



IMPERIALISM AND AMERICA

USH Honors
Chapter 5 Section 1



LEARNING TARGETS:

- 1) Define imperialism and explain its significance for late 19th century America.**
- 2) Examine the reasons why imperialism appealed to many in the U.S. in the 1890s.**
- 3) Evaluate the use of “Manifest Destiny” within U.S. History and its connections to imperialism in the 1890s.**
- 4) Compare the competing perspectives regarding imperialism.**
- 5) Evaluate the relevance of imperialism in the 1890s to today.**

GRADING RUBRIC:

For this lesson, you will be graded using the following rubric:

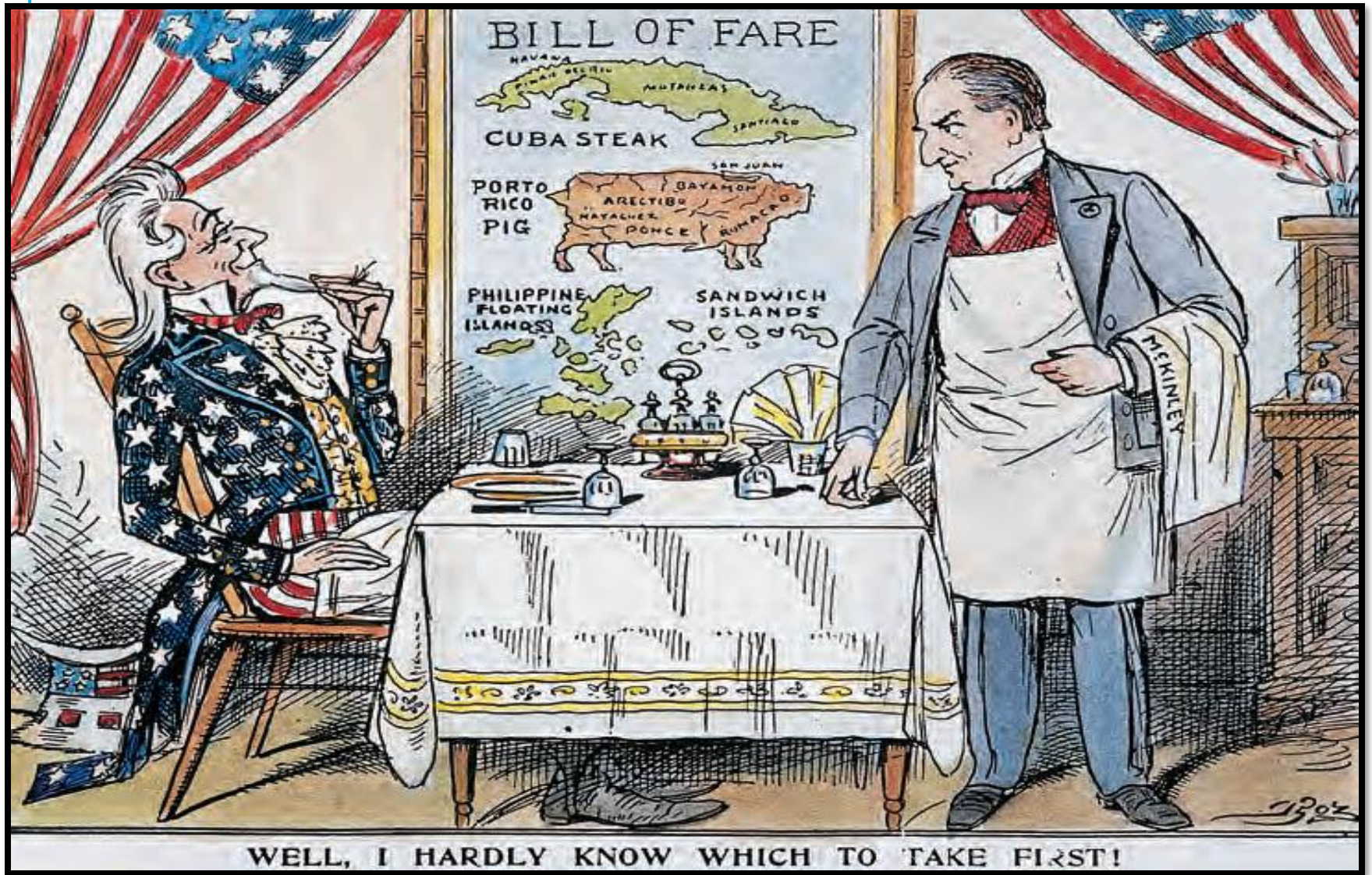
Points Earned:	Explanation:
4	Students can explain in detail the economic and cultural factors that fueled American imperialism, and how the United States gained Alaska and Hawai'i.
3	Students can explain in some detail the economic and cultural factors that fueled American imperialism, and how the United States gained Alaska and Hawai'i.
2	Students can identify the economic and cultural factors that fueled American imperialism, and how the United States gained Alaska and Hawai'i.
1	Students can provide limited discussion of the economic and cultural factors that fueled American imperialism, or how the United States gained Alaska and Hawai'i.
0	Students cannot discuss any aspect of the economic and cultural factors that fueled American imperialism, or how the United States gained Alaska and Hawai'i.

