'uokalani to her throne up to Congress. They did not take any action.

March 1897 – William McKinley, who was in favor of annexing Hawaii, became president of the U.S. He supported a treaty that would annex the territory, but it was not supported by the necessary two-thirds of Congress.

September 1897: The Hui Aloha 'Āina, a group of Hawaiians opposed to annexation, held a mass meeting to protest annexation. They also began a petition drive to gather signatures of Hawaiians opposed to annexation.

November 1897-February 1898: Representatives from Hui Aloha 'Āina and Queen Lili'uokalani travelled to Washington, D.C., to present the petition and arguments against annexation to U.S. Senators.

February 1898: The Spanish-American War began, with the U.S. fighting in both Cuba and the Pacific. Several members of Congress changed their minds in favor of annexing Hawaii because they wanted to secure a fueling station and military base in the Pacific.

July 1898: A joint resolution to officially annex Hawaii passed in the U.S. Congress and was signed by President McKinley.

August 12, 1898: "Annexation Day" was proclaimed and a ceremony was held to lower the Hawaiian flag and raise the American flag at the palace.

Documents B: The Memorial 1897

Visit the following link and read "The Memorial":

<http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn85047097/1897-10-16/ed-1/seq-1/>

2. What paper did this appear in? What do you know about this paper, in particular, its stance on annexation?
3. What document does the article present? Whose viewpoints are represented by the document?
4. What argument does that document make?
5. According to this article, did Hawaiians support annexation? Explain.
6. How trustworthy do you think this is as a source about if Hawaiians supported annexation?

The Purchase of Alaska

"On March 30, 1867, Secretary of State William H. Seward agreed to purchase Alaska from Russia for \$7.2 million...At the time, critics thought Seward was crazy and called the deal 'Seward's folly.' Seward was laughed at for his willingness to spend so much on 'Seward's icebox' and Andrew Johnson's 'polar bear garden.'

But Secretary of State William H. Seward had wanted to buy Alaska for a long time. Alaska is so large that the addition of this land would increase the size of the U.S. by nearly 20 percent. Russia had established a presence in Alaska in the early 18th century and offered to sell it to the United States during President James Buchanan's administration. But the Civil War stalled negotiations. After the war, it was not easy for Seward to convince the Senate that Alaska would be an important addition to the United States. The Senate ratified the treaty that approved the purchase by just one vote.

Ultimately, buying Alaska proved to be a very good move. Major discoveries of gold were made there in the 1880s and 1890s. These discoveries brought attention and people to Alaska. Today, petroleum transported across the state through a pipeline is Alaska's richest mineral resource.

In 1946, Alaskans approved statehood and adopted a constitution in 1955. On January 3, 1959, President Eisenhower announced Alaska's entrance into the Union as the 49th state."

7. Who was William H. Seward and why was he significant in American history?
8. What was "Seward's folly"?
9. Why did William H. Seward want to buy Alaska?
10. What was discovered in Alaska in the 1880s and 1890s?
11. What is Alaska's richest mineral resource today?
12. So, who was right: Seward or his critics? Explain your answer.



PREPARING FOR THE HEATED TERM.

King Andy and his man Billy lay in a great stock of Russian ice in order to cool down the Congressional majority.

13. What images can you identify in the political cartoon?
14. Explain the caption of the cartoon: King Andy and his man Billy lay in a great stock of Russian ice in order to cool down the Congress.
15. Does the cartoon support the notion of "Seward's Folly" or refute it? Explain.

Source: Frederick Jackson Turner, "The Significance of the Frontier in American History," 1893, given at a meeting of the American Historical Association at the 1893 Chicago World's Fair. Turner was a historian writing about the American frontier after the 1890 census declared the US frontier to be closed or gone.

American development has exhibited not merely advance along a single line, but a return to primitive conditions on a continually advancing frontier line... the meeting point between savagery and civilization...The wilderness masters the colonist: it strips away the laziness of Old World living and forces him to survive, hardening his stamina while leaving intact his civilized cultural background and intellect.

The frontier is the line of the most rapid and effective Americanization...The frontier promoted the formation of a varied nationality for the American people... But the most important effect of the frontier has been the production of individualism...It produces resistance to control, and particularly to any direct control...The frontier states that came into the Union in the first quarter of a century of its existence came in with the most democratic voting laws, and had very important effects upon the older states...

To the frontier the American intellect owes its striking characteristics. That roughness and strength combined with quick thinking and inquisitiveness; that practical, inventive spirit of mind, quick to find solutions...The frontier breaking the bond of custom, offering new experiences, calling out new institutions and activities, that, and more, the ever retreating frontier has been to the United States directly, and to the nations of Europe more remotely. And now, four centuries from the discovery of America, at the end of a hundred years of life under the Constitution, the frontier has gone, and with its going has closed the first period of American history.

