

US IMPERIALISM AND WWI

Graded Discussion

1. Define Imperialism and summarize each of the four motivating factors of Imperialism.

- A. Which of the four motivating factors gives the strongest argument in favor of imperialism?

- B. Which of the four motivating factors gives the weakest argument in favor of imperialism?

2. Describe how the US expanded and built an empire in Latin America and the Pacific.

- A. How did the US exert its influence in Latin America?
- B. How did the U.S. exert its influence in the Pacific?

Compare and contrast the events that led to American involvement in Latin America and the Pacific?

- A. Why did the U.S. go to war with Spain in Cuba and the Philippines in 1898?
- B. Why did the U.S. get involved in a European conflict in 1917?
- C. How did incidents like the explosion of the U.S.S. Maine, media coverage, the sinking of the Lusitania, and the exposure of the Zimmerman Telegram impact American public opinion?

Was American imperialism justified?

- A. Discuss the benefits and drawbacks of American Imperialism on both the US and the regions they expanded to.
- B. Why was American acquisition of overseas territories controversial?
- C. Do you think the imperialists who wanted to spread western culture were arrogant or well-meaning?

Examine the effects of World War I?

- A. How did the war impact the American economy?
- B. How did the war affect soldiers?
- C. In what ways did American opinions of war change?

Discuss the ways in which America's role in the world changed between 1870 and 1920.

- A. Summarize American foreign policy prior to the expansion and imperialism of the late 19th and early 20th century?
- B. Why did the US not join the League of Nations?
- C. What was America's role in the world after WWI?