AMERICAN EXPANSIONISM

- **Why would America want to enter into Imperialist Competition?**
 - America has always sought to expand the nation!
 - 19th Century expansion was focused on Manifest Destiny!
 - America would be influenced by money, power, & the idea of position.
- **What changed at the Turn of the 20th Century?**
 - Many leaders were convinced that America should join the imperialist powers of Europe!
 - Most Americans supported expansion in 1900
 - People wanted the United States to be a competitive power with Great Britain and the rest of the world.
- **Americans also had a sense of cultural superiority.**



“WELL, I HARDLY KNOW WHICH TO TAKE FIRST!”

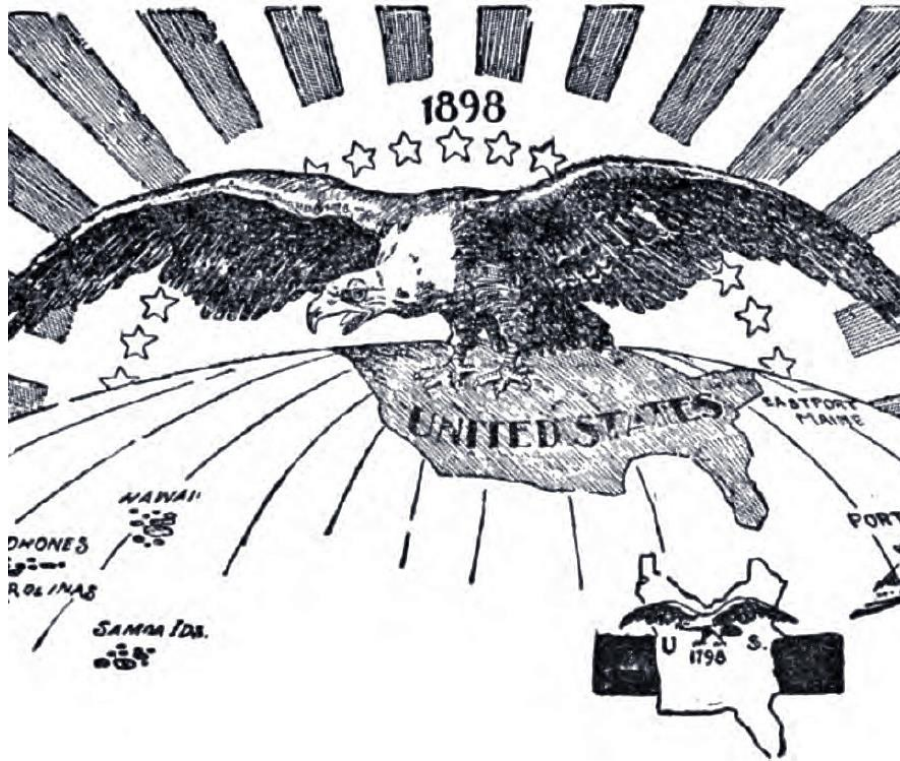


WELL, I HARDLY KNOW WHICH TO TAKE FIRST!



MAHAN AND AMERICAN IMPERIALISM

- **Does this mean that America should establish colonies globally?**
 - YES!
- **What factors influenced the desire for American Imperialism?**
 - The desire for military strength
 - The thirst for new markets
 - The belief in cultural superiority
- **Why military strength?**
 - America observed other nations establishing a global military presence.
 - Building a strong military would be a major factor in America increasing its role in the world.
 - Admiral Alfred T. Mahan encouraged America to build its military power.
 - Between 1883 and 1890, America built 9 steel-hulled “modern” battleships!



Ten thousand miles from tip to tip.—Philadelphia Press.

