Power and Principle

Overseas expansion and the debate over America's role

USH.C.3.1.A "Explain the rise of the United States of America as a world power amidst debates over the United States of America's role in world affairs and overseas expansion."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB As you read, underline two reasons Americans sought a larger role overseas, circle two objections to expansion, and number two results that show growing U.S. power.

A War and a Choice

1 By the 1890s, American factories produced large amounts of goods, and some business leaders sought customers overseas. Naval officer Alfred Thayer Mahan argued that a powerful navy needed coaling stations and ports far from home. In 1898, war between Spain and the United States put these ideas to a test. Many Americans supported intervention after reports of Spanish violence against Cubans fighting for independence. The explosion of the battleship *Maine* in Havana harbor increased anger, although its cause was uncertain. U.S. forces defeated Spain in the Caribbean and the Pacific.

2 The peace treaty of 1898 gave the United States Puerto Rico and Guam and transferred the Philippines from Spain to the United States for $20 million. Cuba became independent in 1902, but a 1901 amendment to its constitution allowed U.S. intervention in Cuban affairs. Supporters of overseas expansion said island bases would protect shipping and help the United States compete with European powers. Opponents, including members of the Anti-Imperialist League, argued that ruling people without their consent betrayed American ideals. They also feared that expansion would drag the country into distant conflicts. The treaty therefore settled the war, not the argument over America's place in the world.

3 In the Philippines, the dispute became a war. Filipino independence fighters, who had also fought Spain, resisted U.S. rule beginning in 1899. U.S. forces defeated the main organized resistance by 1902, although fighting continued in some areas. The conflict cost many lives and challenged claims that expansion would spread freedom. At the same time, U.S. control of islands across the Pacific strengthened its naval reach and access to Asian markets. By the early 1900s, the United States could project military power far beyond its shores. Whether it should use that power to govern other peoples remained fiercely contested.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did economic goals and Mahan's naval ideas help explain U.S. interest in overseas territory?

2. How did the outcomes for Cuba and the Philippines differ, and why might that difference fuel debate over U.S. power?

3. How could a supporter and an opponent of expansion view the new island territories differently? Give one reason each.

4. How did the fighting in the Philippines both demonstrate U.S. power and challenge a reason given for expansion?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine you advise the U.S. president in 1900. Write one paragraph proposing a specific policy for the Philippines. Use two details from the passage to explain how your plan balances U.S. interests and Filipino self-rule, and address one likely objection.

ANSWER KEY

Power and Principle

HIGH SCHOOL · USH.C.3.1.A

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

As you read, underline two reasons Americans sought a larger role overseas, circle two objections to expansion, and number two results that show growing U.S. power. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did economic goals and Mahan's naval ideas help explain U.S. interest in overseas territory?	**Business leaders wanted overseas customers, while Mahan argued that a powerful navy needed distant ports and coaling stations.**
2	How did the outcomes for Cuba and the Philippines differ, and why might that difference fuel debate over U.S. power?	**Cuba became independent, though the United States retained a right to intervene. The United States took control of the Philippines, raising the question of whether it should rule people who wanted independence.**
3	How could a supporter and an opponent of expansion view the new island territories differently? Give one reason each.	**A supporter could see the islands as bases that protected shipping. An opponent could object that ruling their people without consent betrayed American ideals.**
4	How did the fighting in the Philippines both demonstrate U.S. power and challenge a reason given for expansion?	**U.S. forces defeated the main organized resistance, showing they could project military power overseas. The costly fight against people seeking independence challenged the claim that expansion would spread freedom.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I would advise the president to announce a timetable for Philippine independence while negotiating an agreement for U.S. ships to use one port. Filipino fighters had resisted U.S. rule, so a promise of self-government might reduce the conflict and respect their demand for a voice. A port agreement could preserve some of the naval reach that expansion supporters wanted without permanent control of the islands. Critics might say leaving would weaken American trade with Asia. Yet a negotiated partnership could support trade without forcing people to accept a government they did not choose.

Accept different defensible policies if students propose a specific action, support it with two accurate passage details, explain how it addresses both interests and self-rule, and respond to an objection.