

U.S. History Imperialism Practice Test (Sample)

Study Guide



Everything you need from our exam experts!

Copyright © 2025 by Examzify - A Kaluba Technologies Inc. product.

ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

No part of this book may be reproduced or transferred in any form or by any means, graphic, electronic, or mechanical, including photocopying, recording, web distribution, taping, or by any information storage retrieval system, without the written permission of the author.

Notice: Examzify makes every reasonable effort to obtain from reliable sources accurate, complete, and timely information about this product.

SAMPLE

Questions

- 1. What was established by the Foraker Act in Puerto Rico?**
 - A. A civil government under U.S. control**
 - B. Complete independence for Puerto Rico**
 - C. A military dictatorship**
 - D. A treaty granting statehood**
- 2. Who was Queen Liliuokalani?**
 - A. A Hawaiian leader who supported American imperialism**
 - B. A Hawaiian queen who opposed American influence**
 - C. An American politician favoring annexation**
 - D. An advocate for U.S.-Hawaiian cooperation**
- 3. What best describes guerrilla warfare?**
 - A. Large battles with formal armies**
 - B. Nontraditional fighting with small, mobile groups**
 - C. A strategy involving naval engagements**
 - D. Engagements that solely rely on artillery**
- 4. What was the purpose of the Monroe Doctrine?**
 - A. To promote trade with Europe**
 - B. To prevent European intervention in the Western Hemisphere**
 - C. To encourage European immigration to the U.S.**
 - D. To establish military bases in Europe**
- 5. What role did yellow journalism play in American imperialism?**
 - A. It promoted economic ties with foreign nations**
 - B. It stifled dissent against government policies**
 - C. It sensationalized reports, stirring public opinion for intervention**
 - D. It provided accurate reporting of international events**

- 6. Which territories did the U.S. acquire as a result of the Spanish-American War?**
- A. Hawaii and Samoa**
 - B. Puerto Rico, Guam, and the Philippines**
 - C. Alaska and Cuba**
 - D. Panama and Nicaragua**
- 7. What was the significance of the Treaty of Portsmouth?**
- A. It marked the start of World War I**
 - B. It ended the Russo-Japanese War**
 - C. It established U.S. control over Hawaii**
 - D. It facilitated the annexation of Puerto Rico**
- 8. Which concept is primarily associated with the expansion of U.S. economic interests abroad during Taft's presidency?**
- A. Moral Diplomacy**
 - B. Dollar Diplomacy**
 - C. Imperialism**
 - D. Isolationism**
- 9. Which concept argues that the U.S. should promote democracy and stability around the world?**
- A. Imperialism**
 - B. Moral diplomacy**
 - C. Isolationism**
 - D. Strategic diplomacy**
- 10. What role did missionaries play in American imperialism?**
- A. Promoting socialism and economic reform**
 - B. Spreading Christianity and advocating for U.S. involvement abroad**
 - C. Leading military campaigns against foreign powers**
 - D. Negotiating treaties with Indigenous peoples**

Answers

SAMPLE

1. A
2. B
3. B
4. B
5. C
6. B
7. B
8. B
9. B
10. B

SAMPLE

Explanations

SAMPLE

1. What was established by the Foraker Act in Puerto Rico?

- A. A civil government under U.S. control**
- B. Complete independence for Puerto Rico**
- C. A military dictatorship**
- D. A treaty granting statehood**

The Foraker Act, enacted in 1900, established a civil government in Puerto Rico under the jurisdiction and control of the United States. This legislation marked a significant transition for Puerto Rico, moving it from a military administration to a more formalized civil government system. Under the Foraker Act, a governor was appointed by the U.S. president, and a legislative assembly was created, which included members elected by the Puerto Rican people. However, it's important to note that while Puerto Ricans had some representation, the U.S. retained ultimate control over the island's affairs. This act was part of the broader context of American imperialism during the late 19th and early 20th centuries, which involved the U.S. gaining control over territories and peoples, often with the justification of promoting democracy and civilization. Thus, the Foraker Act is a key example of how the U.S. managed newly acquired territories following the Spanish-American War.

