Power and Its Price

Competing arguments about U.S. expansion

USH.C.3.1 "Evaluate the impact of Imperialism on international relations and its effect on developing nations. 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..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two reasons Americans supported expansion, circle two objections to it, and number two effects of expansion on other nations. Use your marks to compare the arguments and their consequences.

Who Benefited from Expansion?

1. In the 1890s, Americans argued over a larger role overseas. Supporters wanted markets for U.S. goods and naval stations for ships. Admiral Alfred T. Mahan argued that a powerful navy needed bases across the oceans. U.S. sugar planters in Hawaii favored annexation, which would protect their business interests. After planters, aided by U.S. officials, overthrew Hawaii's queen in 1893, Native Hawaiians protested the loss of their government. The United States annexed Hawaii in 1898.

2. In 1898, rebellion against Spanish rule in Cuba drew U.S. attention. Newspapers using yellow journalism printed sensational stories about Spanish cruelty. After the battleship *Maine* exploded in Havana harbor, some blamed Spain without proof. Jingoism, or aggressive calls for war, grew. The U.S. victory over Spain brought Puerto Rico, Guam, and the Philippines under American control. Cuba gained independence in 1902, but U.S. rules limited its freedom to govern itself.

3. Some expansionists used Social Darwinism to claim that powerful nations could rule others; others called spreading Christianity a duty. Anti-Imperialists argued that rule without consent violated American ideals. Filipinos who had fought Spain then fought U.S. troops for independence. Later, Theodore Roosevelt used naval strength and claimed a right to intervene in Latin America. U.S. support for Panama's separation from Colombia helped secure rights to build a canal for ships and trade, but increased distrust of U.S. power.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did economic and military arguments for annexing Hawaii differ? What concern did Native Hawaiians raise?

2. How could yellow journalism and jingoism have increased support for war with Spain, even though Spain's role in the *Maine* explosion was unproven?

3. Compare one expansionist argument with the Anti-Imperialists' argument. How did Filipino actions relate to this debate?

4. What advantage did the Panama Canal offer the United States, and what cost to international relations does the passage identify?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a three-sentence statement as a U.S. senator in 1899. Take a position on continued U.S. rule in the Philippines, weigh a U.S. argument against a Filipino or Anti-Imperialist argument, and predict one effect on international relations.

ANSWER KEY

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HIGH SCHOOL · USH.C.3.1

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two reasons Americans supported expansion, circle two objections to it, and number two effects of expansion on other nations. Use your marks to compare the arguments and their consequences. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did economic and military arguments for annexing Hawaii differ? What concern did Native Hawaiians raise?	**Sugar planters wanted to protect their businesses, while Mahan's naval argument favored overseas bases. Native Hawaiians protested the loss of their government.**
2	How could yellow journalism and jingoism have increased support for war with Spain, even though Spain's role in the *Maine* explosion was unproven?	**Sensational reports stirred anger toward Spain, and aggressive calls for war encouraged people to favor fighting despite the lack of proof about the explosion.**
3	Compare one expansionist argument with the Anti-Imperialists' argument. How did Filipino actions relate to this debate?	**Some expansionists claimed powerful nations could rule others or had a duty to spread Christianity. Anti-Imperialists opposed rule without consent, and Filipinos fought U.S. troops for independence.**
4	What advantage did the Panama Canal offer the United States, and what cost to international relations does the passage identify?	**The canal would serve ships and trade, but U.S. involvement in Panama's separation from Colombia increased distrust of U.S. power.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I oppose continued U.S. rule in the Philippines, even though naval bases could help American ships in the Pacific. Filipinos who fought Spain for freedom deserve a government of their own, as Anti-Imperialists argued. If we deny their independence, fighting may continue and other nations may distrust American claims to support self-government.

Accept either position in Part 3 if the student weighs competing arguments and predicts a plausible international effect. Do not accept claims that Spain was proven responsible for the *Maine* explosion.