16. Why would Turner applaud the return to “primitive condition” on the frontier?
17. What is Americanization? Where could you look for context clues to figure out its meaning?
18. What aspect of being an American does Turner claim the frontier nurtures?
19. What kind of American individuals does the frontier create, according to Turner?
20. Based on this source, why should the US continue to expand its borders and control?

Source: Josiah Strong, 1885. More than a decade before the Spanish-American War, Reverend Josiah Strong, a prominent Protestant clergyman, wrote *Our Country*, a book that became both popular and influential.

There are two great needs of mankind necessary to lift everyone into the light of the highest Christian civilization: first, a pure, spiritual Christianity, and, second, civil liberty...It follows logically then, that the Anglo-Saxon [Strong meant Americans of British and German descent], as the great representative of these two ideas...is divinely commissioned to be, in a peculiar sense, his brother's keeper...It seems to me that God, with infinite wisdom and skill, has been and is training the Anglo-Saxon race for an hour sure to come in the world's future...This race of unequalled energy, with all the majesty of numbers and the might of wealth behind it—the representatives...of the largest liberty, the purest Christianity, the highest civilization...will spread itself over the earth...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?”

21. According to Strong, why does the US have a particular duty to help others around the world? What evidence does he cite?
22. Why does Strong mention the phrase “survival of the fittest? In what other contexts have you heard that phrase used? Why does he use it here?
23. Based on this source, why should the US continue to expand its borders and control?

Source: Senator Albert J. Beveridge, 1900. Beveridge was a US Senator from Indiana.

Fellow citizens, it is a noble land that God has given us; a land that can feed and clothe the world: a land whose coastline could enclose half the countries of Europe...Have we no mission to perform, no duty to discharge to our fellow man? Has the Almighty Father endowed us with gifts...and marked us as the people of his peculiar favor, merely to rot in our own selfishness men and nations must, who take cowardice for their companion and self for their Deity?

God has not been preparing the English-speaking and Teutonic peoples for a thousand years for nothing but vain and idle self-admiration. No...He has made us adept in government that we may administer government among savage and senile peoples...He has marked the American people as His chosen nation to finally lead in the redemption of the world.

[I]t is ours to set the world its example of right and honor. We cannot fly from our world duties; it is ours to execute the purpose of a fate that has driven us to be greater than our small intentions. We cannot

retreat from any soil where Providence has unfurled our banner; it is ours to save that soil for liberty and civilization...

The opposition tells us that we ought not to govern a people without their consent. I answer, the rule...that all just government gets its authority from the consent of the governed applies only to those who are capable of self-government. We govern the Indians without their consent; we govern the territories without their consent; we govern our children without their consent. I answer, would not the natives of the Philippines prefer the just, humane, civilizing government of the Republic to the savage, bloody rule of pillage and extortion from which we have rescued them?

24. According to Beveridge, why does the US have a particular duty to help others around the world? What evidence does he cite?
25. Why does Beveridge mention the phrase "chosen nation"? In what other contexts have you heard that phrase used? Why does he use it here?
26. Why does Beveridge compare the Filipinos to Native Americans and American children?
27. Based on this source, why should the US continue to expand its borders and control?

Source: President McKinley's call for war against Spain addressed to Congress, 1898

First. In the cause of humanity and to put an end to the barbarities, bloodshed, starvation, and horrible miseries now existing there [in Cuba], and which the parties to the conflict are either unable or unwilling to stop or mitigate....

Second. We owe it to our citizens in Cuba to afford them that protection and indemnity for life and property....

Third. The right to intervene may be justified by the very serious injury to the commerce, trade, and business of our people and by the wanton destruction of property and devastation of the island.

28. The Cubans were fighting a bloody revolution against the Spanish in 1898. Why does McKinley claim that should involve the US?

Source: President McKinley on the Philippines, 1898, speaking to a group of Methodist ministers visiting him in the White House.

When next I realized that the Philippines had dropped into our laps, I confess I did not know what to do with them...I walked the floor of the White House night after night until midnight; and I am not ashamed to tell you, gentlemen, that I went down on my knees and prayed Almighty God for light and guidance...And one night late it came to me this way...

- (1) that we could not give them back to Spain—that would be cowardly and dishonorable;
- (2) That we could not turn them over to France or Germany— our commercial rivals in the Orient—that would be bad business and discreditable;
- (3) That we could not leave them to themselves—they were unfit for self-government—and they would soon have anarchy and misrule worse than Spain's war;
- (4) That there was nothing left for us to do but to take them all, and to educate the Filipinos, and uplift and civilize and Christianize them as our fellow men for whom Christ also died.

29. How does McKinley justify taking the Philippines after the Spanish-American War?
30. How might McKinley's audience have influenced his argument?
31. Based on this source, why should the US continue to expand its borders and control?