2. Who was Queen Liliuokalani?

- A. A Hawaiian leader who supported American imperialism**
- B. A Hawaiian queen who opposed American influence**
- C. An American politician favoring annexation**
- D. An advocate for U.S.-Hawaiian cooperation**

Queen Liliuokalani was the last reigning monarch of the Kingdom of Hawaii and is known for her staunch opposition to the growing influence of American interests in her homeland. She came to power in 1891 and sought to restore the political power of native Hawaiians and strengthen the monarchy, which had been weakened by foreign influence and the business interests of American sugar planters. Her reign was marked by resistance to the push for annexation of Hawaii by the United States, which had gained momentum during her time as queen. In 1893, a coup organized by American businessmen and supported by the U.S. government led to her overthrow. Queen Liliuokalani's efforts to draft a new constitution aimed at restoring power to the monarchy directly challenged the interests of those who favored annexation, making her a symbol of resistance against imperialism. Her legacy continues to inspire discussions around sovereignty, self-determination, and the impact of imperialism on native populations. This context elucidates her opposition to American influence, making the choice that identifies her as a Hawaiian queen who opposed this influence accurate.

3. What best describes guerrilla warfare?

- A. Large battles with formal armies
- B. Nontraditional fighting with small, mobile groups**
- C. A strategy involving naval engagements
- D. Engagements that solely rely on artillery

Guerrilla warfare is characterized by its nontraditional approach, where small, mobile groups engage in combat tactics that emphasize flexibility and surprise attacks rather than direct confrontations with larger, organized military forces. This method enables these smaller groups to use the element of surprise, often conducting ambushes and hit-and-run attacks to disrupt the enemy's operations while relying heavily on their knowledge of the local terrain. This type of warfare is often employed by groups that may not have the resources to face a conventional army in open battle, allowing them to challenge more powerful opponents effectively. The other options describe different forms of military engagement that do not fit the essence of guerrilla warfare. Large battles with formal armies represent traditional warfare, naval engagements focus on maritime conflicts, and reliance on artillery suggests a static and heavily armed approach rather than the mobility and flexibility inherent in guerrilla tactics. Thus, nontraditional fighting with small, mobile groups is the defining feature of guerrilla warfare.

4. What was the purpose of the Monroe Doctrine?

- A. To promote trade with Europe
- B. To prevent European intervention in the Western Hemisphere**
- C. To encourage European immigration to the U.S.
- D. To establish military bases in Europe

The Monroe Doctrine, articulated by President James Monroe in 1823, was fundamentally aimed at preventing European powers from intervening in the affairs of the newly independent nations of Latin America and maintaining a sphere of influence in the Western Hemisphere. The doctrine asserted that any efforts by European nations to colonize or interfere with states in the Americas would be viewed as acts of aggression, prompting a response from the United States. By establishing this policy, the United States sought to protect its interests in the Western Hemisphere, allowing it to assert itself as a regional power and discourage European imperial ambitions in the region. This doctrine became a cornerstone of U.S. foreign policy and contributed to the idea of American exceptionalism in the years to come, highlighting a commitment to the sovereignty of neighboring countries. The focus was clearly on keeping European powers out rather than fostering trade, encouraging immigration, or expanding military presence in Europe.

5. What role did yellow journalism play in American imperialism?

A. It promoted economic ties with foreign nations

B. It stifled dissent against government policies

C. It sensationalized reports, stirring public opinion for intervention

D. It provided accurate reporting of international events

Yellow journalism significantly influenced American imperialism by sensationalizing news stories to capture public attention and evoke strong emotions. This type of journalism often exaggerated or fabricated details about events, especially those related to foreign conflicts or crises. During the late 19th and early 20th centuries, publications such as those by William Randolph Hearst and Joseph Pulitzer used dramatic headlines and provocative imagery to portray situations like the Cuban struggle for independence from Spain in a way that stirred outrage among the American public. As these sensationalized reports reached a wide audience, they fueled a growing desire for military intervention and increased nationalistic sentiments. The impact was profound; this wave of public enthusiasm and anger played a crucial role in pushing the United States toward actions such as the Spanish-American War in 1898. Therefore, yellow journalism not only shaped public opinion but also helped to facilitate a shift in U.S. foreign policy towards imperialistic endeavors, demonstrating its critical role in the context of American expansionism during that era.

6. Which territories did the U.S. acquire as a result of the Spanish-American War?

A. Hawaii and Samoa

B. Puerto Rico, Guam, and the Philippines

C. Alaska and Cuba

D. Panama and Nicaragua

The acquisition of Puerto Rico, Guam, and the Philippines by the United States as a result of the Spanish-American War is a key aspect of American imperialism at the turn of the 20th century. This conflict in 1898 marked a significant turning point, as it resulted not only in the defeat of Spain, but also in the expansion of U.S. territory beyond the continental borders. When the war concluded, the Treaty of Paris was signed, which formalized the terms of the peace and recognized U.S. control over these territories. Puerto Rico and Guam were ceded directly to the U.S., while the Philippines were purchased for \$20 million. This marked the beginning of a new era in which the United States expanded its influence in the Caribbean and the Pacific, demonstrating its growing power on the global stage. This acquisition was significant because it reflected the United States' shift from a focus on continental expansion to overseas imperialism, paving the way for future engagements and territorial holdings in various regions around the world.

