

Power Beyond Borders

Analyze why Americans turned toward overseas expansion in the 1890s.

11.6a "In the late 1800s, various strategic and economic factors led to a greater focus on foreign affairs and debates over the United States' role in the world."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline economic motives and circle strategic motives. Mark an argument for overseas rule and an argument against it.

Why Foreign Affairs Mattered More

- ① In the 1890s, U.S. business leaders sought overseas customers, resources, and investment opportunities. Naval strategist Alfred Thayer Mahan emphasized a strong navy, overseas bases, and coaling ports. Hawaii attracted sugar interests and offered a strategic Pacific location. After the Hawaiian monarchy's overthrow in 1893, the United States annexed the islands in 1898 despite substantial Native Hawaiian opposition. Expansion served American interests while overriding other peoples' claims to self-government.
- ② Cuban revolutionaries sought independence from Spain. Reports of Spanish repression stirred U.S. sympathy, while economic and strategic interests also mattered. When the USS Maine exploded in Havana in February 1898, many Americans blamed Spain although the cause was uncertain. The United States entered war in April. The December Treaty of Paris ended Spanish rule in Cuba and ceded Puerto Rico, Guam, and the Philippines to the United States. The U.S. paid Spain \$20 million for the Philippines; Filipino independence was not granted.
- ③ Imperialists defended overseas rule for markets and naval bases, sometimes claiming another power would take the islands otherwise. Anti-imperialists objected that colonial government violated consent of the governed; some also feared military costs or labor competition. Filipinos pursued their own independence and fought U.S. rule beginning in 1899. The Senate narrowly approved the treaty that year. Expansion increased American power while provoking resistance abroad and disagreement at home.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 Identify two economic reasons that led U.S. leaders and business leaders to look abroad in the 1890s.

2 According to Mahan's argument, why would a nation want overseas bases and ports where ships could obtain coal?

3 How did the explosion of the USS Maine help move the United States toward war with Spain, even though its cause was uncertain?

4 Compare one imperialist argument for keeping the Philippines with one anti-imperialist argument against doing so.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Advise a senator in 1899. In four sentences, support or oppose the treaty, use an economic or strategic factor, and respond to an opposing argument.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline economic motives and circle strategic motives. Mark an argument for overseas rule and an argument against it. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Identify two economic reasons that led U.S. leaders and business leaders to look abroad in the 1890s.	Business leaders sought overseas customers, raw materials and investment opportunities.
2	According to Mahan's argument, why would a nation want overseas bases and ports where ships could obtain coal?	Overseas bases and coaling ports would help a powerful navy travel, refuel, and protect the nation's interests abroad.
3	How did the explosion of the USS Maine help move the United States toward war with Spain, even though its cause was uncertain?	Many Americans blamed Spain for the explosion despite the uncertain cause, and Congress then declared war in April 1898.
4	Compare one imperialist argument for keeping the Philippines with one anti-imperialist argument against doing so.	Imperialists argued that the Philippines could provide markets, resources, and naval bases, or prevent another European power from taking the islands. Anti-imperialists argued that colonial rule violated consent of the governed and could cause costly wars or labor competition.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I recommend rejecting the treaty's transfer of the Philippines. Supporters value Pacific bases and access to markets. However, Filipino demands for independence challenge the claim that American interests justify governing without consent. Trade opportunities do not require permanent colonial rule.

Accept accurately supported recommendations for either ratification or rejection. For the open response, students should take a clear position, use a passage-based economic or strategic factor, and address a reasonable opposing claim.