

Spanish American War Assignment

Document A: Awkae! United States

This song was rushed into print between the sinking of the Maine on February 15, 1898, and the declaration of war on April 25, 1898.

Eagle soar on high, and sound the battle cry!

And how proudly sailed the warship Maine,
a Nation's pride, without a stain!
A wreck she lies, her sailors slain.
By two-faced butchers, paid by Spain!

Eagle soar on high,
And sound the battle cry
Wave the starry flag!
In mud it shall not drag!

Document b: Reconcentration Camps

By the late 1800s, the Spanish were losing control of Cuba. Concerned about insurrection in the countryside, they moved rural Cubans to "reconcentration" camps where the Spanish claimed they would be better able to protect them. U.S. Consul-General Fitzhugh Lee forwarded the following account of the conditions of the camps to the U.S. Assistant Secretary of State on November 27, 1897. Lee said the author of the note was "a man of integrity and character."

[W]e will relate to you what we saw with our own eyes: Four hundred and sixty women and children thrown on the ground, heaped pell-mell as animals, some in a dying condition, others sick and others dead. . . .

There is still alive the only living witness, a young girl of 18 years, whom we found seemingly lifeless on the ground; on her right-hand side was the body of a young mother, cold and rigid, but with her young child still alive clinging to her dead breast; on her left-hand side was also the corpse of a dead woman holding her son in a dead embrace. . . .

The circumstances are the following: complete accumulation of bodies dead and alive, so that it was impossible to take one step without walking over them; the greatest want of cleanliness, want of light, air, and water; the food lacking in quality and quantity what was necessary to sustain life. .

. . From all this we deduct that the number of deaths among the reconcentrados has amounted to 77 per cent.

Source: Unsigned note that was included in a telegram sent by Fitzhugh Lee, U.S. Consul-General in Cuba, to the U.S. Assistant Secretary of State November 27, 1897.

Document C: March of the Flag Albert J. Beveridge's Senate campaign speech, September 16, 1898.

The following is an excerpt from Albert J. Beveridge's speech, delivered September 16, 1898. Beveridge gave this speech while he was campaigning to become a senator for Indiana. The speech helped him win the election and made him one of the leading advocates of American expansion.

Fellow citizens, it is a noble land that God has given us; a land that can feed and clothe the world;. . . It is a mighty people that he has planted on this soil . . . It is a glorious history our God has bestowed upon

his chosen people; . . . a history of soldiers who carried the flag across the blazing deserts and through the ranks of hostile mountains, even to the gates of sunset. . . .

The Opposition tells us that we ought not to govern a people without their consent. I answer: The rule of liberty that all just government derives its authority from the consent of the governed, applies only to those who are capable of self-government. I answer, We govern the Indians without their consent, we govern our territories without their consent, we govern our children without their consent.

They ask us how we will govern these new possessions. I answer: If England can govern foreign lands, so can America. If Germany can govern foreign lands, so can America. . . .

What does all this mean for every one of us? It means opportunity for all the glorious young manhood of the republic, the most virile, ambitious, impatient, militant manhood the world has ever seen. It means that the resources and the commerce of these immensely rich dominions will be increased. . . .

In Cuba, alone, there are 15,000,000 acres of forest unacquainted with the axe. There are exhaustless mines of iron. . . . There are millions of acres yet unexplored. . . . It means new employment and better wages for every laboring man in the Union. . . .

Ah! as our commerce spreads, the flag of liberty will circle the globe. . . . Benighted peoples will know that the voice of Liberty is speaking, at last, for them; that civilization is dawning, at last, for them. . . .

Fellow Americans, we are God's chosen people. . . .

| Title | Date/Author | According to this document, why did the United States invade Cuba? | Provide evidence from the source that Supports these reasons. |
|-----------------------|-------------|--|---|
| Awake United States! | | | |
| Reconcentration Camps | | | |
| March of the Flag | | | |

Document A: The following is an excerpt from sworn testimony given before the U.S. Senate by Corporal Richard O'Brien in 1902. O'Brien was called to testify in a Senate investigation of alleged war crimes committed by American soldiers in the Philippine-American War.

"The first thing we saw was a boy ... and the first sergeant shot at the boy. Everybody fired at him. That brought the people in the houses out . . . [and] the town was fired on ... Two old men came out, hand in hand ... they had a white flag, they were shot down. At the other end of the town we heard screams, and there was a woman there; she was burned up, and in her arms was a baby, and on the floor was another child ... The fighting was continued until everybody had fled or everybody was killed ... There was not a shot fired on the part of the Filipinos."

1. Many Americans opposed the war in the Philippines. How does Document A provide evidence of this?

Document B: The following is an excerpt from a letter to the editor of the Kansas City Journal by Colonel Frederick Funston on April 22, 1899. Funston, who was a war hero for his extensive service in the Philippine-American War, wrote and spoke often about the Philippine-American War in order to increase public support for American involvement in the conflict.

"I am afraid that some people at home will lie awake [at] night worrying about the ethics of this war, thinking that our enemy is fighting for the right to self-government ... [The Filipinos] have a certain number of educated leaders – educated, however, about the same way a parrot is. They are, as a rule, an illiterate, semi-savage people who are waging war not against tyranny, but against Anglo-Saxon order and decency . . . I, for one, hope that Uncle Sam will apply the chastening rod good, hard and plenty, and lay it on until they come in to the reservation and promise to be good 'Injuns.'"

2. How does Document B also provide evidence that many Americans opposed the war in the Philippines?

Background information: From 1899 to 1902 the United States was involved in an armed conflict with Filipino revolutionaries who opposed American occupation of the Philippines.



Title: Prisoners in Postigo Prison, Manila, Philippines.

Photographer: H.C. White

Date: 1901

3. How is the explosion of the USS Maine off the coast of Cuba on February 15, 1898 connected to the imprisonment of Filipinos by the American military in 1901?
4. How is the popularity of Social Darwinism in the United States at the turn of the century connected to the imprisonment of Filipinos by the American military in 1901?

Directions: Using the Soldiers in the Philippines Documents, fill out the Hypothesis and answer the essential question at the end. For each hypothesis, you must have at least two points and they must come from evidence in the documents.

Hypothesis #1: American soldiers who brutalized Filipino insurgents were simply following orders.

- 1.
- 2.

Hypothesis #2: American soldiers who brutalized Filipino insurgents thought Filipinos were less than human.

- 1.
- 2.

Hypothesis #3: American soldiers who brutalized Filipino insurgents were getting revenge for how Filipinos treated American soldiers.

- 1.
- 2.

Conclusion: Why do you think some American soldiers brutalized Philippine insurgents? Please use evidence from the documents to support your answer. (5-7 Sentences)