7. What was the significance of the Treaty of Portsmouth?

- A. It marked the start of World War I**
- B. It ended the Russo-Japanese War**
- C. It established U.S. control over Hawaii**
- D. It facilitated the annexation of Puerto Rico**

The Treaty of Portsmouth holds significant importance as it officially ended the Russo-Japanese War, a conflict that erupted between Russia and Japan over territorial disputes in Manchuria and Korea. Signed in 1905, the treaty was mediated by U.S. President Theodore Roosevelt, marking a crucial moment in international diplomacy. Not only did this outcome establish Japan as a formidable military power on the world stage, but it also signified the growing influence of the United States in global affairs, particularly in East Asia. The successful mediation enhanced Roosevelt's reputation and underscored the United States' emerging role as a broker of peace among major world powers during the early 20th century. Moreover, the treaty set a precedent for future agreements and highlighted the shifting balance of power in the region, particularly as Japan began its rise as an imperial power.

8. Which concept is primarily associated with the expansion of U.S. economic interests abroad during Taft's presidency?

- A. Moral Diplomacy**
- B. Dollar Diplomacy**
- C. Imperialism**
- D. Isolationism**

The correct choice, Dollar Diplomacy, is closely associated with the expansion of U.S. economic interests abroad during William Howard Taft's presidency. This term refers to the diplomatic strategy that aimed to promote U.S. financial interests and stability in other countries, particularly in Latin America and East Asia. Under Dollar Diplomacy, the Taft administration encouraged American businesses to invest in foreign markets, and in turn, the U.S. government would support these investments with diplomatic and, when necessary, military intervention to protect American interests. Taft believed that by fostering economic ties abroad, the United States could ensure its own economic security and prevent conflicts, which was a major shift from more direct imperialistic approaches. This method included the use of loans and financial aid to influence other nations' policies, which exemplified how U.S. economic interests were prioritized in foreign relations. In contrast, the other concepts do not encapsulate Taft's economic focus in the same manner. Moral Diplomacy, for example, emphasized promoting democracy and moral standards rather than specifically economic interests. Imperialism denotes the broader strategy of extending a nation's authority, which can include various forms of control, not solely economic. Isolationism represents a policy of avoiding entanglements with foreign powers, clearly

9. Which concept argues that the U.S. should promote democracy and stability around the world?

- A. Imperialism**
- B. Moral diplomacy**
- C. Isolationism**
- D. Strategic diplomacy**

The concept that argues the United States should promote democracy and stability around the world is moral diplomacy. This approach was championed by President Woodrow Wilson during his administration in the early 20th century. Wilson's vision was rooted in the belief that the U.S. had a moral obligation to support democratic governments and eliminate autocratic regimes. This ideology suggested that by promoting democracy and acting as a moral leader on the global stage, the U.S. could contribute to international peace and stability. Moral diplomacy contrasted with other forms of foreign policy, such as imperialism, which often focused on territorial expansion and control rather than the promotion of democratic ideals. Isolationism, on the other hand, advocated for the U.S. to remain out of international conflicts and avoid entanglements, thus opposing the proactive stance of moral diplomacy. Strategic diplomacy usually refers to negotiations based on national interest and security rather than the ethical imperatives highlighted in moral diplomacy. By focusing on democracy and stability, moral diplomacy aspired to create a world order based on democratic values and humanitarian principles.

10. What role did missionaries play in American imperialism?

- A. Promoting socialism and economic reform**
- B. Spreading Christianity and advocating for U.S. involvement abroad**
- C. Leading military campaigns against foreign powers**
- D. Negotiating treaties with Indigenous peoples**

Missionaries played a significant role in American imperialism by associating the spread of Christianity with the justification for U.S. involvement in foreign lands. They believed that their religious mission was to convert non-Christian peoples, which often aligned with U.S. expansionist goals. The idea of a "civilizing mission" was prevalent, where missionaries viewed their work not only as a religious duty but also as a means of bringing progress and civilization to others, often framed in the context of American exceptionalism. Their efforts frequently supported imperialistic policies and ambitions by creating favorable conditions for U.S. political and economic interests abroad. As they established churches and schools, they laid the groundwork for American influence in various regions, encouraging the U.S. government to take a more active role in those areas. This connection between missionary work and American expansion is evident in various historical examples, such as the role of missionaries in Hawaii and the Philippines, where their presence often facilitated or justified U.S. annexation and control.