Source: Henry Cabot Lodge, 1900. Lodge was a Senator from Massachusetts.

There is a very definite policy for American statesmen to pursue in this respect if they would prove themselves worthy inheritors of the principles of Washington and Adams...In the interests of our commerce and of our fullest development we should build the Nicaragua canal, and for the protection of that canal and for the sake of our commercial supremacy in the Pacific we should control the Hawaiian Islands and maintain our influence in Samoa...We should have among those islands at least one strong naval station, and when the Nicaragua canal is built, the island of Cuba, still sparsely settled and of almost unbounded fertility, will become to us a necessity. Commerce follows the flag, and we should build up a navy strong enough to give protection to Americans in every quarter of the globe and sufficiently powerful to put our coasts beyond the possibility of successful attack.

The tendency of modern times is toward consolidation. It is apparent in capital and labor alike, and it is also true of nations. Small nations are of the past and have no future. The modern movement is all toward the concentration of people and territory into great nations and large dominions. The great nations are rapidly absorbing for their future expansion and their present defense all the waste places of the earth. It is a movement which makes for civilization and the advancement of the race. As one of the great nations of the world, the United States must not fall out of the line of march...

Thus...duty and interest alike, duty of the highest kind and interest of the highest and best kind, impose upon us the retention of the Philippines, the development of the islands, and the expansion of our Eastern commerce.

32. Why does Lodge want to build a canal, a navy, and bases on islands all over the world?
33. Based on this source, why should the US continue to expand its borders and control?

Alfred Thayer Mahan, the president of the US Naval War College, published the highly influential book *The Influence of Sea Power Upon History* in 1890.

Whether they want to or not, Americans must now begin to look outward...Attempts to insulate the US resemble the activities of a modern ironclad that has heavy armor, but an inferior engine and no guns: mighty for defense, weak for offense. Within, the home market is secured; but outside, beyond the broad seas, there are the markets of the world, that can be entered and controlled only by a strong competition...But, this attitude is changing: there is the turning of the eyes outward, instead of inward only, to seek the welfare of the country.

There is no good reason for believing that the world has passed into a period of assured peace outside the limits of Europe. Unsettled political conditions...when combined with great military or commercial importance, involve dangerous seeds of war, against which it is wise to be prepared, especially in this age of modern navies and advanced warfare technology.

Influence in world affairs requires a foundation of military readiness, like the well-known iron hand under the velvet glove. To provide this, three things are needed: First, protection of the nation's chief harbors by fortifications and coast-defense ships, which gives defensive strength...Secondly, naval force, the arm of offensive power, which alone enables a country to extend its influence outward. Thirdly, it should be an unbreakable resolution of our national policy, that no foreign state should henceforth

acquire a coaling station within three thousand miles of San Francisco...For fuel is the life of modern naval warfare; it is the food of the ship; without it the modern monsters of the deep die of inaction.”

34. According to Mahan, why does the US need to change from its traditional course of neutrality and isolationism?
35. What interests does the US have abroad?
36. What recommendations does Mahan make for the US?
37. Based on this source, why should the US continue to expand its borders and control?

Source: Lyman Abbott, a Congregationalist minister, 1898.

“The evolutionist sees a steady progress from lower to higher forms of life. Democracy is the outcome of a long historical process [and] the result of the political evolution of eighteen centuries, and accordingly, this form of government reached its most perfect form in the United States of America... Americans are an elected people of God uniquely called to be a light to the nations of the world and a salvation for all humanity...

Barbarism has no rights which civilization is bound to respect...The function of the higher civilization is not to destroy the old, not to rule the old, and it certainly is not to leave the old to take care of itself. The higher civilization is to convert the old...There is to be intellectual and moral civilization, whether men like it or whether they do not...It is the duty of the Government of the United States to assume all the responsibilities which its authority imposes upon it...in Cuba, in Porto Rico, and in the Philippines where we are fighting for the liberty of the people protected by justice and defined by law.

The newly conquered peoples are races just emerging from childhood who still need intervening guardians and tutors in order to properly progress from a primitive tribal condition of government to a self-governing democracy. The same is true of their religion: this war is only just if it sets people free for their own Christian development.

It is thus the right, the duty of a strong nation to interfere for the protection of a weak, oppressed, and suffering people whose suffering burned itself into the heart of America until suddenly we were awakened to the fact that outrages...were being perpetrated at our very door [in Cuba].

38. How does the process of evolution apply, according to Abbott, not just to science, but to government?
39. How does its level of civilization compel the US to help others?
40. How should the US govern its expanded empire? What goals should it seek?
41. Based on this source, why should the US continue to expand its borders and control?

Summative Question: Why did the US Expand in the 1890s? *Your answer must be at least 7-10 sentences and be supported by information from the documents in this assignment*