


Lesson Resources - Glossary Terms from "American Imperialism"

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Glossary Terms from: 

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Admiral George Dewey

an American admiral famous for a definitive 1899 victory against the Spanish in a battle for control of the Philippines

Alfred Thayer Mahan

a naval strategist and historian who encouraged foreign expansion

annex

add a territory to an existing state or country

Anti-Imperialist League

a group of prominent Americans who banded together in 1898 to protest America building an empire

big stick diplomacy

a policy used by Theodore Roosevelt that threatened force to achieve foreign policy goals

Boxer Rebellion

a peasant uprising that attempted to drive all foreigners from China

Chinese Exclusion Act

a series of acts limiting the immigration of Chinese laborers to the United States

dollar diplomacy

the U.S. policy urged by President Taft of using private investment in other nations to promote American diplomatic goals and business interests

exceptionalism

the belief that a particular country or region is superior to others

Frederick Jackson Turner

an American historian best known for his frontier thesis

frontier thesis

Frederick Jackson Turner's idea that the blending of European traditions and native wilderness developed into the unique characteristics of American democracy and individualism

Gentlemen's Agreement

an agreement between Theodore Roosevelt and Japan to calm immigration tensions

imperialism

a national policy of expanding power by taking control of other lands and peoples

interventionist

a person who supports American intervention in the affairs of other countries

isolationism

a policy of staying out of world affairs

Lansing-Ishii Agreement

an agreement between the U.S. and Japan that recognized Japanese interests in Chinese Manchuria

Lodge Corollary

an extension of the Roosevelt Corollary stating that the U.S. would prevent any non-American foreign corporations from acquiring land in the Western Hemisphere

Monroe Doctrine

a policy expressing that European interference in the Western Hemisphere would be seen as an act of aggression against the U.S.

moral diplomacy

a foreign policy approach pursued by President Woodrow Wilson by which the United States bases its support to other countries on whether they share similar principles and values as the United States

moral imperative

an action motivated by strongly held principles or values

noninterventionist

a person who opposes American intervention in the affairs of other countries

Open Door policy

a proposal by the United States that all countries should have equal trade access to Chinese markets

Panama Canal

a shipping canal across the Isthmus of Panama, linking the Caribbean Sea (and the Atlantic Ocean) to the Pacific Ocean

paternalism

a system under which the U.S. treated less developed countries as a father would a child, making decisions for them and discounting indigenous culture and knowledge

Philippine-American War

a war between Filipino revolutionaries and the United States

Platt Amendment

an amendment to the 1901 Cuban Constitution that allowed the United States to intervene in Cuban affairs if threats to a stable government emerged

Punitive Expedition

a U.S. Army operation led by General George Pershing that involved entering Mexico in a failed attempt to capture Pancho Villa

Roosevelt Corollary

an addition to the Monroe Doctrine stating the United States (U.S.) would intervene in conflicts between Latin American and European nations

Rough Riders

a nickname given to the First U.S. Volunteer Cavalry assembled and led by Theodore Roosevelt in Cuba during the Spanish-American War

Seward's Folly

a term used to describe U.S. Secretary of State William Seward's controversial purchase of the Territory of Alaska

white man's burden

a term coined by British writer Rudyard Kipling that describes the belief that white people owe nonwhite populations their care and social uplift

xenophobia

a fear or dislike of foreigners or strangers

yellow journalism

news reporting, often biased or untrue, that relies on sensational stories and headlines