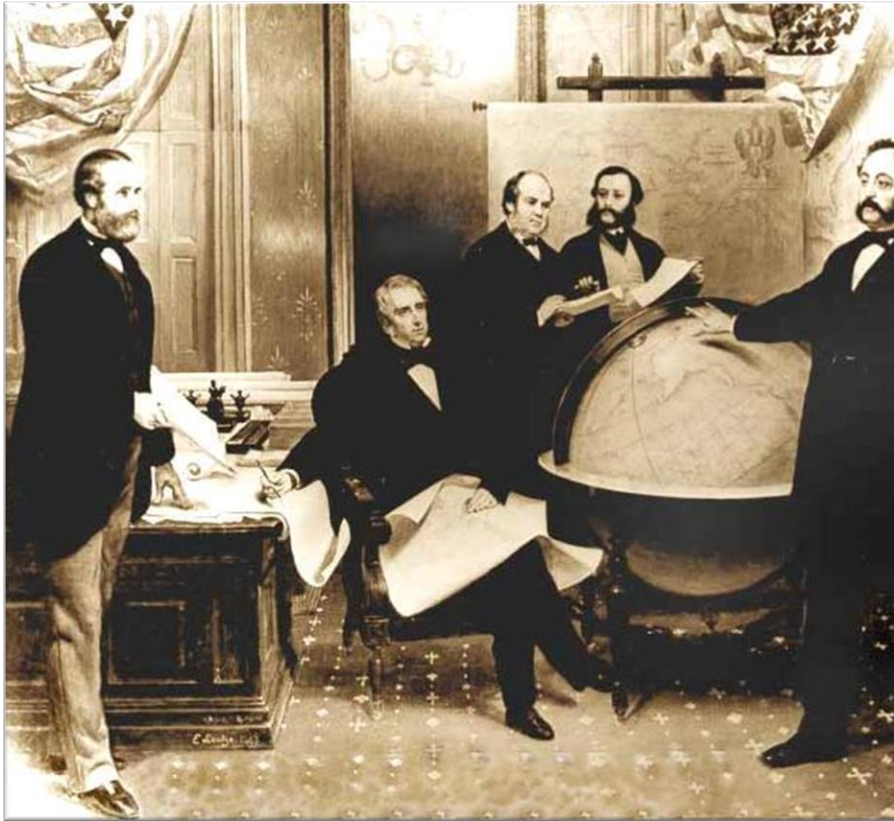
MARKETS & CULTURAL FACTORS

• A Thirst for New Markets

- Technology advances in the 19th century increased American ability to produce vast amounts of goods.
- American farmers grew more food than America could consume...TRADE!
- Imperialists feel that foreign trade is the solution to overproduction.
- Could international trade fix unemployment and economic depression in the 1890s.

• Belief in Cultural Superiority

- Cultural factors are also involved in imperialism!
- Some Americans combined two contemporary international thoughts to argue for imperialism:
 - Social Darwinism: a belief that free-market competition would lead to the survival of the fittest. ☹️
 - Anglo-Saxonism: a belief in racial superiority ☹️



THE UNITED STATES ACQUIRES ALASKA

- **Which important politician supported American expansion?**
 - William Seward
 - Secretary of State for Abraham Lincoln
 - Seward was a target of assassination the night Lincoln was killed.
 - Secretary of State for Andrew Johnson
- **What controversial decision does he make?**
 - Arranged for the purchase of Alaska from the Russians (\$7.2 million)
 - Not an easy move...House of Representatives was not convinced this was the right move.
 - Alaska was called “Seward’s Icebox” and “Seward’s Folly”



PACIFIC EXPANSION

- **What is America's focus in this period?**
 - The Midway Islands (1867)
 - The Samoan Islands of the South Pacific
- **Why Samoa?**
 - Pago Pago would give us a refueling station in the South Pacific.
- **Who else is interested in these islands?**
 - Britain and Germany
 - American and German navies almost fought here in 1889.
 - U.S. gained 76 sq. miles: American Samoa and Pago Pago
 - Germany received the 2 largest islands.
 - Britain was compensated with additional territories.



QUEEN LILIUOKALANI

Attention shifted from Samoa to Hawai'i

Why Hawai'i

- Strategic and economic location for the United States
- American sugar plantations were established by the 1860s.
- 1887, Hawaiian leader Kala-kaua signed a forced treaty for a naval base at Pearl Harbor.

What is the Hawaiian response?

- Hawaiians were angered by the transitions and the influx of Americans.
- 1891: Liliuokalani became Queen of Hawai'i

How do our governments interact?

- Liliuokalani DOES NOT like Americans!
- McKinley sent someone to investigate the situation...do the Hawaiian people want to be annexed – NO!

**PROVISIONAL
HAWAIIAN
GOVERNMENT
(1893)**



GRADING RUBRIC:

In a well written paragraph, please explain in detail the economic and cultural factors that encouraged American imperialism. To support your response, please use examples of how the US gained both Alaska and Hawai'i.

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